Congratulations to the Class of 2003

This year’s graduates will enter the medical profession amid concerns about SARS, bioterrorism, digital medicine, patient privacy and global health. And no matter what new health issues they encounter, they can rely on their comprehensive training at WSU to guide them into the future.

The 2003 commencement ceremonies took place on June 10 at the Detroit Opera House. The outstanding accomplishments of 230 graduates from the WSU School of Medicine were applauded and celebrated by family members, faculty and university staff.

The ceremonies were marked by a keynote address from Michigan’s first surgeon general, Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD, who was appointed earlier this year by Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm to lead the state’s public health-promotion and disease-prevention efforts. In addition to her administrative responsibilities for public health programs, she is the state’s advocate for community-based health.

With a career-long interest in culturally-relevant diabetes self-management interventions, she understands a physician’s complex role in treating, motivating and serving patients. She encouraged graduates to remain engaged in the issues of the day, but to be true to their passion.

Look for WSU graduates who will be coming soon to clinics, hospitals and health programs near you! To see where WSU physicians will continue their specialty training, see the inside list.

Also presented at the 2003 commencement ceremonies were Distinguished Service Awards to Jeanne Lusher, MD, for her breakthroughs in blood disorders and pediatric hematology-oncology, and to Kamran Moghissi, MD, for pioneering work in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. In addition, special recognition was given to Robert Frank, MD, associate dean for academic and student programs, for his long-standing commitment to social responsibility and for his second nomination for the Association of American Medical College’s Humanism in Medicine Award.

Research Rankings Improve for Medical School, University

The Wayne State University School of Medicine moved up one spot, ranking 22nd among all U.S. university medical programs, according to the National Science Foundation’s most recent research and development rankings for fiscal year 2001. With more than $134 million in research expenditures, the School of Medicine is among the top 25 medical schools in the country. The School of Medicine was previously ranked 23rd with $116 million in research.

“While medicine only improved by one spot, this is a significant feat,” said George Dambach, PhD, former vice president for research. “The upper levels of the rankings are close among institutions, and medicine’s growth by 15.5 percent is significant in this highly competitive environment. Continued growth at this level should help put them in the top 20 in the near future.”

WSU also advanced five places in the overall ranking to 63rd among all U.S. universities and advanced six places to 42nd among public universities.

Other WSU programs ranking in the top 100 nationally include physical sciences which advanced 12 places to #50, chemistry which advanced nine spots to #51, physics which advanced nine places to #43 and life sciences which advanced three spots to #52. The university’s investment in infrastructure in fiscal year 2001, specifically research instrumentation, advanced WSU’s research equipment ranking 38 places to #46.

“One of the university’s strategic goals is to improve our national ranking and continue growth in research dollars coming in to the university from federal sponsors. For the fourth consecutive year, we have met those goals, and envision next year’s statistics to continue this trend,” Dr. Dambach said. He fully anticipates growth in WSU’s research rankings in the next report, particularly due to very large awards such as the Perinatology Research Branch, the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor’s Core Technology Alliance and several collaborative research programs.

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Letter from the Dean

By now, you’ve heard the encouraging news that Lansing has agreed to a $50 million “bailout” to avert the closing or severe curtailment of services at Detroit Receiving and Hutzel Women’s Hospitals. This agreement comes after months of discussion and negotiation among politicians and policy-makers. Importantly, the allocation is the result of widespread efforts among many, many stakeholders working at all levels — from the Governor’s Detroit Healthcare Stabilization Work Group, to grass-roots campaigns by our students and residents. These combined, thoughtful and comprehensive activities have significantly contributed to the public attention and coalescence of opinion that provoked immediate action. Congratulations to all of you who have voiced concerns and worked in behalf of this important cause.

However, our work has just begun. While the allocation agreement reached yesterday provides short-term relief, it is only the initial step in developing a long-term solution. Much more must happen in the weeks and months to come in order to turn the failing system around and assure the continuity of important health care services within our community.

The Stabilization Work Group and its subgroups are meeting daily toward reporting to the governor by the end of this month; recommendations will focus on establishment of a Health Care Authority charged with fiscal and possibly managerial oversight of delivery of care to the under- and uninsured in Wayne County, if not regionally. What form this authority will take and how it is charged is an important consideration if Detroit and its surrounding communities are to thrive, and if our School of Medicine and its affiliates are to remain sustainable and continue to grow. President Irvin Reid joins the School of Medicine in advocating that this authority have an academic mission. To this end, we have established a web site and have drafted an open letter to officials that I am inviting you to sign. Visit: www.med.wayne.edu/authority.

Your collective support has been successful thus far. I want to thank you and urge your continued, important contributions toward solving this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

John Crissman, MD
Dean, Wayne State University School of Medicine

DNA Demands Chimps Be Grouped in the Human Genus, Say Wayne State Researchers

Proposed changes in the primate order are stirring up evolutionary debate. Humans and chimpanzees should be grouped in the same genus, Homo, according to WSU researchers in a May 19 article (#21772) published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Although WSU’s Morris Goodman, PhD, has already proven with non-coding DNA sequences that chimpanzees are closest in kinship to humans rather than to gorillas, evolutionary traditionalists say chimps and humans are functionally markedly different and therefore belong on different branches of the family tree.

New analyses show humans and chimpanzees to be 99.4 percent identical in the functionally important DNA, which codes for proteins and is shaped by natural selection. This provides further evidence for revisions in our genus classification. Dr. Goodman proposes that all living apes should occupy the family Hominidae (which currently contains only humans), and that both humans and chimpanzees should occupy the genus Homo.

In traditional taxonomic schemes that are still widely employed, humans are classified as Hominids, while orangutans, gorillas, and chimpanzees are classified as Pongids. Genetically, however, chimpanzees are more closely related to humans than they are to gorillas. “The accumulating DNA evidence provides an objective, non-anthropocentric view of the place of humans in evolution. We humans appear as only slightly remodeled chimpanzee-like apes,” Dr. Goodman said.

The WSU research team compared 97 functional genes in six different species: humans, chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, old world monkeys, and mice. Based on genetic mutation tracking rates, the scientists constructed an evolutionary tree that measured the degree of relatedness among the six species. Chimpanzees and humans were the most closely related, sharing 99.4 percent identity at synonymous sites (functionally important) sites and 98.4 percent at synonymous sites (functionally much less important).

Researchers determined that the scientists constructed an evolutionary tree that measured the degree of relatedness among the six species. Chimpanzees and humans were the most closely related, sharing 99.4 percent identity at synonymous sites (functionally important) sites and 98.4 percent at synonymous sites (functionally much less important).

Researchers determined that humans and chimpanzees diverged from a common ancestor roughly five to six million years ago, which in turn diverged from gorillas about six to seven million years ago. “Revisions to our classification system would have far-reaching implications, much more important, in fact, than proving that humans and chimps are barely divergent. Such revisions would ensure that objective, scientific measures of similarity and dissimilarity are used, rather than anthropocentric, subjective observations. Sound genetic analysis should always be the basis for understanding the place of humans in evolution,” Dr. Goodman asserts.

These taxonomic changes have been proposed previously by several evolutionary experts, including Dr. Goodman, but a difference of scientific philosophies is at play. Traditional anthropologists argue that chimps are functionally different than humans because, for example, they lack spoken language and their genetic disease susceptibility is different.

In contrast, Dr. Goodman opens his article with a quote from Charles Darwin that says: “As we have no record of the lines of descent, the lines can be discovered only by observing the degrees of resemblance between the beings which are to be classed. For this object numerous points of resemblance are of much more importance than the amount of similarity or dissimilarity in a few points.”

Dr. Goodman is a distinguished professor in the Wayne State University School of Medicine’s Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics. Co-authors on his inaugural PNAS article, since his 2002 election into the National Academy of Sciences, are: Derek Wildman, Monica Uddin, Guozhen Liu, and Lawrence Grossman.

In 1962, Dr. Goodman sparked great debate when he originally asserted that chimpanzees and gorillas are genetically more closely related to humans than to other apes. His research has since been widely accepted and his work in this area has not only impacted the study of humankind’s place in nature, but also has important implications for medical science. The full article, “Natural Selection’s Role in Shaping 99.4% Nonsynonymous DNA Identity Between Congeneric Humans and Chimpanzees,” is featured as article 03-2172 in the May 19-May 23, 2003 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It can be viewed online at: www.pnas.org.
The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced the 2003 Michigan Life Sciences Corridor award recipients and Wayne State’s hard work has paid off.

Proposals by three WSU School of Medicine faculty members, Drs. Richard Everson, Michael Tainsky and Lucia Zamorano, received nearly $7.5 million from the latest round of the program. The University of Michigan and Michigan State University were also big winners in the competition, with U of M receiving four awards totaling nearly $7.3 million and MSU receiving two awards totaling nearly $2.6 million.

Dr. Tainsky, professor in the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, received the highest rating of all proposals submitted in the basic life sciences research category. His project, “Assays for the Early Detection of Cancer,” was awarded $1,762,447 over the life of the grant.

According to Dr. Tainsky’s program plan, the goal of this project is to detect antibodies that are produced by patients in reaction to proteins expressed in their ovarian tumors and use them as diagnostic markers. Current technologies have been disappointing and have not resulted in pre-symptomatic diagnostic tests suitable for clinical practice. Dr. Tainsky envisions this grant to create a new paradigm for the course of detection and management of early stage ovarian cancer.

Dr. Zamorano, professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery, was ranked second in the basic life sciences research category. Her project, “Integration of Bioengineering & Biocomputing to Advance Michigan Computer-Assisted Surgery Research,” was awarded $3,377,560 over the life of the grant.

According to Dr. Zamorano’s program plan, the objective of this project is to develop infrastructure and a critical mass of multidisciplinary investigators that will advance research in computer-assisted surgery, leading to the adoption of new and innovative surgical approaches in Michigan and elsewhere.

Dr. Everson, professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine, Pathology and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, was ranked second in the collaborative applied research and development fund category. His project, “Streamlining Genomics for Personalized Medicine,” was awarded $2,354,979 over the life of the grant.

The overall goal of Dr. Everson’s project is to develop simplified and cost-effective approaches to obtaining samples and conducting genomic analyses in human populations required for the development of personalized medicine. The population resources, laboratory resources, biorepository and expertise developed under this proposal will give the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor important competitive advantages in participating in the development of personalized medicine. In turn, the commercial products required for personalized medicine should be an important contributor to economic development in Michigan. Asterand, a start-up company that has been affiliated with WSU for the past few years, is a key partner in this grant.

In this last round of funding, MEDC awarded nearly $30 million to 13 projects plus the Core Technology Alliance, which WSU is a part of. In the past three years, Wayne State has been awarded more than $24 million as a result of its involvement in the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor.

Over 75 percent of research at WSU is focused on the life sciences, and this focus has led our School of Medicine to climb the National Science Foundation rankings to 22 in 2001.
Dual MD/PhD Curriculum Offered to Highly Motivated Students

The application of new scientific advances to the practice of medicine is generally transacted somewhere between a focused community of bench researchers and a vast group of physicians. Narrowing the divide between these groups are physician-scientists — people who pursue dual MD and PhD degrees, thereby establishing a “bench to bedside” view of medicine.

Anybody who has completed a medical or a doctoral degree can tell you that the academic load is grueling, but the rewards are great. Combine these two degree-programs, and you exponentially increase the rewards for biological medicine and patients everywhere.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, there are 3,171 students currently enrolled in dual MD/PhD programs at 110 medical schools around the country. Beginning in fall 2004, the Wayne State University School of Medicine will be one of the latest institutions to offer a formalized, dual-degrees curriculum and Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP).

“Only the finest medical students are attracted by a Medical Scientist Training Program,” said Kenneth Palmer, PhD, assistant dean for graduate programs. “These intelligent and motivated students will further research efforts at the School of Medicine while they are here, and will surely enhance the prestige of Wayne State University by their example upon graduation.”

Although it has been possible to obtain both MD and PhD degrees in the past, it required students to be accepted into each program separately, often with conflicting timelines and programs. Furthermore, many medical students who initially committed to both degrees later declined, due to serious financial disincentives associated with hefty student loans. In the past, the program was informal and not competitive with other institutions, which meant WSU lost many candidates with outstanding credentials.

Under the direction of Dr. Palmer, the self-funded Medical Scientist Training Program will allow students to earn dual degrees after seven-eight years of training. The goal is for WSU to become competitive for a federally-funded National Institutes of Health (NIH) Medical Scientist Training Program by establishing a track record of successful graduates.

“Nationally, there is growing concern over the need for physician-scientists who possess both a broad knowledge of human diseases and an understanding of basic science,” Dr. Palmer said. “An integrated MD/PhD program will help us recruit top science talent from across the country, raising the growth of the entire research enterprise at the School of Medicine.”

An especially exciting element of the WSU program is the scholarship aid that will be offered to up to four qualified students in each entering medical class for the next seven years. Full scholarships, covering both medical and graduate school tuition estimated at approximately $153,000 per student, will be offered as incentives for the highest caliber students.

Technically, the medical school tuition will be waived, with incidental, laboratory and related costs being absorbed by the school. This is accomplished without the loss of existing revenues by admitting additional students in new slots (consequently, opening four additional admissions). Further costs associated with graduate school stipends will be split among the Medical Alumni Fund, the MD/PhD’s faculty mentor, and the Office of Graduate Programs. According to Dr. Palmer, the most important sources for future funding, beyond the first seven years of the program, are philanthropy and obtaining an NIH MSTP training grant.

“The need for quality joint-degree programs is apparent all over the country,” Dr. Palmer said. “The advancement of biomedical science has created a gap between the laboratory and the clinic. On one hand, the details of modern biological science can not simply be added to an already exhaustive medical curriculum. On the other, biologists involved in specific research often do not have a broad knowledge of human diseases and available therapies. If scientific advances are to be harvested for the benefit of humanity, a number of intelligent and motivated individuals will need to have the training to make connections between these two very different areas.”

Candidate applications and considerations for Wayne State University’s MD/PhD program will be accepted this fall, with the first students accepted into the program in 2004.

Dual Degrees Require 7-Year Commitment

The curriculum for an MD/PhD program must be rigorous, yet flexible, in order to maintain educational excellence without compromising important clinical and laboratory experiences. Although flexibility is important and specific timelines will vary, the basic outline is as follows:

**MD/PhD Curriculum**

**Years 1-2**
- MD Basic Science Core
- PhD Basic Science Core
- PhD Laboratory Rotation

**Years 3-6**
- PhD Laboratory Rotation
- PhD Thesis Research, Advanced Courses
- Journal Clubs, Seminars
- MD Clinical Core Rotation

**Year 7**
- MD Clinical Core Rotation
- MD Senior Rotations, Electives

**MD/PhD Candidate Requirements**

- Applicants must complete the American Medical College Application Service process by November 1 for consideration by the Medical Scientist Training Program admissions committee.
- The committee will select appropriate applicants for interview in January-February. Applicants will be interviewed by at least two members of the executive committee and selections will be made based on qualifications.
- Qualifications include outstanding undergraduate academic performance — 3.75 GPA or higher and composite MCAT scores of 33 or higher.
- Evidence of research experience and a demonstrated interest in continuing research will be crucial factors.
Dr. Ravi Shridhar’s project won basic science and clinical research awards at the latest National Student Research Forum.

Some students enter college not knowing what might interest or motivate them along their career paths. But Ravi Shridhar was inspired and focused from the start. As a high-school senior, he spent a summer working in a Wayne State laboratory alongside his mother who was earning a PhD in molecular biology and genetics. He eagerly completed an undergraduate degree in chemistry, began medical school, and concurrently was admitted to graduate school. One of only a few WSU students enrolled in dual MD/PhD degree programs, Shridhar makes the most of both his clinical and laboratory experiences. In fact, his research has great translational capability and is appealing to basic scientists and physicians.

At this year’s annual National Student Research Forum in April, Shridhar walked away with two of three “best overall” honors and one categorical prize: the American Medical Association Foundation Overall Excellence in Clinical Research, the Sigma Xi Award for Overall Excellence in Research and the University of Texas Medical Branch Cancer Center Award in Oncology Research.

His project, “Cystatin M Reduces Lung Metastasis of Human Breast Carcinoma Cells,” was done with his advisor, Dr. Bonnie Slosane. It began by looking at increased expression and production of proteases that facilitate metastasis of breast cancer cells. Dr. Shridhar showed that expression of protease inhibitors could block breast cancer metastasis. The initial work won him the Wayne State University School of Medicine Graduate Student Research Day Award in 2001 and the Hershel and Lois Sanberg Prize for Excellence in Medical Research at the Medical Student Research Symposium in 2002. These prizes qualified him for participation at the 2003 national forum in Galveston, Tex.

Twenty-nine year old Shridhar admits it’s a long road for a physician-scientist, but he believes it’s critical to the advancement of medicine. He began medical school in 1996, defended his thesis and completed his PhD in 2001, will graduate with an MD in 2004, and plans for a 5-year residency program in radiation oncology to follow.

“Physician-scientists are a rare breed, but I think there exists a tension between clinicians and bench scientists. While both sides are interested in the same outcomes, neither is fully equipped to take the research all the way through,” Dr. Shridhar said. “National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for MDs has been on the decline over the last 10 years. This could be due to a number of factors including overwhelming clinical duties which don’t allow physicians much time to spend in the lab and lack of formal training in writing grants and selling their ideas as fundable to the various committees at the NIH. Basic scientists have a strong grasp of the research and administrative process involved in getting funded, but they will eventually need to collaborate with clinicians to make the leap to translational work. This dual degree program will help bridge the gap and bring the two sides closer together.”

Dr. Shridhar entered the MD and PhD programs separately, but is working with Dr. Ken Palmer to provide input on the formalized combined degree curriculum. “Integrating these programs will make WSU a very fundable to the various committees at the NIH. Basic scientists have a strong grasp of the research and administrative process involved in getting funded, but they will eventually need to collaborate with clinicians to make the leap to translational work. This dual degree program will help bridge the gap and bring the two sides closer together.”

Dr. Shridhar entered the MD and PhD programs separately, but is working with Dr. Ken Palmer to provide input on the formalized combined degree curriculum. “Integrating these programs will make WSU a very attractive option for students seeking a clear road to a physician-scientist career,” he said. “By providing physicians and breadth in research and clinical experiences, WSU will train the best the country has to offer.”

When the United States had an urgent need for an atomic bomb, the Manhattan Project was established, bringing together the best scientists from competing universities and institutions to complete a common task quickly. As the men of this country battle against prostate cancer, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) recently assembled what it calls the “Manhattan Project of Prostate Cancer,” a $10 million research program that combines the expertise of 13 universities and removes barriers of secrecy among scientists.

Wayne State University is participating in this DoD Prostate Cancer Research Program along with some of the most notable institutions in cancer research including the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center in Baltimore, Harvard Medical School in Boston, The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, and the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, which is organizing the force behind the consortium. The largest federally funded, three-year award for prostate cancer in history, the grant represents a new model in federal agency funding that fosters data sharing across state and university lines, in order to deal with an urgent, large-scale problem.

WSU researchers Michael Cher, MD, associate professor of urology and pathology, and Rafael Fridman, PhD, professor of pathology, are part of this elite consortium that seeks to eradicate prostate cancer, the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in men (following skin cancer). Drs. Cher and Fridman are members of Synergy Team 1, charged with studying the biology and models of bone metastasis. They will identify molecular pathways of how prostate cancer bone metastasis occurs and assess new models of bone metastasis. Dr. Cher is also a member of Synergy Team 3, charged with translating new molecular findings developed by the consortium into clinical trials. Three additional synergy teams are charged with gene therapy, signal pathways and new gene markers.

“Effective treatments for advanced prostate cancer are urgently needed. Through this national consortium of experts, we hope to identify entirely new concepts and targets for treatment,” Dr. Cher said. This Manhattan Project model allows creative latitude in each of the teams, acknowledging that very different ideas and prototypes will emerge and be assessed by a coordinating group.

Consortium investigators will communicate through a Web-based Virtual Corridor of Adjoint Programs (V-CAP) system that will provide interactive videoconferencing, real-time video streaming and data sharing technologies. The V-CAP allows researchers to enter each other’s laboratories and clinics to share ideas, problems, unpublished manuscripts and clinical trial protocols.

The submitted research abstract points out that in racing to build the atomic bomb during the original Manhattan Project, American scientists came together in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and gave up their egos to work together on a project never before attempted. Their leader, J. Robert Oppenheimer, said, “None of us is as smart as all of us.”

“Such wisdom is timeless and this is our guiding philosophy,” Dr. Cher said.
Blood Stem Cells Differentiate for Central Nervous System Repair

As long as we’ve believed that nerve cells can’t be replaced, researchers have been searching for ways to replicate, proliferate and transplant other cells that might provide therapeutic value. The effects of lost nerve cells and tissues are obvious in people with traumatic brain injuries and neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

A new source of hope may be on the horizon, according to a study published by Drs. Hsiao-Nan Hao and William Lyman in the February 2003 Journal of Hematotherapy & Stem Cell Research. Blood stem cells, or hematopoietic stem cells (HSC), taken from fetal human liver can develop into neural stem cells and then into fully-differentiated central nervous system cells in vitro.

This finding may provide new therapeutic approaches that could lead to significant functional improvement in disorders of the brain and spinal cord. Put simply, bone marrow and umbilical cord blood are no longer the sole source for generation of neural cells from outside the central nervous system. In fact, cells taken from the fetal human liver appear to have a greater potential than bone marrow to generate a self-renewing population of hematopoietic cells – neural precursors that can be manipulated for therapy.

Dr. Hao, assistant professor of pediatrics and lead author on the study, said after the HSCs generate neural stem cells, they further differentiate into astrocytes, which contribute significantly to the brain’s microenvironment and the induction of neural repair.

“What we’ve shown is an overlap in the gene expression profiles of hematopoietic, neural and embryonic stem cells,” said Dr. Lyman, who directs the Children’s Research Center of Michigan at Children’s Hospital. “These results suggest that HSCs from the liver could be an alternative resource to provide neural cells for central nervous system repair.”

Furthermore, their importance may be increased because we can isolate greater numbers of these cells than those from other sources.”

Full-text of the article, “Fetal Human Hematopoietic Stem Cells Can Differentiate Sequentially Into Neural Stem Cells and Then Astrocytes In Vitro,” can be found online at www.liebertpub.com/jht.

African Americans At Increased Risk of Dying from Brain Tumors, Contrary to Prior Reports

For most cancers, African Americans have poorer survival after diagnosis compared to Caucasians. For individuals with brain tumors, this racial disparity was thought to be reversed with African Americans having better survival. New evidence has found that African Americans are at a 13 percent increased risk of death from brain cancer compared to Caucasians, according to Jill Barnholtz-Sloan, PhD, whose article is now in press in the Journal Cancer.

In a study of racial differences in brain tumor survival, Dr. Barnholtz-Sloan, assistant professor of internal medicine and oncology, studied more than 21,000 subjects diagnosed with primary malignant brain tumor from 1973-1997 from the SEER cancer registry. Using statistical tests to understand race as a variable related to survival, she found that African Americans were at higher risk than Caucasians of dying from brain cancer.

“This is quite an interesting discovery, considering that previous literature said African Americans live longer than Caucasians. We were surprised to find an opposite trend,” she said.

SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program) is a national cancer surveillance program that collects information on incident cancer cases representing approximately 26 percent of the U.S. population. It is a major source of data for understanding population-based cancer incidence and survival rates for the general U.S. population.

An epidemiologist and expert in population studies, Dr. Barnholtz-Sloan also noticed that the difference in survival was further explained by an interaction between race and surgery type: namely an increased risk of death for African Americans with subtotal resection surgeries. Why this finding is true is unknown, but it could be related to multiple environmental, lifestyle or genetic factors. Previous studies show that individuals of any race undergoing total resections do better compared to those undergoing subtotal resections.

“It’s an interesting springboard for more research, because it begins with a whole new premise and takes us in an entirely new direction,” she said.

These findings will also be presented at the 2003 American Association for Cancer Research meeting in Washington, D.C., this July. Collaborators on the project are Andrew Sloan, MD, and Ann Schwartz, PhD, MPH.
Blood–Sugar Regulation Must Be Consistent

Although it is the leading cause of acquired blindness among young adults in developed countries, diabetic retinopathy still holds many mysteries for the medical and scientific community. An expert in the field, WSU’s Renu Kowluru, PhD, is conducting multifaceted research that may ultimately help diabetic patients curb and possibly avoid the debilitating condition.

Dr. Kowluru, an associate professor of ophthalmology, is studying several aspects of retinopathy, including the importance of a patient’s diligence in maintaining healthy blood-sugar levels. Continued tight control of glycemic levels is critical because retinopathy is duration-dependent: The longer a patient has had diabetes, the more likely he or she will develop retinopathy. She explained, “Almost 50 percent of patients who have had diabetes for nine years, and more than 95 percent of patients with 20 years of diabetes have some form of retinopathy.”

Although good glycemic control is beneficial in inhibiting the progression of retinopathy, it continues to progress for sometime after initiation of tight control of glycemic levels in diabetic patients, and only after several years of the good glycemic levels, the progression of retinopathy can be arrested. In attempting to understand this complex phenomenon, Dr. Kowluru conducted an experiment in diabetic rats. She and her research team split the rats into three groups: the first under strict glycemic control (which means that their sugar was closely regulated); the second group under poor control for two months; and the third group under poor control for six months, then tight control for seven months. For comparison purposes, they also maintained a group of non-diabetic rats, and a group of diabetic rats under no glycemic control.

The results showed that the rats with the longest and most consistent blood-sugar regulation did the best. “The animals that were in good control from day one are as good as normal animals, their retinal proteins did not show any additional oxidative modifications,” she said. “The animals that were uncontrolled for two months are not very good but not awfully bad, but the animals at six months of poor control are bad.” In other words, once the damage is done, even a careful glycemic control isn’t enough to halt the progression of retinopathy promptly. For human patients, Dr. Kowluru said, “That tells you to start good glycemic control as soon as you can, and stay on it.”

She and her research group are also trying to learn more about the molecular mechanism of interleukin-1 β, which they speculate is activating the pathway by amplifying the cell death. Once they learn more about the molecular mechanism of interleukin in triggering retinopathy, she hopes the information will provide new insight into the pathogenesis of the condition, and help to identify therapies that may help young patients live a more normal life.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and The Thomas Foundation provided funding for both of the research projects described above.
the inflammatory and immune system gives rise to particulate wear,” said Dr. Muzik. “Well, it turns out that there are actually millions of tiny particles that are cemented into place. "Problems in the brain are much clearer, making both the diagnosis and treatment faster and easier," Dr. Muzik said. With a large database of controls for comparison, the PET research team can spot abnormal tracer concentrations immediately and be alerted to the location of an epileptic focus or the presence of various developmental disorders.

According to Dr. Muzik, voxel-based image analysis brings a totally new sophistication to PET data analysis. According to one of the grant reviewers, it represents a most “elegant approach.” The PET research team already has developed various prototypes and is studying the sensitivity of each.

“This advance will impact upon a large number of children with uncontrolled epilepsy as well as other neurological disorders,” Dr. Muzik said.

A modern television show or digital photograph can be broken down into precise pixels—tiny elements that come together to form a clear, high-resolution image. With the help of Otto Muzik, PhD, and his new software program, a 3-dimensional image of the brain can be broken down into precise cortical volume elements, representing exact anatomical areas of the brain along with their functional values.

Dr. Muzik, a medical physicist and associate professor of pediatrics and radiology, is developing a new method for the objective analysis of pediatric PET (positron emission tomography) images. With his software, a triangular pattern is “laid over the brain” to precisely locate the position of cortical volume elements in specific areas of investigation. He calls it a “fishnet approach.”

This is a vast improvement over old imaging methods that had to “warp” adult data to “fit” child-size brains or compare right- and left-side brain slices to look for differences that might indicate an abnormality. This was problematic in part because of the difficulty to spatially adjust children’s brains to an adult template and in part because it required predetermination of the side containing the functional abnormality.

“Now we can look at precise anatomical locations and compare them in adult and pediatric brains. We don’t have to refer generally to a part of the brain, but specifically to an exact function-based anatomical location that can be scaled and assessed appropriately no matter how big or small the brain may be. In addition, we can look at each location and determine the function; for example, we can measure glucose consumption or neuroreceptor density and determine abnormal increases or decreases without preselecting criteria,” Dr. Muzik said.

With nearly $450,000 from the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, Dr. Muzik and his two collaborators—Dr. Sortis Draghici, a computer scientist, and Dr. Diane Chugani, a neuropharmacologist—are bringing the most “elegant approach.” The PET research team already has developed various prototypes and is studying the sensitivity of each.

“This advance will impact upon a large number of children with uncontrolled epilepsy as well as other neurological disorders,” Dr. Muzik said.

Dr. Muzik has developed a fishnet approach that divides a 3-D brain image into triangle-shaped cortical elements that are scalable and precisely comparable for brains of all sizes and shapes.
Helping Parents Deal with End-of-Life Issues for Their Children

Nobody ever really expects a child to die," said Kathleen Meert, MD, pediatric intensive care doctor at Children’s Hospital of Michigan and advocate for better end-of-life care for sick kids and their families. "The goal of critical care medicine is to save lives. But, no matter how much we learn in this field, we have to realize that some children won’t survive and we need to take care of them as well."

With support from the Children’s Research Center of Michigan and a Women of Wayne grant, Dr. Meert is identifying and studying the needs of parents whose children die in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU). Through qualitative and quantitative research, she is helping design interventions to best meet families’ physical, social, informational, emotional and spiritual needs. "We believe that the quality of care and support provided to parents and families near the time of their child’s death has an effect on bereavement outcomes," she said.

Dr. Meert, a professor of pediatrics and WSU alumna, is studying this from the perspective of the family, instead of the child, because it’s the family who has to make the hard decisions about treatment. She observes that adults can cope more easily with end-of-life issues for themselves or their parents, because it’s a scenario most everybody goes through at some point. "Adult children have to make hard medical and hospice decisions for their adult parents all the time. But parents who lose children might not know anybody else who’s ever had that experience. They usually have no idea how to handle it, because they’ve never seen anybody go through it."

Through videotaped interviews with bereaved parents, Dr. Meert has already identified several common themes that could provide better support systems for families. The most obvious thing is that parents need a caring and compassionate hospital staff. Although that seems commonplace, Dr. Meert has used such feedback to produce a dynamic teaching video for residents on how to give bad news.

An interesting subject that emerged was parental presence. Of parents interviewed a few months to five years after the death of a child, most said it was critical to be physically present with their child through all medical crises and at time of death. According to Dr. Meert’s research, all parents who were with their child at time of death, not one regretted being there. On the other hand, more than half of those who were not present had serious regrets, even if it was their choice to be away.

“I think parents aren’t sure how to handle these critical decisions regarding their children, but if we can build on the experiences of others, parents will trust that we are providing the best advice. Trust facilitates good judgement and good treatment decisions that are in the best interest of the children and their families. The more we learn, the better resource we can be for families coping with difficult medical options.”

Dr. Meert says research about pediatric end-of-life care is lacking since nobody wants to accept the possibility of death. “Most children who die in the United States die in hospitals, and most of those are in intensive care units. If families do ever make it to hospice care, they get there very late. Many have only 24 hours of hospice care before they die,” she said.

While much of her research focuses on the best ways to address ventilation, infection, and nutrition in the PICU, Dr. Meert is equally passionate about addressing palliative care, bereavement and parental needs. She graduated from the Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1984, did her pediatric residency at the Detroit Medical Center, and since 1989 has been an attending staff at Children’s Hospital and a faculty member at WSU.

Dr. Kathleen Meert says chronically ill children and their families often miss out on quality end-of-life care because people don’t accept the fact that some young people die.

“...a bone-growth compound.”

Dr. Wooley studies failed joint prostheses in order to design better models.

Dr. Wooley is conducting his research under a $625,000 grant from the Veterans Administration and a $100,000 grant from the Orthopedic Research and Education Fund. His research group includes assistant professors Dr. Weiping Ren and Dr. Shang-You Yang, and lab supervisor Zheng Song. He is also collaborating with orthopedic surgeons Drs. Sam Nasser and David Markel.

Although it may seem futuristic, Dr. Wooley said he has already published results showing gene therapy using a bone-controlling protein called osteoprotegerin or OPG, can actually control the bone-loss reaction in an animal model. “What we don’t have yet is the controllable vector to turn it on. That’s probably five years down the road.”

"What we don’t have yet is the controllable vector to turn it on. That’s probably five years down the road.”
MetroNet Provides Research Expertise for Practice-Based Clinicians

Family practitioners interested in research have discovered a host of resources and benefits from their participation in MetroNet, an expanding practice-based research network (PBRN) that operates in metropolitan Detroit under the guidance of Wayne State University’s Department of Family Medicine.

MetroNet physicians have an interest in evidenced-based clinical practice and they participate in studies that have relevance to their patient populations. Since so much of the published medical research is conducted by sub-specialists who see different patients from those in primary care, there is a great need for research that can be applied to primary care. PBRNs, such as MetroNet, provide a vehicle for conducting such studies. Because of the broad scope of primary care, it can be difficult to recruit from a single practice a sufficient number of patients with a particular characteristic or diagnosis. PBRNs make it possible to identify and recruit primary care patients for research studies.

MetroNet was created in 2001 with a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The network includes 24 practice sites, four of which are in federally designated medically underserved areas, and serves large minority patient populations, allowing researchers to address health disparities. In 2002, MetroNet received additional support from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to improve communication and data management infrastructure.

Kendra Schwartz, MD, MSPH, is the MetroNet director, and Victoria Neale, PhD, MPH, is the research director. Dr. Neale, who is principal investigator on the current AHRQ grant, says participating family practitioners have a wide range of research experience, but they all share an eagerness to participate in studies that relate directly to their own patients. Some members are senior clinicians who enjoy applying the scientific method to answer their clinical questions. Others are faculty in affiliated residency programs who are eager to gain experience with grant proposals, research protocols and related skills.

“We provide training as needed to each MetroNet practice on formulating clinical questions and searching for evidence-based answers that can be used at the point of care,” Dr. Neale said. Dr. Schwartz said the program also serves as a great professional development tool for family medicine faculty: “We mentor and assist our regular and voluntary faculty members in all aspects of research: grant writing, external funding, data management, and data analysis. We want community-based physicians to bring research questions to the table so we can efficiently translate research into practice.”

In just three years, MetroNet obtained funding for several pilot studies that are of great interest to family practitioners:

1) using a pharyngitis clinical prediction rule for diagnosing sore throat (Journal of Clinical Epidemiology; in press);
2) women’s use of herbal products for menopause symptoms (Journal of Women’s Health, in press); and
3) how patients use the Internet for health information (in progress).

Grant proposals are pending for future intervention studies that will look at decreasing ethnic disparities in influenza vaccination acceptance, and improving diabetes outcomes with different disease management approaches.
Silas Norman Jr., MD, has been named assistant dean for admissions at the Wayne State University School of Medicine after serving on an interim basis since 2002. Dr. Norman is an assistant professor of internal medicine and community medicine, was vice president of Affiliated Internists Inc., and has served on WSU medical school admission committees and teams for more than 25 years.

A public health physician, civic-minded scholar, and advocate for the less fortunate, Dr. Norman understands the complex role of doctors in the modern world of health care. In considering candidates for admission to medical school, he evaluates them as people, not just academics, he says.

“The Wayne State University School of Medicine has a well deserved reputation for excellence and inclusiveness. I welcome the opportunity to identify, encourage, prepare and recruit talented students to serve the medical needs of our diverse and deserving public,” Dr. Norman said.

Managing the admissions process for the country’s largest single-campus medical school is no small job, said Dr. Norman. Nationally, one of every 13 medical school applicants applied to Wayne State University in 2002 and there are currently 1,070 students enrolled, putting WSU just behind Illinois and Indiana in terms of total enrollment.

Dr. Norman earned a bachelor’s degree from Paine College in Augusta, Ga., spent two years doing graduate work in biology and medical microbiology, and served as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. He was admitted to the WSU School of Medicine through its innovative post-baccalaureate program for talented minority students and received his medical degree in 1976. He completed internship and residency training at Detroit General Hospital and has remained committed to Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center through the duration of his career. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and an advanced certified corrections health professional.

With a strong commitment to social and humanistic medicine, Dr. Norman has served as chief medical officer for the Michigan Department of Corrections, medical director for the Wayne County Jail and Jackson State Prison of Southern Michigan, and consultant to the Detroit Health Care for the Homeless project and to the Detroit Health Department. He is board chairman of the Community Health Awareness Group for people with HIV and a member of the advisory board of the HIV and Prisons Project of the National Minority AIDS Council.

He is regularly invited to give presentations about preventive medicine, public health, HIV/AIDS issues, African-American health disparities and contemporary health issues. In 2000, he was the recipient of three prestigious honors: the Alumni Achievement Award from the United Negro College Fund, the Alumni Achievement Award from the Wayne State University Organization of Black Alumni, and the ASHTO Vision Award from the Michigan Department of Community Health. In honor of his efforts for quality medical care for prison inmates, the Silas Norman, Jr., Emergency Room was dedicated at the Michigan Department of Corrections Jackson Clinical Complex in 1990.

An influential community and spiritual leader, Dr. Norman also is a deacon at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church and a member of the Bresal Dennard Chorale.

More than 250 academic physicians attended the first international conference of the Asian American International Medical Society (AAIMS), sponsored in large part by Wayne State University. The society was formed last year to support Asian-American physicians and promote international exchanges of ideas and medical training.

The first meeting was held in Goa, India, the hometown of AAIMS president and WSU professor of internal medicine, Dr. Lavoisier Cardozo, and meeting co-chairs Drs. George Alangaden and Nelia Afonso.

“India is a developing country and the doctors there were eager to learn about the latest advancements we had to share in cardiovascular disease, infectious diseases (particularly AIDS) and medical informatics. At this first meeting, the Indian physicians were really learning from the U.S. physicians. As our research networks evolve, however, we expect two-way exchanges of information about best practices and best approaches that will benefit both continents,” Dr. Cardozo said.

Supporting institutions in India included the Goa Medical College, Christian Medical College and Tata Memorial Hospital. “We’ve agreed to supply some current medical journals to these organizations and we are planning to propose an exchange program for fellowship training and networking,” said Dr. P. Chandrasekar, conference chair and professor of internal medicine. The 2004 meeting will be held on Marco Island in Florida and the 2005 meeting is planned for Sri Lanka, India.

Another interesting part of the program was the opportunity for young investigators to participate in a research competition. Submissions were accepted from 23 junior researchers, many of whom were making their first presentations. Senior WSU researchers served as program directors and organizing committee members.

WSU President Irvin Reid, who has made global networking a key university initiative, said to members of AAIMS, “The well-being of humanity is a global issue that will require the integrated efforts of all nations. While we may be separated by great distances or varying beliefs, one thread weaves us intricately together... our shared desire to ensure the health of our citizens, wherever we may live, and promote for them the best possible quality of life.”
Dr. Charles Whitten Honored as Michiganian of the Year

The Detroit News honored Charles Whitten, MD, as one of its 12 Michiganians of the Year for 2002. At 81 years old, Dr. Whitten has been honored for his lifelong commitment to increasing minority enrollment at WSU’s School of Medicine and for training more black doctors at WSU than any other school, except Howard University and Meharry Medical College, traditionally black colleges.

In 1969, Dr. Whitten founded the Wayne State University School of Medicine’s Post Baccalaureate program to even the playing field for African-American medical students. Through this program, that has become a national model, Dr. Whitten has helped 194 African Americans and 65 other disadvantaged students graduate from medical school.

Dr. Whitten believed that many minority applicants who were rejected from medical school were capable, but handicapped by educational, social, and financial shortcomings. The post baccalaureate program is designed to boost the academic skills and scientific knowledge of poor, first-generation college graduates. The post baccalaureate program and a million-dollar endowment fund for scholarships, Dr. Whitten is nationally recognized for his leadership, program development and advocacy work with sickle cell disease.

Growing up in a segregated enclave in Wilmington, Del., Dr. Whitten said he never felt racism’s sting, but he recognized it when he got to Detroit. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1942 and from Meharry Medical College in 1945. After practicing pediatrics in Buffalo, N.Y., he accepted an academic fellowship at Wayne State in 1955 and remained.

He and his wife, Eloise Whitten, have two daughters, Wanda Whitten-Shurney, a medical doctor, and Lisa Whitten, who earned a doctorate degree. “It makes me feel that my life has been worthwhile,” Dr. Whitten said, “for me and my family.”

I reasoned there wouldn’t be enough qualified black doctors if I didn’t do something,” Dr. Whitten said in The Detroit News.

Dr. Whitten’s work should not be marginalized, said Dr. Robert Frank, associate dean for academic and student programs. “He’s important for what he did for black students, but he’s also important for what he did for white students,” Dr. Frank said. “He brought a number of educational innovations to the school of medicine, introducing the use of objectives for medical school courses that weren’t there before, creating overarching goals for medical school that we still use today.”

In addition to establishing the post baccalaureate program and a million-dollar endowment fund for scholarships, Dr. Whitten is nationally recognized for his leadership, program development and advocacy work with sickle cell disease.

Other WSU faculty members and alumni who have been named Michiganian of the Year include:

- Dr. Vainutis Valkevicius (1987)
- Dr. Michael Busuito (1995)
- Dr. Isaac Powell (1995)
- Dr. Andrea Sankar (1995)
- Dr. Vainutis Valkevicius (1987)
- Dr. Sandra Brown (1997)
- Dr. Melissa Brown (1997)
- Dr. Jerry Linenger (1997)
- Dr. Jerome Horwitz (2000)
- Dr. Arthur Porter (2000)
- Dr. Irvin Reid (2000)
- Dr. Alexa Canady (2001)

Long Legacy Left by Dr. Gruskin

Children’s Hospital of Michigan and the Wayne State University School of Medicine are sad to announce the passing of Alan Gruskin, MD, former pediatrician-in-chief, Schotanus Family Endowed Chair of Pediatrics and chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

Dr. Gruskin served as pediatrician-in-chief of Children’s Hospital and the Detroit Medical Center from 1984 to 2002. During his tenure he was instrumental in transforming the hospital into an internationally recognized center for pediatric health care, teaching, research and advocacy. Dr. Gruskin received numerous international awards and distinctions for his work as a pediatric nephrologist. The founder and first chair of the International Pediatric Chairs Association, and president of the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, Dr. Gruskin authored hundreds of papers and abstracts regarding pediatric nephrology, childhood hypertension, and end-stage renal disease.

Recently, Dr. Gruskin received the prestigious Founder’s Award of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology for his extraordinary work in the field of childhood kidney disease. In 2002, he was named the recipient of the Henry L. Barnett Award for lifetime achievement in pediatric nephrology and pediatric medicine from the American Academy of Pediatrics and was the first recipient of the career achievement award of the International Society of Hypertension.

Dr. Gruskin died on April 7, 2003, from pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife, Renee, five children, and eight grandchildren. Contributions may be made to: The Alan B. Gruskin, MD, Academic Endowment at Children’s Hospital of Michigan, Development Office, 3901 Beaubien, Detroit, MI 48201.
Community Outreach Offered by Covenant House

Buratto saw the little girl. “[Her] skin was so hot and dry, even through clothes,” she said. “Her neck was rigid, and she made weak little peeping cries, like a little bird would, whenever anyone touched her neck, but would immediately fall back to sleep. Her breathing was raspy, shallow and rapid.”

She convinced the mother to take the child to Children’s Hospital of Michigan. And it’s a good thing. The little girl was diagnosed with double pneumonia. Doctors said she likely would’ve died had she not been brought in.

Jyothi Iyengar and Bryan Pack initiated the School of Medicine’s involvement with Covenant House through a program at Children’s Hospital called Health Focus. Sam Joseph, the executive director of Covenant House, was invited to speak at the program where he gave an overview of his organization.

After meeting privately with Joseph to determine further what their needs were, Iyengar and Pack arranged to address the student body to get more attention to Covenant House and to get more people involved. They also dropped off packets of information to faculty members, hoping to get them involved as well. Two that responded immediately were Drs. Bruce Deschere and Jack Ebright.

Currently, mentorship, street outreach and health presentations form the bulk of the students’ involvement with Covenant House. “It’s kind of like being a Big Brother or Big Sister-type program,” said Pack. “We’ve gone there and done everything from helping someone with homework to helping someone fill out a financial aid application for college.

“We answer a lot of questions about college. We’re finding these kids are graduating from a great GED program there, but they don’t have any idea what college is like. And a lot of times it’s just talking about what’s going on in their lives.”

With the help of Drs. Deschere and Ebright, Pack and Iyengar have a $15,000 grant proposal to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) that would help fund an on-site clinic on the Covenant House campus.

It would initially be open once a week, with a goal of seeing 20-40 patients per session. Staffing would include two physicians and three to five medical students. The clinic would be the only one in Detroit to offer free primary care medical services specifically dedicated to homeless youth and young adults.

“We also want to focus a lot on education,” said Pack, “both for the students involved with the clinic but mostly for the kids. Eventually, we’re hoping to do more, but we really just want to get people in the door first.”

Students looking to get involved with Covenant House can call (313) 463-2010. Also, there is a need for used medical equipment. Call to set up a donation.
Virus May Cause Obesity, Says WSU Professor

There may be a viral cause for obesity in some humans, according to Nikhil Dhurandhar, PhD, professor of nutrition and food sciences. Dr. Dhurandhar has identified a human virus known as Ad-36 that is connected with obesity. The virus speeds up the transformation of cells from immature adipocytes, or fat cells, to fully formed fat cells. As fat cells are transformed faster, more fat cells are in the body.

During the 2003 Experimental Biology meeting in San Diego, Dr. Dhurandhar presented “Infectobesity: Obesity of Infectious Origins,” with his colleague, Dr. Richard Atkinson of the Medstar Institute in Washington D.C. They are trying to determine the mechanism that guides the transformation of fat cells. They are researching which genes of the Ad-36 virus are interacting with genes of the immature fat cells to create this speeding up.

Dr. Atkinson described antibody-screening studies of obese and non-obese people. Essentially, when the body is exposed to a virus, the immune system produces antibodies to that virus, leaving clear evidence of prior exposure. Only 11 percent of non-obese people have antibodies to the Ad-36 “obesity” virus, compared to 30 percent of obese people, studies found. In general, antibody-positive people are significantly heavier.

According to Dr. Dhurandhar, “The long-term goal of this research is to find the mechanism action of Ad-36 in increasing obesity and lowering serum cholesterol and triglycerides. Also, we continue our efforts to develop better assays to test people for the presence of Ad-36 virus and antibodies. An obvious long-term goal is to develop a vaccine to prevent Ad-36 induced obesity.”

WSU Provost Appointed

Wayne State University President Irvin Reid announced the appointment of Nancy Barrett, PhD, as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs effective June 15, 2003.

Dr. Barrett was provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa for seven years. She was responsible for all academic and research programs and a variety of academic services. Before her tenure at Alabama, Dr. Barrett was provost and vice president of academic affairs at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo from 1991-96. She also has been dean of the College of Business Administration at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, N.J., and on the economics faculty at American University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Barrett served in the U.S. Department of Labor from 1979 to 1981 as deputy and acting assistant secretary for policy, evaluation and research. She also was a member of the Council of Economic Advisers senior staff, and a member of the Carter-Mondale transition team. She served as deputy assistant director for fiscal analysis for the Congressional Budget Office from 1975 to 1976.

“We are pleased to have attracted someone with Dr. Barrett’s dynamic background, who brings a wealth of academic experience, to become our new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Wayne State University,” said Wayne State President Irvin Reid.

Dr. Barrett has a bachelor’s degree from Goucher College in Towson, Md., where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and master’s and doctoral degrees from Harvard University, all in economics. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and the Institute of Economic Studies in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1973. She also received a National Science Foundation Fellowship and a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship at Harvard University.

“I am honored to be named provost at Wayne State University,” Dr. Barrett said. “I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the academic direction of such a dynamic and diverse institution, as well as to working with the university’s talented faculty, staff and students.”

WSU Forms Partnership with Russian University

A reception honoring visiting ophthalmology faculty, Drs. Anzhelika Berezovskaya, Inna Glybina and Igor Zapuskalovwas, was held May 19th in the Elliman Atrium. The reception commemorated the signing of a cooperative agreement between Siberian State University, Russia and the Wayne State University School of Medicine. The document, signed by WSU President Irvin Reid and Dean John Crissman, will help to establish a collaboration of knowledge, culture exchange and important health issues that will assist in globalizing health care and research. In attendance, as well as other School of Medicine leadership and donors, were Dr. Gary Abrams and Dr. James Puklin of Kresge Eye Institute who hosted the Russian doctors.

Key players in the global exchange with Russian ophthalmologists are: (seated) Drs. John Crissman and Irvin Reid, (standing) Drs. Anzhelika Berezovskaya, Inna Glybina, Igor Zapuskalov, James Puklin and Gary Abrams.

Brain Awareness Week Educates Young and Old

Students and faculty from the Cellular and Clinical Neurobiology (CCN) Program in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences visited more than two dozen classrooms throughout the metropolitan Detroit area to promote education of the brain. It was all part of Brain Awareness Week, an annual program sponsored by the national Society for Neuroscience.

Activities ranged from those for kindergarteners all the way up to high school advanced placement biology courses. Topics included the basic components of the brain, the different functions of the brain, brain disorders, and the effects of drugs and alcohol on the brain. Students always enjoy this fascinating program, which also included a special interactive exhibit (Brain Awareness Day) at the Detroit Science Center for the general public, attended this year by over 4,000 people.

More than 4,000 people saw the brain display at the Detroit Science Center.
Sanjeev Aggarwal, MD, pediatric cardiology fellow, presented his research, "Sinus Node Function in Growing Children," at the 2003 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting. His work was mentored by Dr. Peter Karpawich, professor of pediatric medicine and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

Hassan Amirkia, MD, assistant professor of family medicine, is president of the Michigan State Medical Society and was re-elected to a two-year term as an alternate delegate to the American Medical Association.

Kavitha Chintala, MD, pediatric cardiologist fellow, presented her research, "Clinical Profile and Intermediate Term Follow-up of Transvenous Pacing Leads in Intravascular Stents," at the 52nd scientific session of the American College of Cardiology. Her work was mentored by Dr. Peter Karpawich, professor of pediatric medicine and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

Maria Cypher, PhD, successfully defended her thesis in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics. Her project was "Novel Synthesis and Degradation Pathways for the Myelin Proteolipid Proteins," and her mentor was Dr. Leon Carlock.

Donald DeGracia, PhD, assistant professor of emergency medicine, has been invited to give a presentation on emergency room stress at the American Society for Neurochemistry meeting in New York City in August 2004. He will be one of four keynote speakers.

Michael Diamond, MD, professor and associate chair of obstetrics and gynecology, was a plenary speaker at the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists-sponsored International Congress titled "Beyond Hysterecomy: the Contemporary Management of Uterine Fibroids." The meeting was held in Scottsdale, Ariz., in April. Dr. Diamond discussed the role of early second-look laparoscopy for postoperative adhesion reduction and the role of adjuvants in reducing postoperative adhesion development.

Rasha Ghurani, MD, third-year resident at Sinai-Grace Hospital, presented "How Does Mapropranolol Resistance Among Staphylococcus Aureus Isolates Emerge in Long-Term Care Facilities?" at the 2003 national meeting of the American College of Physicians held in San Diego in April.

Gary Gilbard, MD, assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, was named one of the 50 fittest CEOs by Crain's Detroit Business. Dr. Gilbard is owner of Gary Gilbard, MD, PC.

Haleh Haerian, MD, second-year resident at Sinai-Grace Hospital, was selected to participate in the 2003 national meeting of the American College of Physicians held in San Diego in April. They were titled "Multicentric Castleman’s Disease in Association with Epstein-Barr Virus" and "In Vitro Study of the Effect of Gossypol in Combination with Docetaxel on Two Different Human Adrenocortical Carcinoma Cell Lines."

Peter Karpawich, MD, professor of pediatric medicine and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children’s Hospital of Michigan, was an invited faculty speaker at the 24th scientific session of the North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology. His presentation on AV node embryology, anatomy and electrophysiology was part of the course on "Electrophysiology of Congenital Heart Disease."

Yi-chi Kong, PhD, professor of immunology and microbiology, was an invited workshop moderator on "Environmental Factors in Autoimmune Diseases," sponsored by several NIH institutes including the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in February.

Her laboratory gave three oral presentations at the annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologists in May. The titles are: "CD137 Signaling Interferes with Activation and Function of Regulatory CD4+CD25+ T Cells in Induced Tolerance to Experimental Autoimmune Thyroiditis (EAT)," "Increased Intake of Sodium Iodide Initiates Experimental Autoimmune Thyroiditis in HLA-DR3 (DRB1*0301) Transgenic Class II Knockout NOD Mice, Regardless of the Presence of HLA-DRB1 (DRB1*0301/DRB1*0302)," and "Graves’ Hyperthyroidism Induced in HLA-DRB1*0301 (DR3) Transgenic mice by immunization with Thyrotropin Receptor DNA.

Charles Lucas, MD, professor of surgery, presented "The Effects of Heroin and Cocaine on Trauma Care" at a conference sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the CDC, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Nagaprasad Nagajothy, MD, third-year resident at Sinai-Grace Hospital, presented "Complement Dependent Cytotoxicity (CDC) Is a Major Mechanism of Action of Rituximab" at the 2003 national meeting of the American College of Physicians held in San Diego in April.

Vijayalakshmi Nagappan, MD, chief medical resident at Sinai-Grace Hospital, presented "The Induelling Urinary Tract Catheter-Patients’ Perceptions on the Benefits, Complications and Discomfort Associated with Catheter Placement" at the 2003 national meeting of the American College of Physicians held in San Diego in April.

The Department of Pathology presented 32 abstracts at the United States Canadian Academy of Pathology meeting in Washington D.C. in March. WSU ranked in the top four institutions worldwide, and residents and fellows were ranked in the top two institutions for participation.

Jeffrey Potts, PhD, assistant professor of physiology, had his work featured on the cover of the May 2003 issue of Neuroscience. His article "Contraction-Sensitive Skeletal Muscle Affersents Inhibit Arterial Baroreceptor Signalling in the Nucleus of the Solitary Tract: Role of Intrinsic GABA Interneurons," describes the physiological interaction of sensory input to the brain from skeletal muscle receptors and arterial baroreceptors during exercise. The study was coauthored by Petio Anguelov, MD, research associate, and Sandra Lee, research assistant, both of the Department of Physiology.

Scott Ransom, MD, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was recently elected to serve as president of the American College of Physician Executives, a national professional organization with over 11,000 physician-executive members. In addition, Dr. Ransom was elected to serve as president of the Certifying Commission in Medical Management, which provides certification to physicians managers after passing extensive competency testing and demonstrating achievements in both clinical and management education and experience. Dr. Ransom is also an associate professor in health management and policy at the University of Michigan.

Richard Santucci, MD, assistant professor of urology, has been appointed to the National Institutes of Health/ National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIH/DK)/Urologic Diseases in America project, a federally-funded study designed to document the burden of illness that urologic diseases place on America.

Tannu Sahay, MD, second-year resident at Sinai-Grace Hospital, was selected as a national finalist for her presentation, "Abstract Inhibition of Nuclear Factor KB Activation in Breast Cancer by Genistein," at the 2003 national meeting of the American College of Physicians held in San Diego in April.

Ethan Smith, medical student, had an original research article published in Biological Psychiatry. The study is called "Increased Medial Thalamic Choline Found in Pediatric Patients with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder vs. Major Depression or Healthy Controls: An MRS Study." Smith works in the laboratory of Dr. David Rosenberg and presented this work at the annual meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry in May.

Carol Stewart, RN, pediatric psychiatry nurse who works in the laboratory of Dr. David Rosenberg in psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, was on the panel of judges for the 2003 Michigan Registered Nurse of the Year award presented by the Michigan Nurses Association. Stewart was the recipient of this award two years ago.

SUSAN WYKES, PHD, successfully defended her thesis in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics. Her project was "Dynamic Chromatin: The Organization and Regulation of Haploid-Specific Domains." Her mentor was Dr. Stephen Krawetz.

Alexa Canady, MD, retired professor of ophthalmology and editor-in-chief of Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (IOVS), accepted the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s 2002 Distinguished Service Award on behalf of IOVS. The award recognizes the publication’s "valuable contributions to the field of ophthalmology through significant contributions to basic and clinical ophthalmic research."

Hiroto Inaba, MD, PhD, pediatric resident at Children’s Hospital, is the recipient of the 2003 Society of Pediatric Research House Officer Research Award for his work on "Sensitization of Osteosarcoma Cells to Fas-Induced Apoptosis by Interferon Gamma," a study conducted during his training at WSU.

Kathleen Meert, MD, associate professor of pediatrics, was honored by the Women of Wayne Alumni Association with a research grant to further her studies regarding end-of-life issues in the pediatric intensive care unit.

Edwin Monsen, MD, PhD, professor of otorhinolaryngology and director of otology and neurotological skull base surgery, won the Mosher Award for excellence in clinical research from the American Triological Society.

Natalia Tanner, MD, professor of pediatrics, was honored for her contributions to civil and human rights at the Detroit Urban League’s 24th annual Salute to Distinguished Warriors. Dr. Tanner was the first African-American pediatrician at Children’s Hospital in 1953 and the first black woman admitted to the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Lamp Award Goes to Non-Traditional Teacher: Dr. Stephen DiCarlo

To see his supply cart as he enters the classroom, you might think he’s teaching kindergarten. He has colored construction paper, balloons, models, demonstrations, and playing cards—all to teach complex physiology concepts to medical students, and all of which have been noted as novel educational tools in journals including Advances in Physiology Education, Non-Traditional Laboratory Manual, and two versions of the textbook, “Experiments and Demonstrations in Physiology.”

A certified physical therapist with a doctorate in physiology and biophysics, Dr. Stephen DiCarlo uses creative educational tools to help him teach, but more importantly, to help his students learn. Dr. DiCarlo’s above-and-beyond efforts were recognized by WSU medical students when he was chosen to receive the 2003 Lamp Award for outstanding basic science teaching over years one and two, which is, in essence, teacher-of-the-year. He also earned a WSU President’s Award for Teaching Excellence and received Teacher of the Year Awards at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in 1994 and 1998 before arriving at WSU.

Dr. DiCarlo believes his most important responsibility as a teacher is to help students become critical thinkers who are capable of analysis and problem solving. “Students learn more when they are actively involved in learning than when they are passive recipients of instruction. Students must do more than just listen; they must read, write, discuss and be engaged in solving problems. Students must also be actively involved in higher-order thinking tasks including synthesis and evolution. Our task should be to engage students in the subject matter so that they will be excited and interested,” he said.

To this end, Dr. DiCarlo uses a variety of creative methods. For example, visual learners are targeted by the use of models and demonstrations. Auditory learners are reached through discussion during peer instruction, debates, and games. Manipulating models and role playing satisfies kinesthetic and tactile learners. In addition, Dr. DiCarlo uses the Socratic Method: “Teaching by Asking Instead of By Telling.”

David Rodenbaugh is a fourth-year graduate student who was recruited to WSU from the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine by Dr. DiCarlo. “Students love Dr. DiCarlo’s teaching methods because they work. Dr. DiCarlo engages and connects with every student. The classroom is alive with energy and enthusiasm for learning,” he said. “Visit his classroom and you will be amazed with the bee-like activity of students engaged in learning. No student is allowed to be a spectator. Even during the short periods of straight lecture, he will throw candy at students who are not engaged, he carries a hand held microphone to elicit student response, and peer instruction is tightly woven into every class.”

Incidentally, the “toys” mentioned earlier have actually been evaluated as effective educational tools. The construction paper is used for television-inspired games including Who Wants to be a Physician?, Pulmonary Jeopardy, and Survivor. For Survivor, medical students form tribes to review pulmonary medicine in preparation for exams. They eventually vote class members off the team until the winner gets a “Heavy Breathing Award for outstanding work in respiratory physiology.”

Simple models are used to represent various concepts. For example, each student receives a plastic sandwich bag filled with balloons, rubber stoppers, wire, microscope slides, and syringes. During class, the students assemble and manipulate their models to help them “visualize” and understand the more complicated points of the discussion. Furthermore, they are encouraged to demonstrate and teach these concepts to family members. Finally, playing cards specially designed by Dr. DiCarlo are used for educational variations of the card games Go Fish and Gin Rummy.

Dr. DiCarlo also follows the wisdom of the ancient philosophers who suggested that: Teaching without research is analogous to drinking water from a stagnant pond while teaching with research is analogous to drinking from a flowing stream. Thus Dr. DiCarlo is actively engaged in medical research and recently received a $1.85 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study vascular function in paraplegic rats.

University Recognizes Medical School Faculty Members

At the annual Academic Recognition Ceremony, Wayne State University President Irvin Reid and Provost Charles Bantz honored medical school faculty members with the following prestigious awards.

The 2003 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

Stephen DiCarlo, PhD, professor of physiology, is a model teacher of the highest caliber, as evidenced by the comments of the students who wrote in support of his nomination and in student evaluations.

Jeffrey Ram, PhD, professor of physiology, teaches in the School of Medicine, the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the College of Education. Dr. Ram helps students grasp the complexity of their subjects. With guitar and song sheet in hand, he enlivens his class with new lyrics that are set to well-known tunes.

Charles H. Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

Gary Krause, MD, Edward S. Thomas Professor of Emergency Medicine, has distinguished himself through cutting-edge research on cerebral ischemia and resuscitation. Dr. Krause will use this fellowship to begin experiments designed to generate preliminary data on the use of multi-drug intervention to ameliorate brain damage due to stroke.

Outstanding Graduate Mentor Awards

James Moseley, EdD, associate professor of community medicine, was honored for his role as teacher, coach, advisor, counselor, scholar and researcher. Again and again, his students praise him for his accessibility, his positive support and his willingness to work with them in solving research problems. Dr. Moseley guides the professional preparation of his students with equal dedication, encouraging them to prepare papers for presentation and publication. In addition to presenting conference papers with students, he has published journal articles, chapters and books with current and former students. Dr. Moseley not only actively socializes students into the discipline, he prepares them for a profession.
Residents Awarded at Sinai-Grace Hospital Research Day

Out of 132 research participants, 18 winners emerged in the Sinai-Grace Hospital Research Day, sponsored by the Wayne State University School of Medicine. The day-long event on April 10 provided an opportunity for resident physicians and nurses to be rewarded for interdepartmental research and case report competitions.

Dr. Surendra (Suri) Marur, faculty member at Sinai-Grace, said this was a great indication of the level of learning and medical advancement that is underway in Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center residency programs. Official awards and congratulations were presented by Drs. Mohamed Siddique, assistant professor of internal medicine, Bernard Gonik, professor of OB/GYN, and Kenneth Bergsman, professor of internal medicine.

Following is a list of winners:

Basic Science Research - Oral Presentations
1st Pravin Goud, OB/GYN
2nd Viji Nagappan, Internal Medicine
3rd Kamal Nasser, Internal Medicine

Basic Science Research - Poster Presentations
1st Tannu Sahay, Internal Medicine
2nd Sinoj John, Internal Medicine
3rd Violeta Botea, Internal Medicine

Case Report - Oral
1st Shanhi Marur, Internal Medicine
2nd Alec Walker, Emergency Medicine
3rd Tawhida Khatoon, Internal Medicine

Case Report - Poster
1st Manesh Kottapuram, Internal Medicine
2nd Dany Obeid, Internal Medicine
3rd Oronde White, Internal Medicine

Clinical Research - Oral
1st Jill Hechtman, OB/GYN
2nd Robert Seledotis, Neurosurgery
3rd Kelly Dwyer, Pharmacy

Clinical Research - Poster
1st Haleh Haertan, Internal Medicine
2nd Cory Kacir, Pharmacy
3rd Ahmad Hammoud, OB/GYN

A group of enthusiastic resident researchers.
Congratulations to the class of 2003 who will pursue post-graduate medical training at the following institutions. Refer to the end of this list for a reference guide to institutions.
Support a Regional Health Care Authority with an Academic Mission

The health care delivery system in the Detroit metropolitan area has reached a crisis level with the threatened closure of two of Detroit’s most important facilities in providing high-specialty care to hundreds of thousands of people in our community. (See dean’s letter on page 2.) Much media, legislative and public attention has focused on the need for both immediate and long-term solutions to this crisis. Among the long-term solutions proposed is the establishment of a Regional Health Care Authority with financial and managerial oversight for the delivery of care through these now-failing institutions. The Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Wayne State University Physician Group support the establishment of a publicly appointed Regional Health Care Authority that will be responsible for ensuring that high-quality health care and access to health care are provided to all, regardless of social, economic or geographic status.

To learn more about this crisis, we have provided you links to news stories, an outline of a model Health Care Authority and previous WSU School of Medicine communications. To support the WSU School of Medicine and the WSU Physician Group in advocating a solution, you are invited to write letters to your local and state legislators or to provide your signature (via Web) on a group letter that will be sent to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

Log on to authority.med.wayne.edu to sign a group letter of support for a public health-care authority and to learn more about the ongoing effort to save southeastern Michigan’s vital health-care safety net.

For more information or to register for conferences, please call Wayne State University’s Division of Continuing Medical Education at (313) 577-1180.
260 Turn Out for Alumni Reunion

On Saturday, May 10, 2003, more than 260 alumni and guests attended the special class reception, dinner and awards ceremony for the Medical Alumni Reunion Day at the Somerset Inn in Troy, Mich.

This year’s recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award were John Ensley, MD, ’77, professor of internal medicine, and Daniel Michael, MD, ’79, associate professor of neurological surgery.

The first recipient of the Recent Alumni Award was Leland Babitch, MD, ’95. The recipients of the Lawrence M. Weiner Awards were Anna Ledgerwood, MD, professor of surgery, and the late Dong H. Shin, MD, professor of ophthalmology.

Earlier in the day, over 100 alumni attended the four-credit continuing medical education program titled, “You Heard it Here First: Experts Discuss the Latest Advances in Their Fields.” The program provided cutting edge information on Alzheimer’s disease, West Nile Virus, controversies in hormone replacement therapy, preventing preclinical atherosclerosis, and a prostate cancer mini-symposium. Many thanks to our speakers, Drs. Arthur Frazier, Mani Menon, Ulika Vaishampayan, Randall Benson, Carl Lauter, Pam Marcovitz and Melvin Rubenstein.

Alumni and guests also attended a luncheon in the Scott Hall cafeteria. Dr. Michael Sandler, past president of the Medical Alumni Association, hosted the luncheon program, which included Dean John Crissman’s “State of the School” address, alumni student awards, certificate presentations to the classes of 1953 and 1978, and the medical alumni association’s annual business meeting.

Dr. Thomas Ditkoff, ’71, (right) presents Dr. Michael Sandler, ’71, (left) with a certificate of appreciation for his service as president of the Alumni Board of Governors for the 2002-2003 year.

Mrs. Sidney Stone, Mrs. Dong Shin and Mrs. Lawrence Weiner enjoy coming back to WSU for reunion day.
The President’s Greeting

Greetings on behalf of the Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Governors.

The alumni association is an integral part of the School of Medicine. As the needs of the school have grown, the role of alumni has become increasingly important for its continued success, and I am honored to serve as the association’s president during this exciting time.

The School of Medicine is meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century and it is more important than ever that the alumni become a positive force in the future of this university. During these challenging economic times, the very core of the medical school and medical center is threatened and it is essential that concerned alumni become informed about the current challenges facing our school. I urge all alumni of the school to speak loudly and passionately to policy makers about the critical role that our school plays in educating Michigan doctors and caring for the most disadvantaged members of our society.

Like many of you, my love and enthusiasm for the School of Medicine has only grown over the years. As we work together and strive for excellence, I find myself extremely optimistic about the year ahead and I look forward to serving my fellow alumni and the school. For my part, I will try to serve as a conduit of accurate information to you as events evolve. Please feel free to contact me at wonell@beaumont.edu if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about how I can better serve our alumni group this year.

I am proud to be a part of the best alumni group in the nation!

Thank you.

William O’Neill, MD, ’77
President
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Medical Alumni Association

Over $100K Raised at Pathfinders Event

More than 200 people attended the May 17 Pathfinders in Medicine Awards ceremony, a black-tie dinner at Neiman Marcus in Troy. The event raised more than $100,000 for the Black Medical Association of Wayne State University Endowed Grant Fund and the Charles F. Whitten, MD, Post Baccalaureate Endowment Fund.

This year’s honorees were:

Peter Karmanos, Jr.
CEO of Compuware

Mr. Karmanos was honored for his leadership and generosity in the establishment of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and for enhancing the advancement of cancer research and patient care in metropolitan Detroit.

Mark Kelley, MD
Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Henry Ford Health System

Dr. Kelly was recognized for his leadership in the Henry Ford Health System and for promoting health care economics, cost-effective use of technology and medical education.

Walter Douglas
Founder of New Detroit, Inc.

Walter Douglas was honored for his leadership within the Henry Ford Health System and for his relentless advocacy of economic equity, racial justice, cultural collaboration, and youth support in the African-American community.

Altha Stewart, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer, SBHA Clinical Consultant, University Physicians Group

Dr. Stewart was recognized for her contributions in promoting race and gender sensitivity in the treatment of psychiatric disorders, particularly in disadvantaged populations.

Ethelene Jones-Crockett, MD

Dr. Jones-Crockett received a special posthumous award in recognition of her dedication to improving the health of minority women, children and the underserved.

Special thanks for the support provided by our sponsors:

- **Diamond Sponsor**
  - Federal-Mogul Corporation
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  - Standard Federal Bank

- **Gold Sponsors**
  - Compuware Corporation
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  - Wayne State University School of Medicine

- **Emerald Sponsor**
  - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan

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- **Honorary Chairs**
  - Irvin D. Reid, PhD
  - Pamela Trestman Reid, PhD
  - John D. Crissman, MD
  - Juliette Okotie-Eboh, PhD

- **Steering Committee**
  - Taylor A. Lewis, MD, Chair
  - Elizabeth Asfaw
  - Alice Combs
  - Gary Cummings
  - Juanita K. Doss, MD
  - Rosalind E. Griffin, MD
  - Anthony Wilson, MD

- **And special thanks to all Pathfinders committee members:**

- Cleveland Hurst
- Diana C. Jones
- Sandra Jones-Lackey, MD
- Lawrence S. Lackey, Jr., MD
- Patricia Maryland, DrPH
- Michelle Mathews, MD
- Sue Nine
- Phares Noel
- Silas Norman, Jr., MD
- Sonia Parks, MD
- Roger Short
- Jacqueline G. Veal
- Amelia Wilhelm

Dean John Crissman, Wayne State University President Irvin Reid, PhD, and his wife Pamela Trestman Reid, PhD, enjoy the reception.

Dr. Altha Stewart addresses the audience at this year’s Pathfinders in Medicine Awards.

Dr. Taylor Lewis presents the Pathfinders in Medicine Award to Walter Douglas.

Dr. Taylor Lewis with Peter Karmanos, Jr.

Dr. Mark Kelley accepts his award from Drs. Taylor Lewis and Dean John Crissman.
Alumni Award Winners

Congratulations to the following alumni who won special recognition awards at this year’s Medical Alumni Reunion Day.

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually to an alum who has made outstanding contributions to humanitarian causes, whose contributions to the health field in the broader sense are outstanding, or for service to the WSU School of Medicine.

JOHN ENSLEY, MD, ’77

Dr. Ensley is a native of Detroit, was born at Hutzel Hospital, and is an alumnus of many WSU programs. All of his studies, including a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry, a master’s degree in physiology, a medical degree, as well as internship and residency in internal medicine, and a fellowship in oncology, took place at Wayne State University

After completing his training in oncology, Dr. Ensley became a member of the faculty at the Wayne State University School of Medicine as an assistant professor in 1983, associate professor with tenure in 1993, and was promoted to professor in 1994. In addition, he has held many administrative positions.

A pioneer in head and neck cancer, Dr. Ensley has been funded by the National Institutes of Health from 1986 to 1998, and he served as chairman of Southwest Oncology Group Head and Neck Cancer Committee (SWOG) from 1986 to 2002. He is the senior author of the newest, definitive textbook on head and neck cancer, *Head and Neck Cancer, Emerging Perspectives*, just published in December 2002.

In conjunction with a large, multi-disciplinary group of scientists at Wayne State University/Karmanos Cancer Institute, he has been in the forefront of the development of regimens and strategies that have recently been established as new standards of care in large-scale head and neck cancer phase III clinical trials. Thanks to these studies, a majority of patients can be cured of this type of advanced cancer, and up to 80 percent of cases without the functionally devastating and disfiguring surgical losses of the organs involved such as larynx, throat, and tongue. For nasopharyngeal carcinomas, one of the world’s most common cancers, regimens developed at Wayne State University/Karmanos Cancer Institute have led to trials that have nearly tripled the disease-free survival for this group of patients.

ADAM MICHAEL, MD, PhD, ’79

Dr. Michael is a graduate of the Wayne State University School of Medicine Class of 1979. He interned at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Mich., and then returned to the Department of Anatomy where he completed his PhD in 1984. Upon completion of his PhD work, he entered WSU’s neurosurgery program and completed his residency in 1989. Dr. Michael was a private practitioner in the Grosse Pointe area and then returned to the Department of Neurological Surgery in 1993, to a position he still holds: chief of neurological surgery at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Dr. Michael has served as Wayne County Medical Society president, Michigan State Medical Society vice speaker of the House of Delegates, and a major in the United States Army Reserves.

Deeply involved in research, he is presently working in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health on the treatment of head injury by implantation of neurogrowth genes.

Dr. Michael is also an excellent teacher and is involved in the training of neurological surgery residents. He is a faculty member of the Department of Anatomy and teaches in its gross and neuroanatomy laboratories.

Lawrence M. Weiner Award

The Lawrence M. Weiner Award, established in 1979, honors outstanding contributions of non-alumni to the School of Medicine through the exceptional performance of their teaching, research, and/or administrative duties. These individuals have met the high standards created by Dr. Lawrence Weiner’s outstanding record of service to the school.

ANNA MARIE LEDGERWOOD, MD

Dr. Anna Marie Ledgerwood was born in Pomeroj, Wash. She was the second of five children of hard-working tenant farmers. Following secondary education, she did her pre-medical studies at Gonzaga University where she graduated magna cum laude and was later honored with an Alumni Merit Award. She attended medical school at Marquette University where she was honored as the Farrington Visiting Professor, and interned at Detroit Receiving Hospital where she received the Intern of the Year Award.

After her general surgical training at WSU, she returned to the Department of Anatomy where she joined the surgical faculty. For more than 30 years, she has been a very busy operating general surgeon with a special interest in trauma and critical care.

Ledgerwood has over 150 scientific publications and has given over 200 invited lectureships throughout the world. Locally, she received the WSU Staff Award for excellence in teaching of medical students, the WSU Probus Award for scientific achievement, and the Golden Scalpel Award for teaching surgical residents.

She has been elected to the AO A Beta Chapter at WSU and served as the class marshal at commencement exercises.

She has held many national offices and served on many national committees. Regionally and nationally, she has been honored as the first woman president of the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the first governor of the ACS from Michigan, the first woman president of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, which is the most distinguished trauma society worldwide; the first woman to present the ACS Scudder Oration, which is the most distinguished and oldest oration sponsored by the ACS; and currently is the vice president-elect of the ACS.

She was the recipient of the Nina Starr Braunwald Award provided by the Association of Women Surgeons in 2000.

Currently, she is a member of the Medical Committee for Automotive Safety at General Motors, and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Trauma*. She has served as coordinator of both the WSU surgical residency program and the fourth-year student program. Her most rewarding activity, however, relates to her continued involvement with the medical students with whom she has been a favorite for many years.

DONG H. SHIN, MD, PhD

Dr. Dong H. Shin, deceased professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine and director of glaucoma service at the Kresge Eye Institute, was honored posthumously with the Weiner award after a 10-year battle with cancer. He served the greater metro-Detroit community as a devoted physician, expert surgeon, and gifted teacher for over 25 years. He brought the gift of sight to thousands of individuals, while his medical research advanced the field of ophthalmology. Even after his passing, Dr. Shin’s research efforts continue to be published in ophthalmic journals and presented at national ophthalmic forums.

In 1977, Dr. Shin began his exceptional career at Wayne State University in association with the Kresge Eye Institute. Admired by students, he always emphasized medical education in his work. Over the years, he trained hundreds of WSU medical students, Kresge Eye Institute continued on page 24.
Sparks flew at the 10th annual Freedom Festival Fireworks Spectacular and Pool Party held June 25 on the west terrace of the Hotel Pontchartrain. Nearly 300 alumni, staff and friends of the School of Medicine attended the fantastic family-oriented event. Adults and children, alike, enjoyed taking a refreshing dip in the terrace pool on one of the first hot summer days of the season. Bobo the Clown, the temporary tattoo artist and the jazzy sounds of keyboard player, Arnette Gadsen, entertained everyone until the impressive fireworks display got underway after dark. As always, the view from the west terrace was absolutely breathtaking.

**Recent Alumni Award**

The Recent Alumni Award, established this year, is presented to alumni who received a medical degree from the WSU School of Medicine within the last 10 years and have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, community contributions or service to the WSU School of Medicine.

LELAND BABITCH, MD, ’95

After completing a bachelor’s degree in genetics and developmental biology at Northwestern University, Dr. Babitch began his medical studies at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. There, he was involved in several student organizations, including the Aesculapians Honors Society, Cass Medical Clinic, annual Lampoon productions and student government. His medical school career was highlighted by the receipt of the Ciba-Geigy Award for Community Service, the AMA/Glaxo Future Leaders Award, the WSU School of Medicine Outstanding Community Service Award, and WSU Academic Achievement Award. Dr. Babitch completed residency training at the St. Louis Children’s Hospital, and practiced for three years in St. Charles, Mo., with Unity (Mercy) Medical Group. Since 2001, Dr. Babitch has been back at Wayne State working with the Department of Pediatrics as an assistant professor and chief compliance officer for the pediatric practice plan.

With an interest in health administration, Dr. Babitch completed a fellowship in administrative medicine and earned an MBA from Michigan State University. Dr. Babitch has been intimately involved with the development of departmental policy and fiscal affairs for pediatrics. In his capacity as an administrative fellow, he worked closely with faculty and staff from other medical school departments and with the administration of the Detroit Medical Center.

Dr. Babitch lives in West Bloomfield with his wife, Cheryl Carpenter, and dogs, Louie Louie and Margarita.

Institute residents and over 20 glaucoma fellows. Dr. Shin published 138 papers in refereed journals, 13 book chapters, and 222 abstracts, which resulted in paper or poster presentations at national and international meetings. He always acknowledged the contributions of medical students, residents and colleagues by including them as first authors and co-authors, and he often served as an editor and peer reviewer.

Dr. Shin was one of the first surgeons to perform the glaucoma triple procedure, and he pioneered the releasable suture closure technique. His other research interests included optic disc analysis, perimetry, pharmacology of glaucoma drugs and the role of antiproliferative agents in glaucoma filtration surgery. Dr. Shin was instrumental in the selection of the Kresge Eye Institute as a national study center for the Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study funded by the National Institutes of Health. In addition, he participated as principal investigator in over 30 clinical research studies during his tenure.

Throughout his career, Dr. Shin was the recipient of many honors and awards. In 1992, he received a Wayne State University Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award. Dr. Shin was elected member and chair, Glaucoma Section Program Committee of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, 1996-1999, and received the Senior Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, 2000. Dr. Shin is listed in “Who’s Who in American Medicine and Health Sciences” as well as in “Best Doctors in America, Midwest Region.” He also received the Spirit of Detroit Award and was given a special tribute from the Michigan State Senate.

**Alumni Enjoy Fireworks and Pool Party**

Dr. Carol Clark, ’85, (center) entertains her residents at the fireworks.

View of the fireworks from the west terrace of the Hotel Pontchartrain.

Bobo the Clown poses with the kids as they wait in anticipation of the fireworks.
Kresge Eye Institute Congratulates New Alumni

Through the Alumni Annual Telefund, the Medical Alumni Association provides support for the following programs:

- Medical student scholarships and loans
- Summer research fellowships
- An investment fund to support academic and student programs
- Student research projects
- Student activities and activities, including: Match Day, Student Senate retreats, Career Day, Family Day, Welcome Ceremony, the Honors Program, and maintenance of the student fitness center
- Student community outreach programs organizations, such as: Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Program
- AIDS & Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Cass Clinic
- Children’s Hospital Christmas Party
- Childhood Immunization Program
- Code Blue
- Great American Smoke Out
- Health-O-Rama
- Needlefest
- Octoberfest
- Reach-Out-To-Youth
- SCOP-St. Patrick’s Senior Center
- Teen Pregnancy Education Program
- Women in Medicine

The School of Medicine Alumni Association is gearing up for the 2003-2004 Telefund. Please contact Lori Robitaille, alumni affairs manager, at (313) 993-4070 if you have questions or would like to volunteer to call alumni.

Residents
Clifford O. Brown, MD, is joining a private practice in Palm Springs, Calif.

Harpreet K. Gill, MD, is joining Henry Ford Health System, Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Neil E. Kanterman, MD, is continuing his education as a pediatric fellow with Dr. Pollard, Atlanta, Ga.

Dianne H. Kim, MD, is continuing her education as a cornea-external disease fellow at Wilmer Eye Institute, Baltimore, Md.

Rubin W. Kim, MD, is continuing his education as a vitreoretinal fellow at Tufts University, Boston, Mass.

Douglas A. Kohl, MD, is continuing his education as a glaucoma fellow at Massachusetts Eye & Ear, Boston, Mass.

Charles T. Zenzen, MD, is joining a private practice in Bay City, Mich.

Fellows
Vikás Chopra, MD, (glaucoma fellow) is joining a private practice in Saginaw, Mich.

Kourous Rezaei, MD, (vitreoretinal fellow) is joining the faculty at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Chris Cheyer, MD, (ocular trauma fellow) is joining the faculty at Kresge Eye Institute/Wayne State University, Detroit.

Congratulations to the following new alumni of the Kresge Eye Institute.

The Kresge Eye Institute held its 48th annual Clinical Conference on June 27, at the Hutzel Auditorium. John T. Flynn, MD, from Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, was this year’s Robert S. Jampel, MD, PhD, Lecturer. Dr. Neal P. Barney of the University of Wisconsin gave the A.D. Ruedemann, Sr., MD, Memorial Lecture, and Dr. D. Jackson Coleman of Weill Medical College in New York, gave the inaugural Dr. Michael and Lee Wainstock Lecture. The conference was followed by a graduation dinner for residents and fellows.

Over $555,000 Raised in Annual Telefund

The 2002-2003 Alumni Annual Telefund was very successful, raising more than $555,000 – almost $100,000 more than the 2001-2002 total of $464,000. “We had a total of 2,294 donors this year compared with 1,938 last year,” said Lori Robitaille, alumni affairs manager. “It is remarkable how generous our alumni have been.”

Through the Alumni Annual Telefund, the Medical Alumni Association provides support for the following programs:

- Medical student scholarships and loans
- Summer research fellowships
- An investment fund to support academic and student programs
- Student research projects
- Student activities and activities, including: Match Day, Student Senate retreats, Career Day, Family Day, Welcome Ceremony, the Honors Program, and maintenance of the student fitness center
- Student community outreach programs organizations, such as: Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Program
- AIDS & Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Cass Clinic
- Children’s Hospital Christmas Party
- Childhood Immunization Program
- Code Blue
- Great American Smoke Out
- Health-O-Rama
- Needlefest
- Octoberfest
- Reach-Out-To-Youth
- SCOP-St. Patrick’s Senior Center
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- Women in Medicine

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WSU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
T-SHIRT/SWEATSHIRT ORDER FORM

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Check style
☐ GOLF SHIRT $28
☐ L/S PROUD PARENT $20   ☐ L/S PROUD GRANDPARENT $20
☐ L/S PROUD SISTER $20   ☐ L/S WSU SOM LOGO ONLY $20
☐ L/S WSU SOM LOGO (centered) $20
☐ S/S (logo centered) T-SHIRT $18
☐ S/S (logo centered) ALUMNI T-SHIRT $18
☐ WSU SOM LOGO (centered) SWEATSHIRT $30

Circle size and enter quantity
M ______ L ______ XL ______ XXL (add $2) ________

Total amount due (Add $6 per item for shipping and handling): ____________________________

Circle method of payment
VISA MASTER CHARGE CHECK

Name as it appears on card _____________________________________________

Charge number _______________________________________________________

Expiration date _______________________________________________________

Make checks payable to WSU Medical Alumni Association

Return order form and payment to
WSU Medical Alumni Association
101 E. Alexandrine
Detroit, MI 48201

Wayne State University School of Medicine
Upcoming Alumni Events and Meetings

Wednesday, September 3, 2003
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
Noon
Scott Hall

September 19, 2003
Alumni Department of Internal Medicine Reception
Traverse City, Mich.

September 23, 2003
Alumni Department of Otolaryngology Reception
Orlando, Fla.

September 26, 2003
Alumni Department of Urology Reception
Dearborn, Mich.

Thursday, September 25, 2003
Graduate Alumni Reception
Location to be determined

Wednesday, October 1, 2003
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Skyline Club
Southfield, Mich.

Annual Alumni Kick-Off Reception
6:00 p.m.
Skyline Club
Southfield, Mich.

October/November, 2003
Alumni Annual Telefund
Scott Hall

Wednesday, November 5, 2003
Alumni Reception during MSMS Annual Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Somerset Inn, Troy, Mich.

Wednesday, December 3, 2003
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
Noon
Scott Hall

Wednesday, January 7, 2004
6th Annual Career Evening
Scott Hall

Wednesday, February 4, 2004
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
Noon
Scott Hall

Wednesday, March 3, 2004
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
Noon
Scott Hall

Wednesday, April 7, 2004
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
Noon
Scott Hall

Saturday, May 8, 2004
Medical Alumni Reunion Day
Scott Hall/Somerset Inn

Wednesday, June 2, 2004
Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
Noon
Scott Hall
1969 Marshall Trubow, MD, continues to practice general obstetrics/gynecology with a large Boston multispecialty group. He has been promoted to assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. His daughter, Kendra, is in her third year of an obstetrics/gynecology residency in Boston.

1971 Michael A. Sandler, MD, a West Bloomfield diagnostic radiologist, was elected chair of the Michigan State Medical Society board of directors during the 138th annual meeting of the MSMS House of Delegates on April 27 in Grand Rapids. Dr. Sandler will preside over meetings of the 38-member MSMS board of directors which meets five times each year. The board sets policies and oversees operations for the 14,000-member medical society.

Dr. Sandler is a senior staff member in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at Henry Ford Hospital and is also chair of the Michigan Doctors’ Political Action Committee. He serves on the Wayne County Medical Society board of trustees and on the Michigan Radiological Society board of directors. He recently was appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve on the state Certificate of Need (CON) Commission which reviews capital expenditures of health care entities in Michigan.

1973 Richard Schiappacasse, MD, has been named a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Michigan State University. He was certified in bio-terrorism last fall in the Nevada desert and has lectured on bio-terrorism for both military and civilian groups, locally and internationally, for the past four years. He continues to practice infectious disease, internal medicine and aviontine medicine in Clinton Township, Mich. He has also spent the last three years helping to create continuing medical education courses to Alaska, Hawaii, and the Caribbean for physicians and allied health personnel.

1976 Silas Norman, Jr., MD, has been named assistant dean for admissions at the Wayne State University School of Medicine after serving on an interim basis since 2002. Dr. Norman is an assistant professor of internal medicine and community medicine, was vice president of Affiliated Internists Inc., and has served on WSU medical school admission committees and teams for more than 25 years. (See story on page 11 of scribe.)

1977 Robert Nesse, MD, completed his second term on the Board of Governors at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He serves as vice chairman of the board and director of strategic planning support for Mayo Clinic.

1978 Donald DeVries, MD, is director for the Department of Nuclear Medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Wash. He has opened two clinics: Puyallup Nuclear Medicine and Puyallup Endocrine Clinic.

Clifford Kasrban, MD, and Judith Kasrban, MD; Clifford is a professor of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota and associate head for clinical affairs in the Department of Pediatrics. Judith continues in private practice and is active in the American Psychiatric Association. Their son, Aaron, is a sophomore at Brown; Paula is graduating from high school this year; and Sarah is in the tenth grade.

1979 Janice Alexander, MD, served as resident physician and built a clinic in Ndombo Village, which is on Mt. Meru, west of Arusha, Tanzania, Africa. She reports: “It will be a great place for residents to study tropical medicine. My daughter and I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. Magnificent experience. Contact me if interested at aleksja6@naspa.net.”

Joel Pelavin, MD, is celebrating 20 years in solo ophthalmology practice this year in St. Clair Shores, Mich. He has been married for 24 years to Patricia. They have two sons, Ryan, 19 years old, at University of Michigan Engineering, and Brett, who is 17 years old and is a junior at Wylie Groves High School in Birmingham, Mich.

Gene R. Pesola, MD, MPH, is an associate attending at Harlem Hospital/Columbia University in New York City, New York. He was named to the editorial board of Academic Emergency Medicine in 2002. He also became associate editor of the International Journal of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology in 2002.

1981 Lylas Mogk, MD, reports: “A revised, updated edition of the book for patients and families Macular Degenerations: The Complete Guide to Saving and Maximizing Your Sight by myself; Lylas Mogk, MD, and my writer-daughter Marja Mogk has just been published by Baltimore (‘99 and ‘03) and it has also been published in Japanese. The Japanese edition was spearheaded by the chair of ophthalmology at Osaka University Medical School, where a patient who loved the book regained enough vision from macular translocation surgery, that she was able to translate it. We’re delighted to report that the book has 33 endorsements and rave reviews.”

1987 Jane (Lux) Krasnick, MD, recently opened her own allergy practice in Warren, Mich. The practice is called Warren Allergy and Asthma Care and she treats both children and adults. She and her husband, Robert, have three beautiful girls. She is on staff at St. John Macomb, William Beaumont and St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospitals.

1991 Amy DuBois, MD, MPH, reports that after practicing surgery in Boston for a few years, she made some big changes. She just completed her MPH at Johns Hopkins and is starting a position at the CDC with the Epidemiologic Intelligence Service in Atlanta. Contact her at adubois@jhsphs.edu.

1994 Barbara Hannah, MD, opened a private practice in Lincoln Park, Mich., practicing obstetrics/gynecology. She has privileges at Oakwood and Wyandotte Hospitals. She writes medical columns for the Michigan Front Page and has recently attended a medical mission in Kingston, Jamaica.

Marcel Mazzoni, MD, is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, Pa. He is director for the division of obstetrics at Moses Taylor Hospital. He and his wife, Donna, have a 10-month-old son, Michael.

1995 Preeti N. Malani, MD, reports: “I am one of the internal medicine faculty at the University of Michigan. I want to share a little background about an interesting program with which I’m involved. I just returned from a 10-day trip to Cuba with a group of first and second-year University of Michigan medical students. The purpose for our trip was to learn about the Cuban health care system and health care delivery, and to provide medical aid to clinics and hospitals. We visited a number of different clinics, hospitals and other health care settings in Cuba. Our trip fostered a number of professional and personal relationships between Cubans and Americans. I believe that we have laid the groundwork for future groups of medical students, faculty and staff to visit Cuba. Ultimately, we hope our experience and other similar exchanges can translate to improved cultural relations between our two nations.”

1998 Dawn Marie (Udell) Lambrecht, MD, is currently practicing family medicine in Lexington, Mich. (north of Port Huron). Her husband, Kevin, and daughters, Megan (3 years old) and Sara (5 months old), live in St. Clair. Hopes that all her classmates are enjoying post-medical school/post-residency lives. Best wishes for health and happiness!

2000 Drs. Mary (O’Connor) and John Morreale are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia. She was born February 25, 2003, at the UNC Hospitals, where Mary is a third-year psychiatry resident. John is a third-year anesthesia resident at Duke, where he plans to continue as a cardiothoracic fellow.
The Office of Alumni Affairs would like to recognize new Medical Alumni Association Life Members

March 1, 2003 – May 31, 2003
Martha Y. Greenley, M.D.
Russel D. Iselema, MD
James A. Krue, Jr., MD
Thomas M. Matelic, MD
L. Wynette Murphy, MD
Bimal Patel, MD
Rene R. Peleman, MD
Steven J. Saginaw, MD
Beena G. Sood, MD
Nancy J. Valentini, MD
Rudolph F. Valentini, MD
Carol M. Wierenga, MD
Stanley B. Wolfe, MD
Michael F. Yacoub, MD
Gregory Zemenick, MD
Stephen E. Zucker, MD

If you would like to become a life member of the Medical Alumni Association this will be your last opportunity to purchase a life membership for $500. Next year, the fee will increase.

Would you like to receive your membership renewal via email?

If you would like to receive future membership renewal notices via email, please send an email note containing your name, graduating class and email address to:

Denise Smith
Membership Coordinator
WSU, School of Medicine
EMAIL: dpsmith@med.wayne.edu

Please type “Membership Renewal” as the subject of your note.

Thank you!

2003 Faculty and Staff Campaign Honor Roll

The Wayne State University School of Medicine would like to thank all who contributed to this year’s Faculty and Staff Campaign.

Antonia D. Abbay
Samir Alsawah
Judith C. Andersen
Dale Richard Antilla
Peter Aronson
Francesca Asmar
Phyllis M. Baker
Melissa Ann Barton
Bassam Bashour
Mary F. Bedard
Marquita Bedway
Susan Bellefleur
William Allen Berk
Susan Bellefleur
Mary P. Bedard
Bassam Bashour

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL VIA EMAIL?

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Membership Coordinator
WSU, School of Medicine
EMAIL: dpsmith@med.wayne.edu

Please type “Membership Renewal” as the subject of your note.

Thank you!
William Beaumont Hospital has become one of the largest interventional cardiology centers in the country with a particular activity in primary angioplasty and cardiogenic shock. Dr. William O’Neill attended the Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed his cardiology fellowship at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. From 1982-1983, he was an instructor in internal medicine at the University of Michigan and an attending cardiologist at the Veterans Hospital in Ann Arbor. From 1984 to 1987, he was director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at the University of Michigan Medical Center and an associate professor of medicine at the University of Michigan School of Medicine. Dr. O’Neill is corporate chief of cardiology and is also known for his research in primary angioplasty and cardiogenic shock. 

He has made numerous presentations and written various publications on the diagnosis, treatment and surgical procedures pertaining to glaucoma and related subjects.

Wayne State University Medical Alumni Association Officers

President
William O’Neill, MD, ’77
William O’Neill attended the Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed his cardiology fellowship at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. From 1982-1983, he was an instructor in internal medicine at the University of Michigan and an attending cardiologist at the Veterans Hospital in Ann Arbor. From 1984 to 1987, he was director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at the University of Michigan Medical Center and an associate professor of medicine at the University of Michigan School of Medicine. Dr. O’Neill is corporate chief of cardiology and an associate professor of medicine at the University of Michigan School of Medicine. Dr. O’Neill is corporate chief of cardiology and is also known for his research in primary angioplasty and cardiogenic shock.

Honorary President
Michael Sandler, MD, ’71
Michael Sandler is a native of Detroit and attended the University of Michigan for his undergraduate education, graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine, and did his residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Michigan. He is currently a practicing radiologist at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Treasurer
Donald Muenk, MD, ’68
Donald Muenk is an ophthalmologist in private practice and a clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State University. He is a past president of the Wayne State University Medical Alumni Association. He now serves as chief of ophthalmology at St. John Macomb Hospital. Dr. Muenk is a member of the board of directors of the Michigan State Medical Society, chairing the Health Care Delivery Committee and the Third Party Committee. He also serves on the board of directors of the Macomb County Medical Society.

Secretary
Les Siegel, MD, ’90
Les Siegel is the founder of the Glaucoma Center of Michigan and an ophthalmologist specializing in the consultation and treatment of glaucoma. Born in Detroit, Dr. Siegel attended Michigan State University where he graduated with high honors and earned his bachelor’s degree in science degree in physiology. He then attended the Wayne State University School of Medicine where he graduated with honors.

Dr. Siegel completed his internship at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, his ophthalmology residency at the Kresge Eye Institute of Wayne State University where he served as chief resident, and his glaucoma fellowship at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Siegel is chief of ophthalmology at Strath Hospital for Special Surgery. He is on the medical staff at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, St. John Hospital and the Detroit Medical Center. He is also an assistant clinical professor of ophthalmology at Wayne State University. Board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, Dr. Siegel has a professional affiliation with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Glaucoma Society, the Association for Research in Vision, Michigan Ophthalmology Society, the American Medical Association, and both the Michigan State and Oakland County Medical Societies. In addition, he is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Siegel has made numerous presentations and written various publications on the diagnosis, treatment and surgical procedures pertaining to glaucoma and related subjects.

Term Ending 2004
Jewell Hamner, MD, ’87
Charles Main, MD, ’64
John Schneider, MD, ’63
Jerome Wiater, MD, ’67
Greg Zemenick, MD, ’71

Term Ending 2005
Melanie Hanna-Johnson, MD, ’85
Charles Lucas, MD, ’62
Michael Patt, MD, ’77
George Ritter, MD, ’45
Kevin Sprague, MD, ’80

Term Ending 2006
Paul Chuha, MD, ’92
Renee Dwaiby, MD, ’70
Michael Maddens, MD, ’80
Ernest Yoder, MD, ’78
Alkas Zingas, MD, ’70

Honorary Members
Louis Hoffman, MD, ’50
Sidney Stone, MD, ’51

Advisory Board
Bruce Des cherche, MD, ’77
Thomas Ditkoff, MD, ’71
Carl Lauter, MD, ’65
Donald Muenk, MD, ’68
Michael Sandler, MD, ’71

Regional Representatives
California
Carl Marusak, MD, ’59

Massachusetts
John Briggs, MD, ’48
Dear Graduate Alumni

This issue of *scribe* and *alum notes* brings some exciting news! Some of you may remember that the School of Medicine has had an informal combined degree (MD/PhD) program available to qualified medical students for over 15 years. However, these students were required to be accepted or currently enrolled as a medical student at Wayne. A separate graduate application had to be made to one of our existing PhD programs because a true combined admissions process or dual status did not exist. Moreover, in contrast to most other MD/PhD programs around the country, the financial support available to Wayne MD/PhD students was well below average. During their research years, most were supported by their mentor at the current graduate student stipend level, and upon successful defense of their dissertation, the WSU Medical Alumni Association generously provided funds to pay medical tuition for the student's third and fourth clinical years. So, most students undertook this adventure for the pure excitement of living and working in locations throughout the country, and, frequently, in some of the very same areas from which we have been receiving prospective student inquiries. A "face-to-face" meeting over coffee or a cola with an alum who has experienced the great training opportunities WSU and the School of Medicine have to offer can be a powerful force in the applicant's decision-making process. If you can see yourself acting as an informed ambassador for our graduate programs, I want to hear from you! Please contact me directly by email at kpalmer@med.wayne.edu, or telephone at (313) 577-1453, and I will be pleased to provide more detail about how you can participate.

Finally, we are still developing plans for a graduate alumni dinner in conjunction with our annual Graduate Student Research Day this September. If you haven’t responded with your interest, please do so soon. As always, your keen interest in the WSU School of Medicine and the progress of our graduate biomedical science training is warmly appreciated.

Kenneth C. Palmer, PhD
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Graduate Alumni Profile: Dinitra White, PhD

Sometimes, students find that the best researchers are not always the best teachers. Dr. Dinitra White knows this and hopes she will be good at both roles. She has joined a new program based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that is addressing this issue. Seeding Postdoctoral Innovators in Research and Education (SPIRE) is a nontraditional post-doctoral program that focuses on providing individuals professional development skills and training to become effective teachers while still excelling at cutting edge research goals of traditional fellowships.

The extensive teaching component is where the SPIRE program dramatically differs from most fellowships. While two-thirds of the training is focused on research, one-third concentrates on preparing the fellows to teach, including hands-on time in the classroom. Dr. White has finished her first year in the SPIRE program and has already seen positive results.

"I really love the SPIRE program and I recommend it or one of the sister programs for those who are interested in science education," explained current SPIRE fellow and Wayne State University graduate, Dr. Dinitra White. "We have great mentors in the program who are very enthusiastic and interested not only in the quality of research, but also in the teaching aspect for our post-docs."

Fellows in the program are required to complete at least two years of scientific research and one year of teaching at one of seven historically minority universities located in North Carolina. The teaching component provides the fellows with intensive workshops on classroom management, presentation of materials, and the psychology behind different learning styles and teaching styles in addition to many more aspects of developing good teaching skills. The fellows are also provided workshops that focus on integrating technology into the classroom.

"Our goal is to bring cutting edge research and innovative teaching styles to these universities. We take our technology and our knowledge edge to share with others to these schools," Dr. White said. The fellows in the program have created interactive Web-pages for student use and the technology provides opportunity to teach classes simultaneously between two distant sites. The participants are also encouraged to attend conferences that keep them in touch with all of the latest concepts in science education. Several fellows have published in education journals in addition to major research journals. Fellows in the SPIRE program work at several colleges and universities and bring their technology and research to institutions that may not have the exposure to the resources.

Dr. White began her career in science education in microbiology at the Wayne State University graduate school. "I think my experience at Wayne State University really sparked the interest in me to work in education as well as research, and to work with minority colleges. Wayne was so wonderfully diverse and I saw, first hand, how beneficial it is to be exposed to different experiences and individuals. Working with Dr. Palmer and the other faculty members was a great experience for me and I am truly grateful that I was given the opportunity."

SPIRE fellows have the opportunity to conduct their research at UNC Chapel Hill, Duke University, or NC State University. Like in most traditional post-doctoral programs, the fellows are highly encouraged to publish, and to attend regional, national and international research conferences.

Dr. White's research is currently being conducted in the department of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at UNC-CH. She is studying *Haemophilus ducreyi*, the causative agent of the sexually transmitted disease chancroid. According to Dr. White, chancroid is common in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America and has been identified as a risk factor for the spread of HIV. "The overall goal of our lab is to identify virulence factors that may be possible vaccine candidates."

I feel like I have the best of two worlds. It can be a challenge to balance everything, but I think it's an important program," said Dr. White. "Research and teaching go hand in hand and I am thankful to be involved in a program that I feel is strengthening me in the classroom as well as at the bench."
Che-Ping Cheng, PhD, has put her WSU training to good use in her new faculty position at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. In 1986, she received a PhD in physiology from Wayne State University. In 1988, she completed her postdoctoral training at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and then became a faculty member in internal medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Now, Dr. Cheng is a professor of cardiology, physiology and pathology at Wake Forest. Her major role in the department is to serve as a funded basic and clinical investigator and teacher for second-year medical students and graduates.

Dr. Cheng’s laboratory consists of three parts: a cardiac physiology section, an isolated myocyte section (including cell contraction, relation, [Ca2+]i transient, Ca2+ channel activity measurements and cellular signal transduction assessment), and an experimental molecular section. Research in this laboratory focuses on cardiovascular physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology, with major emphasis on the mechanism and treatment of congestive heart failure. She has received sustained extramural, peer-reviewed funding from the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and industry. She was chosen to serve as a member of the NIH National Emphasis Study Section on Heart Failure and is a member of SBIR and STTR NIH study sections. She has been invited to present her work at each of the last 15 annual scientific sessions of the American Heart Association and important international symposiums. Her family members are all doing well. Her son, Xiao Tan, has graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts. He is currently studying at the University of Cambridge for his PhD in genetics where he holds the Herchel Smith fellowship. Her husband works on MIR projects in the Biomedical Engineering Department at Wake Forest University.

1986 Grad Continues Research at Wake Forest

Dr. Che-Ping Cheng studies the mechanisms and treatment of congestive heart failure.

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Send us your news!

Let your classmates know what you’ve been doing.

Last name _______________________________________________________________________
First name _____________________________________________________________________
Year ______
City __________________________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone ____________________________ E-mail ______________________________

My news for class notes: __________________________________________________________

We’re on the Web

Visit the Medical Alumni Association Web Site located at:
http://www.med.wayne.edu/Alumni/

You can access the alumni web site via the above address or through a link from the school’s homepage located at:
http://www.med.wayne.edu/

We need your photos...

We would be happy to include photos to run with your class note.
(Sorry, we cannot return them)

Would you like advance notice of alumni events?

If you would like to receive advance notice of upcoming alumni events, please send an email note containing your name, graduating class, and email address to:

Lori Robitaille
Manager, Alumni Affairs
WSU School of Medicine
EMAIL: lrobitai@med.wayne.edu

Please type “Events Notification” as the subject of your note.

Thank you!

Send us your news!

Let your classmates know what you’ve been doing.

Last name __________________________________________ First name __________ Year _______
City __________________________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone ____________________________ E-mail ______________________________

My news for class notes: __________________________________________________________

Or email news to alumni@med.wayne.edu and type Graduate Alumni Class Notes in subject line.