Celebrating accomplishments of African-American doctors and alumni

"Without the post-baccalaureate program, I wouldn’t be a doctor," said Anita Moncrease, M.D., M.P.H. "I had a disadvantaged background and wouldn’t have been able to make it without this important resource."

Dr. Moncrease echoed the thoughts of nearly every attendee at the third annual alumni reunion for WSU’s Post-Baccalaureate Program and Black Medical Association. These two programs have fostered the recruitment and retention of African-American medical school applicants who receive assistance in the form of academic skills training, tutoring and personal adjustment counseling, to help them overcome disadvantages and attain successful medical careers.

The alumni event, which coincides with Medical Alumni Reunion Day in May each year, fosters a special camaraderie. As Dr. Moncrease explains, although some people perceive that affirmative action policies have allowed for quick, sweeping waves of progress in advancing African-American physicians, progress isn’t exactly immediate.

"In my graduating class, in 1984, I was one of 14 African-American medical students. In a class of over 200, that’s not overwhelming. Now that the post-baccalaureate program has been in place a few decades, we have finally accumulated about 300 African-American graduates. Collectively, we are a pretty close group and we are deeply committed to maintaining resources to educate and serve others, like ourselves."

The 2006 reunion, appropriately held at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, featured recollections from alumni, an inspirational musical/vocal performance by Dr. Silas Norman (WSU graduate and assistant dean for admissions), a call for support for the Black Medical Association Student Emergency Fund and the Charles F. Whitten, M.D., Post-Baccalaureate Fund, and a tribute to some successful alumni.

The keynote speech was presented by honored alumna, Dr. Joyce Essien, ’71, a founding member of the post-baccalaureate program, who is the director of the Center for Public Health Practice at Emory University and a captain with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In both roles, she builds on her WSU training to advance health equity and population health outcomes, to reduce disparities, and to influence health policy.

Dr. Essien’s vision and efforts with Dr. Charles Whitten in the late 1960s have established WSU’s minority program as a model for the nation. In fact, in September 2006, the Journal of the American Medical Association published findings that participants in post-baccalaureate pre-medical programs were six times more likely to enroll in medical school than other college graduates who applied to these post-baccalaureate programs but did not participate. In an accompanying editorial, Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., Association of American Medical Colleges president emeritus, and Ann Steinke, Ph.D., AAMC senior staff associate, called the research findings “empirical support for the long-held belief that a sturdy scaffold of academic preparation and mentoring can offset at least some of the accumulated disadvantages experi-

Continued on page 24
Dr. Roger Kahn makes health care a political priority

Sen. Roger Kahn, M.D., practices office-based general cardiology in Saginaw, Mich., for six to eight hours each week. The 1974 Wayne State University School of Medicine graduate spends the rest of his week practicing medicine in another way—on the Senate floor in Lansing. “It’s not good medicine for physicians to ignore the impact politics have on health care,” Dr. Kahn said.

Among many reasons, one that instigated Dr. Kahn’s jump into the world of politics was his encounter with an Amish woman from northern Michigan who didn’t have any health insurance. Her much-needed heart surgery bill was $60,000. If she would have had Medicare, the hospital would have accepted about $20,800.

“So she had nothing and gets charged three times as much as someone who has insurance,” said Dr. Kahn, who didn’t charge her for his professional services. “That was my first real lesson about cost shifting.”

With rising medical and pharmaceutical costs as Dr. Kahn’s driving force in politics, he was elected as Saginaw’s county commissioner in 2002, state representative in 2004 and was recently elected to the state Senate. “It’s you, your patient, the insurance company, the lawyer and the government in the examining room. Not just you and the patient. These all impact your ability to deliver care and not necessarily in a positive fashion,” he said.

Jobs and education are other important issues, said Dr. Kahn, who is greatly concerned with the increasing number of people between the ages of 25 and 35 leaving Michigan. All of these issues are also related to health care, he said.

From Dr. Kahn’s unique perspective, health care and the auto industry also go hand in hand in some aspects. “An automobile is $1500 worth of health care costs. That’s the difference of cost between building a U.S. car and a Japanese car,” he explained.

Dr. Kahn completed his cardiology fellowship and residency at William Beaumont Hospital and belongs to the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, Michigan State Medical Society and the Michigan Heart Association.

Reflecting on his training at WSU and the Detroit Medical Center, Dr. Kahn said he understands the burden that Medicaid can have on hospitals that cater to large numbers of uninsured patients. “I understand as a physician and very few people in state government understand that,” he said. “Medicaid underpayments to our hospitals and physicians are related to the charges that Amish woman received.”

Dr. Kahn’s not the only one who sees that connection. “As a physician, he carries the clout and knowledge to bring about health care reforms that could improve access to the uninsured—something he accomplished on a smaller scale as a county commissioner,” a Saginaw News reporter wrote.

Dr. Kahn, who has his acceptance letter to WSU’s School of Medicine framed on his wall, said being a doctor has helped him develop a concept of care and social responsibility. “As a physician, you’re in the business of service and I hope that politics is an extension of that same idea. It’s medical care being delivered in a different way,” said Dr. Kahn, who recommends that students take a public health course.

“I do miss it. Medicine is pure advocacy. You don’t have to worry about the issues of balancing one group’s needs versus another. In medicine you advocate for one person only.” From time to time Dr. Kahn still visits Detroit hospitals. “When I was training at Detroit’s General Hospital, there was a certain ambience. When I visited Receiving 20 years later, I noticed it still had the same ambiance and it made me kind of homesick,” he said.

Dr. Kahn is the father of eight children and grandfather of nine and lives with his wife in Saginaw.
Detroit native David M. Barrett, M.D., changed the face of Lahey Clinic, a multi-specialty health care organization, upon becoming the CEO of the Massachusetts-based clinic in September 1999.

“When I arrived, the institution was struggling after coming off a failed merger with a medical center in New Hampshire. The first year I was there we lost $38 million, since that time we’ve gone through a turnaround, and in 2006, we will have net operating income of $43 million on a $725 million revenue,” Dr. Barrett said.

Prior to becoming a successful executive, the 1968 Wayne State University School of Medicine graduate did his training in surgery and urology. Then for two years, he served as a flight surgeon during the Vietnam War.

“It was a life-altering experience,” he said. “There’s a well-known quote which basically says what I feel: You have never lived until you have almost died; and for those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.”

While in Vietnam, Dr. Barrett was assigned to a helicopter special operations squadron and provided medical support to missions in Laos and Cambodia.

“It was a crazy war and it proved very clearly that war creates more problems than it solves,” he said.

After Vietnam, Dr. Barrett finished training in urology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and eventually became a staff physician at Mayo in 1975. His medical achievements include his expertise in urologic oncology, urinary incontinence, bladder reconstruction and genitourinary prostheses. In 1991, he became the chairman of the Department of Urology. He also served as vice chair of the board of trustees.

“The Lahey Clinic is similar to the Mayo Clinic,” he said. It has over 500 physicians and 4,500 employees and has been cited in the U.S. News and World Report’s “America’s Best Hospital Issue” for excellence in treating urological diseases.

“Guiding a health care institution at this point in time is a very difficult chore,” Dr. Barrett said of his administrative responsibilities.

“The patient expectations have never been higher, the cost of health care has never been higher and the amount of profit has never been lower. It’s very difficult to deliver high quality, safe health care at a reasonable cost, when there is such a public outcry to reduce the cost, yet add expensive technology.”

Aside from his executive responsibilities at Lahey, Dr. Barrett still sees patients and operates one day a week.

“It’s interesting,” Dr. Barrett said about his transition from being a full-time physician to CEO of a large health care organization. “You have to know things about finance, about dealing with the political environment and about raising money. But, when you boil it all down, it’s all about taking care of people and doing the right thing.

The two jobs have a lot of similarities. This is a people business. Our patients are people and employees are people.”

His ability to effectively interact with people, specifically his employees, is what contributed to Dr. Barrett’s success at Lahey, he said.

“I think first and foremost we have good people. They need to be given the responsibility of doing what they are capable of doing. The best way to get things done is surround yourself with good people and empower them to do what they have the ability to do.”

After being in the medical business and practice for many years, Dr. Barrett wants to continue his work with Lahey but he is also interested in health care reform at the state and national level.

“We just had a milestone health care bill passed in Massachusetts, which provides multipayer universal health care coverage to all citizens,” said Dr. Barrett, who helped shepherd the bill through the legislature in his role as chair of the Massachusetts Hospital Association.

“I enjoy working with politicians, I have great confidence that we will work out health care reform for the United States. It has to be done.”

He also has great confidence in medicine. “The public has been ultra critical of the physicians and hospitals. We’ve got to be careful we don’t damage what is a wonderful asset for the United States—and that is our health care system.”

Among his many professional endeavors, Dr. Barrett is a professor of urology at Tufts University School of Medicine, where he inspires students, as he was inspired at Wayne State’s medical school.

“Wayne State University not only trained me academically, but there were key people who inspired me throughout my time there. I try to remember what one of my mentors said: ‘Never grow weary of right doing.’”

Dr. Barrett lives in Andover, Mass., with his wife Sibley. They have three adult children and one granddaughter.

Oohs and aahs, an annual tradition

WSU alumni and their families have the best seats in the city each year at the Freedom Festival Fireworks Spectacular held in June, as part of Detroit’s fourth-of-July celebration. The 2006 alumni event at the top of the Hotel Pontchartrain featured family fun including swimming, dinner, magicians and, of course, fireworks that lit up the sky. To plan for your summer and reserve your seat at the 2007 extravaganza, call the Medical Alumni Association at (877) WSU-MED1 or visit: www.med.wayne.edu/alumni.

For more great photos, visit the online photo gallery at: http://www.med.wayne.edu/alumni/events/fireworks/.

Correction …

The last issue of alum notes incorrectly listed John Winniewski, ’78, in the In Memoriam section. We certainly regret the error.

We know that timely reporting of alumni deaths is important to our readers. At the same time, we must ensure that our reports are accurate. Therefore, we ask that friends and family send us either an obituary or a letter of confirmation notifying us of someone’s death.

Please write to the WSU Medical Alumni Association, University Health Center, 6-F, 4201 St. Antoine, Detroit, MI 48201 or e-mail alumni@med.wayne.edu.
Alum, Dr. Stocker, establishes endowed professorship

In 1949, Dr. Lawrence Stocker became the first resident to complete the Kresge Eye Institute’s graduate training program. Now, he has made a generous financial gift to establish the Lawrence L. Stocker, M.D., Endowed Ophthalmology Professorship at KEI and the WSU School of Medicine.

Dr. Lawrence L. Stocker, a 1941 graduate of the WSU School of Medicine, has been a longtime friend and supporter of Kresge Eye Institute. His belief in practicing compassionate medicine, developing strong rapport with patients and providing assistance beyond a physician’s required duties has held him in high esteem by all who know him. He has treated countless patients while in practice and earned the respect of his patients, students and colleagues for his professionalism, intelligence and ability to foster excellence.

Dr. Stocker graduated from the Wayne State University College of Liberal Arts in June 1936 with a bachelor of arts degree and earned a medical degree in 1941. He completed his internship at Detroit Receiving Hospital and was a resident in internal medicine at the William J. Seymour Hospital in Eloise, Mich. He completed a residency in ophthalmology at Detroit Receiving Hospital and finished his training under A.D. Ruedemann, M.D., when Dr. Ruedemann established the Kresge Eye Institute. Dr. Stocker was the first resident to finish his training under this program.

“We ARE INDEBTED TO DR. STOCKER AND WILL ALWAYS BE HONORED THAT HE GRADUATED FROM KRESGE EYE INSTITUTE. HE HAS BEEN A CONTINUAL SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR US. DR. STOCKER’S GIFT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE OUR RESIDENCY PROGRAM.”

-DR. GARY ABRAMS
Professor and Chairman of Kresge Eye Institute

Honoring Dr. Stocker and his generous gift are:
Phyllis Baker, Dr. Jane Werner, Dr. Mark Juzych, Monika Mentzer, Dr. Lawrence Stocker, Dr. Gary Abrams, Dean Robert Mentzer, Dr. Evan Black, Nikole Black, William Winkler and Dr. Nadia Juzych.

Alum notes is published quarterly for the faculty, staff, students and alumni of the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Your comments, suggestions and submissions are encouraged.

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Dr. Jenkins to become first African-American president of AAP

In October 2006, pediatrician Renee Jenkins, M.D., 59, took office as president-elect of the nation’s largest pediatric organization, the American Academy ofPediatricians. This was the first time the 60,000-member AAP elected a black leader. Dr. Jenkins will serve as the 2007-2008 president of the academy.

“You are always surprised when you actually get elected,” said Dr. Jenkins, who was one of a handful of people interviewed for the position. “When they told me I was a candidate, I was blown away: I have learned over the years to go with the flow and not be surprised with other opportunities that come up.”

After graduating from Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1971, Dr. Jenkins moved to New York and completed her residency at Jacobi Hospital/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. Continuing her medical endeavors, she completed a fellowship in adolescent medicine at Montefiore Hospital in New York and eventually started an adolescent medicine program at Howard.

Dr. Jenkins, an AAP member since 1974, is currently professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health at Howard University. She is also an adjunct professor of pediatrics at George Washington University.

“Having been involved in advocacy for quite a while, I have learned that people don’t know the issues surrounding children unless we step up and articulate them,” she said. “Children don’t vote and they don’t necessarily get their issues heard.”

With an obvious interest in children’s health care rights, Dr. Jenkins feels strongly about the Deficit Reduction Act, recently passed by the U.S. Congress resulting in slashed funding to Medicaid and other programs that provide health coverage for people with low incomes.

“Kids like the survivors of Katrina, who don’t have documents anymore are affected by this and it’s unclear what will happen to them. The most vulnerable kids are being denied health care. The academy is working hard to get that part of it reversed,” she said.

The newly elected leader will also help the academy support the amendment of universal access to health care for children. “We are one of the few industrialized countries that does not cover its children and we ought to be embarrassed,” Dr. Jenkins told Infectious Diseases in Children in a Q&A session.

Other issues Dr. Jenkins plans on addressing are: electronic records, immunizations and obesity.

“Issues that play out in adulthood, like obesity, start in childhood. If we don’t get attention to it in childhood, it will impact the country in a costly fashion,” Dr. Jenkins emphasized.

Dr. Jenkins’s membership in the academy has opened many doors for her. “The academy helped me get out and get different perspectives on other people’s reality. You have to look at an organization from the perspective of many members and the academy really sensitized me to that,” she said.

Dr. Jenkins is married and has one daughter who is a surgery resident at Vanderbilt. The mother, wife, pediatrician, professor and academy leader has overcome many challenges throughout the years, like balancing her career and home.

“Things fell through. The babysitter didn’t show up or somebody forgot to pick her [daughter] up from school. My daughter is a village child, a lot of people participated in raising her and I am thankful for that,” she said.

“It’s harder to move up in office and leadership when you’re a minority and a woman, but I tried not to harp on that excuse.”

Dr. Jenkins feels it is important to have a voice as a minority. “It’s always amusing--but not amusing--to be in a leadership meeting and be the only person with color. That’s still something that doesn’t feel good to me.”

When Dr. Jenkins graduated from WSU’s School of Medicine, her class was starting to become more diverse and included six people of color.

“When you are African American, you have an extra lens to see things through, and you are aware of the need to always address issues that are particular to minorities as you move forward,” Dr. Jenkins said.

“I still have my Detroit roots in what I’ve been doing. I appreciate that I even got into the medical school; it’s not a minor opportunity to study medicine.”

Family Day welcomes new students to medical profession

A father white-coating his son summed up the reverent and landmark highlight of Family Day, a medical school tradition at WSU.

Like all first-year medical students, Kevin Sprague looked forward to receiving his first white coat, a symbolic entrance into the medical profession. Unlike most others, however, Sprague’s initiation came at the hands of his father, Dr. Kevin Sprague, ’80, likewise a WSU School of Medicine physician and president of the WSU Medical Alumni Association.

Other family members of the class of 2010 took great pride in their loved ones as new students recited the Hippocratic Oath and readied themselves for an intense several years of study and training.

The Medical Alumni Association sponsors this event in conjunction with orientation week for incoming students.
### Looking for Alumni

The Medical Alumni Association is missing valid addresses for the following special reunion class alumni. Please notify the alumni affairs office if you know the whereabouts of a classmate so that he or she can be kept informed of reunion activities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Daniel C. Wilkerson, M.D.</td>
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<td>Lionel D. Ginsburg, M.D.</td>
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<td>Lawrence Weiner, M.D.</td>
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<td>Diane A. Vista-Deck, M.D.</td>
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### SAVE THE DATE: Medical Alumni Reunion Day

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Don’t miss the opportunity to catch up with your former classmates and current colleagues at Medical Alumni Reunion Day on May 12, 2007. The continuing medical education sessions will focus on global health and infectious disease. See the alumni Website at: http://www.med.wayne.edu/alumni/ for a complete agenda.


### Dr. Rajiv Iyer takes surgical skills to IRAQ

For Rajiv Iyer, M.D., providing medical care for soldiers on the front lines in the Middle East has been an honor and a privilege.

“Being in the military is an opportunity for me to serve my country – it’s a great privilege to live in the United States,” says Iyer, 32, the son of Indian immigrants. A 2004 alumnus of the Wayne State University General Surgery Program and a 1999 alumnus of the University of California David Geffen School of Medicine, Dr. Iyer is currently stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex., with his wife Andrea, a 1998 Wayne State alumna.

A general surgeon in the United States Air Force, Dr. Iyer served in the Gulf from May to late September 2006. He was stationed at the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, a combat support hospital located in Balad, Iraq, which is roughly 50 km from Baghdad and located at the northern end of the Summi triangle – the heart of the fighting. The 332nd is the busiest war-time hospital since Vietnam. At this facility, 12,000 procedures are performed per year. Every surgeon, including Dr. Iyer, handled 200-300 cases – often under enemy fire.

“Never since Vietnam have we seen the volume we have, nor have we done as many procedures,” explained Dr. Iyer, whose primary surgical objective is to stabilize the patients. After the doctors provide the necessary care for the wounded, they’re transported to Landstuhl Air Force Base in Germany within 24 hours via a critical care air transport (CCAT), which is a large plane complete with its own ICU.

From there, patients are shipped back to the United States if they are American.

The crew treats Americans, Iraqi civilians, enemy prisoners of war (EPoWs) and any other member of the coalition forces. “All of them – regardless of who they were – had the same level of care. We treated all of them to the best of our ability,” Dr. Iyer said.

The facilities in Iraq are modest compared to those in the United States – they operate in tents like the ones seen on M*A*S*H, however, according to Dr. Iyer, the care patients receive is equivalent to what they would get at a first-tier medical center like Detroit Receiving Hospital, as it is equipped with three operating room suites, three intensive care units, and four regular wards.

Dr. Iyer explained that there is a “golden hour” of opportunity for treatment following traumatic injury. “One of the capabilities of the military in modern warfare is that we can still provide care in the golden hour, thanks to helicopters. There are specially trained medics on choppers, bringing the..."
wounded to the next level of care within 20 minutes – that’s almost as good as what patients get here at civilian hospitals. The only difference is that people are trying to kill you."

To up the stakes even further, the temperature in the OR would get as high as 140 degrees, while it averaged 130 degrees outside. The OR needs to be kept warm for trauma patients since they’re hypothermic (they lose body heat quickly). It would get even hotter for some doctors if they wore a flack-jacket while operating due to the violence overhead.

Fortunately, the 332nd was never hit by enemy fire, although there were many close calls, according to Dr. Iyer.

"The first week was difficult because I’ve never experienced a situation like that before where someone is essentially trying to kill you. After the first week, you get used to it,” said Dr. Iyer. "You learn how to protect yourself. It’s a steep learning curve; as soon as you hit the ground, you’re learning. You never know how to deal with the situation until you get there.” Despite enemy fire, the patient is the top priority, he said. Not losing sight of the patient is how he overcame his fear.

Dr. Iyer is proud of the fact that he lost no patients under his care, which he credits to Wayne State.

"The training I received at Wayne State completely prepared me for the number and the severity of injuries, which was unlike anything I’ve ever seen. The training was invaluable,” praised Dr. Iyer. "Wayne State is one of the best programs when it comes to general surgery; it provided me with excellent trauma training. Anyone who graduates from this program is extremely competent and a great surgeon."

Dr. James Tyburski, chief of surgery at Detroit Receiving Hospital, was Dr. Iyer’s program director at Wayne State.

"Raj spent most of his first year (of residency) at the University of Southern California. What I thought was remarkable was how well he adapted to his second year of residency here at Wayne State, coming in stone cold,” Dr. Tyburski said. "He hit the ground running and did very well. I thought that was his strength. He showed great versatility in changing midstream."

Although he’s in Texas now, there is a possibility Dr. Iyer may return overseas for another five-month tour. Either way, it has given him a new appreciation for life and new attitude as a surgeon.

"It’s certainly made me a more confident surgeon. I don’t think there’s anything I won’t be able to handle after that experience.”
KEVIN SPRAGUE, M.D., ’80
Dr. Sprague graduated from the WSU School of Medicine in 1980 and completed his orthopedic residency at WSU in 1985. He has been in practice in Wyandotte for the past 20 years. He has served on many hospital committees and has served as president of the medical staff for Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital. He is currently co-chairman of the Quality & Safety Committee at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

After graduating from Michigan State University, Dr. Sprague entered the Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1976 and married his wife, Carolyn, just before his second year of medical school. She completed a master’s in physiology, then entered the School of Medicine, graduating in 1984. They have three children: Kevin, Philip and Jennifer.

PRESIDENT-ELECT
ERNIE YODER, M.D., PH.D., ’78
Originally from southwest Michigan, Dr. Yoder attended Sturgis High School and Alma College before entering medical school at WSU. He completed his residency in internal medicine in 1981, and following a year as chief medical resident, joined WSU as a full-time faculty member. He later completed his Ph.D. in education at WSU in 1997.

After almost 20 years as full-time faculty at the School of Medicine, Dr. Yoder is now chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Providence Hospital in Southfield. In 2006, he was inducted into the Detroit Academy of Medicine and he is active in leading quality improvement studies and teaching for students, residents and faculty at St. John Health System. Dr. Yoder is clinical associate professor of medicine at WSU, and adjunct associate professor at Oakland University, where he teaches Quality Improvement in Health Care.

Dr. Yoder is an honored and respected scholar and clinician. He was named a Central Group on Educational Affairs Laureate by the Association of American Medical Colleges; is a member of the School of Medicine Academy of Scholars; and has been named multiple times as one of the Best Doctors in America. His clinical and academic efforts have focused on critical care medicine, medical education, program evaluation, evidence-based medicine and continuous quality improvement. Dr. Yoder recently completed a four-year term as governor for the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Physicians; a term on the Executive Committee of the ACP Board of Governors; and has served as chair of the AAMC Central Group on Educational Affairs and chair for the AAMC-GEA Section on Undergraduate Education.

PAUL CHUBA, M.D., ’92
Originally from the Detroit area, Dr. Chuba attended Farmington High School and Kalamazoo College before pursuing a medical career. He has benefited from WSU training in basic science (Ph.D. in immunology and microbiology, 1986) and medicine (M.D., 1992). He completed his transitional year of residency at St. John Hospital and Medical Center and his radiation oncology residency at Harper Hospital. He also completed specialty training in radiosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh and Boston Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Chuba has received awards from the ASCO/AACR Methods in Clinical Cancer Research and the ASTRO/ESTRO exchange program. His main clinical and academic efforts have focused on general radiation oncology, pediatric radiation procedures, brachytherapy, and radiosurgery. He has published widely in these areas.

After spending five years on staff at the Gershenson Radiation Oncology Center, Dr. Chuba joined the Radiation Oncology Specialists group in January 2000. Shortly thereafter, he became medical director for radiation oncology at the Webber Cancer Center at St. John Macomb Hospital in Warren, Mich. In 2004, he was inducted into the Detroit Academy of Medicine. He is active in clinical trials research, especially with the Children’s Oncology Group.

He also teaches medical students and residents.

DONALD MUENK, M.D., ’68
Dr. Muenk is an ophthalmologist in private practice and a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology at the School of Medicine. He is a past president of the Wayne State University Medical Alumni Association and is currently its treasurer. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. He now serves as chief of ophthalmology at St. John Macomb Hospital.

Dr. Muenk is in his tenth year as a member of the board of directors of the Michigan State Medical Society, currently serving as secretary. He is also serving as chairman of the Third Party Committee and on the board of directors of the Macomb County Medical Society.

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RICHARD RUZUMNA, M.D., ’61
After graduating from the WSU School of Medicine and completing his residency in psychiatry at the Detroit Psychiatric Institute, Dr. Ruzumna joined the Public Health Service and was assigned to the National Institute of Mental Health for two years.

Upon his return to Detroit, Dr. Ruzumna pursued psychoanalytic training and for many years, was in private psychotherapy and psychoanalysis practice. During this time, he also served as a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at WSU. He is now retired from the faculty, although he remains active in the alumni association and school activities.

Dr. Ruzumna was former president of the alumni board and a longtime member of the admissions committee for the School of Medicine.
1942 George Mogill, M.D., [pictured right] received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians on July 6, 2006. This prestigious award was presented to him at the MAFP’s annual meeting held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Mich. He also received the American Academy of Family Physician’s 2006 Exemplary Teaching Award as a volunteer faculty member. He accepted that honor at the annual meeting of the AAFP in Washington, D.C., in September 2006.

1963 M. Gary Robertson, M.D., is a delegate of the Ottawa County Medical Society, after serving as past president. He has practiced gynecology for nearly 40 years in Ottawa County, Mich., and has delivered more than 5,000 babies in that time. Dr. Robertson is a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American College of Surgeons, American Medical Association, the International Society for the Advancement of Humanistic Studies in Medicine, and the Central Travel Club of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

1970 Ronald Isley, M.D., has retired after 35 years of service as the team physician for Blissfield High School, in Blissfield, Mich. Dr. Isley was an extremely important part of the team and was appreciated greatly by parents and coaches.

1978 John R. Hamill Jr., M.D., was named Volunteer Faculty of the Year for 2005 by the Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery Department of the University of South Florida for his long-standing commitment to quality resident education. Dr. Hamill has been clinical professor at the University of South Florida for 23 years and is the coordinator for advanced dermatology surgery clinics for dermatology residents at the VA in Tampa. He lectures widely and has been published in numerous journals, especially on skin cancer and treatment. Dr. Hamill is the founder of Gulf Coast Dermatology with locations in Hudson, Brooksville and Palm Harbor, Fla.

2000 Chad M. Charapata, M.D., has joined Galem Medical Group of Chattanooga, Tenn., in the practice of gastroenterology. Dr. Charapata completed a fellowship in gastroenterology and residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

2001 Sarah Muenk-Gold, M.D., and Jeff Gold, M.D., welcomed the birth of their first child, a baby girl named Stella, on October 4, 2006.

Bradley Trivax, M.D., is completing a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

2002 Sean Bender, M.D., completed a four-year emergency medicine residency at Denver Health Medical Center. It is considered one of the nation’s most competitive programs, and is the only one of its kind in Colorado.

Dawn K. George, M.D., joined the Women’s Clinic in Lafayette, Ind., in September 2006. Dr. George is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

2003 Joshua J. Gibson, M.D., [pictured left] joined the staff at Fairview Northland Health Services in Princeton, Minn. Dr. Gibson specializes in family medicine which he says, “encompasses care for all aspects of life; I’m fortunate to be able to care for patients of all ages.”

Giancarlo Zuliani, M.D., was awarded the Charles T. Ferguson 1st Place Clinical Research Award at the annual American Society for Pediatric Otolaryngology meeting in Chicago in May. Dr. Zuliani also presented his research project, “Biofilm Density in the Pediatric Nasopharynx: Chronic Rhinosinusitis Versus Obstructive Sleep Apnea,” at the Combined Otolaryngology Scientific Meeting in Chicago as well. His research was accepted for publication in the Archives of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.
Continuing Medical Education

Children in Pain 2007:
The Culture of Pain Management
April 4, 2007
Novi, Mich.

4th Annual Summit on Organ Donation
April 19-20, 2007
Dearborn, Mich.

Medicolegal Investigation of Death
April 25-27, 2007
Dearborn, Mich.

Advanced Regional Anesthesia 2007:
Invasive Pain Management Techniques
and Regional Anesthesia Hands-On Workshop
May 4-6, 2007
Detroit, Mich.

You Heard It Here First: Experts
Discuss the Latest Advances in Their Fields
May 12, 2007
Detroit, Mich.

20th Annual Issues in Aging
May 14-15, 2007
Troy, Mich.

Golden Path to Success: 50 Years of Advanced Pediatrics
May 31-June 1, 2007
Detroit, Mich.

MRSA The New Challenge:
Epidemiology & Treatment
June 2, 2007
Novi, Mich.

19th Annual Great Lakes Family Medicine Update Symposium
June 4-8, 2007

7th Annual Update in Internal Medicine
August 3-5, 2007
Bay Harbor, Mich.

3rd Annual Pulmonary,
Critical Care and Sleep Medicine
August 17-19, 2007
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