WSU endorses Cook County model for regional accountability in health care
Wayne State University physicians and administrators are trying to overcome Detroit’s health care crisis by following the example of others, particularly Patricia Terrell, former deputy director of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services who helped lead a 14-year march that brought order to the Chicago/Cook County health system.

Cancer inhibitor provides irreversible certainty
A novel synthetic “suicide” inhibitor that blocks enzyme activity associated with cancer development is under development by Rafael Fridman, Ph.D., who was awarded $1.8 million from the National Cancer Institute to design MT1-MMP inhibitors and to test them in cellular systems.

Functional foods eat away cancer risk
If broccoli, cauliflower and soybeans aren’t on your favorite food list—add them now. Fazlul Sarkar, Ph.D., is collecting further evidence that functional foods with genistein, soy isoflavones and indole-3-carbinol offer significant protection against cancer.

Hormones linked to MS incidence, severity
Hormones may be to blame for putting women at higher risk for multiple sclerosis (MS) and for making symptoms more severe. With funding from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Robert Skoff, Ph.D., is studying how different estrogens and androgens affect the turnover of myelin proteins and oligodendrocytes.

Video to increase awareness of clinical trials
Viewing an educational video about cancer clinical trials may increase a patient’s willingness to participate in them, said Wei Du, Ph.D., who believes many people don’t realize clinical trials are an option.

Internet has doctors asking: What are your symptoms and what’s your URL?
With greater and greater frequency, people are using the Internet to obtain health information. What’s more important is that, in general, they understand the information and trust it, according to Thomas Roe, M.D.

Milk compounds may have cancer—protective qualities
Milk builds bones, of course, but new evidence shows that the lipids found in milk may also prevent breast, colon, and other types of cancer. Natural compounds called sphingolipids (found especially in soybeans and dairy products) can regulate processes that are deregulated in cancer, namely cell growth and cell death, said Eva Schmelz, Ph.D.

Cover scientist three times over — Dr. David Lawson
David Lawson, Ph.D., makes sure research animals get good care and does studies to ensure solid federal regulations for animal investigation. His work graced the front of the June 2002, September 2002 and January 2003 issues of Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science.

Urban seniors suffer premature death
Seniors and adults who live in Michigan’s largest urban cities are dying early with poor health status measures and significantly high mortality rates. “People are literally dying before their time, and we can calculate their risk based simply on where they live,” said Lee Kallenbach, Ph.D.

Three papers highlight successful collaboration between WSU and Generex Biotechnology
Generex Biotechnology Corporation celebrated the publication of three papers by Gilda Hillman, Ph.D., highlighting the development progress of a novel genetic cancer vaccine that suppresses the expression of the Ii protein in tumors.

Minority scholars show their work
Congratulations to the winners of the sixth annual Wayne State University Minority Programs Research Day held in August.

Medical student mentoring program teaches between the lines
Medical students have academic advisors, professors and counselors, but a mentor fills a special role. Confirming students’ zeal for the new program, the medical school’s Office of Student Affairs received more than 700 requests for mentors and 50 volunteer acceptances from faculty members.

Summer programs educate minority and disadvantaged students
Summer programs at the School of Medicine offer experience in science enrichment and clinical care through the Minority High School Science Education Program (MHSSEP) and the OHEP Scholars Program—both designed to create opportunities for minority and disadvantaged students.

Dr. Manuel Tancer to chair psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences

Dr. Andrew Turrisi to chair radiation oncology

Health care heroes recognized by Crain’s
Crain’s Detroit Business honored three Wayne State faculty members as part of its “Health Care Heroes” feature. The honorees are: Isaac Powell, M.D., professor of urology; Robert Frank, M.D, associate dean for academic and student programs; and Eli Goldberg, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics.

Class of 2007
Click here to see a full listing of the newest class of medical students at the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Letter from the dean

Honors

Notes

Rounds

Continuing medical education

In Memory
Stephen Lerman, Ph.D., Henry Orbach and Fanniedell Peeples
Health care leaders around Detroit are learning difficult lessons. As Wayne State University physicians and Detroit Medical Center administrators struggle to meet the health care needs of uninsured patients, they are heeding the advice of others in parallel situations.

Building the safety net for uninsured populations is a “community problem. By relegating it to hospitals, you’re making it a hospital problem,” said Patricia Terrell, former deputy director of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services who is now a principal in Health Management Associates. Terrell helped lead a 14-year march that brought order to the Chicago/Cook County health crisis.

If you can believe it, Terrell’s situation may have been even worse than the one in Detroit and Wayne County. Before 1991, she said, they had no bureau of health services, a disaccredited Cook County Hospital and 76 medical school affiliations. Now, they have one system to oversee all health facilities and programs, a new county hospital, and one major medical school affiliation for which physicians wrote every word of the agreement.

Terrell spoke this summer to health care leaders from WSU and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm’s Detroit Health Care Stabilization Workgroup about the evolution of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services, as well as its challenges and successes.

In analyzing the Detroit Medical Center’s financial and health care crisis, she recognized that “institutional survival must be addressed, but the broader goal of meeting health care needs of a community must drive the process.” She pointed out that Wayne County and Detroit are perhaps the largest county and city in this country without a public hospital or hospital authority to care for its under- and uninsured citizens. Her proposed solution involves consolidated services, a single oversight system, a flagship facility with networks of primary and specialty clinics, and a community commitment to the issue.

Detroit is one of the only urban counties with no community money going to health care, she said. The community needs to put money into this. She acknowledged that the economics are a difficult component of the health care delivery system, but the Cook County team met the challenge and found creative ways to maximize federal dollars, expand Medicaid coverage, increase revenue, lower costs and ensure financial stability.

“We could only sell the new hospital system on economics, not altruism,” she said. “In 1996 we began seeking intense partnerships with private hospitals in order to identify areas of collaboration and to spread out the pain more equitably.”

She said to get private investment in the public health care system, both parties must gain demonstrable value. “Altruism is not enough.” Terrell also stressed the importance of an integrated academic affiliation that allows a public health care system to be grounded in research and education. WSU leaders are studying the Cook County model to find ways to achieve positive patient outcomes and to improve the overall health status of the region.

Finally, Terrell stressed, “Hospital beds and clinics don’t treat patients, doctors do. Health system reform is about leadership, leadership, leadership.”

Terrell’s presentation to the WSU School of Medicine can be heard in its entirety by accessing the streaming media/special events section of the Webpage. Please link to www.med.wayne.edu for more information.
Letter from the Dean

I am pleased to report that the Wayne State University School of Medicine has been engaged in critical planning and is a major force in the Detroit Health Care Stabilization Workgroup. On July 30, the workgroup presented Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm with its report, “Strengthening the Safety Net in Detroit and Wayne County.” The report recommends provisions for the development of a sustainable health system for vulnerable populations.

As the Wayne State University representative to that workgroup, I am endorsing plans that improve our health care delivery system while maintaining an academic mission. Traditionally, academic medical centers are called upon to bear the burden of unreimbursed care for under- and uninsured citizens. It stands to reason that academic physicians—the very people who provide that care—should play a pivotal role in ensuring a reliable infrastructure and positive outcomes for the health of our region. Wayne State University physicians have used their own experience to voice concerns and will participate in the process of building the best model system for the citizens of greater Detroit.

A new Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority is in its formative stages now and more detailed plans are expected to be announced by the end of 2003. I believe this unified authority will benefit the people of Detroit by improving access to care without compromising quality.

During these difficult financial times, the community has come to understand that good public health programs are best designed through collaborative efforts that include the state, city and county—not just the hospital leaders. Community health is a regional issue that demands regional representation and the problem requires a long-term solution, not a quick fix.

To learn more about our group’s recommendations and ongoing progress, visit www.michigan.gov/mdch regularly.

We look forward to the establishment of a creative delivery system that meets the needs of all citizens. And as always, Wayne State University physicians will continue to provide a foundation of excellence and quality health care wherever we are needed.

Sincerely,

John Crissman, M.D.
Dean, Wayne State University School of Medicine

Cancer Inhibitor Provides Irreversible Certainty

The fate of cancerous tumor cells is certain when they fail to get their fill of MMP enzymes (matrix metalloproteinase). If the enzymes don’t bond to the cell’s surface, they will die.

For at least the past decade, Rafael Fridman, Ph.D., has studied how tumor cells use MMP enzymes to invade and metastasize to healthy cells. Until now, his ideas about inhibiting cancer growth by blocking MMPs had serious limitations, because the targeted processes were reversible and unreliable.

Then, Dr. Fridman established a productive collaboration with Dr. Shahriar Mobashery, a protein chemist and a former faculty in the Department of Chemistry at Wayne State University and now at the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Mobashery designed and synthesized the first synthetic inhibitor that binds irreversibly to MMPs resulting in specific and complete inhibition of enzymatic activity. Because these inhibitors are irreversible, they are commonly known as “suicide” inhibitors.

Also, because of their selectivity, they lack the side effects of broad-spectrum reversible MMP inhibitors, which failed in clinical trials. This approach to MMP inhibition was never tested before and there is where the unique collaboration between Drs. Mobashery and Fridman flourished.

Working together side by side, they tested dozens of compounds until they discovered the best inhibitor, which successfully and specifically blocked MMP-2 and MMP-9, two key gelatinases in the MMP family. Dr. Fridman hopes that a similar approach could do the same for MT1-MMP, a membrane-bound MMP that is critical for the growth and migration of tumor cells in collagen matrices. Using biochemical and cellular approaches, Dr. Fridman showed that the broad-spectrum irreversible MMP inhibitors produced unexpected effects on the regulation of MT1-MMP. In fact, these inhibitors enhanced the activity of MT1-MMP by inhibiting the natural autocatalytic turnover of the enzyme on the cell surface. Dr. Fridman hypothesized that this may be one of the reasons why the broad-spectrum MMP inhibitors failed in clinical studies. Therefore, he proposed that the innovative approach to MMP inhibition developed by Dr. Mobashery could be used to specifically target MT1-MMP and if so a “suicide” MT1-MMP inhibitor could be used to block cancer development.

This idea was recognized by the National Cancer Institute, which awarded Dr. Fridman (with Dr. Mobashery as the co-investigator) $1.8 million over the next four years to design new MT1-MMP inhibitors and to test them in cellular systems.

Dr. Fridman, professor of pathology, has had uninterrupted funding on this and related work since 1993 and is among the top 15 most highly-funded researchers at the WSU School of Medicine. His comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to tumor cell invasion and metastasis has earned him a wealth of collaborators and co-investigators, such as Drs. Mobashery, Dr. Kim and Dr. Cher, who help him pursue anti-cancer targets with a chemical, biochemical and biological approach.
If broccoli, cauliflower and soybeans aren’t on your favorite food list—add them now. Fazlul Sarkar, Ph.D., is collecting further evidence that these functional foods offer significant protection against cancer.

If you are at risk for breast or prostate cancer (hormone-dependent cancers), throw some tofu or miso soup in your lunchbox and enjoy the health benefits of genistein and soy isoflavones. Follow it up with a dinner of brassica vegetables like cabbage, broccoli or Brussels sprouts to increase your indole-3-carbinol intake.

Over the past several years, Dr. Sarkar, professor of pathology at Wayne State University and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, has received patents, published scientific discoveries and made remarkable findings about oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes and protein molecules related to cancer growth and development. He is cited often for showing that dietary factors play important roles in the etiology and prevention of cancer by inhibiting cell proliferation, inducing apoptosis and moderating critical molecules and mechanisms.

Recently, Dr. Sarkar was awarded three research grants totaling more than $3.2 million to continue his work investigating dietary interventions in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

• With $1.25 million from the National Cancer Institute, he and his colleagues are elucidating the role of the soy isoflavone, genistein, in prostate cancer through laboratory investigations. Additional funding from the National Institutes of Health is being used to conduct clinical trials to determine the effects of soy isoflavones in prostate cancer treatment and/or prevention.

• With more than $500,000 from the United States Department of Defense, Dr. Sarkar will study the effects of indole-3-carbinol (I3C) on prostate cancer. I3C is a compound found in brassica vegetables (mentioned above) that induces apoptosis in cancer cells through its conversion to 3,3′-dimethylindole.

• A recent $500,000 from subcontracts from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center SPORE (Specialized Program for Research Excellence) in Pancreatic Cancer grant will help determine the therapeutic values of soy isoflavone/genistein for the treatment and/or prevention of pancreas cancer metastasis.

Dietary interventions are a smart way to protect against disease, said Dr. Sarkar. “You can’t overdose, you don’t need a prescription, and except for rare food allergies, they are safe for everybody.”

Weeds and soybeans really are good for you, says Dr. Fazlul Sarkar who is studying cancer prevention diets.

This work is conducted in collaboration with Dr. Omer Kucuk and other physicians at the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Pancreatic cancer is a difficult disease to detect and it has one of the worst median survival periods compared to any cancer: just 3 to 6 months.

Dr. Fazlul Sarkar’s recent $1.5 million National Cancer Institute award to study pancreatic cancer is the first in Wayne State University’s history. The disease is typically understudied, said Dr. Sarkar, and it is often called a “silent killer” because its non-specific symptoms are hard to pinpoint: loss of appetite, abdominal discomfort and nausea.

The research team, with co-investigators Ramzi Mohammad, Ph.D., and Adhip Majumdar, Ph.D., will study the effects of novel agents on over-expression of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) that leads to activation of Akt and NF-κB signaling pathways, which have been identified as potential therapeutic targets.

In addition, Dr. Sarkar received Michigan Life Sciences Corridor (MLSC) funding through a subcontract from the University of Michigan to establish serum biomarkers using a proteomic approach in mouse models. This will help test the effectiveness of radiation and chemotherapy on pancreas cancer.

University’s First Pancreas Cancer Research Grant Awarded to Dr. Sarkar

Pancreatic cancer is a difficult disease to detect and it has one of the worst median survival periods compared to any cancer: just 3 to 6 months.

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Hormones Linked to MS Incidence, Severity

Wayne State researcher Robert Skoff, Ph.D., says hormones may be to blame for putting women at higher risk for multiple sclerosis (MS) and for making symptoms more severe. Knowing that the incidence of MS is twice as high in females than in males, Dr. Skoff and his graduate student Dr. Mirela Cerghet explored a hunch after looking at brains of males and females.

Initially, Dr. Skoff thought there might be differences in the brains of males and females especially in regard to oligodendrocytes, the supporting cells that ensheath with myelin the axons of nerves. Without these cells, axons do not conduct electrical impulses properly, and this causes the symptoms of the human disease multiple sclerosis. Differences in the physiology of oligodendrocytes and degradation of myelin could be factors that initiate MS; however, nobody has bothered to look at differences in male and female brain glial cells.

Drs. Skoff and Cerghet first observed that the number of oligodendrocytes is increased 20 to 40 percent in rodent brains of males compared to females within the same amount of tissue. But surprisingly, the proliferation of cells that make new oligodendrocytes and the death of myelin forming oligodendrocytes is increased in females. This unexpected finding means that oligodendrocytes and myelin turn over faster in female brains than in male brains.

His group went on to investigate whether myelin itself turned over faster, and they found that proteases involved in degrading myelin were increased in female brains. This finding is important because release of myelin fragments might in the right circum-stances cause an autoimmune response which leads to an attack on myelin. Hormones are clearly involved in this regulation because when males are castrated, their brains assume the properties of female brains. Instead of a slow turnover of oligodendrocytes and myelin in male brains, they now turnover just as fast as in female brains.

With a $469,000 award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Dr. Skoff, professor of anatomy and cell biology, is pursuing these observations and focusing upon how different estrogens and androgens affect the turnover of myelin proteins and oligoden-drocytes. He is comparing the levels of different hormones in male and female brains, a very straightforward study, but one that has not been done. These differences in brain function can then be related and studied in animal models that mimic MS.

“Hormones are powerful substances that can trigger many biological events, not just in reproductive organs, but in many tissues including the brain,” Dr. Skoff said. “Since men and women obviously have different levels of hormones, the brain is a logical place to start exploring differences in disease incidence.”

Interestingly, women with MS report fewer symptoms while they are pregnant. Estriol, one of the estrogens under investigation, soars sharply in the latter half of pregnancy. Estriol seems to be protective in multiple sclerosis and may have a significant impact in modulating the progression of the disease.

Related to oligodendrocyte death, Dr. Skoff’s major research emphasis is understanding the function of a myelin protein, proteolipid protein, in the induction of oligodendrocyte death. He has funding for this line of work from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the National Institutes of Health. There may even be a link between hormonal levels and abnormal proteolipid protein levels, and then we would have a mechanism that could explain how hormones affect cell death in the brain.

“Scientists really have not thought much about differences between the sexes when it comes to studying glial cells,” Dr. Skoff said. “There is a lot of basic work on the brain that needs to be done, and then we can relate this to human diseases like MS.”

Video to Increase Awareness of Clinical Trials

Researchers are constantly looking for ways to increase patient participation in clinical trials in order to advance medicine. The trouble is, when faced with a major illness, most patients stick to more assured treatments, and few know that trials are an option. This leaves the scientific community in a bind: the only real way to make definitive progress is to rely on altruistic patients when they feel most vulnerable.

A potential solution to the problem may be a simple video, according to Wei Du, Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics. Dr. Du says that fear and lack of knowledge are the major barriers to research trial participation, but that can be overcome by educational tools and interventions. With funding from the Susan B. Komen Foundation and the National Cancer Institute, she is testing the usefulness of a video to educate patients about cancer clinical trials and increase their willingness to participate.

New breast and lung cancer patients at the Karmanos Cancer Institute will view a 19-minute video about the value of research trials. They will also be asked to complete a questionnaire to measure their knowledge and attitudes about clinical trials before and after they view the video. Results will be compared for the control group and the test group to see if video viewers are more likely to take part. Approximately 500 people will be part of these combined studies, and Dr. Du says no matter what the results show about participation, the more people who understand the importance of scientific research, the better.

As it stands, only 5 percent of new cancer patients participate in clinical trials nationwide, and African-American representation is disproportionately low. Because the Karmanos Cancer Institute serves a large African-American population, we have the unique advantage to study this problem. “We don’t know exactly why, but one thing is very obvious: most patients have never considered research trials as an option, and most have no sense of how they work,” Dr. Du said. Diverse participation is critical to ensure that
With greater and greater frequency, people are using the Internet to obtain health information. What’s more important is that, in general, they understand the information and trust it.

According to Thomas Roe, M.D., this is not necessarily good news or bad news for doctors—but it’s critical to understanding their patients’ frame of reference. Furthermore, it’s an opportunity for physicians to reach patients in new ways and to open lines of communication.

Dr. Roe, an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine, provides primary care at the University Family Physicians Detroit office. It was clear to him that his patients were using the Internet for medical information, but he wanted to know how and to what extent. He obtained a small grant from the Michigan Consortium for Family Practice Research and worked with MetroNet, a Detroit-area practice-based research network coordinated by the Division of Practice-Based Research of the WSU Department of Family Medicine, to survey approximately 1300 patients at 13 family-practice sites participating in the network.

He learned that 65.5 percent of those surveyed used the Internet, and 74 percent of those users had searched for health information. Interestingly, 73.5 percent of health information seekers found the information understandable and 55.8 percent said they “mostly trusted” it. Furthermore, with 60 percent of searchers saying that they discuss Internet information with their physicians sometimes or at almost every visit, Dr. Roe realized that he and his colleagues need to be familiar with what their patients are reading.

“Physicians should acknowledge this usage, discuss the information obtained, and consider recommending specific Internet resources to patients,” Dr. Roe said. “If people are searching for information, we should point them to reliable sites. Looking toward the future, a large majority of people also expressed interest in using email to communicate with their doctors, to refill prescriptions, to make appointments and to receive health information.”

Dr. Roe will be presenting the study findings at the annual meeting of the North American Primary Care Research Group when it meets in Canada this October. He will discuss with attendees patient Internet use as it relates to their practice. “I think other physicians and health care professionals realize that if we are to serve the patient effectively, we need to consider these points. Perhaps not everybody is ready for a change in the system, but there is certainly a wide audience looking for concise, reliable, convenient health information for their families. We should help provide it in appropriate ways.”

Dr. Roe says patients in his family practice are always approaching him about the validity of health information they find on the Internet.

Videos will be available through the Karmanos Cancer Institute resource center and patients are encouraged to share them with others.
Milk Compounds May Have Cancer-Protective Qualities

Milk builds bones, of course, but new evidence shows that the lipids found in milk may also prevent breast, colon, and other types of cancer.

According to Eva Schmelz, Ph.D., sphingolipids are natural compounds found in all cells and in some foods, but they are particularly rich in soybeans and dairy products like milk and cheese. These lipids regulate processes that are deregulated in cancer, namely cell growth and cell death.

Dr. Schmelz found that laboratory mice who had diets rich in sphingolipids reduced colon tumor formation by 40 to 70 percent without any apparent side effects. This may be due to the incomplete digestion of the complex sphingolipids and the limited release of the toxic metabolites, she said. Although certain sphingolipid metabolites are toxic to cells at very high concentrations, dietary consumption of them causes no toxic side effects. Incidentally, the consumption of them causes no very high concentrations, dietary metabolites are toxic to cells at the toxic metabolites, she said.

The laboratory’s in vitro studies showed that breast cancer cells are also sensitive to these metabolites while normal cells are rather resistant. “There is only a small portion of sphingolipid metabolites reaching circulation, and it would be interesting to determine if these small amounts can prevent cancer also in other sites of the body. Several epidemiological studies indicated a negative correlation between milk consumption and breast cancer – and milk is rich in sphingolipids,” she said.

Dr. Schmelz and her research team are investigating the mechanism of this tumor suppression with a two-year National Institutes of Health grant. A secondary arm of the research project is to evaluate whether low doses of sphingolipids that are not toxic by themselves sensitize cells to conventional chemopreventive and chemotherapeutic agents and thereby could lower the necessary dose of these drugs and the toxic side effects.

“Basically, what we want to achieve is to establish sphingolipids as a non-toxic alternative to conventional chemopreventive drugs,” Dr. Schmelz said.

Dr. Schmelz found that mice with dairy and soybean-rich diets substantially reduced their incidence of colon cancer.

Cover Scientist Three Times Over—Dr. David Lawson

Although David Lawson won’t admit it was anything special, very few researchers find their work on the cover of one journal three times in seven months. Lawson’s work graced the front of the June 2002, September 2002 and January 2003 issues of Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science.

“It just happened like that,” said Lawson, Ph.D., professor of physiology. “We finished several studies in a bunch, and so we submitted the papers together. When the people at the journal saw that they had a couple of papers accepted for a particular issue, they asked us to submit the information for their covers.”

One aspect of his research tackles questions of whether federal regulations covering the care and use of laboratory animals, particularly rats, are actually supported by data. “For about 15 years, I was the chairman of the University Animal Investigation Committee, which is a federally required unit that reviews all the experimental animal procedures done on the university campus. Out of that experience, I came to the conclusion that some of these federal regulations didn’t seem to have any basis in data,” he said. “So we started doing studies to see if we could at least come up with data that would confirm the regulation or may help alter the regulation somehow.”

His studies focus exclusively on rats, which are one of the primary species used in research. Using radiotelemetry equipment, he and his research group are able to continuously monitor the blood pressure and heart rate of rats, changes in which can be used as indirect measures of stress. They are particularly interested in whether or not stress is associated with a variety of common and heavily used experimental procedures.

Besides reviewing potentially stressful procedures, Lawson’s group uses the data to evaluate which laboratory practices could diminish stress in laboratory rats. “We’re trying to find out if we can alter the animal’s environment in such a way that stress is reduced, perhaps by dimming the lights considerably, lengthening the animal’s period of darkness, giving them toys in the cage to play with, providing them with places in the cage to hide, or giving them running wheels in which they can voluntarily exercise,” he said. “We’ve also found that housing rats together in the same cage can be very useful in reducing stress-like responses.”

Lawson is continuing his research with a new, three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. He remarked, “I think our data is useful to the (animal-care) community and I think it’s good information, but the three covers on the journal just sort of came out that way.”
Seniors and adults who live in Michigan’s largest urban cities are dying early with poor health status measures and significantly high mortality rates. Using data from the 2000 Census, Wayne State researchers in the Community Health Institutes found excess mortality in 12 urban cities, meaning residents were more likely to die before age 75, compared with people living elsewhere in the state of Michigan.

“People are literally dying before their time, and we can calculate their risk based simply on where they live,” said Lee Kallenbach, Ph.D., assistant professor of community medicine, epidemiologist and community health assessor. Dr. Kallenbach compiled population data and demographics for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging with data obtained from the Michigan Department of Community Health.

After compiling several reports for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, here’s what he found:

- Detroit-area seniors age 60-74 die at a rate 48 percent higher than their counterparts in rural and suburban areas in Michigan.
- Detroit-area adults age 50-59 die at a rate 122 percent higher than those in the rest of the state.
- Even outside of Detroit, residents of 10 urban centers die at a rate 25 percent higher than the rest of the state, resulting in more than 700 premature deaths per year.

The 10 urban areas studied include: Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Highland Park, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon, Pontiac and Saginaw. Of these, only Ann Arbor did not exhibit excess premature mortality.

Dr. Kallenbach is using these statistics to recommend a fresh look at the region’s distribution of services, access to care, and care management strategies.

“We hope this work helps the Detroit Area Agency on Aging in understanding the needs of the senior population by integrating public health and community information into its future strategic planning initiatives,” Dr. Kallenbach said.

Dr. Kallenbach is measuring the health status of seniors and finding excess mortalities for those who live in urban areas.

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The Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University Community Health Institutes (CHI) has developed a community health profile Web site for the tri-county metropolitan Detroit area. This on-line interactive database allows a user to view profiles for individual geographic areas, often down to a single zip code.

The intent of the Web site (www.chimart.org) is to assist in the identification of community health needs, in the prioritization of those needs for program development and in the evaluation of program efficacy.

This Web site is intended not only for users within the university community, but also for members of the community at large who could benefit from its content. The centerpiece for the presentation of information is a developing set of community indicators referred to as the “CHI Profile.” CHI Mart.org also features an interactive mapping facility whereby users may select population and health data elements for custom designed display.

CHI Mart.org provides demographic information related to key health indicators and helps provide a baseline measurement for comparison to other areas. “It’s meant to be information, not data,” says Dr. Lee Kallenbach. “In other words, these numbers can be used for rationale purposes and comparisons. They contain powerful information about our communities.” In essence, he says, the CHI Profile is meant to bring together communities of health care and public health providers and the recipients of that care.

To see your community health profile, visit www.chimart.org/.

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Dr. David Lawson makes sure research animals get good care and does studies to ensure solid federal regulations for animal investigation.

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Dr. Kallenbach is measuring the health status of seniors and finding excess mortalities for those who live in urban areas.
Dr. Manuel Tancer to Chair Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences

Manuel Tancer, M.D., has been named chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. He will jointly serve as psychiatrist-in-chief for the Detroit Medical Center (DMC), giving him leadership over all WSU and DMC research and clinical programs in psychiatry. He had been serving as interim chair since 2001, and was chosen for the permanent position after competing in a comprehensive national search.

“Dr Tancer is a strong advocate for mental health research and clinical programs. He is passionate about the role of research in improving clinical care and about clinical care informing research,” said Dr. Maryjean Schenk, who headed the search committee that recommended Dr. Tancer for the position.

With great experience as a faculty member, research director and clinician, Dr. Tancer says citizens need parity for mental health coverage, particularly in Michigan. “People are finally recognizing mental health as a serious medical specialty, but we need to increase quality and accessibility. Research and evidence-based medicine are the keys to developing quality systems of care,” Dr. Tancer said.

Since joining Wayne State University in 1994, Dr. Tancer has served many roles in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences. He has been interim chair, associate chair, associate professor, director of adult clinical programs, director of the psychiatry residency program, director of the ambulatory research unit, director of the neuropsychiatric research unit, director of the ambulatory research unit, and medical director for several programs including brain imaging, the comorbidity program, the clinical research division on substance abuse, and the social phobia clinical research program.

His own research interests are: the long-term consequences of MDMA use (ecstasy) for which he has a sizable National Institutes of Health grant; concurrent conditions like addiction and bipolar disorder, which are difficult to treat in unison; social phobia, and individual differences in the effects of drugs and medications—all of which have earned him external funding support and awards.

Dr. Tancer earned a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University and a medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He did a psychiatry internship at Arizona; a residency at the North Carolina Memorial Hospital/University of North Carolina School of Medicine; and a fellowship in anxiety and affective disorders at the National Institute of Mental Health. He was a faculty member for four years at the University of North Carolina and came to Detroit in 1994. He began practicing psychiatry and directing research at the Allen Park/Detroit Veteran’s Administration Medical Center and joined the faculty at the Wayne State University School of Medicine. He continues to see patients at the University Psychiatric Center–Jefferson and at the Jefferson Avenue Research Program.

As chair of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, Dr. Tancer leads one of the school’s largest and most productive areas of research. With 71 full-time faculty members and 117 voluntary/teaching faculty members, WSU psychiatrists and scientists are at work throughout DMC institutions, multiple private practice sites, and agencies and hospitals throughout southeast Michigan. The department generated $11.5 million in external research funding in 2002, and according to the National Institutes of Health, ranks 24th in the country in terms of total funding (2001 figure—latest available). The department’s main research areas include: pediatric disorders (obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety disorders), developmental impact of drug or toxin exposure, adherence to treatment, brain imaging, basic neurosciences, substance abuse and addiction, psychophysiology, chronic mental illness (bipolar disorder and co-occurring disorders), and disparities that impede access to mental health care.

“I believe research drives policy,” Dr. Tancer said. “The WSU School of Medicine is committed to cultivating research programs that help our community get high-quality mental health care.”
Andrew T. Turrisi, M.D., has been named chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and chief of radiation oncology at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and the Detroit Medical Center.

Dr. Turrisi most recently served as professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Medical University of South Carolina and associate director of network development and outreach for Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. The Hollings Cancer Center opened in 1993, just two years before the Karmanos Cancer Institute became the integrated cancer system of WSU and the DMC.

“I come here hoping to enhance the already vibrant clinicians and scientists at Karmanos and in the Gershenson Radiation Oncology Center to facilitate multidisciplinary and translational research. The patient will always be at the center of our efforts. I look forward with great hope of working at a successful cancer center,” Dr. Turrisi said.

A specialist in radiation treatment for lung cancer, Dr. Turrisi has also served as associate chairman and director of clinical programs in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Michigan Medical Center and assistant professor of radiation oncology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. During his Michigan days, he collaborated with WSU faculty members including Dr. Harvey Pass, with whom he authored the book “Lung Cancer: Principles and Practice.”

“Dr. Turrisi brings exceptional experience and demonstrated scholarship and expertise to this important position,” said Dr. John Crissman, dean of the School of Medicine. “I am confident he will lead the department to a positional national preeminence in cancer research and clinical care.”

“Dr. Turrisi is a major addition to the institute’s team of radiation oncologists who possess world-class expertise in state-of-the-art therapies which are key to our multidisciplinary programs and our patients’ continuum of care,” said Dr. John Ruckdeschel, president and chief executive officer of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. “Dr. Turrisi brings to the institute and our patients more than 25 years of experience. His leadership will strengthen the radiation oncology program here in southeast Michigan as an important treatment option for patients diagnosed with cancer.”

Dr. Turrisi holds a B.S. from Saint Peters College, an M.D. from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Radiology. He serves on the editorial boards of several scientific and medical journals including Lung Cancer, The Oncologist, The International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology and Physics, and Congent Medicine. He is also a reviewer/referrer for nearly 20 publications including Cancer, Annals of Internal Medicine and The Cancer Journal from Scientific American. He has published more than 200 abstracts, books, chapters and publications in scientific journals and is a member of numerous professional societies. He has been named one of the “Best Doctors in America” by Castle Connolly, Ltd. and “Top Cancer Specialist for Women” by Good Housekeeping magazine.
Three Papers Highlight Successful Collaboration Between WSU and Generex Biotechnology

Generex Biotechnology Corporation celebrated the publication of three papers by Gilda G. Hillman, Ph.D., and other scientists at Wayne State University and Antigen Express, Generex’s immunomedicine subsidiary. Dr. Hillman, associate professor of radiation oncology at Wayne State University and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, said the publications highlight the development progress of a novel genetic cancer vaccine that suppresses the expression of the II protein in tumors.

In addition, the company is expanding its research and development collaboration with Wayne State toward studies that will enable clinical trial initiation of the novel vaccine. The approach includes injection of tumors with proprietary molecules that trigger a potent anti-tumor immune response. Importantly, a tumor-specific T-helper cell response is elicited.

The following papers were published recently in peer-reviewed journals:

1. Lu X, et al., “Tumor Immunotherapy by Converting Tumor Cells to MHC Class II-Positive, II Protein-Negative Phenotype,” *Cancer Immunology Immunotherapy* June 19, 2003 (electronic publication)


“Taken together, these papers demonstrate the importance of provoking potent specific T-helper immune responses. The goal of immunotherapy is to prolong disease-free survival, and to treat residual disease that remains following definitive therapy with radiation, surgery, or chemotherapy. The II-suppression novel vaccine inducer will be further optimized with the hope of initiating clinical trials in patients with prostate cancer in the near future,” Dr. Hillman said.

This approach to the treatment of cancer involves converting cancer cells in vivo into antigen presenting cells capable of inducing a potent anti-tumor CD4+ T-helper cell immune response. In the first paper, the authors demonstrated the feasibility of converting the phenotype of renal cancer cells in vivo from MHC class II-negative to MHC class II-positive using plasmid genes delivered in lipids. Importantly, II protein expression in the cells was suppressed. Cancer cells that express MHC class II molecules without associated II protein were shown to induce immune responses capable of shrinking injected tumor nodules and decreasing rates of progression.

In the second study, genes to induce MHC class II expression and to suppress the expression of the II protein were delivered using adenoviral vectors injected directly into tumor nodules in vivo. The investigators observed immune responses capable of causing complete tumor regression.

In the third paper, the authors demonstrated the feasibility and safety of combining radiation and intratumoral gene therapy, as well as synergy with respect to anti-tumor effects in tumor cure and re-challenge of cured mice in a prostate cancer model. The fact that cured mice that received the vaccine were protected from re-challenge with tumor speaks to the logic of the approach. The II suppression technology is being developed for intratumoral use for the treatment of renal, prostate, breast and colon cancers. In addition, the technology is also being used in the development of genetic vaccines for HIV and other diseases.

Minority Scholars Show Their Work

The sixth annual Wayne State University Minority Programs Research Day was celebrated on August 21 and featured a wide variety of quality research presentations from graduate and undergraduate students.

The research day is sponsored by the Initiative for Minority Student Development (IMSD), which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Also participating were students involved in the National Institute of Mental Health Career Opportunities in Research (NIMH COR) program at WSU.

Congratulations to the winners:

**Undergraduate**
- First place: Alexandria Conley (NIMH COR student)
- Second place: Eric Brown (NIMH COR) and DaShawnda Lindsey (IMSD student)

**Graduate**
- First place: Crystal Hill-Pryor (IMSD)
- Second place: Nicholas Jones (IMSD)

**Student of the Year**
- Angela Martinez (IMSD) won a certificate of excellence for outstanding student of the year.

Pictured here are the graduates of Introduction to Science Research, an eight-week summer course for minority students sponsored by the IMSD program.

Pictured from left to right are Minority Research Day winners: DaShawnda Lindsey, Nicholas Jones, Angela Martinez, Crystal Hill-Pryor, Dr. Rashida Zaahir (program coordinator), Alexandra Conley, Eric Brown, and Dr. Joseph Dunbar (program director).
Medical Student Mentoring Program
Teaches Between the Lines

Medical students have academic advisors, professors and counselors, but a mentor fills a special role. A mentor takes both personal and professional interest in a student and helps him or her master a medical specialty.

“Mentors provide teaching between the lines,” said Kertia Black, M.D., assistant dean for student affairs. “They show students the ropes by helping with networking, warning against errors and serving as role models.”

Confirming students’ zeal for the new program, Dr. Black received more than 700 requests for mentors when the program idea was announced. So far, 30 faculty members have volunteered to take part in this stimulating exchange among senior and junior physicians.

Yvonne Friday, M.D., has won countless teaching and service awards, and has a track record of providing remarkable student support. She thinks mentoring is critical, particularly for careers in medicine.

“Human beings learn by imitating others. Role modeling is essential because it allows us to practice who and what we wish to become,” Dr. Friday said. “As physician educators, one of our primary goals is to influence the outcome of the next generations. We must appoint them to model, to advise and to counsel those who will continue after we depart. The allotment of time to another person not only provides the opportunity for mutual learning, but it also reaffirms the importance of each person as an individual being.”

An assistant professor of pediatrics, Dr. Friday is an advocate for young, single mothers, medically indigent children, and she has devoted a large portion of her career to the medical care of incarcerated youth at the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility. She has served her entire career as a role model for medical students.

Faculty mentors will make phone calls to medical students and mentees, have personal meetings to discuss their specialties and provide practical pointers, invite students to shadow them during office visits, meetings, etc., and be available informally for personal questions.

Jerry Brewer, Student Senate president, said students benefit greatly from direct meetings with compassionate faculty members. “Every student needs a mentor,” he said. “Medical students have to spend countless hours in the library, are then suddenly thrown into the clinical arena, to later have to make life impacting career choices many times with limited information. A mentor is not only invaluable to the success of the medical student during the rigors of medical school, but is also available as a priceless source of information and counseling during pivotal moments of choosing a career path and making life altering decisions.”

Medical students can learn much from other medical students: which professors use lots of diagrams, how to study for histology exams and who runs good review sessions. Only veteran physicians can teach them the bigger things—the actual practice and profession of medicine.

Summer Programs Educate Minority and Disadvantaged Students

The School of Medicine at Wayne State University continues its mission of valuing an ethnically diverse and cross-cultural population within the faculty, staff, student body and wider community. Serving to further cultivate this focus are the Minority High School Science Education Program (MHSSEP) and the OHEP Scholars Program. Both are summer programs that provide science enrichment and clinical care exposure for minority and disadvantaged students. The MHSSEP is funded by the National Institutes of Health and serves in partnership with the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP). OHEP receives funding from a consortium of health and academic institutions including: the Henry Ford Health System, the St. John Health System, Detroit Public Schools, the Detroit Medical Center, and the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

While both programs seek to enhance the development of scientific inquiry and awareness of careers in health professions, each varies in design. The MHSSEP provides teens with hands-on research experience in biomedical and pharmaceutical labs with a focus on health related issues. Edna Jackson-Gray, Ph.D., program coordinator, explains that it is a unique two-summer commitment for both the research mentor and the student. “For the researcher it means mentoring, role modeling and teaching. For the student it involves learning as well as adapting to an academic and cultural exposure of a different kind.

The OHEP Scholars program offers an opportunity for students to have direct observations of clinical procedures and involvement with patient care. David Pieper, Ph.D. assistant dean for continuing medical education, said “The emphasis of the OHEP Program is on giving students real life experiences in hospitals where they work and obtain health career related clinical experiences.”

Both programs also involve lectures and interactive didactic sessions with highly respected health care professionals from a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences. The culminating event for each program highlighted student activities with a final presentation of their respective research papers. All 30 participants invited family and friends as well as the academic community. Returning to school, students will enjoy a tangible “show and tell” paper along with a rewarding stipend check reflecting an enriching summer.
Class of 2007

The Wayne State University School of Medicine welcomes its newest class of future physicians.

Ryan Edward Addington
Eastern Michigan University, BS

Ryan James Agemra
Michigan State University, BS

Angela Inisibhogh Akpahio
Marygrove College, BA

Abdul-Rahma Alberri
University of Michigan, BA

Aziz A. Alkatih
University of Michigan, BS

Tarin Mignon Bynum
Wayne State University, MS

Shannon Huntington Allen
University of Michigan, BA

Thelma Afua Ayenu
University of Maryland, BS

MCP Hahnemann University, MS

Charles James Bailey
University of Michigan, BS

Ciara Jane Barclay
Michigan State University, BS

Patrick George Bebrich
University of Michigan, BS

Ryan Edward Berecky
Western Michigan University, BS

Kristi Marie Bernath
Grand Valley State University, BS

John Christopher Berschback
Miami University, BA

Andrew Charles Bietlcarz
Michigan State University, BS

Matthew Paul Biersack
University of Michigan, BS

Elisa Ann Billy
Central Michigan University, BS

Jennifer Marie Birch
University of Michigan, BS

Michelle Lynn Bizon
Michigan State University, BS

Karen Ann Bozki
University of Michigan, BS

Christine Lynn Bolls
University of Georgia, BS

Carrie Ellen Bolton
University of Michigan, BS

Grant Nicholas Bowman
University of Michigan, BS

Abigail Ruth Bradney
University of Michigan, BS

Benjamin Ross Braun
Albion College, BS

Wayne State University, MA

Mark Edward Brewster
Alma College, BS

Wayne State University, BS

Colin Charles Buchanan
Denison University, BS

Christopher James Buddak
University of Michigan, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Tarin Mignon Bynum
Xavier University, BS

Nicki Jo Cain
Grand Valley State University, BS

Michael Paul Carlisle
Olivet Nazarene University, BS

Sarah Elizabeth Caruso
Michigan State University, BS

Charles Terrel Cash
Albion College, BS

Eric Allen Chase
Northern Michigan University, BS

Andrew Michael Compton
Michigan State University, BS

Faith Mary Crumpler
Wayne State University, BS

William Joseph Curtins
Central Michigan University, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Stephanie Michelle Czarnik
Wayne State University, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Ali A. Dabaja
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS

Robert Hadi Deeb
Wayne State University, BS

Christopher Allen Dehnin
Michigan Technological University, BS

Michigan Technological University, MS

Sarah Nichole Deighton-Collins
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Robert Joseph Dempsey
University of Illinois, BS

Mark Richard Denenau
Purdue University, BS

Andrew Russo DiNardo
Emory University, BA

Allison Marie Dobhie
University of Virginia, BA

Terence T. Dunbar
Wayne State University, BS

Carmen Giovanna Echols
Xavier University, BS

Aimee Marie D. Espinosa
Hillsdale College, BS

Thomas Jefferson, MS

Kari Leah Emund
Hillsdale College, BS

Kimberly Marie Farrow
University of Notre Dame, BA

Brian Kenneth Felice
Oakland University, BS

Thomas Rowan Fennell
Michigan State University, BS

Leslie Ann Field
University of Michigan, BS

Eрин Nicole Fisher
University of Michigan, BS

Anthony Thomas Fritzler
University of Michigan, BS

Steven Joseph Gamalski
University of Detroit Mercy, BS

Ricardo A. Garza
University of Michigan, BA

Zhiling Gau
Swarthmore College, BA

Juan Julio Goldfres
University of Michigan, BS

Joanna Moniz Ghobrial
Wayne State University, BS

Amanda Pauline Gittas
Trinity International University, BA

Dai Goldensberg
University of Michigan, BS

Laura Andrea Gonzalez-Richard
University of Michigan, Flint, BS

Andrew Ward Goodman
Western Michigan University, BS

Matthew Daniel Gomley
University of Michigan, BS

Christopher Michael Goshgaran
Wayne State University, BS

Meredith Leigh Greene
Albion College, BA

Dorolous Quinby Griffin
Florida A&M University, BS

Ryan Guffey
University of Michigan, BS

David Wayne Guffey
University of Michigan, BA

David Gerald Hall
Albion College, BA

Michael Jay Hall
Weber State University, AS

Kerstin Elise Hanson
University of Michigan, BS

Kimberly Corrine Hartman
Kalamaoco College, BA

Katherine Anne Hebert
Miami University, BA

Carrie Rose Hecht
Alma College, BS

Leila M. Hemati
University of Colorado, BA

Lake Daniel Hessett
Knox College, BA

Thomas James Howson
Michigan State University, BS

Jennifer Michelle Heyl
University of Michigan, BS

Ethan William Hines
Grace College and Theological Seminary, BS

Jeremy Robert Hogg
University of Michigan, Flint, BS

Edward Joseph Holden
University of Michigan, Flint, BS

Brittany Laura Holden
University of Notre Dame, BA

Kermitte Renee Houchard
University of Michigan, BS

Liam Patrick Howley
University of Michigan, BS

Ronald Lon Huang
University of Michigan, BS

Jonathan Alexander Hughes
Kalamaoco College, BA

Janet Myung Hur
University of Michigan, BS

Victorkya Ioffe
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS

Shaun T. Briar
Kalamaoco College, BS

Randa Jaafar
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Ticarta Lynne Jackson
Howard University, BS

Lawrence Jacobs
University of Windsor, BS

Andrew Peter Jameson
Ferris State University, BS

Suilli Partah Jouani
University of Michigan, MS

Tiffanie Sheete Jones
Ohio State University, BS

Adrienne Jordan
Prairie View A & M University, BS

Prairie View A & M University, MS

Louis Theodore Joseph
Michigan State University, BS

Kenneth Howard Justock
University of Michigan, Flint, BS

Phillip Amer Kadaj
University of Michigan, BS

Jessica Ann Kado
Wayne State University, BS

Susan S. Kaiz
University of Michigan, MS

Jack Min Kan
University of California, BS

Jessica Marie Kanowski
Michigan State University, BA

Sevan Sima Karadolian
University of Michigan, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Kripa Kavasseri
Wayne State University, BS

John William Kempainen
University of Michigan, BS

Mohamed Ali Kenaan
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS

Jennifer Ann Kena
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS

Erin Marie Kenyon
University of Michigan, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Ssheetal Pramod Kerkar
Kalamaoco College, BA

Joelie Megan Kezliar
Hope College, BA

Sarah S. Khodadadeh
University of Michigan, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Brian Douglas Kieker
Grand Valley State University, BA

Aquinas College, MA

Christopher John Kirkpatrick
Ferris State University, BS

Justin J. Knight
Wayne State University, BS

Brad Ernest Kremer
Michigan State University, BS

Wayne State University, BS

Ashok Kumar
Michigan State University, BS

Kelin Ming-Tak Kwong
University of Toronto, BS

University of Toronto, MH

Leonard Nadong Lamson
Wayne State University, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Jackson Richard Lamphear
Albion College, BA

Jonathan Norton Lauter
University of Michigan, BS

Todd Thornton Lavry
Calvin College, MS

Tiffany Anne Lawon
Grand Valley State University, BS

Rebecca Elizabeth Lipszutz
Duke University, BA

Megan Rebeccah Loomer
Michigan State University, BS

Michael Joseph Louwers
University of Michigan, BS

Wayne State University, MS

Michael Peter Maddens
Wayne State University, BS

Alexander Samuel Madgy
Wayne State University, BS

Redah Zainudd Mahmood
University of Michigan, BS

Matthew Benjamin Main
Spring Arbor University, BA

Ariel Majhbo
Wayne State University, BS

Ahmad Tarq Malik
University of Michigan, BS

Anna Maria Marandici
University of North Carolina, BA

Saha Fatima Has Maroof
Wayne State University, MS

Jennifer Marie Birch
University of Michigan, BS

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Chantal Melinda Mayerx
Salisbury State University, BS
Paul Alex Mazarix
Michigan State University, BS
Wayne State University, MS
Patrick Wayne McCabe
Wayne State University, BS
Jamal McClendon
Duke University, BS
Eric David McKeever
Michigan State University, BS
Varsha Mendraatta
Xavier University, BS
Michael James Mequito
Kalamazoo College, BA
Wendi S. Miller
Wayne State University, BS
Iamet Minter
Wayne State University, BA
Krysztof Mikat
Wayne State University, BS
Sean Michael Mosharo
Michigan State University, BA
Durtid Mousoa
Polysynthetic University, BS
Yeshiva University, MS
Kathryn Irene Munina
Vanderbilt University, RH
Georgia Institute of Technology, MS
Christopher Rahfi Najarian
University of Michigan, BS
University of Michigan, MH
Adam David Nicholas
University of Michigan, BA
Ijomah Onyema Nnodim
University of Michigan, BA
Aanoq Crammae Nukumma
University of Michigan, BS
Uchebike Nnaegzie Nwankwo
University of Michigan, BS
Harold Theodore Ohiaolu
CUNY City College, BS
John Hopkins, MS
Andrea Lauren O’Boyle
University of Michigan, BS
Elizabeth Amy Oliver
University of Michigan, BS
Jasmine Elaine Oliver
Xavier University, BS
Nicholas Olson
Carleton College, BS
Kanayo Orji
Michigan State University, BS
Amanda Jo Overmyer
Grand Valley State University, BS
Marta Pak
University of Michigan, BS
Neal Earl Palmreuter
Alma College, BA
Carolyn Ker-chih Pan
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, BS
Lisa Kimberly Pappas
University of Michigan, BS
Nespa Jayant Patel
University of Michigan, BA
Minda Lisa Part
McGill University, BA
Zaal Homi Paymaster
Grand Valley State University, BS
Aaron John Plattner
Kansas State University, BS
Edward Garrett Pratt
Tulsa University, BA
Yusuf Gamaruzaman
University of Michigan, BA
Sheila Rabbanii
University of Michigan, BS
Bene Christine Rader
Southern Adventist University, BS
Stephanie Lynn Rains
Grand Valley State University, BS
Benjamin Wood Retake
Oakland University, BS
Trevor William Ripley
Albion College, BA
Wayne State University, MH
John David Ritthe
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, BS
Elizabeth Ann Robbins
Oakland University, BA
Matthew John Roberge
Ferris State University, BS
Eric Gallin Roberts
University of Michigan, BS
Melissa Mae Roche
University of Michigan, BS
Jason David Rodney
University of Western Ontario, BS
Hussein Ali Saad
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS
Mikel Mitry Saad
Wayne State University, BS
Michael Russell Saber
University of Arizona, BA
Wayne State University, BA
Farhad Reza Sahil
Harvard University, BA
Jamal F. Saleh
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS
Allegra Main Saving
Marquette University, BS
Andrea Theresa Scheid
Grand Valley State University, BS
Megan Suzanne Schottler
University of Michigan, BS
Wayne State University, ScPH
Michael Louis Schotak
University of Michigan, BS
Daniel Christopher Schneyer
Hope College, BA
Andrew Thomas Schubert
Michigan State University, BS
Justin Matthew Schwartz
University of Michigan, BA
Eastern Michigan University, MS
Beth Nicole Scissors
Northwestern University, BS
Aashish Ajit Shah
Michigan State University, BS
Mohammad Parvez Shahid
University of Missouri, BS
Elizabeth Grace Short
University of California, BA
Harmony Ann Siersen
Wayne State University, BA
Wayne State University, MH
Ralph H. Similien
University of Iowa, BA
University of Illinois, MA
Daniel Joseph Singer
University of Michigan, BS
Anu Singla
University of Pennsylvania, BA
Amy Lisa Smart
Wayne State University, BA
Kimberly McCullagh Smash
Tufts College, BS
Naomi Cecilia So
University of Michigan, BS
Nessreen Nancy Sooh
Wayne State University, BS
Craig Allen Spencer
Wayne State University, BA
John C. Staeko
University of Dallas, BS
U of New Mexico, PhD
David Stieger
University of Michigan, BA
University of Michigan, ID
Jeremy Richard Strohkirch
University of Michigan, BS
Kristoffer Bradley Sugg
Wayne State University, BS
James Matthew Szymanski
University of Michigan, BS
University of Michigan, MH
Asad Mahmoud Taron
University of Michigan, BA
Eric DeVaughn Taylor
University of Michigan, Flint, BA
Jennifer Lynn Thompson
Eastern Michigan University, BS
Michael Leighton Thompson
University of Michigan, BS
Cassy Thomas Tompkins
Valparaiso University, BS
Eric Warren Tosh
Albion College, BA
Nicole Jonelle Trombino
University of Michigan, Flint, BS
Michael Petrok Trpkovski
University of Michigan, Dearborn, BS
Ubong Asuquo Umoren
Creighton University, BS
Nichole Ann Urban
Central Michigan University, BS
Wayne State University, MS
Hentikas Vatkelevicus
Wayne State University, BS
Wayne State University, MS
Mary Jo Van Ostenberg
University of Michigan, BA
Laurie Marie Vancel
Albion College, BA
Teresa Ellen Vandenbark
Grand Valley State University, BA
Cynthia Kay Velting-Kidd
California State University, BS
Shree Ramanan Venkat
University of Pittsburgh, BA
Andrea Kay Veryson
University of Michigan, BS
Carrissa Elaine Villa
Northern Michigan University, BS
Thomas Juergen Walker
Oakland University, BS
Joshua Irri Warrika
Wayne State University, BS
Tamia Jovonne Watts
University of Pittsburgh, BS
Shari Jolene Weldon
Cedarville University, BS
Julie Kathleen Weller
Michigan State University, Flint, BS
Antonette Otis Whitenhead
University of Michigan, BS
Kevin Duane Whitem
Central Michigan University, BS
Mary Christine Whitney
University of Michigan, BS
Heather Elizabeth Wiggin
University of Michigan, BS
Eastern Michigan University, MS
University of Michigan, MH
David Eric Willsens
University of Michigan, BS
Taqai Narte Williams
California State Polytech, BS
Ralph Edward Williams
Oakland University, BS
Wanda Lekersha Williams
Tennessee State University, BS
Tennessee State University, MS
Ryan Christopher Withrow
University of Michigan, BS
Kristin Amelia Wolf
Kalamazoo College, BA
Lauren Carol Worth
University of California, BS
Ben Yan
University of Michigan, BS
Holli Kristin Yettaw
Western Michigan University, BS
Angela Ruby Yurk
Kettering University, BS
Mark Antoine Zakarta
University of Michigan, BS

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2007
Number of Applicants: 2,706
Number of Matriculants: 257
Average GPA: 3.96
Average MCAT: 5.56
Male: 46 percent
Michigan residents: 88.4 percent
Non-Michigan residents: 11.6 percent
Most popular undergraduate colleges and universities
University of Michigan: 74 students
Wayne State University: 25
Michigan State University: 20
Most common undergraduate majors
Biology: 83 students
Chemistry: 22
Engineering: 12
Biomedical: 9
Human Biology: 8
Prenatal: 8
Psychology: 7
Physiology: 5
Economics: 5

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Joshua Adler, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of neurology, was an invited speaker at the annual meeting for the American Syringomyelia Alliance Project in July. He spoke on “Peptides, Pain and Cytokines in Syringomyelia.”

Lawrence Diebel, M.D., associate professor of surgery, has been appointed to head the task force charged with developing an operative skills course for the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

Richard Gallagher, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, met in Washington, D.C. with Subcommittee G of the National Cancer Institute for purposes of reviewing cancer curriculum and career development awards.

Xi Huang, Ph.D., research scientist in anatomy and cell biology, was awarded a grant from the Midwest Eye-Banks and Transplantation Center to investigate “The Role of Toll-Like Receptors in Bacterial Keratitis.”

Mark Ireland, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and cell biology, was awarded a grant from the Midwest Eye-Banks and Transplantation Center to investigate “The Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor and the Post-Natal Differentiation of Lens Fiber Cells.”

Manish Jain, M.D., neurology, presented “Schwann Cell Expression of PLLP Is Necessary to Prevent Demyelinating Peripheral Neuropathy” at the meeting of the Peripheral Nerve Society in July.

Peter Karpawich, M.D., professor of pediatrics and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children’s Hospital of Michigan, served as invited faculty and session chairman at the International Pediatric Cardiology Symposium on pediatric and congenital heart arrhythmias sponsored by Hacettepe Hospital of Medicine, held in Istanbul, Turkey. He also was an invited visiting professor at Ain Shams University School of Medicine, Department of Cardiology, in Cairo, Egypt.

Karen Krajewski, assistant professor of neurology, presented “Validation of the CMT Neuropathy Score” at the meeting of the Peripheral Nerve Society in July.

Omar Khan, M.D., associate professor of neurology, was appointed to the Medical Advisory Committee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for a three-year term. He also spoke on “Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Patients with MS Treated With Glatramer Acetate” and “Cerebral Axonal Recovery in Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis Patients Treated with Glatramer Acetate” at a satellite symposium of the European Neurological Society in July.

Richard Lewis, M.D., associate professor of neurology, presented “Rituximab Therapy for IgM Related Polynuropathy Results in 9 Patients” at the meeting for the Peripheral Nerve Society in July.

Jun Li, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, presented “Comparison of the Phenotype of HNPP in 17p11.2 Deletions and a PMP22 Null Mutation” at the meeting of the Peripheral Nerve Society in July.

Z. Li presented “C-Peptide Enhances Insulin-Mediated Cell Growth and Protects Against High Glucose Induced Apoptosis in SH-SYSY Cells” at the meeting of the Peripheral Nerve Society in July.

Robert Lisak, M.D., Parker Webber Chair of Neurology, professor and chair of neurology and professor of immunology/microbiology, was appointed to a second three-year term as a member of the Research Programs Advisory Committee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He was also appointed to the Accreditation Council of the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties (ACS) as the representative of the American Neurological Association (ANA). Dr. Lisak is a member of the Executive Council of the ANA.

Dr. Lisak also gave the following presentations:

• “Clinical Trials and the ‘Disease Modifying Therapies in Multiple Sclerosis’, the report of the Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the MS Council for Clinical Guidelines” at the meeting of the Peripheral Nerve Society in July.

Jeffrey Loeb, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, presented “Schwann Cells Secrete Soluble Neurotrophic Factors, Which Promote the Rapid and Local Release of Neuregulin From Axons” at the Gordon Research Conference on Neurotrphins in June.

Kenneth Malese, M.D., professor of neurology and anatomy/cell biology, was appointed to the National Institutes of Health Study Section “Cell Death and Injury in Neurodegeneration.” He has also been appointed to the program review for the Medical Research Division for Research Career Development Awards of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Heart Association Peer Review Steering Committee and the American Heart Association Research Subgroup for the National Joint Operating Committee.

In addition, Dr. Malese was appointed a member of the Minority Educational Training and Professional Achievement Committee (METPAC) of the NINDS, the Awards Committee of the International Academy of Cardiology and a member of the American Heart Association Research Committee.

Victoria Neale, Ph.D., associate professor of family medicine, has been selected as the new deputy editor of the Journal of the American Board of Family Practice. Previously she was a feature editor for Family Medicine.

Samuel Peroz, M.D., associate professor of anesthesiology and chief of anesthesia at Detroit Receiving Hospital, made a presentation on chronic pain treatment at a course sponsored by the Foundation for European Education in Anaesthesiology in Meozone, Latvia.

John Porcerelli, Ph.D., associate professor of family medicine, published “Personality Characteristics of Partner-Violent Men” in the Journal of Personality Disorders.

Bradley Rosenberg, M.D., urology resident, was a 2003 Pfizer Scholars in Urology grant recipient.


Aileen Russell, a student working in Dr. David Rosenberg’s laboratory, published an article on “Localized Functional Neurochemical Marker Abnormalities in Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex in Pediatric Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder” in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology.

Anthony Shields, M.D., Ph.D., professor of internal medicine/oncology, has been appointed associate director for clinical research at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Michael Shy, M.D., professor of neurology and member of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, served as co-chair for the genetics portion of the meeting of the Peripheral Nerve Society.

Anders Sima, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neurology, presented “C-Peptide Corrects Deficits in Nerve Fiber Regeneration in Type 1 Diabetic BB/W-Rat” and “GCPII (Naladase) Inhibition Partially Reverses Nerve Conduction Velocity Deficits, Hyperalgesia and Chronic Morphological Abnormalities Following Chronic Diabetes in BB/WOR Rats” at the meeting of the Peripheral Nerve Society in July.

Craig Watson, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neurology, lectured on “Current Concepts in Medically Refractory Epilepsy” at the meeting of the Michigan Neurological Association in June.
In Memory

Stephen Lerman, Ph.D., associate professor of immunology and microbiology, died on June 7, 2003, from complications resulting from an intestinal transplant performed two years ago.

Dr. Lerman received his doctorate from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia in 1973, and was a faculty member at New York University before coming to Wayne State University in 1978. Upon his arrival at WSU, he concentrated his research efforts on a spontaneous B-cell tumor occurring in an inbred mouse strain. He studied the complex interdependency between the B-cell tumor and T-cells, in which each cell population stimulated the other, leading to continuous growth of the tumor cells. This mouse tumor served as a model for human follicular center cell lymphoma. Dr. Lerman served as a mentor to a number of graduate students who worked on this project and went on to careers in teaching and research.

His studies involved heavy reliance on the use of flow cytometry, and, consequently, Dr. Lerman applied for and received a National Institutes of Health instrumentation award for a flow cytometer. The versatility of this equipment piqued Dr. Lerman's interest, and in time he established the Flow Cytometry Core Facility jointly supported by the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and the school's Department of Immunology and Microbiology. Dr. Lerman served as graduate officer for that department, and he coordinated the teaching of immunology and microbiology to second-year medical students.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl, a daughter, Elyse, and mother, Sylvia Lerman, in addition to his many friends and colleagues at WSU.

Henry Orbach, architect for the School of Medicine, died July 17, 2003.

Orbach arrived at WSU when the new construction for the Eillman Research Building began in 1986 and expected to depart when the building was dedicated in 1989. What started out as a single, designated assignment blossomed into almost 15 years of additional projects. A registered and licensed architect in the state of Michigan, Orbach displayed a wide range of talents from the simplest of furniture design configurations to the most complex scientific laboratory designs and development.

Scores of faculty and staff have worked with him over the years as he helped them with various construction and renovation projects. His warmth and genuine concern for the success of each project endeared him to everyone. He is survived by his wife, Judith, two children, Susan (Brooks) and Geoffrey, and several grandchildren.

Faminidell Peoples, longtime volunteer for the School of Medicine and Detroit Medical Center, died July 15, 2003, of respiratory failure at Detroit Receiving Hospital (DRH). Peoples gave more than 15,000 hours of service to the Detroit Medical Center—many of them spent rocking the sickest babies. She visited patients at Detroit Receiving Hospital and Children's Hospital of Michigan, was a member of the DRH Ethics Committee, and taught and mentored hundreds of physicians, residents and medical students at WSU. She was honored by the School of Medicine in 2001 with a Distinguished Service Award.

Born with severe curvature of the spine and orphaned at a young age, she spent her childhood in foster care. An honor student in elementary and secondary school, she was awarded a scholarship to Lincoln University, graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and was class valedictorian. Unable to work due to her medical problems, she began to volunteer and serve as a patient advocate and friend. He educated herself at Shifman Medical Library, always keeping up-to-date on medical literature and engaging health professionals and caregivers in open discussions about difficult patient care dilemmas.

Her service has been noted in national and local media and by community organizations and civic groups. She has been the subject of a photo tribute in Life Magazine, named one of People Magazine’s “Most Intriguing People,” chatted about as one of the “Outstanding Mothers of Detroit” in African-American Parent Magazine, and selected “1992 Michiganian of the Year” by The Detroit News.

Neurology, Neurosurgery Among Top 20 in U.S.

Wayne State University's neurology and neurosurgery programs at Harper University Hospital ranked 18th in the country according to the latest list of America's Best Hospitals published in U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine's 14th annual ranking combines reputation, mortality, number of discharges, and other measures to summarize quality of care. The list includes 203 different medical centers, winnowed from 6,003 hospitals across the country, in 17 specialties from cancer to urology.

"It's nice to see the neurology and neurosurgery faculty finally be recognized by the lay press and on a national basis for their expertise and for the quality of the care that they provide," said Dr. Robert Lisak, professor and chair of neurology. "There are many subspecialty programs in neurology and neurosurgery concentrated on the central Detroit Medical Center campus that are the equal of any in the U.S. or the world."

According to the magazine, "These medical centers excel for good reasons. For one, their doctors perform large numbers of tricky and risky procedures, and study after study shows that practice counts. The best also tend to adhere more closely to advanced treatment guidelines, to incorporate new findings into patient care, and to conduct research that gives desperately ill patients additional options."

Microscope Takes Cell Imaging to New Level

A new microscope that achieves an extraordinary level of image resolution is allowing Wayne State University researchers to image living cells without stains or dyes under real-time conditions and at magnifications approaching those of scanning electron microscopy.

Dr. Alan Hudson, professor of immunology and microbiology, and Dr. Judith Whittum-Hudson, professor of internal medicine, are currently using the microscope on a six-month trial basis to image Chlamydia trachomatis and Chlamydia pneumoniae in ways never possible before.

After a platform talk at the American Society for Microbiology meeting in May, Dr. Alan Hudson was approached by Tim Richardson, the developer of the microscope, called the RTM3. Wayne State became one of 10 Luminary Laboratories that uses the equipment for a free six-month trial.

Dr. Whittum-Hudson said it is possible to achieve scanning electron microscopy-like images. "The mercury lamp is customized to increase the range of light wave-lengths which are viewable," she said. "Resolution is astounding, and we can see intracellular objects below 50 nm in size in live, unstained cells. To achieve this, we must use special slides and cover slips to avoid dust or other particles which are bigger than 50 nm."

Live cells also can be labeled with various molecular or fluorescent probes.

"We are convinced (Richardson) has developed something that will be of immense use in many different and diverse fields of biology," Dr. Hudson said.

WSU Contracts Largest Wireless Initiative in a U.S. Medical School

CampsMobility, a mobile applications and development company in Ann Arbor, recently signed a multi-year contract with the School of Medicine, creating the largest wireless/handheld initiative for a U.S. medical school. CampsMobility will provide Wayne State University with mobile devices, educational and healthcare software and wireless infrastructure.

"The wireless technology CampsMobility is providing transforms the traditional classroom experience into a dynamic, interactive, learning environment," said Matt Jackson, Ph.D., professor of immunology and microbiology.

Among its other functions, CampsMobility’s technology will enable problem-solving exercises and the collection of patient information during clinical internships. It provides students with access to Web-based course content, course management and calendar tools and reference information. It also allows students and their academic advisors to track patients and their care.

Undergraduate Research Presented

The inaugural C.S. Mott Center Summer Undergraduate Research Program was supported by the Charlotte B. Failing Chair award to Dr. Stephen A. Krawetz and the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics. The interns were Lisa Vitale, Holly Edwards and Houman Rezaizadeh. Vitale, a freshman, worked with Dr. Richard Leach on the accumulation of HB-EGF in human placentas. Edwards, a sophomore, worked with Dr. D. Randall Arman on hypoxia induced expression of HB-EGF. Rezaizadeh, a junior, worked with Dr. Krawetz to develop microarrays to study the human prostate locus. Their work was presented as part of the Mott Center symposium series on August 13, 2003.

WSU Launches TechTown

The Wayne State University Research and Technology Park took on a new identity when the 12-block research area between Detroit’s New Center area and WSU was renamed TechTown. TechTown will be an entrepreneurial village where start-up companies, existing businesses, researchers and venture capitalists can collaborate to develop products and services. It is a non-profit collaboration of private and public partnerships affiliated with WSU.

A five-story building, essentially donated by General Motors, is called TechOne and is being renovated to accommodate wet and dry labs, start-up businesses, retail space and TechTown staff.

Nobel Winner to Give Keynote Address

Gunter Blobel, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Professor at The Rockefeller University, and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1999 will give the keynote address and is the first recipient of the “George E. Palade Gold Medal Award and Lecture.” The lecture and ceremony will take place Friday November 21, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Wayne State University School of Medicine.
Health Care Heroes Recognized by Crain’s

Cran’s Detroit Business Honored four Wayne State faculty members as part of its “Health Care Heroes” feature. The honorees are: Isaac Powell, M.D., professor of urology; Robert Frank, M.D., associate dean for academic and student programs; and Eli Goldberg, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics.

Dr. Isaac Powell was honored for his efforts to reduce the incidence of prostate cancer in the black community through the Detroit Education and Early Detection (DEED) program. He presented his program in the black community: houses of worship. During the two-year DEED program, Dr. Powell and his group tested 1,300 men in 51 churches and found 36 cases of prostate cancer. Most were found early enough to undergo surgery. In 1997, Dr. Powell became the principal investigator of a national collaborative to find the genes responsible for hereditary prostate cancer among blacks.

Dr. Robert Frank was honored for his 30-year advocacy in training medical students: to stay true to the well-being of patients; to deal with the pressure of economic survival, but never at the expense of good care; and to be socially responsible. Dr. Frank has been a member of the School of Medicine faculty since 1977. He is a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility and operates a medical clinic at St. Patrick’s Senior Center. As an associate dean, Dr. Frank has incorporated into the medical school curriculum subjects such as doctor-patient communication, end-of-life care, geriatric medicine, environmental-health exposures and understanding cultural differences.

Dr. Eli Goldberg was honored for a program he established called Kids Kicking Cancer. The program teaches martial arts to pediatric cancer and sickle-cell patients and their siblings. Rather than allowing children to view themselves as victims of disease, Kids Kicking Cancer neither strengthens children physically but trains them to see themselves as capable and important participants in their own healing. The program began at Children’s Hospital in 2000 and has expanded to five other local hospitals. In September, the program expects to expand to six major hospitals elsewhere in the country.

Nancy Cao, M.D., Ph.D., co-chief resident in neurology, won the prize for the best resident presentation at the annual meeting of the Michigan Neurological Association. She presented on Hashimoto’s encephalopathy.

Bernard Gonik, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, received the Professional Service Award from the Michigan Department of Community Health for helping to reduce infant mortality through innovative projects directed toward providing healthier birth outcomes. Dr. Gonik’s work has been focused on reducing the serious morbidity and mortality suffered by adults, which assists in protecting infants from vaccine preventable diseases.

A.H. Mahbubul Huq, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and neurology, received an exclusive grant from the Child Neurology Foundation to study “Genetics of Inositol Signaling Pathway in Autism.” This makes him the only grant recipient funded by the foundation for the year.

Colin Orton, M.D., professor of radiation oncology, received the highest award of the International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM): their Award of Merit. He was presented with this honor at the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Orton was elected to a three-year term as the IUPESM’s new president.

Michael S. Simon, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine (oncology), was awarded the Charles C. Shepard Science Award in Assessment and Epidemiology. Given by the Centers for Disease Control, the award recognizes Dr. Simon and his colleagues for scientific excellence demonstrated by the publication of “Oral Contraceptives and the Risk of Breast Cancer” in the June 27, 2002 edition of The New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Simon and his colleagues found that neither current nor former oral contraceptive use was associated with a significantly increased risk.

Dusanka Skundric, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, received a Junior Faculty Travel Award from the American Association of Immunologists.

Wilhelmine Wiese, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and program director for the general internal medicine residency program at WSU/DMC, has been honored with the Midwest Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Clinician Educator Award.

Rosalie Young, Ph.D., associate professor of community medicine, was chosen as a winner (finalist category) of the 2003 Aetna Susan B. Anthony Award for Excellence in Research on Older Women and Public Health. “Breast Cancer Information Needs of Older African American Women,” was co-authored by Dr. Richard Severson, William Stengle and Dr. Robert Burack. Dr. Young and her colleagues will be honored at the Aetna Awards Symposium at the annual American Public Health Association meeting in November.

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Novi, Mich.

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Saturday, November 8, 2003
The Ford Event & Conference Center
Dearborn, Mich.

Medicolegal Investigation of Death
April 21-23, 2004
The Dearborn Inn
Dearborn, Mich.

Congestive Heart Failure for the 21st Century
Saturday, February 7, 2004
The Somerset Inn
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For more information or to register for conferences, please call Wayne State University’s Division of Continuing Medical Education at (313) 577-1100.

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