



# NEWSPAGER

February 2009

Newsletter Volume 10, No. 1



## ***College Breaks Ground for State-of-the-Art Sim Center, New Home for Institute and Archives***

***The College of Medicine broke ground December 18, 2008, on a \$9.3 million expansion at the Queen Lane Campus that will house a state-of-the-art medical simulation center and serve as the new home for the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership and the Archives and Special Collections.***

The Independence Blue Cross Medical Simulation Center at Drexel University College of Medicine, funded in part through a \$2.5 million donation from Independence Blue Cross, will feature lifelike robots and screen-based simulation programs.

The computer-driven robotic mannequins, called high-fidelity patient simulators, exhibit lifelike vital signs, including heartbeats, blood pressures, and body and eye movements. They can be programmed to display a variety of normal and abnormal conditions,

and to respond realistically to student interventions, such as intubation, drug injection, or cardiac defibrillation. They can even be programmed to speak or cry out in pain.

The center will include a suite of exam rooms equipped with digital audio and visual recording capabilities for use in “standardized patient” encounters. In the 1980s, the College – then Medical College of Pennsylvania – became the first medical school in Philadelphia to employ standardized patients, actors who are taught to portray

various clinical conditions and trained to provide feedback to students and residents.

“The simulation center will provide a tremendous opportunity for practicing physicians, our students and our residents to enhance their skills and improve patient safety,” said Dean Richard Homan, M.D. “One of our goals is to collaborate with engineers and media discovery to develop new simulation prototypes for the future. We are extremely grateful to Independence Blue Cross for its generous gift.”

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Diversity in medical education, and in the medical profession as a whole, is integral to the practice of good, culturally sensitive, evidence-based medicine. But why?

Historically, patients have preferred to see physicians who come from similar backgrounds. Women often prefer seeing female providers. Patients from different racial and ethnic groups often prefer physicians from those groups. Today's society is both more diverse and more integrated. As physicians are called upon to serve this increasingly diverse population, we know that graduates of medical schools with a diverse student body feel better prepared to serve a diverse group of patients.<sup>1</sup>



**Anthony R. Rodriguez, M.D.**  
Associate Dean for  
Student Affairs & Diversity

In addition, as students with different life or work experiences apply to medical school – rather than coming straight from college – we need a better way to evaluate those applicants, to recognize what the road traveled gives to future physicians.

The tradition of diversity at Drexel University College of Medicine goes back to our predecessor institutions – Woman's Medical College, Hahnemann Medical College and the Medical College of Pennsylvania. Maintaining a diverse student body has always been part of our mission.

As a result of our history and our current work towards a more diverse physician population, last summer the leadership of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) asked us to work with them on a project to address diversity in recruitment, admission and retention of medical students. Drexel and the medical college at the University of Arizona are the two pilot schools working on this “holistic review” project.

Ever since the University of Michigan Law School had to defend its admissions policy all the way to the Supreme Court (2003), medical schools across the country have been examining their policies to determine if they meet the Court standard, which said that diversity may be considered with certain limitations. Schools with race-conscious admissions policies must conduct a competitive review of all their applicants and consider each applicant individually in a holistic, flexible framework.<sup>2</sup>

Members of the Drexel Medicine community have been meeting regularly since last summer to review the College's considerable history of diversity, our current diversity policies, and the pertinent medical education literature. We have also been meeting

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## Articulating Diversity in Medical Education

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regularly with the AAMC and the University of Arizona. A joint meeting to discuss our collective progress is scheduled this month [February].

The goal is to create a process that can be implemented in any U.S. medical school to develop a mission-driven, educationally sound, and legally defensible diversity policy. In effect, we will have done the work to say, “This is what will pass muster.” That will help us all produce the diverse, culturally sensitive physician population that is essential to the good health care of the nation, while valuing each school's unique traits.

**Contact:** [anthony.rodriquez@drexelmed.edu](mailto:anthony.rodriquez@drexelmed.edu)

1. “Student Body Racial and Ethnic Composition and Diversity-Related Outcomes in US Medical Schools” (*JAMA*: 2008 Sep 10;300(10):1135-45).
2. Background information is available on the AAMC website at [www.aamc.org/opi/holisticreview/summary.pdf](http://www.aamc.org/opi/holisticreview/summary.pdf).

## Announcing the New Drexel University College of Medicine Website

A friendly and powerful resource is online now at [www.drexelmed.edu](http://www.drexelmed.edu).

- Enhanced universal Google-type searching
- Quick links for Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff
- Biography pages featuring our faculty
- A “Find a Physician” search directly on the homepage
- Improved navigation to locate information quickly

Comments or questions? Email [cms@drexelmed.edu](mailto:cms@drexelmed.edu)



## Fulbright Fellows in Spain and India

Last spring, two Drexel University College of Medicine students, **Andrew Blakely** and **Paul Phelps**, were awarded Fulbright scholarships in medicine to Spain and India, respectively, for the 2008-09 academic year. The Fulbright Program offers recipients “the opportunity to [engage with people in other countries,] observe each other’s political, economic, educational and cultural institutions, exchange ideas, and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world’s inhabitants.”

Award recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. In September, our fellows each began a nine-month stint overseas carrying out their proposed research projects.

Andrew Blakely’s Fulbright took him to Madrid, where his grant officially started on September 15, 2008, and runs until June 14.

He describes his project: “In 2005, Spain developed a national initiative to combat its obesity epidemic with a focus on children and adolescents. The Spanish Strategy for Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Obesity developed recommendations in four areas: community and family, schools, private sector, and health system.

“**In the area of health**, the initiative includes specific recommendations for physicians’ practices. One of the recommendations, for example, is that physicians calculate BMI for every patient. My project consists of



Andrew Blakely



Paul Phelps

interviewing primary care physicians and assessing the extent to which they have implemented the national guidelines into their daily practices. For those physicians who do not integrate all the recommendations, I will also try to determine the reasons why they incorporate only some parts instead of all parts.”

Paul Phelps journeyed to Madurai, India, to conduct research at the Aravind Eye Hospital. The Aravind Eye Care System, which comprises several hospitals, an ophthalmic product manufacturing center, a research foundation, and a training center, is the most productive eye care facility in the world in terms of number of patients treated.

“**Aravind’s cornea service** treats thousands of patients with corneal injuries and ulcers each year, and provides the best available treatments to their patients. Unfortunately, the economically impoverished of India are especially affected by preventable vision loss – up to three times more than patients in the United States,” Phelps explains.

“Treatment for many corneal diseases requires cadaveric transplants, which are expensive and unattainable to many. A solution to the problem of corneal disease is needed across the globe, and the Aravind Medical Research Foundation is promoting discovery in the area of stem cell research. Dr. V.R. Muthukkaruppan, a world-renowned eye researcher at the Aravind Eye Hospital, has spearheaded the effort to clarify the cellular properties of human corneal epithelial stem cells so that they can be used therapeutically,” Phelps says.

A classmate, Jimmy Heilman, will report on work he is doing in Guatemala in the March issue. Look for updates from Blakely and Phelps later this spring.

## Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert

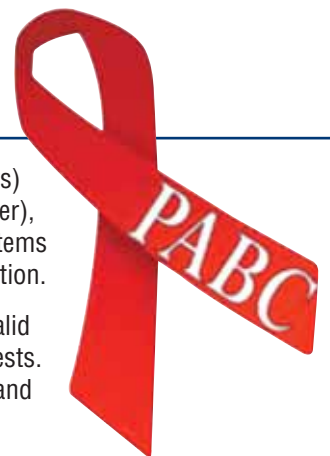
Drexel University College of Medicine is sponsoring the 16th annual Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert on Saturday, February 21, 2009 from 5 to 11 p.m. in the Main Building (32nd and Chestnut Streets).

The money raised will go directly to the Pediatric AIDS Clinic at Saint Christopher’s Hospital for Children. This evening of elegance and entertainment includes performances by Drexel University College of Medicine students, faculty and staff. The event also offers unlimited food (donated from businesses,

faculty, students, and other volunteers) and beverages (beer, wine, soda, water), and the opportunity to bid on many items throughout the night at the silent auction.

Tickets are \$15 for students with a valid Drexel ID and \$25 for faculty and guests. The price of the ticket includes food and beverages for the evening.

For more information, email [cssh29@drexel.edu](mailto:cssh29@drexel.edu).



## Drexel Medicine 2009 Tobacco Settlement Grants Announced

Eight research projects will receive grants in 2009 from the College of Medicine's portion of Pennsylvania tobacco settlement funds. The awardees were selected from among 38 applications, after a rigorous internal review process modeled on National Institutes of Health standards. The panel of reviewers included faculty from the College of Medicine and from several other Drexel University colleges and schools. The winning projects encompass a variety of research areas such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease and HIV.

### **Interdisciplinary Program Initiative**

- *Identification of Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets in 3D Hypoxic Breast Cancer*

Greg Johannes, Ph.D., Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Co-investigators: Fernando Garcia, M.D., Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Mauricio Reginato, Ph.D., Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

### **Translation Foundation Grants**

- *Role of the Inflammasome in Early Systemic Sclerosis Dermal Lesions*

Carol Artlett, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology & Immunology

Co-investigator: Peter Katsikis, M.D., Ph.D., Microbiology & Immunology

- *Developing Therapies for Treating Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia*

Peter Baas, Ph.D., Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy

Co-investigator: Terry Heiman-Patterson, M.D., Neurology

- *Role of CTF18 in Female Germ Cell Development and Fertility*

Karen Berkowitz, M.D., Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

- *A Novel Microfluidic-Platform Liver Model System for Testing Drug Toxicity*

Michael Bouchard, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Co-investigator: Moses Noh, Ph.D., College of Engineering: Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics

- *Role of OGT as a Biomarker and Therapeutic Target for Prostate Cancer*

Mauricio Reginato, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Co-investigators: Keith Vosseller, Ph.D., Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Fernando Garcia, M.D., and Greg Johannes, Ph.D., Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

- *RNA-interference Based Therapy for HIV-1 Associated Neuropathy*

Laura Steel, Ph.D., Department of Microbiology & Immunology

Co-investigator: Michele Kutzler, Ph.D., Medicine: Infectious Diseases  
Collaborator: Jeffrey Jacobson, M.D., Medicine: Infectious Diseases

- *Somatostatin Signaling in Alzheimer's Disease*

Melanie Tallent, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology & Physiology

## College Breaks Ground...continued

The new addition will also house the Drexel University College of Medicine Institute for Women's Health and Leadership<sup>®</sup> and the Office of Executive Leadership in Academics, which includes the nationally respected Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine<sup>®</sup> program. The ELAM<sup>®</sup> program is the nation's only in-depth program focused on preparing senior women faculty at schools of medicine, dentistry and public health to move into positions of institutional leadership where they can effect positive change.

The wing will also serve as the home of the College's Archives and Special Collections, a vast and impressive compilation of the records and heritage of Drexel University College of Medicine and its predecessor institutions, including Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College. The collections include books and other publications, photographs, clothing, uniforms, medical instruments and teaching tools.

In total, the new addition will encompass 25,000 square feet of space over three floors. The anticipated completion date is August 2009.



# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College



## Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend May 1 – 3, 2009 offers an engaging CME Program, a nostalgic peek into the Archives, exciting institutional and Alumni Association updates, a memorable class dinner, student-led campus tours, and plenty of time to socialize.

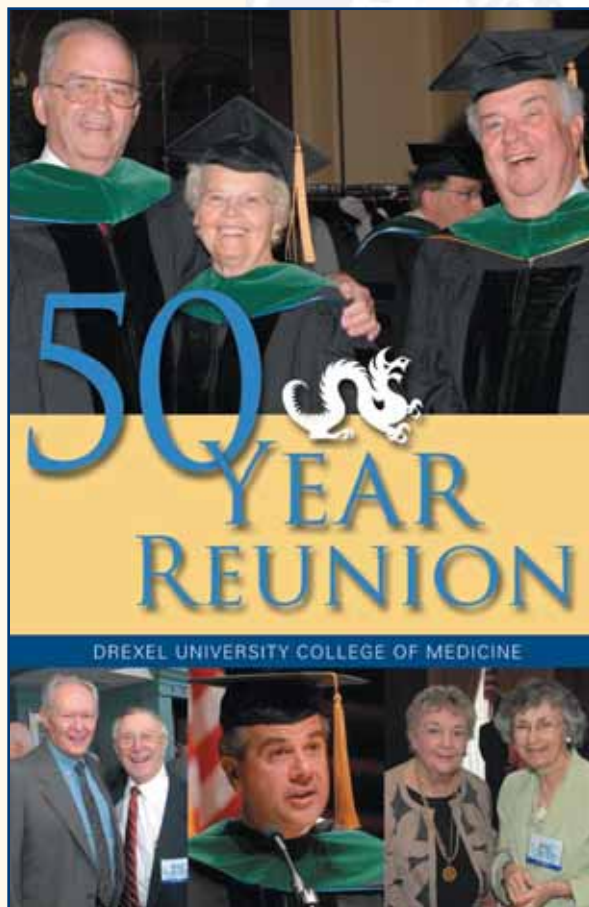
**Will You Be There?**

Visit [www.drexelmed.edu/ForAlumni/Reunions](http://www.drexelmed.edu/ForAlumni/Reunions) or call 866-373-9633



## 50 Year Reunion

May 13 – 15, 2009 is the 50 Year Reunion for members of the class of 1959 from Woman's Medical College and Hahnemann Medical College. This momentous occasion is planned to coincide with the College of Medicine's Commencement. This once-in-a-lifetime celebration is not to be missed! We encourage you to share the memories and join in the fun of celebrating your 50th reunion from medical school. Visit [www.drexelmed.edu/ForAlumni/Reunions](http://www.drexelmed.edu/ForAlumni/Reunions) or call 866-373-9633



Hahnemann Medical College Class of 1959



Woman's Medical College Class of 1959

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# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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## '40s

**Herbert L. Tindall, M.D., HU '42**, who retired from the practice of family medicine, was honored last summer as the Volunteer of the Quarter at the Tel Hai Retirement Community, Honey Brook, Pa.

## '50s

**Doris G. Bartuska, M.D., WMC '54**, endocrinologist and emeritus professor in the Department of Medicine, is the recipient of the Pennsylvania Medical Society's 2008 Distinguished Service Award. A past president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, Bartuska is a founding board member of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and was one of the first female voting members of the American Medical Association.

## '60s

**Carol S. Shapiro, M.D., WMC '65**, a plastic surgeon, was one of five recipients of the 2008 Salute to Service award of the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation. She became the first female president of the Medical Society of Virginia in 1998 and is currently head of Virginia's American Medical Association delegation. She is in private practice in Woodbridge, Va.

## '70s

**Leonard S. Jacob, M.S., MCP, '72; M.D., MCP '78, Ph.D.** has been appointed chairman of the board of Antares Pharma, a specialized pharmaceutical product development company. He also serves as chairman of Life Science Advisors, a consulting group to the healthcare industry, and is a founding director of the Jacob Internet Fund, a public mutual fund.

**George A. Murr, M.D., HU '76; Resident, Surgery, HU '81**, a board-certified general and trauma surgeon, joined Brandywine Hospital. He is also in private practice at Surgical Associates of Chester County, located in Coatesville, Pa.

**Stephen Seager, M.D., HU '76**, published a book, *Street Crazy, America's Mental Health Tragedy* (Westcom Associates, 2000), recounting his experience as a psychiatrist treating homeless patients. He was an emergency room physician for 10 years before he became a psychiatrist. He then worked in the psychiatric emergency room at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. He is now southwestern regional medical director for Behavioral Medical Services at Dixie Regional Medical Center, St. George, Utah.

**John C. Ansel, M.D., HU '77**, was the first recipient of the G. Thomas Jansen, M.D. and Frances B. Jansen Chair in Dermatology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Jackson T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute. Ansel is professor and chairman of the Department of Dermatology and a professor in the Department of Ophthalmology.

**Michael J. Berendt, Ph.D., Microbiology & Immunology, HU '77**, joined the board of directors of Trillium Therapeutics, a privately held biopharmaceutical company. He is president and CEO at Aegera Therapeutics, a clinical stage biotechnology company uniquely focused on developing drugs to control apoptosis.

**Philip Coff, M.D., HU '77**, board certified in internal medicine with a subspecialty board certification in gastroenterology, has joined Holy Family Hospital, Spokane, Wash., in the Gastroenterology Department.

**Mary Anne Delaney, M.D., HU '77**, was named chair, Department of Psychiatry, at Abington Memorial Hospital. Delaney is vice chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Drexel University College of Medicine. She had previously been director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the College of Medicine.

**Jane Coleman, M.D., HU '78**, medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Kennedy Memorial Hospital's University Medical Center, was recently honored with the March of Dimes' "Born to Shine" award. Affiliated with the Kennedy Health System for nearly a decade, Coleman is a member of Pediatrix Medical Group, a national provider of subspecialty services.



Dr. Manno

**Catherine Scott Manno, M.D., HU '78**, a pediatric hematologist, has been appointed chair of the Department of Pediatrics at New York University Langone

Medical Center. She was previously at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She was the Elias Schwarz Endowed Chair in Pediatric Hematology and associate chair of clinical activities in the Department of Pediatrics.

**Martin Seltman, M.D., MCP '78**, was named medical director of Metro Family Practice, located in Pittsburgh, Pa. Seltman has 30 years of experience in family medicine, both as a clinician and as an administrator.

## '80s

**Peter S. Amenta, M.D., HU '80, Ph.D., HU '84**, has been named dean of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He had been interim dean since 2006. He previously served as chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the school, which he joined in 1989, and chief of the clinical service at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

**Francis X. Solano, M.D., HU '80**, is the recipient of the 2008 Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Physician award, given by the Allegheny County Medical Society. He is board certified in internal medicine and

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is affiliated with Magee Women's Hospital, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Presbyterian and UPMC Shadyside.

**William L. Null, M.D., HU '81**, an orthopedic surgeon, has been appointed to the medical staff of Boca Raton [Florida] Community Hospital. Null was previously on staff at Kingston Hospital and Benedictine Hospital in Kingston, N.Y.

**Clair Beard, M.D., HU '83**, a radiation oncologist, was appointed to the medical staff at Milford Regional Medical Center. She will practice at the Dana Farber-Brigham and Women's Cancer Center at Milford Regional Medical Center in Boston.

**Tamara Weiss, M.D., MCP '83**, has published the thyroid cancer chapter in *Perez and Brady's Principles and Practice of Radiation Oncology*. Weiss was also recently named vice chairman for clinical affairs in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

**Daniel Glunk, M.D., HU '84**, an internist and chief quality officer at Susquehanna Health in Williamsport, Pa., was sworn in as the 195th president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society at the organization's annual business meeting in October.



Dr. Chidylo

**Stephen A. Chidylo, M.D., HU '87**, has been appointed chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune,

N.J. Chidylo, who also holds a DDS, completed training in both plastic surgery and dentistry, and a fellowship in cranio-maxillofacial surgery. He is in private practice in Monmouth County, N.J.

**Lynn M. Klein, M.D., MCP '88**, was listed in *Main Line Today* magazine as one of the Top Doctors in Dermatological

Surgery. Klein has a private practice in Wynnwood, Pa.

**Christine Gerbstadt, M.D., MCP '89**, an anesthesiologist, has joined the staff of Tyrone Hospital in Tyrone, Pa. Along with her certification in anesthesiology, she also holds a certificate in medical leadership and management for the Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. She has a master's degree in public health nutrition from the University of California at Berkeley.

## '90s

**Nancy Gilhooley, M.D., MCP '91**, has been appointed associate chief of staff for Primary Care Service at the Wilkes-Barre Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where she will oversee all primary care veteran services delivered in the Wilkes-Barre area. She was previously the medical director of Geisinger Health System's Luzerne County community practice sites.

**Kerwyn Jones, M.D., MCP '92**, an orthopedic surgeon who has been affiliated with Akron Children's Hospital in Boardman, Ohio, will also see patients at the newly opened Akron Children's Mahoning Valley Beeghly Campus.

**John B. Tedeschi, M.D., HU '93**, a pediatrician, was named one of "New Jersey's Top Doctors 2008" in *New Jersey Monthly* magazine. Tedeschi is in private practice with Advocare South Jersey Pediatrics in Cherry Hill.

**Marc Brodsky, M.D., HU '94**, has been named medical director for the Center for Integrative Medicine & Wellness at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, Conn. He also oversees the pain management program at the center.

**Vincent J. Paczkoskie, Jr., M.D., HU '94**, an orthopedist with Orthopedic Associates of Meadville, Pa., recently passed the subspecialty board certification examination in orthopedic sports medicine.

He also sees patients through the Crawford County Sports Medicine Clinic at Meadville Medical Center.

**Ronald Strony, M.D., HU '94**, board certified in emergency medicine, joined Geisinger Wyoming Valley in Wilkes Barre, Pa., as director of the Emergency Department. Strony has served as an emergency physician at several accredited trauma centers, including Hamot Medical Center and Saint Vincent Health Center, both in Erie, Pa.

**Oti Otubu-Scipio, M.D., MCP '96**, has joined Family Practice of Woodruff, in Woodruff, S.C.

**Charles Levy, M.D., HU '98**, a board certified neurosurgeon, has joined the Chesapeake Regional Medical Group in Chesapeake, Va. He received an honorable mention for research in spinal cord injury in a national competition conducted by the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons.

**Charles D. Peters, Jr., M.D., MCP '98**, a general cardiologist, has joined the Heart Care Group, the largest independent cardiology practice in the Lehigh Valley. Peters is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and nuclear cardiology.

## '00s

**Barbara Ann Haeckler, M.D., HU '00**, has joined Keystone Family Medicine in Chambersburg, Pa. Haeckler completed the Forbes Family Practice Residency Program in Monroeville, Pa.

**Pamela Lacy, M.D., '02**, spoke as part of "Women's Health Awareness Week" sponsored by the Mississippi University for the Women's Master of Science in Health Education Program and the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle. Lacy is a gynecologist at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford, Miss.

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**Amy Vidwans Prakash, M.D., '02**, dermatologist and dermapathologist, has joined Watson Clinic and will practice at its main location in Lakeland, Fla.

**Mary Gabriele, M.D., '04**, has joined Peace Health Medical Group's family medicine practice at the Eugene Clinic in Eugene, Ore. Gabriele has a special interest in herbal and complementary medicine.

**Tina H. Degnan, M.D., '05**, co-wrote "Clinical Guidelines for Family Physicians Prevention and Treatment of Osteoporosis" published online on MD Consult News (Elsevier). Degnan is a physician at Buckingham Family Medicine in Buckingham, Pa. She completed her residency at Abington Memorial Hospital.

**Naomi Gordon-Walinsky, M.D., '05**, has joined the staff at Cambridge Health



**Dr. Gordon-Walinsky**

Alliance's East Somerville Health Center, Somerville, Mass. She recently completed her family medicine residency at Boston Medical Center, where she served as chief resident.

**Justin C. Huang, M.D., '05**, a captain in the U.S. Air Force, has arrived for duty at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo, Japan. Huang, a general medical officer, is assigned to the 374th Medical Operations Squadron.

**Inez Stoltzfus, M.D., '05**, a family practice physician, joined the Brandywine Hospital. She is in practice at Ingleside Medical Associates in Thorndale, Pa., where she focuses on preventive medicine and women's health issues.

**Elise A. Wallo, M.D., '05**, has joined the Emergency Department at West Virginia University Hospitals—East Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Ranson, W.Va. She will also serve on the faculty of the West Virginia University School of Medicine—Eastern Division.

**Christopher J. Stange, M.S., Interdepartmental Medical Science, '06**, joined the U.S. Navy in 2008 and is an ensign. He is attending the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md.

**Sean Cavanaugh, Certificate, Medical Science Preparatory Program, '07; M.S., Biological Sciences, '08**, is a first-year medical student at the St. Louis University School of Medicine in Missouri.

## Former Residents and Fellows

**Ira D. Cheifetz, DMD, Resident, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, HU '78**, was voted president-elect of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

**Brian Crichlow, M.D., Resident, Ophthalmology, MCPHU '03**, presented a free program on diabetic eye disease at Community Memorial Healthcenter in South Hill, Va. Crichlow is a recipient of the Metropolitan Life Foundation Scholars Award for Outstanding Achievement in

the Study of Medicine. He is in private practice with Mid-Atlantic Eye Physicians with offices in South Hill and Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

**Hussein M. Farrag, M.D., Resident, Pediatrics, HU '92**, has joined Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown, Pa., in the Level 3 Regional Intensive Care Nursery. Farrag is board certified in general pediatrics and neonatal perinatal medicine. He is also an international board certified lactation consultant.

**Marla J. Gold, M.D., Fellow, Infectious Disease, MCP '90**, dean of Drexel's School of Public Health, was appointed by Mayor Nutter to the City of Philadelphia's Board of Health.

**Jane Kersh, M.D., Resident, Ophthalmology, HU '95**, completed requirements for recertification as a diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology. She is with the Hattiesburg Clinic in Hattiesburg, Miss.

**Eric L. Thomas, M.D., Resident, Orthopedic Surgery, HU, '95**, joined the medical staff at Central Mississippi Medical Center. Thomas specializes in minimally invasive/muscle sparing joint replacement surgery.

**Alex Wong, M.D., Resident, General Surgery, HU '07**, joined RiverView Clinic in Crookston, Minn.

Patty Comey, Director, Alumni Relations  
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E-Mail: **medical.alumni@drexel.edu**



## In Memoriam

**Beatrice Weisberg Sandhaus, M.D. WMC '38**

*December 13, 2008*

**Joseph J. Bobeck, M.D. HU '40** *November 4, 2008*

**George E. Covintree, M.D. HU '41** *December 16, 2008*

**Irving W. Robinson, M.D. HU '41** *August 9, 2008*

**Felix J. Muchlado, M.D. HU '43** *December 22, 2008*

**R. T. Yoshikawa, M.D. HU '43** *November 26, 2008*

**Paul G. Cressman, M.D. HU '44** *October 16, 2008*

**Anna T. Onorato, M.D. HU '44** *December 1, 2008*

**Robert V. Miller Jr., M.D. HU '45** *October 16, 2008*

**Mary T. DiMedio, M.D. HU '46** *September 28, 2008*

**John M. Dolphin, M.D. HU '47** *November 29, 2008*, West Brandywine, Pa. (formerly of West Chester and Collingswood). Dolphin served two years in the Navy, stationed in Italy. In 1958, he joined the faculty at Hahnemann, where he later received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. In 1976, he became a laboratory director with Upjohn Co. in King of Prussia, staying until his 1992 retirement. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elizabeth; a sister; three sons; and seven grandchildren.

**Nancy T. Caputo, M.D. WMC '48** *October 23, 2008*

**J. Lester Eshleman, M.D. HU '49** *January 18, 2009*, near Lititz, Pa., shortly before his 88th birthday. A Mennonite pastor and missionary, as well as a surgeon, Eshleman had completed seminary before enrolling at Hahnemann, and was ordained during his third year of medical school. After he completed his surgical residency, he and his wife, Lois, a nurse anesthetist, went to Tanzania and worked as a surgical team in the 1950s and '60s. In 1966, they returned to Pennsylvania, where he completed a residency in urology at Graduate Hospital and served as co-pastor at Parkesburg Mennonite Church.

The couple returned to Africa in 1972, first to Zaire (now Congo), then Tanzania, where Eshleman set up an institute in Moshi that trained urologic surgeons from seven East African countries, and the couple also helped start a church and primary school. They returned to the States in 1997 to Landis Homes retirement village, where he served as part-time pastor and board committee member, and they regularly visited the sick and shut-ins. In

addition to his wife, he is survived by their daughter, Charlotte, and son, Lynn.

**Martha J. Bender, M.D. WMC '51** *January 30, 2009*, Eustis, Fla., at the age of 82. She was a member of the Academy of Medicine. Bender was predeceased by her husband, Raymond L. Stephany. She is survived by her children, Raymond G. Stephany, Ellen L. Pyle and Mark A. Stephany; and five grandchildren.

**Marion Coster Chown, M.D. WMC '53** *October 11, 2008*

**Don A. Strehler, M.D., HU '58** *November 7, 2008*, Pullman, Pa. Following a residency in pediatrics at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa., he settled in Buffton, Ind., and opened a pediatric practice in conjunction with the Caylor-Nickel Clinic. He retired in 1994. Strehler's wife, Joan, passed away in 1996. He is survived by a sister, three sons, and 11 grandchildren.

**Miriam Evers Donaldson, M.D. WMC '65** *October 15, 2008*

**Winifred Pack, M.D. WMC '70** *October 2008*

**Barry Miller, Ph.D. MCP '71** *October 17, 2008*

**Grace Baldwin Doherty, M.D. MCP '72** *October 27, 2008*, Hull, Mass. She was the medical director for the Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment Center in Randolph, Mass. She formerly served as assistant medical director and pulmonologist at Massachusetts Respiratory Hospital in Braintree for 28 years. She also worked for the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions as a preceptor for nurse practitioners. She is survived by a daughter, Rosemary Byrne; a son, Richard B. Doherty; her former husband, Richard Doherty; two brothers; and a granddaughter.

**Edward A. Schillinger, PsyD, HU '72** *November 15, 2008*, Lafayette Hill, Pa. He was a clinical psychologist at the Pathway School for children with neuropsychiatric disorders. He had served in the Korean War as an army medic. He is survived by his parents; his wife of 27 years, Joan; two daughters, Rachel and Rebecca; and two brothers.

**Andre Bell, M.D. MCP '87** *October 20, 2008*

**Romeen Kochhar Whinney, M.D., MCP '97** *December 17, 2008*, South Euclid, Ohio. She completed a fellowship with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, specializing in palliative medicine, and served as a physician to those under hospice care. She is survived by her husband, Christopher Whinney, M.D., MCP '96; her daughter, Pomee Therese; and her father, Devendra Kochhar, M.D.

*Please note: The NewsPager publishes brief obituaries, space permitting, when information is made available by the family or a media service.*

■ *continued on page 10*

## Where Are They Now? Jean Sullivan, M.D., WMC '54

After graduating from Woman's Medical College in 1954, Dr. Jean Sullivan practiced medicine in California, Connecticut and Arizona, and raised a family. In 1984, she moved to Kentucky to join the Frontier Nursing Service, settling in Leslie County.

After a career of working for larger institutions, at the age of 60 Sullivan decided to open her own clinic in Hyden, Ky. Originally it was upstairs above the town's friendly pharmacist who offered some space. When the clinic became more established, she moved it to a building on the main road in Hyden. Her neighbor painted the Redbud Family Health Clinic sign board (below) with a depiction of the rural countryside of southeastern Kentucky that Sullivan fell in love with. In front of the sign board are some of



the flowers that she cultivated around the front and sides of the clinic in between patient visits. She operated her clinic for 21 years and, if her health at the age of 81 had not intervened, would still be responding to patient requests for care and home visits – her Toyota Camry had already logged over 300,000 miles.

*The Leslie County News* (Hyden, Ky.) published a story celebrating her work, noting, “Those who worked with her in the clinic said patient income was never a factor in the level of care. When patients asked, ‘How much do I owe you?’ many times Dr. Sullivan’s answer would be, ‘How much do you have? How about five dollars?’ ”

Upon retiring, Sullivan moved in with her oldest son and two grandchildren in McLean, Va., near another son and two other grandchildren in Washington, D.C. She also has a daughter who lives in Lexington, Ky., and another son in Flagstaff, Ariz. With extra time now, she has been catching up on her public library reading list, taking daily walks, and enjoying the company of grandchildren and their menagerie of birds, fish, lizards, turtles, snakes, dogs, and cats – some of whom join her on the sunny back porch.



**Dr. Sullivan**

## ELAM Alum Finds Center for Integrative Medicine

Arti Prasad, M.D., a 2004-05 fellow in the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® Program, met Luther W. Brady, the Hylda Cohn/American Cancer Society Professor of Oncology, at the 2005 ELAM® Forum on Emerging Issues, “Transformational Philanthropy.” Brady was invited to the forum in his role as a philanthropist. He became a mentor and continuing source of guidance in philanthropic strategies to Prasad as she prepared to open the University of New Mexico Center for Life, An Integrative Medicine Specialty Clinic. Founding the clinic, where she is now executive director, fulfilled a lifetime vision for Prasad, and is a testimony to both hard work and the skills she gained through her ELAM fellowship. Brady attended the center’s grand opening last August (photo) and continues to lend support as the founding member of its Annual Giving Circles.



**Pictured are Arti Prasad, M.D., FACP, ELAM alumna, and mentor Luther W. Brady, M.D., the Hylda Cohn/American Cancer Society Professor of Oncology, Drexel University College of Medicine. Brady, also a noted philanthropist, and Prasad met through the ELAM Program.**

## Molecular Medicine Master's Program Launched

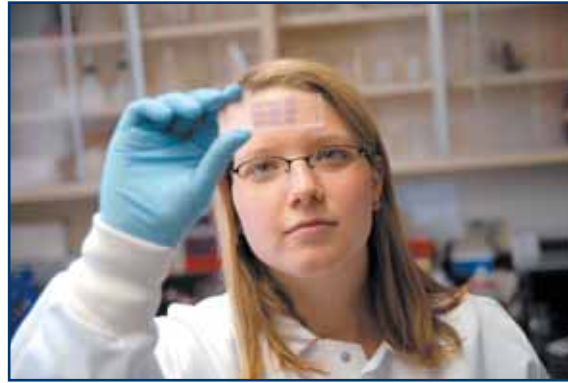
Drexel University College of Medicine has inaugurated a new degree program leading to a Master of Science in Molecular Medicine. The program will provide training in the academic, research and entrepreneurial aspects of the biomedical sciences with an emphasis on translational research in the development of therapeutics and vaccines.

The MS-MM program is ideally suited for enhancing the scientific credentials of the following groups:

- industrial employees
- high school biology teachers
- new college graduates
- college undergraduates
- premedical students

Most courses are offered in the early evening to maximize accessibility. Classes can be attended at any of three College of Medicine locations:

New College Building in Center City, the Queen Lane Campus in East Falls, or the Drexel Institute for Biotechnology and



Virology Research in nearby Doylestown. State-of-the-art video conferencing provides real-time interactive learning at all three locations.

In addition to broad geographic access, the curriculum provides flexibility in content and course load. Most students will complete the program in two years through completion of required courses and electives selected from two menus: Research Theory and Laboratory Research. The latter includes the option of either an intensive summer research internship in a biotechnology-based company or part-time research training in an academic research setting. Some students may opt to complete the program on a part-time basis, taking up to four years. In either sequence, no dissertation is required. Program directors and

course faculty will work closely with each student to best achieve their specific goals.

**Contact: Stephanie Hasson at 215-991-8146, or email [molecular.medicine@drexelmed.edu](mailto:molecular.medicine@drexelmed.edu)**

## Students Reach Out with Holiday Book Drive

In middle income neighborhoods, the ratio of books per child is 13 to 1, while in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is one age-appropriate book for every 300 children, according to the *Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Vol. 2*, (Guilford Press, 2005).

On December 9, 2008, College of Medicine students brought nearly 350 books to Mifflin Elementary, a school in which more than 75 percent of the children qualify for a free lunch. Each of the 321 children enrolled received a wrapped book. They also brought extra books for the school library. In addition, some books were collected for waiting patients in the Emergency Department of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

Students, faculty, and staff contributed books, money, time, enthusiasm and hope to the effort led by this year's coordinating committee: Courtney Abshier, Amber Anderson, Jennifer Andreozzi, Amber-Nicole Bird, Stephanie Doupnik, Allie Fleischer, Morgan Hammer, Megan Knowles, Kelly Peretich, Gina Ramirez, and Stacey Simons. These second-year medical students planned, cajoled, raised funds, typed up lists, bought, wrapped, and delivered books, all while studying for their exams. Appreciation also goes to first-year students Amy Thomas and Christine Schad and second-year student Michele Hendrickson, who helped with the project.

Dr. Dennis DePace took his annual turn as Santa and distributed the books with grace – despite having to wear his red suit in an 80-degree classroom.

Given that more education is linked with better health (*Overcoming Obstacles to Health*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2008), Drexel University College of Medicine is proud to contribute to the health – and the literacy – of some of the children in East Falls.



## Presentations & Publications



**Dr. Alemo**

**Saeid Alemo, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Surgery, authored "Long-Term Imaging Behavior of Acrylic After One Level of Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fixation" in the 2008 issue of *World Spine Journal*. In addition, Alemo presented "Mechanism of Pain Relief in Lumbar Facet Joint Injection" at the

American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Pain, April 26-May 1, 2008, in Chicago.



**Dr. Berkson**

**David Berkson, M.D.**, assistant professor, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, and **Kathleen O'Brien, M.D.**, sports medicine fellow, presented at the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts/Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Conference, November 16, 2008, in

Worcester, Mass. Berkson presented "Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Screening in Athletes" and O'Brien presented "AEDs and Emergency Planning."



**Dr. Gracely**

**Ed Gracely, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, authored an editorial, "So Why Do I Have to Correct for Multiple Comparisons? Concepts and Commentary on Turk et al." in the October 2008 edition of *Pain*.



**Dr. Greenberg**

**Michael I. Greenberg, M.D., MPH**, professor and chief, Division of Medical Toxicology, Department of Emergency Medicine, presented a talk to law enforcement officers and district attorneys, "Prescription Medications: Problems Posed for Law Enforcement," sponsored by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, December 18, 2008.



**Dr. Long**

**Sarah S. Long, M.D.**, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and section chief of Infectious Diseases, Saint Christopher's Hospital for Children, and **Irini Daskalaki, M.D.**, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, and colleagues authored "New Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Guidelines for Rotavirus Vaccine Allow More Children to Receive Vaccine" in the January edition of *Pediatrics*.



**Dr. De Luca**

**Francesco De Luca, M.D.**, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and chief of the Section of Endocrinology and Diabetes at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, co-authored "Stimulatory Effects of Insulin-like Growth Factor-I on Growth Plate Chondrogenesis Are Mediated by Nuclear Factor-kB p65" in the December 5, 2008, issue of *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.



**Dr. Fleetwood**

**Janet Fleetwood, Ph.D.**, professor, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, gave a presentation, "Future Tense: Professional Advancement, Creative Initiatives and the Academic Career Trajectory," at the national meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities held in Cleveland, October 25, 2008. The presentation examined academic advancement for medical ethicists in medical school and university settings.



**Dr. Kutalek**



**Dr. Dhond**

**D. Lee, M.D.**, fellow, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine; **Steven Kutalek, M.D.**, associate professor, Division of Cardiology; **Abhay Dhond, M.D.**, associate professor, Division of Internal Medicine; **Mashiul Chowdhury, M.D.**, assistant professor, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, and colleague presented



**Dr. Chowdhury**



**Dr. Palermo**

a poster entitled "Microbiological Aspects of Early versus Late Onset Cardiac Device Infection" at the annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy/Infectious Diseases Society of America meeting, October 25-28, 2008, in Washington, D.C. Lee, **Brandon Palermo, M.D.**, assistant professor, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, and Chowdhury also presented "Trichosporon beigellii Cardiac Device Infection" at the IDSA meeting.



**Dr. Martín-García**



**Dr. Navas-Martín**

**Julio Martín-García, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, with collaborators **Simon Cocklin, Ph.D.**, research associate professor,

and **Sonia Navas-Martín, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, published "The V1-V3 Region of a Brain-Derived HIV-1 Envelope Glycoprotein Determines

Macrophage Tropism, Low CD4 Dependence, Increased Fusogenicity and Altered Sensitivity to Entry Inhibitors” in the October 6, 2008 edition of *Retrovirology*.



**Dr. Novack**

**Dennis Novack, M.D.**, professor and associate dean of medical education, Department of Medicine, completed a 10-day lecture tour of Japan from October 24 to November 2, 2008. He gave eight lectures and workshops on physician-patient communication and behavioral science education at universities in Tokyo, Osaka,

Nagoya, and Gifu, including two presentations at national meetings. He has been asked to return to Japan in July 2009 to address a national conference on medical education.



**Dr. Núñez**

**Ana Núñez, M.D.**, associate professor, Division of Internal Medicine, presented “Sexual Health, Safety and Planning for Sexual Safety: The Intersection of HIV/AIDS and Intimate Partner Violence” to the Title X funded Family Planning Clinics in Southeastern Pennsylvania at their Medical Directors Fall Forum on November 11,

2008. Núñez is a member of the Family Planning Council’s Medical Committee.



**Dr. Schidlow**

**Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.**, professor and chair, Department of Pediatrics, authored “The Hot Seat: A Primer for Residency Interviews” published in the December 2008 edition of *The New Physician*.

## Emergency Medicine Hosts EM Residents Day

The Department of Emergency Medicine hosted the Pennsylvania chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians Residents Day, September 24, 2008 at the Bossone Center on Drexel University’s Main Campus. After a welcome and introduction by Drexel emergency physicians Edward Ramoska and Mark Saks, both assistant professors, faculty members made a variety of thought-provoking presentations, as follows:

James R. Roberts, M.D., professor, “Shock & Awe: Complications of Implantable Cardio-Defibrillators”

Theodore J. Corbin, M.D, MPP, assistant professor, “Violence Prevention and Emergency Medicine”

Zach Kassutto, M.D., associate professor, “Aunt Millie’s Revenge: Clinical Pearls & the Spitz Diagnosis (Visual Diagnosis in the Emergency Department)”

Richard J. Hamilton, M.D., professor and chair, “Crowding in the Emergency Department”

## Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine



**Erika Aaron**

**Erika Aaron, MSN, CRNP**, nurse practitioner and director of women’s services, and **Shannon Criniti, MPH**, division manager, authored “Screening for Depression in Pregnant Women With HIV Infection” in *Reproductive Medicine* (May 2008).



**Dr. Jacobson**

**Jeffery Jacobson, M.D.**, professor and chief, and colleagues published “Antiviral Activity of Single-Dose PRO 140, a CCR5 Monoclonal Antibody, in HIV-Infected Adults,” in *Infectious Diseases* (November 2008).

In addition, Jacobson presented a poster entitled “Antiviral Activity and Tolerability of 5 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg Doses of PRO 140, a Humanized Monoclonal Antibody to CCR5” at the annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy/Infectious Diseases Society of America meeting in Washington, D.C., October 25-28, 2008.



**Dr. Kutzler**

**Michele Kutzler, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, published “DNA Vaccines: Ready for Prime Time?” in *Nature Review Genetics* (October 2008).

Several members of the division made presentations at the American Public Health Association annual meeting, October 25-29, 2008, in San Diego:



**Dr. Bamford**

**Laura Bamford, M.D.**, and colleagues presented a poster, “Factors Associated With Delayed Entry Into Primary HIV Medical Care After HIV Diagnosis.”



**Dr. Bell**

**Erika Aaron; Shannon Criniti; Amy Hilley, MPH**, senior research assistant; **Brenda Martino**, senior medical assistant; **Anita Vargas**, medical assistant; and **Joanna Bell, M.D.**, assistant professor, gave an oral presentation, “Achieving Universal HIV Screening: Following CDC Recommendations in States With Incompatible Laws.”

**Criniti** and colleagues gave an oral presentation entitled “Lessons Learned From a Community-Based HIV Testing Partnership: The Minority Community Health HIV/AIDS Demonstration Partnership.”

**Criniti, Aaron, Hilley, Martino**, and colleague gave an oral presentation, “Providing In-Home HIV Testing for Pregnant Women and Their Families: Challenges and Benefits.”

## Grants & Kudos



**Dr. Nyirjesy**

**Paul Nyirjesy, M.D.**, professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, was one of 40 guests from around the world invited to participate in the National Institute on Allergy and Infectious Diseases workshop for Bacterial Vaginosis: Identifying Research Gap, November 19-20, 2008, in Bethesda, Md.



**Dr. Jain**

**Pooja Jain, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, has received a five-year R01 (total direct cost, \$1,342,000) grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, for her project "Define The Role of Dendritic Cells In HTLV-1-Associated Neuroinflammatory Disease."



**Dr. Block**

**Timothy Block, Ph.D.**, professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, has been awarded the distinction of fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for discovery of molecular mechanisms of viral persistence and therapeutic strategies for hepatitis B virus and herpes simplex virus. New fellows will be recognized on February 14, at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the AAAS annual meeting in Chicago.



**Dr. Greenberg**

**Michael I. Greenberg, M.D.**, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine and professor, Drexel University School of Public Health, has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Emergencies, Trauma and Shock International*.



**Drs. Hoskins and Komarnicky**

**Lydia Komarnicky, M.D.**, professor and chair, Department of Radiation Oncology, was awarded the 2008 Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Oncology, a nationally competitive grant in the amount of \$7,500. This program allowed William J. Hoskins, M.D., executive director of surgical activities and attending surgeon at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, to visit the College of Medicine for three days of teaching and professional exchange with students, faculty, fellows, physicians, nurses, and community members. Only eight grants of this nature are awarded per year. The Independent Academic Advisory Board selects grant recipients.



**Dr. Frank**

**Barbara Frank, M.D.**, clinical professor, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, received the Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Society of Gastroenterology in October 2008 and assumed the presidency of the Bockus International Society of Gastroenterology during the Digestive Disease Week's annual meeting last May 18, 2008.



**Dr. Eisen holds the proclamation presented by the Second Chance Heart Transplant Group.**

**Howard J. Eisen, M.D.**, the Thomas J. Vischer Professor of Medicine; chief, Division of Cardiology; and director, Drexel Center for Cardiovascular Disorders; **Shelley Hankins, M.D.**, assistant professor, Division of Cardiology, and the entire heart transplant team at Hahnemann University Hospital were recognized by the Second Chance Heart Transplant Group, a patient support group, for positively affecting the lives of patients and the well-being of the Center for Advanced Heart Failure Care at Hahnemann. The group presented two proclamations, one to the team and one to Dr. Eisen.



**Diana Hare, Esq.**, associate general counsel for Drexel University College of Medicine, received the 2008 Corporate Counsel Excellence Award from the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel in recognition of her service and dedication to her profession, community, and country. The honor was presented at the organization's awards luncheon on December 17, 2008, at the Union League of Philadelphia.

Submissions for Presentations & Publications and Grants & Kudos may now be emailed directly to [NewsPager@drexelmed.edu](mailto:NewsPager@drexelmed.edu). Please be sure to include all the relevant information, including full name, title, and department for any College of Medicine or University colleagues involved. For Presentations & Publications, please use the entries on page 12 of this issue as a model. Thank you.

## SPA Presentations Around the World



**Dr. Curcillo**

**Paul G. Curcillo, II, M.D.**, associate professor and vice chair, Department of Surgery, presented “Single Port Access Surgery – A New Platform in Minimal Access Surgery” to the Italian Society of Surgery in October 2008 in Rome.

In November 2008, **Curcillo** presented “Single Port Access Cholecystectomy” and “Single Port Access Surgery – Is It Really Just About the Incision?” at the 2nd International NOTES Conference in Barcelona.



**Dr. King**



**Dr. Offer**

In October, at the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists in Las Vegas, **Stephanie King, M.D.**, associate

professor, **Ryan Offer, M.D.**, instructor, **Minda Green, M.D.**, resident, and **Jessica Shepherd, M.D.**, resident, all in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, presented “Single Port Access Salpingoophorectomy: 25 Cases of a Novel Minimal Access Technique,” “Single Port Access Hysterectomy in a Teaching Institution: Comparison of Single Port to Traditional Multiport Laparoscopy,” and “Single Port Access Surgery: 30 Case Applications in Gynecologic Oncology.”



**Dr. Della Badia**

**Shepherd, Green, Offer, King, and Carl Della Badia, D.O.**, associate professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, also presented “Single Port Access Hysterectomy – Techniques and Applications.”

## Compliance Corner: Encryption and the Use of Minimum Necessary Protected Health Information



**Edward G. Longazel**  
Chief Compliance  
& Privacy Officer

We appropriately place a priority on protecting the health information of our patients in the ongoing production and use of medical records. To assist all in protecting patient information we have deployed the Voltage encryption tool for the security of internal- and external-bound email containing such protected health information.

A sure way each of us can reduce the risk of a compromise to our valuable information security posture is to both encrypt and follow the HIPAA “minimum necessary” principle and our Privacy Program Policy IM-02. The minimum necessary principle states that the minimum amount of information necessary to complete a task should be utilized, to limit disclosure of unnecessary protected health information.

**Simply stated**, one should never create spreadsheets, logs, or lists for administrative tracking, review, or analysis that contain personally identifiable patient information. Key data elements including the Social Security number, birth date

and diagnoses should be dropped from data requests and erased from initial downloads if not required for the work being completed. Individual access to protected information should not be above the level needed to effectively perform assigned job responsibilities.

The extension of risk in the electronic and digital age has moved beyond breach of patient confidentiality of healthcare information. Identity theft has come to include the theft of healthcare services by one criminally assuming the identity of another to use stolen insurance information. State laws now also protect the individual when a data breach occurs. The healthcare provider and support staff are a key link in the ever vigilant chain providing identity theft protection from time of information collection through use and appropriate destruction when due.

**Be sure to review** your daily processes and identify areas where the use of encryption and a reduction in the use of protected information could increase the level of information protection. Use of encryption and the minimum necessary information to complete the task is our best defense against loss of protected information.

**Confidential compliance hotlines: Call toll-free 866-936-1010; or visit [www.drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline](http://www.drexelmed.edu/ComplianceHotline)  
Compliance or Privacy training requests: 215-255-7819**

Suite 11484, 1601 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

## Bulletins:

### 153 Faculty Physicians Named to Best Doctors in America

The College of Medicine is pleased to announce that 153 faculty members have been named to this year's Best Doctors in America® list. The physicians, representing more than a dozen specialties, were nominated by other doctors from across the country. Best Doctors, Inc., a database of the top specialists in the world, is a leading resource for patients, families and physicians seeking expert medical opinion. The list is compiled based on the results of a peer-to-peer survey. See <http://drexelmed.edu/monitor/BestDoctors.pdf>.

### Kate Hurd-Mead Lecture: America's First Sex Manual

The 2009 Kate Hurd-Mead Lecture, "Something Borrowed, Something Blue: The Strange History of America's First Sex Manual," will be presented by Mary E. Fissell, Ph.D., of Johns Hopkins on Thursday, March 26, 6:15 p.m. at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd Street. Professor Fissell will discuss the notorious *Aristotle's Masterpiece*. The Kate Hurd-Mead Lecture is presented annually under the auspices of the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine of Drexel University College of Medicine, and the Section on Medical History of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

### University Receives \$25 Million Gift for Design Center

Drexel University has received a \$25 million gift to fund a design center for the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. The donor, a non-alumnus University trustee, asked that his name not be made public. The gift enables Drexel to acquire and renovate two properties that will extend Main Campus westward across 35th Street. The Design Center will house Westphal College programs now scattered across the campus and provide a public showcase for creative works by faculty and students.

## Calendar:

<b>February</b>	<i>American Heart Month</i>
Feb 3	<b>Sex &amp; Gender Research Forum</b> Contact: 215-255-7381 or <a href="mailto:mmcvail@drexelmed.edu">mmcvail@drexelmed.edu</a>
Feb 4-7	<b>A Multidisciplinary Update in Clinical Medicine/Surgery for the Practicing Physician</b> Presented by Drexel University College of Medicine Snowmass, Colorado Jennifer Sumter, 215-762-2580
Feb 21	<b>Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert</b> Presented by the students of Drexel University College of Medicine Main Building, Drexel University
<b>March</b>	<i>National Kidney Month</i>
Mar 19	<b>Match Day</b>
Mar 26	<b>Kate Hurd-Mead Lecture</b> See Bulletins, at left.
<b>April</b>	<i>National Autism Awareness Month</i>
Apr 20	<b>Marion Spencer Fay Award</b> Contact: 215-255-7381 or <a href="mailto:mmcvail@drexelmed.edu">mmcvail@drexelmed.edu</a>
Apr 27	<b>Woman One Award Ceremony</b> Contact: 215-255-7381 or <a href="mailto:mmcvail@drexelmed.edu">mmcvail@drexelmed.edu</a>
<b>May</b>	<i>Asthma &amp; Allergy Awareness Month</i>
May 1-3	<b>Alumni Weekend</b>
May 13-15	<b>50th Reunion</b>
May 15	<b>Commencement</b>