School of Medicine awarded full accreditation

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) issued its formal site visit report and continued full accreditation of all Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center training programs for a period of two years, indicating the ACGME’s confidence in WSU’s resident education outcomes and vision.

Like all academic health centers with GME programs, WSU is reviewed by the accreditation committee approximately every two to five years in order to assess residency programs, objectives and conditions. Following an intense self-review, analysis, interviews and an on-site inspection, WSU has been reaccredited to supervise and train resident physicians in all of its 68 specialties.

“For this positive outcome, I thank the School of Medicine faculty, and our students, residents and fellows for their commitment to the continued excellence of medical education at Wayne State University,” said Dr. Robert Mentzer, dean of the WSU School of Medicine. “We owe a great debt of gratitude to the WSU Board of Governors, President Irvin Reid and Provost Nancy Barrett, who stood by us throughout this challenging process -- with a clear vision for delivering outstanding GME programs to the citizens of this region.

Finally, I thank Drs. Paul Bozyk and Ben Atkinson, whose leadership on behalf of the Residents Council models the integrity and courage that we strive to inspire in the physicians who are trained at Wayne State University.”

Dr. Mark Juzych, associate dean for graduate medical education, and his staff at the GME office prepared the extensive documentation required for the ACGME Institutional Review Committee and “worked tirelessly” to ensure a successful site visit. “Our staff will continue to address any concerns raised by the ACGME in order to expand residency programs, recruit outstanding physicians and deliver the highest quality patient care,” Dr. Juzych said.

ACGME accreditation is a voluntary process, however, programs must be ACGME-accredited in order to receive graduate medical education funds from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Residents must graduate from ACGME-accredited programs to be eligible to take their board certification examinations, and many states require completion of an ACGME-accredited residency program for physician licensure.

“Through steadfast assessment of our quality and programming, we continuously improve our teaching environments and health care delivery,” Dr. Mentzer said.

“For this positive outcome, I thank the School of Medicine faculty, and our students, residents and fellows for their commitment to the continued excellence of medical education at Wayne State University.”

– Dr. Robert Mentzer, Dean of the WSU School of Medicine
WSU receives planning grant for NIH Clinical Translational Science Award

A full CTSA award is a goal of the WSU strategic plan as well as the School of Medicine’s ‘Vision 2011.’

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a $225,750 grant to Wayne State University to support a strategic planning process for a Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA). Clinical and translational research is critical to improving health and finding cures and treatments for hundreds of diseases and conditions such as diabetes, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases, AIDS, cardiovascular disease and inherited disorders.

“As a research institution, Wayne State seeks to advance knowledge for the benefit of society,” said Wayne State University President Irvin Reid. "And now more than ever, research is an interdisciplinary activity that allows universities with the private sector. I believe the university has achieved an important milestone in our strategic planning process by being awarded a planning grant for the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award. This NIH grant opportunity provides a unique and imperative opportunity to reinvent our research capabilities.”

Wayne State University is joining a group of prestigious universities and research institutes, known as Academic Health Centers (AHC), as part of a national consortium designed to transform how clinical and translational research is conducted, ultimately enabling researchers to provide new treatments more efficiently and quickly to patients. When fully implemented in 2012, about 60 institutions will be linked together to energize the discipline of clinical and translational science.

Specifially, this program, which the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) is leading on behalf of the NIH, encourages the development of novel methods and approaches to clinical and translational research, enhances informatics and technology resources, and improves training and mentoring to ensure that new investigators can navigate the increasingly complex research system.

Robert Mentzer, M.D., School of Medicine dean and senior advisor to the president for medical affairs, said Wayne State University’s medical school is well positioned to fulfill the NIH’s mandate that CTSA institutions engage the broad community that they serve. "Our reach to the community will be facilitated by our collaborators who are representative of major medical institutions in Detroit and southeast Michigan. The depth of our collaborators was a great strength to our proposal, as was the expertise and ongoing work of our faculty, and the clear institutional commitment of President Irvin Reid and Wayne State University.”

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CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IS CRITICAL TO IMPROVING HEALTH AND FINDING CURES AND TREATMENTS FOR HUNDREDS OF DISEASES AND CONDITIONS SUCH AS DIABETES, PARKINSON’S AND ALZHEIMER’S DISEASES, AIDS, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND INHERITED DISORDERS.

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New easy-to-take small molecule drugs target cell death control in cancer

Cell death is a terrible thing in many contexts, including Alzheimer’s disease, where the protection of precious cells is the aim. Cell death can be a great thing in cancer, however, where the elimination of mutant cells would be welcomed. This ability to induce or inhibit apoptosis, or programmed cell death, is the science of the future.

It is also the science behind the novel drugs being developed and tested by Ramzi Mohammad, Ph.D., professor of internal medicine at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Dr. Mohammad studies lymphoma cells, which are unwanted cancer cells that spread and form tumors if left untreated. Their survival depends mainly on Bcl-2 overexpression—the class of proteins that inhibit apoptosis. In other words, a balance of Bcl-2 in the system would allow cells to self-destruct naturally if they become damaged or displaced within the body. An overexpression of Bcl-2 blocks the elimination of bad cells and, in fact, allows them to keep dividing and reproducing, aiding the spread of cancer.

In trying to achieve the balance of life and death in cells, Dr. Mohammad has used novel BH3-mimetic therapeutic drugs (see figure), activating the apoptotic network in tumors by disarming anti-apoptotic targets like Bcl-2. The drug fits very precisely into the hydrophobic pocket in Bcl-2 and Mcl-1, and thus disarms these proteins which help tumor cells survive.

“In preclinical development, our drugs kill lymphoma cells in mice bearing grafts of human lymphoma cells. These drugs can be given orally, and are very well tolerated with low toxicity,” Dr. Mohammad said.

His compounds—TW-37 and ApoG2—work like the recently published compound, ABT-737, developed at Abbott Labs. All these compounds successfully bind to the Bcl-2 proteins and induce cell death to cancerous cells. “But,” Dr. Mohammad said, “ours disarm a broader spectrum of anti-apoptotic protectors overexpressed in lymphoma compared with ABT-737. Our drugs also synergize with traditional drugs such as CHOP or Rituxan.”

Until now, traditional chemotherapy drugs could not be used in combination with anti-kinase drugs, because they all target the same process: cell division. Dr. Mohammad’s new compounds target apoptosis, a distinct cellular process, so the two seem to work together just fine. One of the drugs, ApoG2 can be given orally to mice at very high doses, and is extremely well-tolerated with low side-effects. Such preclinical findings hold promise that TW-37 or ApoG2 can move from the lab bench to the clinic and become easy-to-take drugs not only for lymphoma, but for other cancers, including the deadly cancer of the pancreas.

In addition to well-funded research over the years, Dr. Mohammad recently was awarded $600,000 from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to advance this work. He is collaborating with Dr. Shaomeng Wang, a medicinal chemist from the University of Michigan who synthesizes BH3-mimetic drugs.

Heavily involved in preclinical and clinical research studies, Dr. Mohammad has also developed seven cell lines for cancer research in an effort to find therapies for lymphoma, leukemia, pancreatic cancer and macroglobulinemia, and has recently had a paper accepted for publication in Clinical Cancer Research on this subject.

Medical school enrollment climbs

The WSU School of Medicine welcomes its largest class.

The number of U.S. medical students rose for the second year in a row, according to new data released by the Association of American Medical Colleges. The WSU School of Medicine, already the nation’s largest single-campus medical school, increased its class size by 11 percent in 2006, and was one of nine AAMC schools to boost first-year enrollment by 10 percent or more. Nationally, first-time enrollees in the 2006 entering class totaled almost 17,400, a 2.2 percent increase over last year.

Wayne State has increased its class size from 256 to 286 with the 2006 entering class, with formal plans to increase the class to 300 in an effort to address the projected physician shortage and to supply a well-trained cadre of health care providers for the state. This is a significant boost to Michigan, where 55 percent of all WSU School of Medicine graduates continue to practice, including a large contingent of minority physicians.

“We are going to experience not only a physician shortage, but a shortage of all health care providers – nurses, pharmacists, allied health care providers. This is not limited to medical schools but to all of our schools engaged in training professionals to deliver care,” said Robert Mentzer, Jr., M.D., dean of the Wayne State University School of Medicine. “The key word is ‘care.’ We simply don’t have enough physicians to meet the needs of the coming generation.”

Dr. Mentzer notes that the school’s infrastructure and strategic plan address the increased class size, requiring additional teaching space, faculty resources and new ways of doing business, particularly utilization of technology and digital tools.

The real challenge, he said, is combining the skill sets necessary to apply technology with the need to be a compassionate physician. “A skilled physician is not only one familiar with how to treat a disease, but also how to care for the patient with compassion,” Dr. Mentzer said.

The AAMC believes a 30 percent increase in total medical school enrollment can be achieved to prevent a future shortage of physicians by increasing class sizes in existing schools as well as building new medical schools.

Analysis of the AAMC’s 2006 applicant data also shows continued gains in medical student diversity. Applications from Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans rose by more than 8 and 6 percent, respectively. In addition, the number of accepted black applicants increased by almost 9 percent, and the number of black enrollees rose by 8 percent, to more than 1,100.

With one of the most ethnically diverse student bodies in the country, the WSU School of Medicine is proud of its success in training minority physicians and boosting their representation in the community. Although Michigan voters elected in November 2006 to ban affirmative action practices in state education, contracting and employment, WSU initiatives like the Post-Baccalaureate Program and Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity boast a long history of training minority health professionals and improving the quality of care to all communities.
Mazurek Education Commons campaign reaches $20 million in pledges

W

The Campaign for Wayne State University was successfully launched in May 2005 with the announcement of Nick Labedz’s $15,000,000 commitment. This gift, which is the largest from an individual in School of Medicine history, has raised the bar for financial support, not only at the school, but for the university as a whole. It has helped establish a true culture of giving and inspired alumni and others to step forward and commit to leadership gifts throughout the university.

The School of Medicine has built a sound reputation for excellence in a number of areas, including its world-class clinical training and emerging stature in national rankings for attracting research funding. Many strategic challenges, however, still lie ahead as it strives to propel the institution into the top tier of this nation’s medical schools. The five-year strategic plan, Vision 2011, will focus on filling 70 new research-intensive faculty positions. At the same time, the School of Medicine will work to obtain the National Institutes of Health Clinical Translational Science Award for the development of novel approaches to clinical and translational research. This funding will allow new medical discoveries and treatments to be quickly and effectively transferred from the laboratory to the hospital bedside.

THE EXECUTIVE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The successful funding of the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons (MEC) has become the focus of philanthropy at the School of Medicine. This facility will make necessary upgrades to WSU’s educational capabilities. It will provide new classrooms and student spaces and will employ the latest technologies. The improvements that the MEC will provide are essential. Basic and crucial increases in space and resources are required if the School of Medicine is to meet the ever-changing demands of providing excellent medical education.

“We are grateful to the many people who have given generously to the campaign at our School of Medicine,” said President Irvin Reid. “Such visionary leadership is the cornerstone on which great institutions are built. The success of this campaign and the completion of the commons is essential for the continued excellence of medical education at WSU.”

In an effort to aggressively pursue the goal, Dean Robert Mentzer has established the executive fundraising committee and appointed Anthony Kales, M.D., ’59, and Gregory Zemenick, M.D., ’70, to serve as co-chairs. The entire committee has pledged its financial support to the project and hopes to inspire others to give.

Committee members such as Charles J. Weitz, M.D., ’79, have made leadership gifts to the MEC. Dr. Weitz, his wife, Ann; his father Harry L. Weitz, M.D., ’34; and his nephew, David J. Weitz, M.D., ’01, have combined their gifts to create a sizeable donation and naming opportunity in the MEC that represents three generations of School of Medicine graduates.

“This is a tremendously exciting time for the School of Medicine,” said Dr. Mentzer. “Our progress would not be possible without the efforts of everyone involved and especially those of President Reid.”

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Hershel Sandberg, M.D., ’33, and his family have pledged to meet The Kresge Foundation’s challenge grant for the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons with a major leadership commitment to name the Student Service Center in the new building.

Dedicated to the success of WSU medical students, the Sandberg Student Services Center will be the high-profile hub of student-centered administrative activities for the School of Medicine. Every single medical student will use the services housed in this area.

An undergraduate at Wayne State University in the late 1940s, Dr. Sandberg fondly recalls “working part time as a campus mailman, making deliveries to WSU departments. In those days, of course, the campus was considerably smaller,” he said.

He has enjoyed a lifelong connection to the School of Medicine. In addition to generously offering his time and talent to the school, Dr. Sandberg has been a frequent financial supporter and member of the Anthony Wayne Society since 1973.

A longtime board member and former president of the Medical Alumni Association, he established the summer research program. Student and faculty enthusiasm has led to this program’s steady expansion, and each year WSU’s most promising medical student research is presented at the National Student Research Forum. The importance of this summer research fellowship program was bolstered in 2001 through the Sandberg family donation that created the Sandberg Endowed Summer Research Prize.

Dr. Sandberg’s support and participation in the School of Medicine for well over 50 years earned him the school’s Distinguished Service Award in 1986. An endocrinologist, he completed internship and residency training at Detroit Receiving Hospital and was, for many years, chief of endocrinology at Sinai Hospital. He is currently associated with Beaumont Hospital.

David W. Barron, M.D., ’34, has also recently answered The Kresge Foundation’s challenge and added to his own substantial philanthropic contributions to the school. Dr. Barron graduated from Wayne State University in 1950 before pursuing his medical degree.

He completed his residency in psychiatry at the Lafayette Clinic in Detroit where he served as one of the first residents to participate in Wayne State’s neuropsychology program. He then began his practice in the San Diego area where he worked for more than 30 years.

Dr. Barron has authored numerous publications and is a diplomat and life member of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Medical Association. He has served as a consultant at numerous San Diego hospitals, including the University of Southern California Medical Center and Mercy Hospital where he founded the Behavioral Health Unit in 1967. He was also asked to be a consultant to the court in the Jack Kevorkian trial.

To honor his late father, a 1928 School of Medicine graduate, Dr. Barron previously established the David W. Barron, M.D., and William H. Barron, M.D., FACP Endowed Father and Son Memorial Scholarship Fund. His generosity continues with a pledge to name a portion of the facility with his wife, Patricia (Nix) Barron, who earned her master’s degree from WSU in 1956. The Dr. David & Patricia Barron Bridge within the MEC will connect the new construction to Scott Hall. This walkway will be beautifully lit with natural light and will house several new state-of-the-art classrooms and student areas.

Nick Labedz has agreed to increase his donation to the School of Medicine. In recognition of the university’s efforts to begin construction of the MEC in September 2007, he has increased his already extremely generous gift, to ensure the success of the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons.

“As we come closer to reaching our fundraising goals for this project, I am thrilled to see the progress the School of Medicine has made in the past year. Much work, however, remains to be done,” Labedz said.

Raised in Detroit, Labedz now lives in Capistrano Beach, Calif., a suburb of Los Angeles. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from Michigan State University before moving to California. Together with his partner, Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., a 1961 graduate of the Wayne State School of Medicine, he entered into several successful real estate ventures. His significant contribution to Wayne State University School of Medicine and to the MEC was made in honor of his late partner, Dr. Mazurek.

CALL TO ACTION

With approximately $10 million remaining to be raised in a very brief time, it is imperative that everyone do what he or she is able. This is a critical time for this institution. The MEC will not only serve to update the School of Medicine, but will help strengthen this institution’s position in the forefront of medical education. If you have ever considered making a leadership gift to the School of Medicine, now is the time.

Today, the School of Medicine asks its alumni and friends to seriously consider making an important gift. Only with the complete participation of the school’s supporters will this project become a reality. When completed, this campaign will dramatically transform and enhance the entire medical education network of the school.

There are a number of ways to create a gift with substantial impact, including a pledge that may be fulfilled over a period of time. Also, beginning at $50,000, many naming opportunities in the new structure are available, which ultimately recognize the commitments made to this institution. The Anthony Wayne Society recognizes lifetime giving to Wayne State University. This prestigious giving society honors the school’s most dedicated supporters. A contribution of $10,000 or more to the Medical Education Commons, which can be pledged over a period of several years, will allow your name(s) to be placed upon the Wall of Recognition in the lobby of the new building.

If you are interested in organizing a class gift, joining the Anthony Wayne Society or speaking to a development officer regarding how you can make an impact on this campaign, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (313) 577-1495.
WSU School of Medicine celebrates 2006 Pathfinders in Medicine

Annual awards honor area hospital systems
Wayne State University School of Medicine honored area hospital systems at the annual Pathfinders in Medicine Awards. The event, held at the Detroit Institute of Arts on October 7, celebrated the medical institutions responsible for the health and well-being of virtually all of southeastern Michigan.

These health systems cooperate with the School of Medicine to form an essential network of hospitals, clinics, research initiatives and educational opportunities.

The Pathfinders in Medicine Awards were established to recognize the outstanding vision and leadership of those who have promoted the advancement of medicine, scientific research and the availability of quality health care in the community.

Since its inception, the Pathfinders in Medicine Awards Gala has grown to become the School of Medicine’s premiere annual event, representing the entire school, its leadership, its alumni and its mission. Proceeds from the event fund student scholarships at the School of Medicine.

The 2006 Pathfinders in Medicine honorees:
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center
Beaumont Hospitals
Bon Secours Cottage Health Services
Detroit Medical Center
Henry Ford Health System

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
North Oakland Medical Centers
Oakwood Healthcare System
St. John Health
Trinity Health

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Students, alums help Telefund succeed

Each fall, during the months of October and November, students and alumni volunteer to call graduates of the School of Medicine to request financial gifts in support of the Alumni Annual Fund. This year marked the 34th annual Alumni Telefund, which took place in Scott Hall. This event brings students and alumni together and gives both an opportunity to get to know each other better.

Susie Namo, class of 2009, was the top volunteer student caller this year, single-handedly raising $17,360. John Jessin, class of 2010, brought in the second highest number of donations totaling $8,175.

As of February 1, 2007, $430,449 in cash and pledges has been raised. The goal of $500,000 is within sight as the continued efforts of alumni volunteers and follow-up letters will work to bring in the remaining funds.

Thank you to all student and alumni volunteer callers. As always, they did a tremendous job. Most importantly, thank you to all of our alumni donors!

For more information about how you can support the Alumni Annual Fund, contact Lisa Ramos at lramos@med.wayne.edu or at (313) 577-9022.

Telefund winners

GREATEST DOLLAR TOTAL RAISED
First Place: Susie Namo, 2009
One-night stay at the Hotel Pontchartrain and two tickets to the Freedom Festival Fireworks event hosted by the Medical Alumni Association

Second Place: John Jessin, 2010
$50 gift certificate to Sinbad’s

Third Place: Dayne LePlatte, 2007
$50 gift certificate to Sinbad’s

MOST PLEDGES
First Place: James Lee, 2009
One-night stay at the Inn on Ferry Street

Second Place: Judy Borovicka, 2007
$50 Target gift card

LARGEST SINGLE GIFT
Shaun Ittiara, 2007
Dinner for two at Giulio & Sons Restaurant located in the Dearborn Hyatt Regency

TELEFUND DRAWINGS
Rebecca Peak, 2009
8 x 10 autographed photo and 2005 Detroit Lions Official Yearbook

Leslie Field, 2007
Detroit Pistons mini-basketball autographed by Ben Wallace

Kathy Borovicka, 2008
Four tickets good for admission to Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village

Antonia Jenkins, 2009
$30 AMC Movie Theatre entertainment card

$10 Starbucks gift cards were awarded to:
Naomi Davis, 2010
Jason Rodney, 2007
Jason Domina, 2009
Autumn Warren, 2010
Meagan Lewis, 2010

THE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION THANKS ALL METROPOLITAN DETROIT BUSINESSES THAT DONATED GIFTS FOR STUDENT PRIZES

New staff added to fundraising effort

The Wayne State University School of Medicine Office of Development has finalized its fundraising leadership staff with the hiring of a new director of capital giving, Douglas Skrzyniarz. A graduate of Michigan State University’s James Madison College, he joins the School of Medicine from the St. John Health System, where he served as a major gift officer.

“I was attracted to mission of the School of Medicine,” he said. “This institution is not only responsible for educating the next generation of physicians, but for caring for the people of southeastern Michigan.”

With an extensive familiarity of medical fundraising, Skrzyniarz completes the executive staff at the School of Medicine. He joins director of major gifts, Bill Winkler, a planned giving expert who came to WSU from Gleaners Food Bank, and director of campaign operations, Kathleen Schuch.

“Working for the School of Medicine gives me the opportunity to use not only my planned giving expertise, but also my 15 years of experience working in the clinical laboratory field,” Winkler said.

“With these new additions,” explained executive director of development, Douglas Czajkowski, “we now have all the pieces in place to be successful in meeting the fundraising goals of the Wayne First campaign.”
treatment of mental illness.”

He worked for years at the Lafayette Clinic in Detroit. Now closed, the historic institution was one of the first to explore the use of pharmaceuticals in treating psychiatric patients. “I was very fortunate to join the Lafayette Clinic at its inception. There was a certain excitement in the work we did. I witnessed the revolution in biological and pharmacological psychiatry.” Dr. Luby explained. “We began to see the biological origins of mental problems. We saw the field evolve into a blend of psychiatry and biology—and that melding is what American psychiatry is today.”

The weight of depression is one that can be lifted thanks in part to tested therapeutics and antidepressant medications. Also, de-institutionalization of psychiatric patients has occurred and contributes to successful therapy. “The movement to keep individuals in the community as they are treated is the current trend, and effective medications are absolutely necessary when someone is attempting to deal with this disease,” Dr. Luby said.

Despite the many advancements in psychiatric care today, a majority of cases go undetected. Because of this, many primary care physicians find that they are dealing with patients with psychiatric illness. Studies are increasingly linking illness to depression, including osteoporosis, diabetes, heart disease, eye disease, back pain and some forms of cancer. Some estimate that 80 percent of people who see physicians show signs of depression and related symptoms.

“This book is the first comprehensive book looking at stress from a number of perspectives, including the historic aspects, molecular, cellular, organism, organizational and global. We have some of the most respected researchers in the world authoring individual chapters, including Drs. Markus Heilig (National Institutes of Health), Robert Sapolsky (Stanford), and Martin H. Teicher (Harvard),” explained Dr. Arnetz.

The book received a very favorable review on Amazon.com and has been reordered by the online outlet, since almost all copies were sold by early December. Rolf Ekman, M.D., Ph.D., of the Karolinska Institutet, in Stockholm, is the co-editor.

Much of Dr. Arnetz’s career in Sweden and the U.S. has focused on stress in the work place—especially how it affects productivity and creativity. His research explores ways to measure workers’ stress, including blood pressure checks, non-verbal communication and self-reporting.

Work-place stress and productivity may be influenced by the extent of collaboration between management and staff, as well as the degree of clarity about work assignments. Dr. Arnetz explains. Perceptions about work load, often mentioned as a work stressor, may be inaccurate, so objective measures of work load are analyzed in relation to workers’ stress levels.

The new School of Medicine Stress Medicine Research Clinic, part of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine, will bring together a multidisciplinary research staff including occupational and environmental physicians, social psychologists, physical therapists and other specialists for funded research about stress and productivity. “A pilot project, in collaboration with researchers at the Eugene Appelbaum College of Pharmacy and Health, will explore the impact of dexterity, balance and hormones in achieving sustained performance by workers,” Dr. Arnetz said.

Another planned research topic is the effect of wireless technology on workers’ stress levels. With information coming from many external sources—laptops, blackberries, cell phones and other devices, are workers overloaded and likely to be less productive? In addition, Dr. Arnetz is investigating the relationship between stress and disease, especially cardiovascular disease, hypertension, metabolic disease and chronic inflammation. Research data indicate that individuals vary in how they cope with stress, depending in part, he says, on their genetic profile and social support. One area of inquiry will explore whether an individual’s ability and means of coping with stress correlate with the propensity to develop a particular disease.

While doing postgraduate work at Harvard University, Dr. Arnetz was a senior occupational health advisor for the Boston Police Department. This position provided a special opportunity to observe how stress affects first responders. According to Dr. Arnetz, only 15 percent of the individuals who experience a trauma—an extreme form of stress—develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Previous experiences, coping skills and social support are factors that influence the individual response to trauma, he says.

Other research planned for the new Stress Medicine Research Clinic includes a study of distracted workers and the resulting incidence of accidents and injuries, and an investigation of whether stress contributes to health disparities.

Dr. Arnetz received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Uppsala University in Sweden and founded the Center for Environmental Illness and Stress Disorders there. While the impact of stress seems to be accentuated in American society, Dr. Arnetz says that Europeans are very concerned about stress as well.
Eat soy, fight cancer, research says

“W e’re really excited about these findings, because there is a whole philosophy that nutrition is important for treating cancer,” said Gilda “Gali” Hillman, Ph.D., associate professor of radiation oncology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. According to the results of her research, a diet that includes soy can make tumor cells more vulnerable to radiation therapy, therefore boosting the therapy’s effectiveness.

Her discovery of the heightened radiosensitivity builds on previous studies indicating a possible connection between high consumption of soy and lower incidence of prostate cancer. Other studies, including several performed by Dr. Fazul Sarkar at Wayne State University, have placed their focus on one purified compound of the soybean. Called genistein, the compound is an isoflavone or plant estrogen, that is the most bioactive component in soy with anti-cancer activity.

“I was looking at means to increase the radiosensitivity of prostate cancer cells,” Dr. Hillman said. Genistein seemed a likely candidate based on the studies of her colleague, Dr. Sarkar. Their initial studies of tumor cells in culture showed that genistein, given before and after radiation, was much more effective than each treatment alone, she said. “If you treat with genistein and then you treat with radiation, you get a lot more cell killing than if you give radiation alone or if you give genistein alone. In addition, when you use them together, a low dose of radiation will give you a good killing effect.”

The animal studies also showed that the radiation-genistein combination not only inhibited the growth of the tumor in the prostate, but it also hindered the spread of the tumors into the lymph nodes. “That was a very important discovery,” she said.

All, however, was not rosy. “We discovered something that we could not understand. If we gave genistein alone with no radiation therapy to these mice, we found an increase in the metastasis of the tumor into the lymph nodes,” Dr. Hillman said. Repeated experiments showed the same thing. They are still trying to understand exactly why the pure genistein had this unexpected effect.

In the meantime, her research group conducted similar experiments with a dried powder of whole soy, and got stellar results. “We still see a tremendous increase in terms of the radiotherapy becoming much more effective, and a real limitation in the growth of the prostate tumors and in metastasis to the lymph nodes. And soy alone does not cause increased metastasis.” A full manuscript describing these findings is currently being published in the International Journal of Cancer.

Dr. Hillman is now working with Karmanos clinicians Drs. Omer Kucuk and Jeffrey Forman to incorporate her findings into ongoing clinical trials for prostate cancer patients. She noted that these are rigorously controlled trials, and cautioned prostate-cancer patients against loading up on soy products without consulting their medical professionals. “Patients have a tendency to get into all kinds of alternative medicines that they take at high dose, and the next thing they know, their self-treatment turns out to be more toxic.” She added, “That’s why the American Institute for Cancer Research funds studies like mine. The diet is clearly important, and there are natural compounds and natural foods out there that provide a protective effect, but we still don’t know all of the effects especially of isolated compounds taken at high doses in the treatment of cancer.”

Her discovery of the heightened radiosensitivity builds on previous studies indicating a possible connection between high consumption of soy and lower incidence of prostate cancer.

Novel chaperone escorts toxic arsenic away

Dr. Rosen reports on protein that carries toxic metal in cells

Arsenic won’t stand a chance in water systems now that Barry Rosen, Ph.D., has found a new type of chaperone to escort this toxic metal out of cells. He and his research team have identified a bacterial protein, ArsD, that picks up arsenite ions from a cell’s cytoplasm, then helps guide them to the cell’s efflux pump for removal. This new method for detoxifying arsenic was reported in October 2006 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and the journal Nature.

Dr. Rosen, professor and chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, worked with his graduate student, Yung Feng Lin, and collaborator, Adrian Walmley from the University of Durham in the United Kingdom, to identify a metal-chaperone for arsenic. Together, they have been studying ways to assist in cleaning up arsenic-contaminated water supplies such as those in Bangladesh, West Bengal and well water in Michigan’s Oakland County.

ARSENIC IS THE MOST PREVALENT ENVIRONMENTAL TOXIC METAL AND IS THE NUMBER ONE TOXIC AGENT ON THE EPA SUPERFUND LIST OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

According to Dr. Rosen, ArsD is a chaperone that prevents arsenic from reacting with other proteins inside of cells. Interaction with ArsD increases the affinity of ArsA for arsenite, thus increasing its ATPase activity at lower concentrations of arsenite and enhancing the rate of arsenite extrusion. “Cells are consequently resistant to environmental concentrations of arsenic, which may allow this chaperone to regulate the intracellular concentration of arsenite to prevent toxicity and avoid the poisoning of metabolic systems inside the cell,” Dr. Rosen said.

Arsenic occurs naturally in soil, rocks, animals, plants and air and can be spread through the environment by natural processes such as erosion. Ground water tends to have higher levels of arsenic than surface waters, and often these ground waters are sources of drinking water. Ingesting even small amounts of arsenic-contaminated water over time could lead to a variety of health problems including cancers of the lung, bladder, skin, liver, prostate and kidney, as well as cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus and nerve damage.

Arsenic is the most prevalent environmental toxic metal and is the number one toxic agent on the EPA Superfund list of hazardous substances. The National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health has granted a MERIT Award to Dr. Rosen in recognition of more than 20 years of studies into the mechanisms of cellular uptake and detoxification of arsenic.

Dr. Rosen’s work has potential to improve the quality of water and quality of life for people in our surrounding communities and throughout the world.

Dr. Rosen’s work could help clean arsenic-contaminated water supplies.
Sound waves, ultrasound, waterways provide innovations in breast cancer diagnosis

Sound waves and small pools of water are primitive tools yielding innovative results for Neb Duric, Ph.D., and Peter Littrup, M.D., and their colleagues at WSU and the Karmanos Cancer Institute. New ultrasonic listening devices combine ultrasound tomography and underwater sound-speed relationships to scan soft tissue in the breast, better measure density, distinguish between benign cysts and cancerous masses, and perhaps replace mammography as the gold standard for breast imaging.

Dr. Duric, professor of radiation oncology, along with Dr. Littrup and the rest of the CURE project team, were awarded $1.6 million to refine this ultrasonic technology that can detect cancerous tissue before it is big enough to spread (< 1 cm in size). The funds were granted though the 21st Century Jobs Fund initiative, part of Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm's Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow economic plan to grow Michigan's economy through lucrative research and business collaborations.

Drs. Duric and Littrup developed a clinical prototype that uses a comfortable patient bed to submerge the breast in water, then scan it using CURE (Computerized Ultrasound Risk Evaluation) technology, providing a far more comprehensive picture than a two-dimensional mammogram projection.

Another benefit of the water is that it allows the breast to take its natural shape during the imaging, unlike mammography, which squeezes the breast and takes an x-ray, forcing displacement and unnatural positioning.

With help from experts in Wayne State University's Smart Sensors and Integrated Microsystems Lab, Drs. Duric and Littrup have developed a CURE machine that will cost about the same as standard mammography equipment, but could compete technologically with more expensive MRI machines in terms of accuracy and scope of imaging available.

This 21st Century Jobs Fund project, titled "Clinical Validation of CURE: A Novel Technology for Improved Breast Cancer Diagnosis," is expected to make breast cancer screening more targeted, accurate and specific.

Dr. Neb Duric, project research scientist, with his CURE team: Lisa Bey-Knight, research nurse; Dr. Peter Littrup, director of image-guided therapy, Olvi Rama, management associate, Carri Glide, Ph.D. candidate, and Dr. Yixiang Liao, research assistant.

Strengthening immune systems to beat avian flu

WSU RESEARCHERS AWARDED CRITICAL NIAID BIRD FLU RESEARCH GRANTS

When the H5N1 virus, or avian flu, was detected in birds around the world, it caused a flap on some scientific radar screens. When that infection jumped from animal to human in such countries as Thailand and China, it caused a global cascade of fear and a flurry of urgent scientific investigation. Based on their expertise with influenza virus and chicken specific immunomodulators, Wayne State University's Paul Christopher Roberts, Ph.D., and Roy Sundick, Ph.D., were recently funded by the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases to help halt the deadly transmission of avian flu.

Drs. Roberts and Sundick are tailoring their vaccine technology to test its relevance in avian flu. Together, they have developed an approach to incorporate immunomodulators directly into influenza virus particles. These particles are then inactivated and used as a vaccine to stimulate and boost protective immunity to influenza in both poultry and humans.

"This has widespread implications, in that the vaccine can be rapidly produced using cell culture based approaches and is applicable to any given strain of virus including bird flu. In addition, these vaccines have the potential to boost influenza immunity in the elderly, who do not respond well to the current influenza vaccines," Dr. Roberts said.

Their novel vaccine pairs membrane-bound immunomodulators (adjuvant-like molecules) with the inactivated whole virus particle. This combination has shown significant promise in strengthening the immune system of both birds and mice, allowing them to develop more protective immune responses to influenza virus. Such a customized vaccine, that can be produced quickly and induces strong immune responses, is critical to public health, as the worldwide health community braces for a potential influenza pandemic. According to the NIAID, if avian and human influenza viruses were to simultaneously infect a person or animal, the two viruses might swap genes. The result could be a new virus that is readily transmissible between humans and against which humans would have no natural immunity.

Based on results already obtained in the immunology and microbiology department of WSU, Dr. Sundick is optimistic that this novel technology has utility for both the commercial poultry industry and for the improvement of human vaccines.

Avian flu is expected to be a major threat for at least the next decade. 'That gives WSU researchers only a short time to find, test and implement potential therapies,' "Expedient clinical translation is obviously necessary in critical situations like this," Dr. Roberts said. "Scientists everywhere are coordinating efforts to ensure patient safety. We are proud to be part of this worldwide effort." Unfortunately, Dr. Roberts is leaving Wayne State University for Virginia Tech, but will continue to closely collaborate with Dr. Sundick to further develop their vaccine technology.

Doctoral student takes second-place award for sound speed research

Doctoral candidate, Carri Glide, has won numerous awards for her research in the past year. Carri Glide, a medical physics doctoral candidate studying under Dr. Neb Duric, recently competed in the American Association of Physicists in Medicine's (AAPM) Young Investigator's Competition for her project, "A Novel Approach to Assessing Breast Density Utilizing Sound Speed Measurements."

Her work builds on Dr. Duric's studies by testing the notion that women with greater breast density are at higher relative risk for developing breast cancer. The tool she uses to measure that risk is the speed of sound as it travels through breast tissue while surrounded by water. She developed a global measure of breast sound speed and correlated it with the current standard of care in mammographic density estimation.

"Our approach to evaluating breast density has the potential to provide a safer, non-ionizing, and more quantitative means of evaluating breast density, thus better elucidating the relationship that exists between breast density and breast cancer risk," Glide said.

Glide, whose abstract placed in the top 10 out of 116 student submissions, presented her research at the Young Investigator's Symposium during AAPM's annual meeting in August of 2006. There, she placed second as the top U.S. finisher in the symposium, and proudly represented WSU.
Socialization, stereotypes and the health of African-American women

African-American women have higher mortality rates from breast cancer and cervical cancer than other American women and the infant mortality rate among Black Americans approaches that of some developing countries. For Lari Warren-Jeapiere, Ph.D., a research associate in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, these statistics prompted an interest in whether underutilization of health care is a contributing factor in such health disparities.

She investigated whether racial and gender stereotypes affect African-American women’s health care behavior, especially in relation to mother-daughter communication. Dr. Warren-Jeapiere recently discussed her research in a Minority Health Disparities Panel at the 2006 National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Convention, held this past summer in Detroit. The association is a federation of 200 black community newspapers in the U.S. and her presentation subsequently was covered in 40 newspaper articles.

Dr. Warren-Jeapiere explained to the association members that a distrust of the medical profession, the shortage of African-American physicians, a lack of health care insurance, as well as difficulties obtaining child care and transportation may discourage African-American women from seeking health care. In addition, she said, society’s negative sexual images of black women may cause some individuals to avoid gynecological care.

Dr. Warren-Jeapiere’s research focused on whether stereotypical images of black women as “highly sexualized beings” would affect the reproductive health care that black mothers received as well as their influence on their daughters’ gynecological care. “Mothers are the primary socializing agents. Sexual socialization is shaped by race, gender and class,” she stated in her presentation.

Dr. Warren-Jeapiere studied 17 pairs of mothers and daughters from middle-class backgrounds, assessing their communication about their bodies and women’s health care. She found that many of the mothers were reluctant to discuss sexual health issues and preventive care with their daughters. Some of the women reported unpleasant health care experiences during gynecological examinations or visits to emergency departments. Nonetheless, most of the mothers encouraged their daughters to seek gynecological care, although they didn’t provide reasons for doing so or explain what to expect in a gynecological examination. According to Dr. Warren-Jeapiere, this created “a shroud of mystery, leading to a feeling of shame and reluctance to ask questions of the health care provider.”

A number of women included in her study cited examples of disrespect in the health care setting relating to their marital status and motherhood.

Too often, Dr. Warren-Jeapiere said, African-American women are viewed as “Jezebels” or “welfare queens” likely to have many children fathered by different men. Also, she pointed out, “Medicine is male-dominated and women’s complaints are not always taken seriously.” However, she found that neither the mothers nor daughters internalized negative social and sexual images. Most importantly, they continued to seek care, as evidenced by receiving regular mammograms and PAP tests, regardless of their previous health care experiences.

Dr. Warren-Jeapiere’s interest in racial and gender stereotypes in conjunction with health care resulted from a personal experience in an emergency room. She studied sociology as an undergraduate and as a doctoral student. She has facilitated workshops about mother-daughter communication at clinics and through women’s ministries at local churches with the goal of encouraging women to care for themselves. She pointed out to newspaper publishers that women are responsible for initiating most of the preventive health care for both men and women.

“If women use more services, it will influence the entire African-American community,” she said.

Science and entrepreneurship are melding at the School of Medicine as faculty translate their scientific discoveries into clinical and commercial applications. Recognizing the potential of an initial scientific breakthrough is just the beginning. It takes the coordinated effort of multiple players to then bring the technology to fruition.

Such is the case for the recently launched biotech start-up, GliaGen Inc., which is based on the technologies developed by investigators at the School of Medicine. In 2000, while working towards her Ph.D. degree, Dr. Maria Cypher made some unexpected and intriguing observations. Her advisor, Dr. Leon Carlock, saw it not as bad news, but as a serendipitous discovery that might have significant potential. It seems that Dr. Carlock was right.

“Our immediate efforts suggested that we had something special, so we continued to test and validate our discovery, but we couldn’t immediately publish or talk about it,” Dr. Carlock said. “We first had to disclose the technology to the university. Fortunately for us, it received a positive response and they made a decision to file for patent protection. We soon discovered that this was just the first step of a very long journey.”

At that time, Drs. Cypher and Carlock were investigating the degradation of myelin, which is a hallmark of multiple sclerosis. During this effort, they identified a novel factor that could potentially repair myelin, as well as therapeutically impact a number of debilitating neurodegenerative diseases including multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. Furthermore, they recognized that additional biological activities associated with this factor could complement the drug discovery tools currently utilized by the pharmaceutical industry.

“One of the challenges of working with academic biomedical technologies, is that they are very early stage and need additional development and validation,” said Dr. Joan Dunbar, the director of biotechnology development at the WSU School of Medicine. “Such undertakings are usually outside the realm and focus of academic funding. It is also necessary to understand the difference between ‘cool’ science and a commercial opportunity. With a commercially viable technology, a start-up company can be the best route to obtain the investment needed to support further product development and preclinical studies necessary to move towards clinical trials. The real difficulty is finding the investors willing to take the risk.”

Judy Johncox, the director of venture development at WSU, was critical to securing the investment into Carlock and Cypher’s discoveries by Allied Minds Inc., a presied investment company specializing in early stage university technologies. Allied Minds is providing the corporate support for GliaGen and financing the continued research and development of the technologies. “It is an exciting opportunity, as the GliaGen portfolio provides the prospect to have the drug discovery tools products on the market in the near term, while continuing the preclinical and clinical development of the therapeutics,” noted Chris Silva, CEO of Allied Minds.

“Although it has been an interesting experience, I think that any faculty members interested in translational research or the potential commercial aspects of their work will need to realize how slow the process can be. For us, it took about six years from the initial sequencing result to where we are now,” said Dr. Carlock.

Dr. Cypher said, “20-20 hindsight suggests that we might have shortened this time period by learning the process before we started. So take advantage of the existing university support, but be prepared for a long haul and many bumps and craters in the road.”
Swim, bike, run, study, says triathlete medical student

This doctor-in-training may have a soft heart, but he’s got a body made nearly of steel. Fourth-year medical student Phillip Kadaj was one of about 2000 participants in the 2006 Ford Ironman Wisconsin competition in September. There, he endured brutal weather conditions, among the worst in the history of ironman competitions, to complete a triathlon comprised of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 miles of bicycling and a 26.2 mile marathon—all in about 13 hours.

After riding his bike for nearly seven hours in 50-degree weather, with constant rain and a dramatic wind factor, Kadaj’s hands were so cold, he couldn’t shift gears or unclip his helmet. “They literally would not bend,” he said. “The dampness froze me right through. At one point in the transition area, I thought about stopping, but after such an intense year of training, I had to finish or I couldn’t live with myself.”

Kadaj began training for the competition in October 2005, 11 months before the race. Ironman triathletes train an average of 18 to 22 hours per week in preparation—equal to a part-time job for most people. “It really does take over your life. I’d advise anyone considering doing this to ok it with your significant other, family and friends, because they are greatly affected by the decision,” he said.

A normal day of training started at 5 a.m. at the Sports Club of Novi with at least an hour of swimming, before he started rotations at the hospitals. After working all day and trying to absorb medical concepts and techniques, he would then do an intense run or bike-ride after work, leaving little time for much else.

“When I crossed the finish line, it was a mix of exhaustion and pure joy at simply being done.”

Although he stays fit, working out and playing racquetball for fun, Kadaj said he reached his goal, getting to the top of his sport, and although he may do a half-triathlon again sometime, for now he is happy to finish school, compete for an internal medicine residency and keep exercise as a hobby, not his entire focus.

He plans to remain in Michigan after graduation and insists that he is capable of relaxation—but only after a good workout.

“When I crossed the finish line, it was a mix of exhaustion and pure joy at simply being done.”

Class of 2010 takes to the streets

A fun-filled scavenger hunt during the first-year orientation program took incoming medical students from the lecture halls, to the fitness room, to local dining spots, and many other places in between.

The orientation for the class of 2010 offered the annual staples of information like financial aid, HIPAA training, and curriculum overviews, but, according to Kertia Black, M.D., assistant dean for student affairs, “The scavenger hunt broke the ice for the students, calmed their nerves and allowed them to have some fun finding their way around.”

The week-long program culminated with a symbolic white-coat ceremony, presenting medical students with their first coat and first peek at the tradition of medicine that came before them. (See story in alum notes.) “It’s a professional and reflective way to start an important career,” Dr. Black said.
Welcome new students...

Pamella Abghari ................................. Albion College
Awet Abraha .................................. Minnesota State University Mankato
Dominique Adams ............................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Gabriel Agbanyim .................................... Western Michigan University
Steven Agemy ................................... Michigan State University
Sayf Al-katib ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Megan Anderson ............................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Olga Astapova .................................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Joseph Asteriou ................................... Kalamazoo College
Marijana Atanasevski .............................. Wayne State University
Douglas Atchison ................................... Michigan State University
Oguchukwu Azuh ............................. Wayne State University
Esther Baik .................................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Grant Bailey .................................. Grand Valley State University
Lindsay Baker .................................. Michigan State University
Frances Bechek ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Nicholas Beimer ......................... Kalamazoo College
Marina Belyaev .................................. California Institute of Technology
John Bertrand .................................. Wayne State University
David Bissig .................................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Braden Boji ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Jeffrey Borgeson .................................. Michigan State University
Jaida Bourke .................................. Grand Valley State University
Monique Bowles ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Rhett Brandenburg ....................... Wayne State University
Duy Bui ................................... University of California-Riverside
Andrew Bunney ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Rahul Burde ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Sarah Burkett ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Ara Bush .................................. West Chester University Of Pennsylvania
Jennifer Bustamante ......................... Marquette University
Jennifer Butler ................................ Tuskegee University
Courtney Byrd ................................ Xavier University
Cecelia Calhoun ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Lynn Carlyle ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Lauren Carroll ................................ Michigan State University
Britton Carter ................................ Central Michigan University
Benjamin Caughlin ......................... Michigan State University
Christopher Cendrowski ..................... Wayne State University
Lauren Cetnar .................................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Arvind Chakravarthy ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Duncan Chapman ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Manupreet Chawla ...................... University Of Guelph
Khalil Chedid ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Stephanie Clark ................................ Albion College
Joshua Collins ................................ Dartmouth College
Jeanie Cote .................................. Michigan State University
Adam Cristescu ............................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Chelsea Cunillife .............................. Kalamazoo College
Kunal Dalal .................................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Kathleen Dass ................................ Wayne State University
Naomi Davis ................................ Spelman College
Stephanie Dean ................................ Michigan State University
Benjamin Degner ............................. Saint Louis University-Main Campus
Cheryl Dembeck ................................ Wayne State University
Shalako Denison ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Rohan Deraniyagala .................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Samantha Dewundara .................. University Of Chicago
Navdeep Dhillon ............................ Okanagan University College
Kalindi Dhillon ................................ McMaster University
Charlotte Dillard ......................... University Of Detroit Mercy
Robert Dionisio ................................ Cornell University
Iuliana Dit .................................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Katherine Dixon ............................. Albion College
Andrea Douc ................................ University Of Notre Dame
Justin Dunn ................................ Western Michigan University
Joy Dunn ................................ University Of Colorado At Denver
Amanda Duttlinger ......................... Cornell College
Sarah Earle .................................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Ashraf Elbanna ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Whitney Elliott .............................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Rodney Faulkner ............................ Wayne State University
Timothy Ferr ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Natalia Figaicz ............................. Wayne State University
Christopher Foucher ................. Michigan State University
Elizabeth Frayer ......................... Washington And Lee University
Jayna Gardner ............................. Oakwood College
Monika Garg ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Rhonda Garza ................................. Central Michigan University
Jason George ................................ Wayne State University
Ryan George ................................ Illinois Institute Of Technology
Balinder Gill .................................. Wayne State University
Gillian Goldberg ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Karim Goodfriend ..................... University Of Wisconsin-Madison
Geoffrey Gordon ......................... Oakland University
Jeanine Gorencan ....................... Northern Michigan University
Allisa Gottesman ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Michael Gratson ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Lubna Grewal ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Kunal Grover ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Jeffrey Guina ................................ University Of Detroit Mercy
Pooja Gupta ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
David Hackenson ......................... California Institute Of Technology
Michael Hanna ................................ Wayne State University
Dania Hatabeh ................................. University Of Michigan-Dearborn
Aaron Heindl ............................... Aquinas College
Canaan Herrygers ......................... Calvin College
Levi Hilton .................................. Brigham Young University
Levi Hinkelmann ......................... Michigan Technological University
Arielle Hodari ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Taeynn Hollis ................................. Michigan State University
Joanna Hooten ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Catherine Huber ................................ Xavier University
Erica Huddleston ......................... Indiana State University
Marian Ibrahim ............................. Wayne State University
Mary Jacob .................................. Wayne State University
Kimberly Jacobsen ..................... Hope College
Charles Jamsen ............................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Ceine Jeanty ................................ Vassar College
Ying Jin .................................... Valparaiso University
Jessin John ................................ Wayne State University
Candace Johnson ............................ Tennessee State University
Jennifer Johnson ......................... Depaul University
LeKeya Johnson ......................... Michigan State University
Kia Jones ................................ Vanderbuilt University
Nicole Jones ................................ Virginia Polytechnic Institute And State University
Aaron Kang ................................ Cornell University
Simon Katrib ................................ Wayne State University
Justin Kessler ................................ Wayne State University
Abid Khan ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Jeffrey Kim ................................ Duke University
Christina Kimbrough ................. University Of Michigan-Dearborn
Brandon King ................................ Wayne State University
Daniel King ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Laura Kitzmiller ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Elon Knoll ................................ Yeshiva University - College For Men
Kirthi Konda ................................ Michigan State University
Tammy Koop ................................ Northwest College Of The Assemblies Of God
Thomas Kopp ................................ Michigan State University
Elizabeth Krzyzek ......................... University Of Detroit Mercy
Anika Kumar ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Jane Ladley .................................. Grand Valley State University
Whitney Lam ................................ Wayne State University
Christopher Lai ................................ Wayne State University
Christopher Lam ............................. University Of Toronto
Brian Laforeaux ......................... Michigan State University
Thomas Laloche ......................... Hope College
Karl Lauterbach ......................... Wayne State University
Jennifer Lee ................................ University Of Michigan-Dearborn
Jonathan Lee ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Zachary Levine ......................... Michigan State University
Meagan Lewis ............................. Michigan State University
Theodore Liao ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Sarah Earle ................................. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Ashraf Elbanna ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Whitney Elliott ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Rodney Faulkner ..................... Wayne State University
Timothy Ferr ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Natalia Figaicz ............................. Wayne State University
Christopher Foucher ................. Michigan State University
Elizabeth Frayer ......................... Washington And Lee University
Jayna Gardner ............................. Oakwood College
Monika Garg ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Rhonda Garza ................................. Central Michigan University
Jason George ................................ Wayne State University
Ryan George ................................ Illinois Institute Of Technology
Balinder Gill .................................. Wayne State University
Gillian Goldberg ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Karim Goodfriend ..................... University Of Wisconsin-Madison
Geoffrey Gordon ......................... Oakland University
Jeanine Gorencan ....................... Northern Michigan University
Allisa Gottesman ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Michael Gratson ......................... University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Lubna Grewal ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
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Canaan Herrygers ......................... Calvin College
Levi Hilton .................................. Brigham Young University
Levi Hinkelmann ......................... Michigan Technological University
Arielle Hodari ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Taeynn Hollis ................................. Michigan State University
Joanna Hooten ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Catherine Huber ................................ Xavier University
Erica Huddleston ......................... Indiana State University
Marian Ibrahim ............................. Wayne State University
Mary Jacob .................................. Wayne State University
Kimberly Jacobsen ..................... Hope College
Charles Jamsen ............................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Ceine Jeanty ................................ Vassar College
Ying Jin .................................... Valparaiso University
Jessin John ................................ Wayne State University
Candace Johnson ............................ Tennessee State University
Jennifer Johnson ......................... Depaul University
LeKeya Johnson ......................... Michigan State University
Kia Jones ................................ Vanderbuilt University
Nicole Jones ................................ Virginia Polytechnic Institute And State University
Aaron Kang ................................ Cornell University
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Jane Ladley .................................. Grand Valley State University
Whitney Lam ................................ Wayne State University
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Christopher Lam ............................. University Of Toronto
Brian Laforeaux ......................... Michigan State University
Thomas Laloche ......................... Hope College
Karl Lauterbach ......................... Wayne State University
Jennifer Lee ................................ University Of Michigan-Dearborn
Jonathan Lee ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Zachary Levine ......................... Michigan State University
Meagan Lewis ............................. Michigan State University
Theodore Liao ................................ University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Minority student research day honors work

The annual Minority Programs Research Day, held in August 2006, honored undergraduate and graduate students who participate in the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity (IMSD), a program that’s been in place at WSU since 1978.

The undergraduate division featured three first-place winners and one second-place winner.

• Pictured from left are: Dr. Joseph Dunbar, IMSD /MBRS program director
• Brittany Adams, second-place winner, IMSD/MBRS – Research Title: Harmful Effects of Repeated Antenatal Corticosteroid Treatments on the Rat’s Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)
• Jennifer Rudolph, first-place winner, IMSD/MBRS – Research Title: Convergence of Stress Granules and Protein Aggregation Contributes to Neuronal Death Following Ischemia and Reperfusion
• Desmond Jackson, first-place winner, IMSD/MBRS – Research Title: Reduced Auditory Acuity in Rat Pups from Excess and Deficient Omega-3 Fatty Acid Consumption by the Mother

Note: Melody Kelly (McNair Scholar) was also a first-place winner for her research, Research Title: Catching the Culprit: Finding the Overexpressed Gene(s) Responsible for the Altered Phenotype of Isolates from the Candida albicans Genome.

The graduate division featured two first-place winners and one second-place winner. Pictured from left are:

• Dr. Joseph Dunbar, IMSD/MBRS program director
• Sakina Hill, second-place winner, IMSD/MBRS – Research Title: Identifying Highly Specific DNA Aptamers to Escherichia coli Helix 69
• Marla Parson-Swein, first-place winner, IMSD/MBRS – Research Title: The Development of a Quantum Dot Aptamer-based Biosensor for the Detection of Thrombin
• Lenwood Hayman, first-place winner, IMSD/MBRS program director – Research Title: “Ain’t Nuthin Like Some Risky Sex!”: An Exploration into the Reasoning Behind Risky Sexual Behaviors in an African American/Caucasian Sample

Wayne State University students from the IMSD (Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity) Program were participants in the 2006 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held in Anaheim, Calif. ABRCMS is one of the largest multidisciplinary professional conferences attracting underrepresented minority students from U.S. colleges and universities. Ten Wayne State University students presented oral or poster presentations. Congratulations are due for three WSU students. Jennifer Rudolph and Desmond Jackson received awards for their research in neuroscience and Charles Bell received an award for his research in physiological sciences. Awardees each received $250 at the final banquet.

Journal’s impact factor skyrockets with WSU scientists at helm

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, a medical journal has in four short years risen from obscurity to one of the most prestigious scientific publications anywhere. The journal is Cancer and Metastasis Reviews, and the architects of its meteoric ascent are its co-editors, WSU faculty members Avraham Raz and Kenneth Honn.

“We were approached by the publishers to see if we could rescue the journal,” recalled Raz, Ph.D., Paul Zuckerman Professor of Oncology, and professor of radiation oncology and pathology. “Rescue it they did... and then some. When Drs. Raz and Honn took the helm in 2001, the journal’s impact factor—a measure of the average number of citations a typical article in a journal receives—was 1.9. By 2005, the latest figures available, the impact factor had skyrocketed to 8.017. By comparison, the prestigious Cancer Research, which is the official journal of the American Association of Cancer Research, has an impact factor of 7.6, and the American Chemical Society’s Journal of Biological Chemistry has an impact factor of 6.8.

“To put it in perspective, there are 143 oncology journals listed in order of their citation rate, and we’re now number seven out of 143,” said Honn, Ph.D., distinguished professor of radiation oncology and pathology. “Our citation half life is seven. Of the top 20 oncology journals, including Nature, Cancer Reviews, Cell Cancer Reviews and the New England Journal, that places us almost twice the nearest competitor in terms of citation half life.”

Dr. Raz put it more succinctly. “We are the best,” he said. Both co-editors trace the journal’s rapid rise to a new approach: topic-based journal issues that are guest-edited by prominent national and international scientists. For example, Otis Bravley, a noted prostate cancer researcher formerly of the National Institutes of Health and now at Emory University, guest edited a recent issue. Drs. Honn and Raz have also invited their peers to take a turn at the wheel. In fact, their first guest editor was Michael Cher, chair of the WSU Department of Urology, and the guest editor for a recent issue on metalloproteinases was Rafael Fridman, WSU professor of pathology. Commented Dr. Raz, “We try to advance local talent from Wayne State as much as we can.”

Issue topics range from different types of cancer, such as head and neck cancer, melanoma and colon cancer, to emerging topics like receptor kinases. Dr. Honn said, “We also want to do a future issue on the economics of cancer and one on the politics of cancer — and believe me, there’s a lot of politics involved.” In addition, the journal also accepts high-quality non-thematic reviews. He remarked, “Right now, we are receiving on average one review a week that is non-thematic.”
Dr. Nieshoff leads patients by personal example

For patients with spinal cord injuries at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, there’s nothing more inspiring than Dr. Ed Nieshoff, zipping in and out of patient rooms in his wheelchair, treating other people with spinal cord injuries similar to his own. He’s truly passionate about his work, and has a unique rapport with his patients. Dr. David Wolf, a Westland obstetrician who was paralyzed from the waist down in a go-cart accident, said Dr. Nieshoff has been an outstanding rehabilitation physician. “There wasn’t anything I couldn’t talk to Dr. Nieshoff about,” he said. Dr. Wolf has returned to medicine and is grateful for the care he received.

Now in his late 40s, Dr. Nieshoff injured himself in a diving accident during college, and spent 14 months in a rehabilitation hospital adjusting to life with paralysis from the chest down. He learned to care for himself, drive, and access the community. Following discharge, he went back to school, finished his B.S. degree in genetics, and was considering a career in that field. After several years in a graduate molecular biology program, Dr. Nieshoff was accepted to the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo and earned a medical degree. As a C5 quadriplegic, paralyzed from the chest down, he has strength in his shoulders, arms and wrists, but no movement in his fingers. Nonetheless, he completed the entire curriculum without an assistant, independently performing the majority of the physical exam on his patients, and using a stand-up wheelchair in laboratories and operating rooms. The only accommodation provided was that he had to “understand and direct the methodology involved” for procedures he could not physically perform. Call schedules, patient loads and the like were unmodified through his internship and residency, and he lived alone throughout his medical training. Married in 1999, today he resides with his wife and 9-month-old twin boys.

As his career has progressed, Dr. Nieshoff has earned substantial credibility among researchers, physicians and patients alike who marvel at his dedication to improving life for people with spinal cord injuries (SCI). An assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, with subspecialty board certification in SCI medicine, Dr. Nieshoff is also a staff physiatrist at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, and is enthusiastically involved in translational and other spinal cord injury research. He asserts that “we are closing in on very effective treatments in preclinical trials, and several human studies suggest modest return of function will soon be routinely achievable in the clinic.”

He does acknowledge the slow, painstaking nature of the development process for new treatments. “For now, there is no widely available ‘cure’ for spinal cord injury,” he admits. Nonetheless, he firmly believes in his patients’ potential for satisfying, meaningful lives in any case, and that “there is a difference between being cured and being healed.” In a similar vein, he admonishes patients in the language of SCI research advocates, to “live for today, hope for tomorrow.” His own recent research has focused on helping his patients make the most of the physical capabilities they do possess.

Dr. Nieshoff has just completed a four-year project evaluating treatment of low blood pressure due to SCI. “Functional Assessment and Treatment of Neurogenic Hypotension Due to Spinal Cord Injury,” funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). This project involved the use of the medication midodrine in two randomized controlled protocols comparing active drug with placebo and compression garments. Subjects’ orthostatic hypotension was evaluated with tilt table testing, and exertional hypotension, with an arm-crank ergometer and metabolic cart. The latter study was the first to demonstrate that significant exercise performance enhancement is possible in people with SCI by elevating blood pressure to near-normal levels during exercise. Additionally, the tilt table component was the first to rigorously test midodrine in the SCI population with regard to orthostatic hypotension; presently, there is variability in clinicians’ approach to this often-debilitating early problem after SCI.

Dr. Nieshoff has been designated as the site investigator for several other upcoming clinical trials. They include the following:

• “A 15-Week, Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel Group, Multicenter Study of Pregabalin for Treatment of Chronic Central Neuropathic Pain Due to Spinal Cord Injury” and
• “Sildenafil (Viagra®) Treatment of Subacute Ischemic Stroke” (in collaboration with Brian Silver, M.D., principal investigator, Department of Neurology, Henry Ford Hospital).

One of Dr. Nieshoff’s more promising areas of interest is extension of the sildenafil treatment strategy to spinal cord injury. He hopes to see preclinical animal studies begin early next year. If they are successful, human studies will follow thereafter, facilitated by the groundbreaking work already done in stroke. Several other drugs are also under consideration for phase I human trials at WSU, depending on the outcome of efforts to secure external funding.

Dr. Nieshoff continues to push himself and the field of spinal cord injury medicine forward.

Surgery faculty, alumni pay tribute to Dr. David Fromm

On October 5, 2006, the Wayne State University Department of Surgery held its first David Fromm Research and Wayne State Surgical Alumni Day at the McGregor Conference Center. The event was held in honor of David Fromm, M.D., Penberthy Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1988 to 2004, in recognition of his passion for and contributions made to surgical research.

More than 100 guests, including Department of Surgery faculty, Wayne State surgical alumni, surgery residents and fellows, and medical students on surgery rotations, attended the full-day symposium. Sixteen presentations were given by faculty members of the Department of Surgery for their resident/fellow designees spanning the realm of basic, translational and clinical research.

Following his dinner presentation, Dr. Fromm was honored as the inaugural Wayne State Surgical Alumnus of the Year for 2006, and three research stipend awards were granted in his name to those delivering the top research presentations during the symposium. Given its initial success, the Department of Surgery plans to hold the event on an annual basis, not only as a perpetual tribute to its former chair of surgery, but also to showcase the cutting-edge research being done in the department and to emphasize that research remains an important priority. The event was chaired by Scott A. Gruber, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chief of the Section of Transplant Surgery.

Dr. Fromm (center) receives a plaque establishing the annual David Fromm Research and Wayne State Surgical Alumni Day in his honor from Drs. Donald Weaver and Scott Gruber.
Immunologist Dr. Boros retires

“Science is a severe, demanding mistress,” laughed Dov Boros, Ph.D., who retired from Wayne State University in October 2006 after more than four decades as a scientist and 32 years of research in immunology and microbiology at WSU. After countless hours in the lab, a multitude of publications and years of solid funding, he’s still quite interested in scientific pursuits and wants very much to be involved in the “intellectual stimulation of the work” whenever possible.

Dr. Boros is proud to have contributed significantly to the understanding of chronic granulomatous inflammations. “I was certainly part of the paradigm shift related to granulomas,” he said. “Until my entry into the field, granuloma formation was seen as an inflammatory response, not an immune response.”

The discovery Dr. Boros helped explain was this: As the body deals with offending agents continuously (inhaled particles, bacilli), it creates a local inflammatory response. If the particle is inanimate (dust, soot), the inflammation created by white blood cells is of short duration and the agent is mostly expelled. When the agent is replicating and becomes persistent, it triggers the immune response which marshals T-effector-type lymphocytes and mostly macrophages which ingest and kill the replicating agent and arrest further spread of the invader.

For such a task, an orderly assembly of the cells and their coordinated interaction is needed; this is the granuloma. This is usually a long-term response that by virtue of the inflammatory byproducts can cause tissue damage. The intensity of the inflammation is controlled not only by another cell, the regulatory T lymphocytes. Dr. Boros also helped to clarify that all granulomatous diseases behave this way, including sarcoidosis, tuberculosis and Crohn’s disease.

“He is one of the best scientists I’ve known,” said Dr. Alan Hudson, professor of immunology and microbiology and neighboring researcher in Scott Hall on campus. “His work is stunning and he’s really an icon in the international immunology community. His commitment to the science is total.”

In addition to establishing that granulomatous diseases are caused by problems in the immune system, Dr. Boros continued his work to study healing, inflammation, scar tissue buildup and how to reduce residual internal scarring. This aspect was researched in collaboration with Dr. Alan Hudson who provided the important molecular approach to the investigations.

“It gives me a tremendous feeling of satisfaction, having contributed to foundational work that really moved science forward,” Dr. Boros said. “This work has application, too. People die of scarring in the lungs, and the liver, so we have really been able to move treatment paradigms forward.”

Interestingly, he spent significant time studying the tropical disease, schistosomiasis mansoni, a granulomatous worm infection prevalent in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean islands. By duplicating the disease in mice, he was able to understand the mechanisms of chronic inflammation and apply those findings to people on other continents. “When other academics heard about my research of a tropical disease in very non-tropical Detroit, they generally met me with sarcasm,” Dr. Boros said. “But what emanated from my lab was applied to a better understanding of the disease in the tropics relevant to 200 million people. This is a very rewarding feeling.”

During his tenure at the school, Dr. Boros trained several very talented graduate students who became excellent research scientists. Well-respected near and far, Dr. Boros has been honored with two Fogarty Senior International Fellowships, the Pasteur Medal from the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., a National Institutes of Health Merit Award, a Wayne State University Distinguished Faculty Award, a WSU Lifetime Achievement Award and general widespread renown.

Before joining Wayne State in 1974, Dr. Boros earned his Ph.D. from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was on the faculty at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Cleveland. Now that he is paying less attention to his “scientific mistress,” he is returning to other hobbies like reading novels, playing the cello and listening to opera – hobbies he put aside for the last four decades while he established great foundations in research at WSU and for the benefit of people everywhere.
Dr. Michael Cher appointed chair of urology

Michael Cher, M.D., has been appointed chair of the Department of Urology for the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Cher is a professor in urology, pathology and the cancer institute. He is holder of the Donald J. Jaffar Endowed Urology Research Chair and is internationally known for work in prostate cancer research and his clinical activities in urologic oncology.

Dr. Cher came to WSU in 1995 after completing a fellowship in urologic oncology and molecular cytogenetics at the University of California, San Francisco. He established a laboratory at WSU investigating the genetic and biologic basis for the development and progression of urologic tumors. His high level of productivity and promise has resulted in several National Institutes of Health and Department of Defense grants and WSU’s inclusion among an elite group of 13 universities as part of the Manhattan Project of Prostate Cancer. The $10 million research program promotes collaborative research with the goal of eradicating the lethal forms of prostate cancer.

Dr. Cher’s research focuses primarily on dissecting the interactions between prostate cancer and bone. His work aims to explain why prostate cancer favors the bone microenvironment and to develop new treatments for bone metastasis based on biologically defined targets. As a critical member of the WSU comprehensive prostate cancer program, his collaborations are both interdisciplinary and broad in scope.

Dr. Cher is chief of urology at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. He manages all aspects of urologic oncology and has a special interest in minimally invasive treatments for urologic cancers including laparoscopic and image-based approaches. Dr. Cher has been a recipient of the WSU Career Development Chair Award and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute’s President’s Achievement Award for Clinical/Translational Research, among his many honors and awards. He has also served on multiple NIH grant review panels.

Dr. Suzanne White appointed chair of emergency medicine

Suzanne White, M.D., has been named chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine for Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. White joined the WSU faculty in 1993 and currently serves as a professor, specializing in medical toxicology.

The Department of Emergency Medicine has traditionally ranked among the nation’s top academic emergency medicine departments in terms of National Institutes of Health funding. Dr. White’s vision, however, calls for the expansion of both basic and clinical research initiatives to increase the department’s external funding as well as overall grant and publication productivity. Dr. White also plans to strengthen the department’s continuing medical education program and market it to the local medical community. Part of this initiative will include building closer relationships with the member institutions of the Southeast Michigan Center for Medical Education and the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians.

Dr. White received her medical degree with distinction from the WSU School of Medicine after graduating with a bachelor of science degree from Adrian College. She trained in the WSU emergency medicine residency program at Detroit Receiving Hospital, where she later completed a medical toxicology fellowship. During the 2003-04 academic year, she was a Hedwig van Meringen Fellow in Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Dr. White is an expert in medical toxicology and disaster preparedness. She is project director for a $300,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a terrorism, disaster and public-health emergency curriculum. “Detroit is high risk for terrorism with a density of vulnerable populations,” she said. “Recognizing that WSU has a history of expertise in developing competencies for emergency and disaster medicine, we are filling a training gap with a five-module training program.”

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Dear Graduate Students and Alums,

This issue of scrib offers some exciting news! The School of Medicine is pleased to announce the establishment of a long-awaited award specifically recognizing distinguished alumni of our biomedical science graduate programs. Having begun with the recent 2006 School of Medicine Honors Convocation and annually thereafter, we will present the Graduate Alumni Laureate Award to graduates who have attained national/international prominence for their knowledge and skills and are highly respected for their professional, academic or personal achievements. In as much as these accomplishments reflect the education and training received by the nominee within Wayne State University basic biomedical science programs, nominees are solicited from departments and programs. Included with the award are a $2,000 honorarium and a citation that will be presented at the Faculty/Student Honors Convocation each year.

I am proud to announce that the inaugural 2006 Graduate Alumni Laureate Award was presented to Jeffery D. Kocsis, Ph.D., professor of neurology and neurobiology, Yale University School of Medicine. As an educational institution whose mission includes “graduate education that exemplifies the highest standards in research, scholarship and ethical behavior,” we could not be more proud of the career accomplishments and professional stature of Dr. Kocsis as they reflect that training mission.

As always, your keen interest in WSU School of Medicine and the progress of our graduate biomedical science training is warmly appreciated.

Kenneth C. Palmer, Ph.D.

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**Graduate alum profile: Frederic Sigoillot**

**Rising scientific star exceeds expectations**

The scholarly committee was more than impressed with the dissertation defense of Frederic Sigoillot. They were astonished, quite frankly.

“He has proven to be the brightest and most highly creative graduate student we have ever had,” said Hedeel Guy Evans, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry and Sigoillot’s dissertation advisor. “One committee member asked the dean if there was not some mechanism for recognizing such a superb dissertation.”

WSU faculty members weren’t the only ones to recognize his exceptional work. Sigoillot’s research has yielded nine publications (an unprecedented accomplishment for a graduate student), a self-authored textbook, multiple scientific travel awards, and finally, a postdoctoral position at the Harvard Medical School, where he now works to study the mechanisms underlying the development of chromosomal abnormalities.

When he entered WSU’s doctoral program in biochemistry and molecular biology in 2000, fresh from the University of Paris, Sigoillot was charged with trying to decipher the mechanism by which growth factors stimulate the synthesis of pyrimidine nucleotides, precursors of DNA, RNA and other macromolecules needed for cell division. He quickly got to the root of that problem, showing that the flux through the pyrimidine pathway is regulated by the concerted action of two signaling cascades that mediate the sequential phosphorylation and dephosphorylation of CAD.

But he didn’t stop there. He went on to make complex discoveries about the binding of growth factors to extra-cellular receptors that trigger the activation of the MAP kinase cascade, resulting in the phosphorylation of a specific CAD residue (Thr456) that activates the protein. When growth is arrested, the MAP kinase site is dephosphorylated, Ser1406 is phosphorylated by protein kinase A, and the pathway is downregulated.

“These discoveries resolved a 20-year long conundrum regarding the controls exerted on the pathway and were published in 2002 in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, the premier biochemical journal,” Dr. Guy-Evans said. “He then went far beyond our original expectations and extended his studies in new and promising directions.”

Following some unanticipated observations and new discoveries, he published subsequent and equally lucrative findings in 2003, 2004 and 2005. “This success is a tribute to his passion for the work, his remarkable analytical and synthetic ability, his superb bench skills and an uncanny ability to recognize significant new areas of exploration coupled with the ingenuity to follow up with some really clever experiments,” said David Evans, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology.

“I think that working with Dr. Hedeel Guy Evans was a great experience. The atmosphere in her laboratory, the constant support and discussions, as well as her scientific expertise have been very stimulating and gave me the unique opportunity and freedom to test new ideas,” Dr. Sigoillot said. “Additionally, collaborating with Dr. David Evans and interacting with the members of my committee were key in reaching answers during my study on pyrimidine biosynthesis.”

Members of his dissertation committee said it was "gratifying to have played a part in the training of someone so surely destined to be a star.”

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**Graduate Student Research Day recognizes quality work**

WSU School of Medicine students presented their work in the fall at the annual Graduate Student Research Day. “The purpose of this program is to provide young graduate researchers with the opportunity to showcase their research efforts in the forum of oral and poster presentations,” said Carri Glide, medical physics Ph.D. candidate and member of the GSRD sponsor committee.

The keynote speaker was Joseph A. Aurach, M.D., Ph.D., from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Aurach is the author of more than 120 peer-reviewed articles and in 2003, was named “Most Highly Cited” in biology and biochemistry by the Institute for Scientific Information. “We are delighted to bring such a talented speaker to Wayne State University for this important event,” Glide said.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RESEARCH WINNERS:**

**Poster Session 1**

• First Place: Yonglu Huang
• Second Place: Newton Hurst
• Third Place: Carri Glide

**Poster Session 2**

• First Place: Aaron Sabbota
• Second Place: Deepak Gupta
• Third Place: Katie Conley

**Oral Session 1:** Kristin Landis-Piwowar
**Oral Session 2:** Nicholas Brown
Honors and Achievements

Gary Abrams, M.D., the David Barsky, M.D., Chair of Ophthalmology and retina specialist, has received the Secretariat Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology for his significant contributions to ophthalmology, educational programs and leadership in the academy.


In September he presented “Why Do We Form Adhesions?” at the first meeting of the Peritoneal Access (PAX) Society in Leuven, Belgium.

Pravin Goud, M.D., Ph.D., from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, was invited to lecture at the 5th annual Activated Egg Symposium sponsored by the Bedford Stem Cell Research Foundation in Weston, Mass., in November 2006. The title of Dr. Goud’s lecture was “Regulation of Oocyte Maturation and Other Free Radicals.”

Kenneth Honn, Ph.D., distinguished professor in the departments of radiation oncology and pathology, was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant titled “Role of Thrombomodulin in Cancer Progression.” The dollar amount for this award is $1,618,300 over a five-year period.

Michael Klererekoper, M.B.B.S., professor of internal medicine, has been honored as master of the American College of Endocrinology, the highest accolade bestowed by the college and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

Donald Kuhn, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, has been invited to serve as a member of the National Institutes of Health’s Neurobiology of Motivated Behavior Study Section, Center for Scientific Review.

Robert Lisak, M.D., professor and chair of neurology, has been inducted into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Volunteer Hall of Fame as a Health Professional. He is the sixth Michigan NMSS volunteer to be inducted since 1997. Dr. Lisak, a Michigan chapter board member, has been a volunteer for the past 18 years and currently chairs the Committee for Pediatric MS Centers. He has served on the MS Achievement Center task force, which resulted in the opening of the center day program where those living with MS can learn to maximize their wellness. He also led the advocacy efforts to impact access to MS treatments and he serves on national committees that select international MS research projects.

Helen Lycaki, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, was honored with the Mental Illness Research Association “Above and Beyond” Award, particularly for helping MIRA establish partnerships and programs with the state of Michigan and its Department of Community Health.

Tsveti Markova, M.D., assistant professor of family medicine, was elected a member-at-large director for the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) during the Annual Congress of Delegates meeting in July. Dr. Markova continues to serve as chair of the Committee on Public Health and the Residency Directors Committee, and she’s a member of the board of directors. The MAFP is a constituent chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians that provides education and advocacy for patients and the general public in all health-related issues.

Mark Marunic, D.D.S., associate professor of otolaryngology, presented a continuing education course titled “Restoration of Tongue/ Mandible Defects” at the Joint Meeting of the International Society of Maxillofacial Rehabilitation and the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, October 14, 2006. Dr. Marunic was also the first author of a timely publication titled “Adverse Oral Sequelae to Bisphosphonate Administration” that was published in the Michigan Dental Journal in November 2005. This article was so well received that it was republished in the Florida Dental Journal in 2006.

J.P. (Pat) McAllister, Ph.D., professor of neurosurgery and director of neurosurgical research, received the Robert H. Pudenz Award for Excellence in Cerebrospinal Fluid Physiology and Hydrocephalus Research, an annual award presented by Medtronic Neurosurgery. Dr. McAllister was honored for his research efforts in understanding the pathophysiology of hydrocephalus, as well as his excellence as a teacher and lecturer.

George Mogill, M.D., professor of family medicine, received the Exemplary Teaching Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Mogill was one of four family physicians to receive this award, which recognizes excellent teaching skills, outstanding programs and innovative teaching models.

Yousha Mirza, M.D., child and adolescent psychiatrist working in Dr. David Rosenberg’s clinical research program, received the 2006 International Congress of Neuropsychopharmacology Young Investigator Award. The award includes travel expenses, a stipend and registration fees for the XXV CNPI Congress in Chicago in July, where Dr. Mirza will present an abstract on brain imaging findings that distinguish children who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder alone vs. children with ADHD and another psychiatric disorder. Dr. Rosenberg, Dr. Mirza’s mentor, holds the Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair of Child Psychiatry and is director of the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Clinical Research Program as well as professor and chief of child psychiatry and psychology.

Elizabeth Puscheck, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Detroit Medical Center, was postgraduate course chair for the 24 postgraduate courses held in conjunction with the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) meeting in New Orleans. At this meeting, it was announced that Dr. Puscheck had been elected to the ASRM board of directors.

David Rosenberg, M.D., the Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair of Child Psychiatry and director of the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Clinical Research Program, presented and chaired “The Neurochemistry of Pediatric Neuropsychiatric Disorders” at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry annual meeting in October.

David Rosenberg, M.D., the Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair of Child Psychiatry and director of the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Clinical Research Program, received the award for his outstanding programs and innovative teaching models.

Dr. Stephanie Myers Schim, Ph.D., R.N., assistant professor of family, community and mental health in the College of Nursing, accepted the 2006 Michigan Cancer Consortium Spirit of Collaboration Honorable Mention Award, presented to the team responsible for the Wayne State University End of Life Interdisciplinary Course. This course is offered through the Center to Advance Palliative-Care Excellence.

Gerald Shlenger, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, and chief of consultation and liaison psychiatry at Sinai-Grace Hospital, received the department’s Faculty of the Year Award for excellence in clinical service. He also served as the keynote speaker at the 2006 Baccalaureate ceremony for WSU medical students.

Mark Upton, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of emergency medicine and corporate medical director for DMC Occupational Health Services, received two awards at the annual conference of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) in the summer of 2006. He was honored with the President’s Award for chairing a Washington, D.C., summit on the future of training in occupational and environmental medicine. He also received an Award of Leadership Recognition for years of service on the board of directors of ACOEM.

Jayne Weiss, M.D., professor of ophthalmology and pathology, was presented with the Food and Drug Administration Advisory Committee Service Award in recognition of distinguished service as chairperson and panel member of the Ophthalmic Devices Panel from November 2000 to October 2004.

WSU work selected as candidates for Grand Prize paper at reproductive medicine meeting

The Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Division of the WSU Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology recently had two of the 12 Grand Prize paper candidates at the American Society of Reproductive Medicine Meeting in New Orleans. These two were among the abstracts submitted by division members and were chosen from the abstracts selected for presentation at the meeting.

The first, titled “IL-6 Expression in Human Normal Peritoneal and Adhesion Fibroblasts: Regulation by Hypoxia,” also received a prize for best paper from the reproductive immunology special-interest group and the In-Training Research Award. The paper was presented by Dana Ambler, D.O., a third-year resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Co-authors were Ghassan Saeed, Ph.D., and Michael Diamond, M.D.

The second was titled “Improvement in Live Births with Clomiphene Citrate and Metformin, Alone and in Combination, in Infertile Women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome.” It was part of the REI division's collaborative effort on this project, which was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health’s Reproductive Medicine Network. Dr. Diamond is principal investigator for the WSU network site, one of only 10 such sites throughout the United States.
**Rounds continued from page 19**

**MS program presents most papers at annual congress**

The Wayne State University Multiple Sclerosis Program/Harper University Hospital MS Clinic presented nine papers at the annual Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis, in Madrid, Sept. 27 through Sept. 30. This was the most papers from any single center from North America.

ECTRIMS is the largest international meeting focused on multiple sclerosis and related disorders. The annual attendance was 5,000 this year, with representation from all continents.

WSU’s papers included both investigator-initiated studies as well as multi-center trials. This is the first year in the 22 years of the congress history that Wayne State University was the top ranking center. The top 10 North American Centers were:

1. Wayne State University (9)
2. University of British Columbia, Vancouver (8)
3. SUNY at Buffalo (8)
4. Neuroimmunology Branch, National Institutes of Health (7)
5. Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School (7)
6. University of California, San Francisco (7)
7. Cleveland Clinic (7)
8. Johns Hopkins Medical Center (6)
9. Mayo Clinic (6)
10. University of Texas, Dallas (6)

**Oakwood Healthcare Inc., and WSU Physician Group form joint venture**

Oakwood Healthcare Inc., (OHI) and the Wayne State University Physician Group (WSUPG) have formed a joint venture, called OHS/UPG Ventures (a non-profit corporation) to support the creation of clinical programs that meet the needs of the region and its unique communities, provide easy patient access to quality care and offer an innovative multidisciplinary care model. In 2006, OHI and Wayne State University announced an affiliation to create programs that support enhanced medical education, research and clinical care. This joint venture is the first step in the clinical care scope of the affiliation.

"Wayne State University is extremely supportive of WSUPG's venture with Oakwood," said Robert M. Mentzer, Jr., M.D., dean of the WSU School of Medicine and senior advisor to the president for medical affairs. "This initiative will build upon our physicians' strong commitment to their primary service base in Detroit and reach out to the broad community with which the university is engaged."

Through this collaboration, OHS/UPG Ventures will explore opportunities to extend services beyond its members' established service areas. Its first undertaking of what is planned to be a comprehensive collaboration to enrich the health status of the broad community is creating an ambulatory care facility in Troy, Mich.

While the scope of services to be provided at the 176,000 square foot facility (located on Stephenson Highway at Maple) has yet to be finalized, patient-centered services such as imaging and outpatient procedures are being considered. The facility opening is planned for the spring of 2008.

Wayne State University physicians practice in more than 100 sites in the tri-county area, many of which will be consolidated in the planned Troy facility, offering comprehensive care and diagnostic services to their patients at a single location.

**FRIENDS patio project continues**

The FRIENDS of Wayne State University School of Medicine have completed a beautification project near the entrance to Scott Hall. They installed brick paver patios, each with three courtyard benches. Although the benches are complete, the opportunity to purchase a personalized paver brick is ongoing. Many different sizes and prices are available by contacting FRIENDS President Gertraud Wollschleger, M.D., at (517) 507-3467 or wsumedpaver@att.net.

**Dr. Shankaran receives university's highest honor**

Seetha Shankaran, M.D., professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Neonatology at Wayne State University School of Medicine, has been inducted into the Wayne State University Academy of Scholars. Election to the academy is the highest recognition that may be bestowed upon WSU faculty members by their colleagues. The scholars of the academy are chosen from the most productive and widely recognized scholars at the university.

Academy of Scholars President Robert Sokol, M.D., presented certificates to the newly inducted members at a reception banquet that was held in their honor at the Renaissance Club, on Oct. 4.

Dr. Shankaran has served at the university for nearly three decades and has led the Division of Neonatology to international renown during the past 15 years. She has been the principal investigator on a number of major research projects, which have totaled about $12.5 million. Dr. Shankaran has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers in prestigious journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of Pediatrics.

Her most recent study found that lowering an infant’s body temperature within the first six hours of life reduces the chances for disability and death among infants who failed to receive enough oxygen or blood to the brain during birth. This work was deemed an important step forward in developing therapies that may advance the care and recovery of infants who are injured during birth. She is respected nationally and internationally by neonatologists, pediatricians, obstetricians and epidemiologists.

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Seetha Shankaran, M.D.
Faculty, students honored

The Honors Recognition Program, held in November 2006, awarded many School of Medicine faculty members and students for outstanding achievement in a number of areas. Congratulations to all honorees.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Dav Boroa, Ph.D., Immunology/Microbiology
William Boren, Ph.D., Pathology
Tian Huay Kuo, Ph.D., Pathology
David Lawson, Ph.D., Physiology

COLLEGE TEACHING AWARDS
Robert P. Shehak, Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Larry Matherly, Ph.D., Cancer Institute and Pharmacology

GRADUATE ALUMNI
Jeffrey D. Kocsis, Ph.D., Professor of Neuropathology, Neurosurgery, Research Center, School of Medicine, Yale University

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Class of 2007: Leslie Field
Katherine Kraft
Lisa Pappas
Mary Jo Van Oostenberg

Class of 2008: Darren King
Class of 2009: Jason Domina

GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH AWARDS 2006
Rosemarie Chirco, Cancer Biology
Joshua Dibworth, Pharmacology
Carri Glade, Radiation Physics
Yimei Huang, Radiation Physics
Christopher Jedeusko, Pharmacology
Foua M. Kayali, Pharmacology
Kristin R. Landis-Piwowar, Cancer Biology
Yi-Hung-Lin, Biochemistry
Yung-Feng Liu, Biochemistry
Shanell Williams, Biology and Genetics
Shannon Willis, Molecular Biology

Kidney transplant program ranks first in nation for percentage of African-American recipients and donors

“We take the highest-risk group of patients in the country, and we get them out of the hospital in one of the shortest lengths of stays with excellent outcomes and cutting-edge, steroid-free therapy. That one sentence with all its ‘ands’ puts us in a class by ourselves,” said Scott A. Gruber, M.D., Ph.D., describing the kidney transplant program at Wayne State University and Harper University Hospital (HUH). Dr. Gruber is professor and chief of the WSU School of Medicine’s section of transplant surgery, and director of the Organ Transplant Program at HUH.

His summary followed new data released by the nationally recognized Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients that rated the 250 U.S. renal transplant programs based on a set of risk factors. According to the registry, the WSU/HUH program was number one in two high-risk categories, including greatest percentage of African-American recipients at 89 percent, and greatest percentage of live-donor transplants from an African-American donor at 81 percent. It was also among the top 10 in three other high-risk categories, and ranked among the leading 10 percent in six more. At the same time, the registry reported that the program was able to maintain one of the lowest median initial hospital length-of-stays—just four days—for both live-donor and deceased-donor transplants.

“Until now, our remarkable record was based on my anecdotal story, but now we have the data to prove it. And this is amazing data,” Dr. Gruber said.

“The high-risk aspect of the WSU/HUH program stems from its inner-city, mainly African-American patient base, he said. “We face a lot of challenges with this population because of concerns such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and hepatitis C, which make it medically hard to find live donors. In addition, we also have to overcome issues of poor education, mistrust of medical professionals and lack of insurance coverage.”

Nonetheless, the program has had excellent results, in part due to its use of the very latest therapeutic methods, he stated. “We are one of the few centers in the country to employ cutting-edge, steroid-free, immunosuppressive therapy in these very high-risk patients.”

Another key to the program’s accomplishments is its premier medical staff, he said. “We have a great, multidisciplinary team of surgeons, nephrologists, clinical immunologists, pathologists, social workers, pre- and post-transplant coordinators, nutritionists, pharmacists, nursing staff and others who provide outstanding and meticulous care for our patients.” In addition, he said, “We’ve also established an expert group of medical consultants who, in a sense, are an extended part of our transplant team. For instance, when we want input from cardiology, infectious disease, hematology or hepatology, we don’t go to just anybody. We have somebody in each of these disciplines who is interested in and dedicated to transplantation, and serves as our point person in that field.”

The program’s achievements are especially heartening to Dr. Gruber, who joined Wayne State University five years ago and vowed to rejuvenate the kidney transplant program, which he described then as a little-known, decentralized unit performing only 20-22 transplants a year.

Since he has assumed command, the program has recruited eight faculty in transplant surgery, nephrology and related disciplines and more than a dozen support staff, doubled its patient load, added a successful pancreas transplant program and experienced vastly improved results for its patients. For instance, of the 107 patients transplanted in the two-and-a-half year period from Jan. 1, 2003 to June 30, 2005, one-year patient and kidney graft survival rates for living-donor transplants were 100 percent and 96 percent, respectively; and 98 percent and 91 percent, respectively, for deceased-donor transplants.

Another testament to the program’s success is its growing academic contributions. “We have established a wonderful clinical transplant database and already have a nice series of peer-reviewed published articles on our work with this most challenging group of patients in the top transplantation journals,” Dr. Gruber said. In addition, the transplant surgeons have collaborated with Wayne State pediatric nephrologists at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan and the histocompatibility laboratory to increase the number of pediatric renal transplants performed and to initiate a cutting-edge desensitization protocol for children with very high antibody levels. This protocol that has already been used to successfully retransplant two children who would not have otherwise been able to receive a second kidney, will be applied to adults at HUH within the next year, and forms the basis of a manuscript accepted for publication in a pediatric transplant journal.

These publications, along with presentations at various conferences and the program’s overall record, have already established a national and international reputation for Wayne State as “a place that transplants the toughest patients, particularly African-American, high-risk patients, that gets excellent outcomes, and that is one of the first programs in the country to do all of this using a steroid-avoidance protocol,” Dr. Gruber said. “We’ve done very well in four or five years and have really achieved some great things.”

“UNTIL NOW, OUR REMARKABLE RECORD WAS BASED ON MY ANECDOTAL STORY, BUT NOW WE HAVE THE DATA TO PROVE IT. AND THIS IS AMAZING DATA.” – DR. GRUBER
Dr. Gallagher honored for lifetime achievement in cancer education

The phrase “lifetime achievement” brings to mind deep reflection on one’s accomplishments and career. So was the case for Richard Gallagher, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, who accepted the Margaret Hay Edwards Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Education from the American Association for Cancer Education. The award, AACE’s highest honor, was presented to Dr. Gallagher by John Vetto, M.D., professor of surgery at Oregon Health & Science University, and past president of the AACE.

At the annual meeting in San Diego, Dr. Vetto said, “I convinced myself that because I am from Oregon, the land of the pioneers, it was fitting that I was the one to introduce Dr. Gallagher, because he has been such a pioneer of both cancer education and of AACE.”

Dr. Gallagher is a native of Lansing, Mich. He earned his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University and his master’s and doctorate in counseling from Ohio State.

In 1968, he joined WSU to head the newly created evaluation section of the Division of Education Services and Research. In the late 1960s, medical schools were formalizing curricula and involving trained educators in that process. Dr. Gallagher entered this new field, with neither map nor mentor and figured he’d stay a few years.

Dr. Gallagher began working with Dr. Vainutis Vaitkevicius, Dr. Vee, a medical oncologist, researcher and educator, and founding father of the AACE and what became the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Dr. Vee saw Dr. Gallagher’s unique skill set as ideally suited for helping to introduce cancer education into medical school curricula.

With guidance from Dr. Vee, Dr. Gallagher became one of the first seven awardees of what is now known as the R-25E, or cancer education grant program. As Dr. Vetto said, “The naysayers at Wayne State had to take notice when, in 1979, Dick brought to their medical school a $1 million grant to develop a medical school course on cancer prevention across 14 departments.”

“The man who started out in a new area with no mentors has been a mentor directly or indirectly to countless students, colleagues and patients who have benefited from the ripple effect of his work.”

- Dr. John Vetto
Professor of Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University

Around that time, Dr. Gallagher attended his first AACE meeting in Honolulu to present his curriculum development and evaluation work, which continues to develop and progress while retaining funding and acclaim.

“Dr. Vee’s encouragement, mentorship and support led to a long-time involvement first in the development and evaluation of cancer training curricula and activities at WSU and later involvement on a national level,” Dr. Gallagher said. “Once within the AACE organization, I was the beneficiary of mentoring which quickly involved me in several ambitious projects. These projects were all national in scope and required a substantial commitment of time and effort. In particular, we worked on the second national survey of the state of cancer education in the United States; the development of a set of behavioral objectives for the emerging field of cancer nutrition; a review and re-formulation of the guidelines for the National Cancer Institute cancer and career development grants and, in a small way, I helped with the founding of the Journal of Cancer Education.”

Dr. Gallagher first met Margaret Hay Edwards, for whom his achievement award is named, in her role as the reviewer for his multiple subsequent National Cancer Institute education grants; in those days she reviewed the educational grants on site herself. Ultimately her role was replaced by an NCI subcommittee, first called J, and now G. Dr. Gallagher has served two five-year terms on that committee, and currently serves as chairman.

His research on cancer education curricula development and evaluation has led to over a hundred published papers and abstracts and 65 invited presentations. His plans to stay for just a few years at Wayne State turned into a 38-year career and counting. In that time, he has brought in over $5.2 million primarily in support of medical education, medical education related research and curriculum development. He formed and directs his own division of education within the Department of Family Medicine, and he helped establish education within the Karmanos Cancer Center since its days as the Cancer Center of Metropolitan Detroit.

He has served in every one of AACE’s major appointed service positions, including serving as president in 2000-2001. He continues to strengthen the links between the AACE and NCI and its affiliated organizations, has actively guided the advisory committee, is an active participant in the European Association for Cancer Education and serves as deputy-editor-in-chief of the Journal of Cancer Education.

“The man who started out in a new area with no mentors has been a mentor directly or indirectly to countless students, colleagues and patients who have benefited from the ripple effect of his work,” Dr. Vetto said. “The announcement of Dr. Gallagher’s award was met with thunderous applause and a much-deserved standing ovation. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Gallagher displayed his typical modest manner, stating that the AACE has given back to him far more than he has put into it,” recalled Dr. Vetto.

“I really am humbled,” Dr. Gallagher said.

Wayne State University Chair of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, Dr. Maryjean Schenk, said, “Dr. Richard Gallagher’s contributions are vital to the medical education programs of both the School of Medicine and the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences. His expertise in program evaluation, participation as a key evaluator in our undergraduate and graduate medical education programs, and his mentoring of junior faculty in the science of medical education has resulted in national and international recognition of both the department and its faculty as leaders in medical education. I am extremely pleased and very proud that Dr. Gallagher was selected to receive this lifetime achievement award. He has dedicated himself to excellence in education and this award further emphasizes and calls attention to the importance of his work.”