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Largest individual gift in university history honors med school alum, Dr. Richard Mazurek

California businessman Nick Labedz’s $15 million gift is the largest individual gift ever made to the university. It will be directed to the Wayne State University School of Medicine in honor of his partner, noted physician Dr. Mazurek, who was born and raised in Detroit.

This significant gift will support the construction of the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons, a state-of-the-science education facility where students will be trained in the art and science of medicine.

Dr. Mazurek earned his medical degree from Wayne State in 1961 and settled in Los Angeles.

“It’s appropriate to give back to Dick’s medical school that he was so proud of — in the college from which he graduated — to serve an area to which he devoted his life,” Labedz said. “And now to embody his legacy through the medical education facility envisioned and realized. We are carrying on the very thing that is ‘Dick Mazurek.’ This gift, this new paradigm in medical education, is an outgrowth of him — an evolution of the man. It all makes sense.”

The Medical Education Commons will physically connect Scott Hall and the Shiffman Library on the medical school campus. It will serve as the nucleus of all programs for undergraduate, graduate and continuing education in medicine. The vision includes optimizing the on-campus educational experience for students and clinicians at every career stage and designing spaces for services that enhance campus life and convenience for students, faculty, health professionals and guests. It will also serve as the base for education and information services, and innovations that will be delivered and received through state-of-the-art technologies.

To make a contribution to the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons, please contact David Lepper, executive director of Development and Alumni Affairs, at (313) 577-3574 or dlepper@med.wayne.edu.

Nick Labedz has pledged $15 million of the $30 million needed to establish the Medical Commons facility and related programs.

Celebrating WSU’s first comprehensive capital campaign are major donor Nick Labedz, WSU President Irvin Reid, and WSU School of Medicine Dean Dr. Robert Frank.

The Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical Education Commons is expected to become a model for medical schools by transforming medical education and training through new services, programs and technologies that advance learning and teaching opportunities for students and physicians.

Wayne State University School of Medicine

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Dean Frank reports on research enterprise

Dr. Robert R. Frank’s second Conversation with the Dean, a new public forum for discussions about School of Medicine issues, focused on the WSU research enterprise. In his opening remarks, he acknowledged that some WSU faculty members are mainly clinicians and some are mainly teachers, but research is part of everyone’s life at an academic institution. “Even for people who don’t do research as a full-time job, it is part of what we do here,” he said.

He began by noting research successes at the school. “We should be critical and self-critical, but we’re not really good at patting ourselves on the back,” Dr. Frank said. He gave kudos to medical student John Stasko who won first prize at an American Medical Student Association meeting for his People of Detroit project. He also acknowledged Dr. Eric Ayers, a WSU assistant professor of medicine who was nominated for the Association of American Medical College’s Humanism in Medicine award, and Dr. Linda Hazlett, WSU chair of anatomy and cell biology, who recently entered her 26th year of funding on her study, “Alteration with Age of Resistance of Eye Infections.”

He highlighted the departments that had high National Institutes of Health research rankings, including the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, which is ranked No. 1 in the country with more than $16 million in annual funding, and the Department of Emergency Medicine, which is ranked No. 4 out of 10 academic emergency medicine departments. He also listed those individual researchers who were part of the “million dollar club,” having grants of $1 million or more.

Dr. Frank emphasized his focus on research leadership and announced the permanent appointments of former interim positions, namely Dan Walz as associate dean for research and Larry Grossman as director of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics. A search is now underway for an assistant dean for clinical research, and a strong emphasis on collaboration and working with other colleges in the university is expected.

He also reported the findings of a committee established by the School of Medicine to suggest ways to improve research administration. As a result of the committee’s work, the following steps have been taken: 1) Wayne State University has committed to modifying the Banner system to forecast salary encumbrances. 2) An ad hoc committee has been established to pursue financial incentives for productive researchers with a target of having such incentives in place by October 2005. 3) The School of Medicine will serve as a beta test site for a reorganized research administration office. Details of the reorganization will be announced within 60 days.

Dr. Frank also answered faculty questions about research directions, faculty tenure and recruitment issues. Finally, he expressed his commitment to seedling translational research collaborations and working with other colleges in the university to expand collaborative efforts.

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s*cribe is published quarterly for the faculty, staff, students and alumni of the Wayne State University School of Medicine. Your comments, suggestions and submissions are encouraged.
Michigan Doctors Making a Difference call on state legislators to pass tax, bolster Medicaid

Michigan Doctors Making a Difference, a coalition of physicians dedicated to improving access to health care for the under- and uninsured, is calling on the Michigan Legislature to pass Gov. Jennifer Granholm’s proposed physician-provider tax to ensure the health of the state’s Medicaid program. The proposed 2.3 percent tax on physician provider revenues would generate as much as $433 million, potentially opening new doors to care for those who are underinsured or uninsured.

Steven DeSilva, M.D., president of the WSU Physician Group and a member of MDMD, believes that the tax is good for both patients and physicians, particularly those in both urban and rural communities.

“Wayne State University Physicians recognize that providing for those who are under- and uninsured is a societal problem that requires sweeping change; we also recognize, however, that the need for change is immediate,” Dr. DeSilva said. “We, as physicians, are willing to take the first step in finding better ways to fund the Medicaid system in the hope that others will join us in this endeavor.”

Of the $220 million that would be generated by the tax, $40 million could be used to immediately plug the 4 percent cut in Medicaid rates in this year’s state budget. The remaining funds would be eligible for a federal match, generating an additional $253 million for a total of $433 million.

Physicians who accept Medicaid currently are reimbursed at levels far below the actual cost of treatment; additional funds generated by the tax could bring reimbursement rates from below standard to baseline, or equal to that of Medicare. Physicians would not realize a net loss in revenue from the provider tax, as long as at least a small fraction – 3.5 percent – of their patients is Medicaid insured.

“Ultimately, our hope is that this tax will improve access to care for those who carry Medicaid by encouraging physicians to open their practices,” Dr. DeSilva said. “By bringing reimbursement rates in line with the Medicare standard, physicians will no longer have a disincentive for accepting Medicaid. Patients can receive the care they need, and physicians will be able to stay in business.”

Michigan Doctors Making a Difference is a coalition of physicians dedicated to advancing the concerns of urban and rural medicine. The group’s leading priority is to identify and work for the implementation of pragmatic solutions to improve access to care for under- and uninsured patients.

Wayne State University Physician Group

Dear Colleagues,

The Detroit Free Press of Tuesday, May 3, 2005, featured a front-page story, along with an editorial, about the current Medicaid funding crisis and the further harm that would befall the program should Governor Granholm’s proposed four percent reduction in reimbursement to physicians for Medicaid services be enacted. The articles point out that rising costs are forcing the legislature to consider large cuts, and that Medicaid recipients, particularly children and the working poor, stand to lose.

Unfortunately, these articles incorrectly describe the Governor’s proposed 2.28 percent (not 1 percent as cited in the stories) tax on physician revenues as another blow to the provision of care to Medicaid patients, characterizing the tax as a further squeeze on physicians and deterrent to care for this population.

The Wayne State University Physician Group does not agree with this claim, and is wholeheartedly endorsing the proposed 2.28 percent physician provider tax to fund Medicaid. We believe that the tax, while not a panacea, is a reasonable response to an imminent crisis in funding and the health of our population. The tax would result in about $430 million in relief for Medicaid, $250 million of which would be new funding to the state from the federal government through match programs.

Further, the tax would be used to bring Medicaid payment levels to physicians to a rate level with Medicare, which would relieve the burden to physicians who treat Medicaid patients and provide incentive to those who do not.

The faculty physicians of the Wayne State University must take the lead in addressing the crisis in the provision of care, which impacts a large portion of our patient population. We urge you to support the tax at 2.28 percent as one step toward a permanent solution.

Please join us in expressing your support to the legislature, the media, and your physician colleagues.

Sincerely,

Stephen DeSilva, M.D.
President, Wayne State University Physician Group

Robert R. Frank, M.D.
Chairman, Board of Directors, Wayne State University Physician Group

To join Dr. DeSilva and the Michigan Doctors Making a Difference coalition, please click on: www.mdmdcoalition.org.
WSU one of six national centers to participate in pediatric ICU research network

Children's Hospital of Michigan and the Wayne State University Department of Pediatrics have been named one of only six centers in the country to be accepted for participation in the National Institutes of Health's Collaborative Pediatric Critical Care Research Network.

Kathleen Meert, M.D., WSU professor of pediatrics, serves as principal investigator for the Detroit arm of this five-year, multi-center program designed to perform multiple clinical trials and translational research for children who are critically ill.

"It is vitally important to advance pediatric critical care. Because of the urgent demands of children in this intensive care unit (ICU) setting, current treatment modalities are based on limited tested knowledge," Dr. Meert said. "Within a pediatric intensive care unit, there are many different types of diseases—sepsis, trauma, congenital heart problems and cancers, for example. This makes it difficult to do sound clinical research. We need large numbers of patients with the same underlying problem to be able to expand treatment options."

According to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, this collaborative clinical research network will accelerate pediatric critical care research and lead to evaluation of promising new approaches to life support and critical decision-making in complex illnesses. It might take a single institution several years to gather enough data for thorough analysis, but the six NIH-designated centers working together can bring about meaningful research more rapidly. The other five centers are: Arkansas Children's Hospital, Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle. The data coordinating center is Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Given that there are 120 pediatric departments in the country, all with critical care units, the competition was fierce to become one of the first six centers in the NIH network," said Bonita Stanton, M.D., WSU chair of pediatrics. "This critical care group already has a highly productive research portfolio, and now they are participating in the establishment of a national network that is on par with the Neonatal Intensive Care Units Network, the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Unit Network, and the Pediatric Pharmacology Research Unit Network—all of which are already in operation at WSU. I am especially thrilled because the research Dr. Meert proposes deals with non-traditional topics of death and bereavement in the ICU, potentially expanding the research focus of the network beyond biomedical research to behavioral and quality of care issues. All of these areas are of great importance and overlapping in their consequences as we strive to further improve the care of critically ill children and their families."

Each qualifying principal investigator submitted a research proposal outlining the expertise he or she planned to contribute to the comprehensive research agenda. While the other centers stuck to traditional biomedical topics, Dr. Meert's $1.7 million proposal deals with critical behavioral research dealing with death and bereavement for parents of pediatric patients.

If approved as a network project, Dr. Meert plans to expand her current line of research and study "The Effect of Physician-Parent Post-Mortem Conference in Parental Grief Outcomes." Dr. Meert sees immense value in developing and testing a strategic communication intervention in which the physician who was with a child at the time of death has a personal consult with the child's parents approximately six weeks later to discuss the illness, go over autopsy reports, answer questions, offer guidance and provide compassionate counseling and bereavement resources. This meeting would be followed up for one year with measurements of the family's grief, psychological status and family relationships.

According to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, this collaborative clinical research network will accelerate pediatric critical care research and lead to evaluation of promising new approaches to life support and critical decision-making in complex illnesses.

"Unfortunately, these personal meetings with grieving families rarely happen. When they do, however, we find that parents more than anything want reassurance. They want to know that the parents and doctors did all they could do. They want to know that solid decision-making took place. They want to understand more about the illness or complications and feel comforted that all best efforts were made. And general information about disease is not good enough. The parents need to rely on the relationship they formed with the physician who personally cared for the child. This can be very constructive," Dr. Meert said. She is also interested in providing best practice guidelines for physicians, for example: how to say it, tone, body language, who should attend such an intervention, etc. She is developing this encounter with Terrance Albrecht, Ph.D., a WSU professor of family medicine and health communication expert at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

"Most children who die in the United States die in hospitals, and most of those are in intensive care units. This is a difficult setting and we need to do everything we can to help the children we care for and their parents," she said. Dr. Meert 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.
A report by Wayne State researchers found new evidence of rapid protein evolution, signaling biochemical adaptation and positive selection in the anthropoid primate lineage. The report, (article #09714) published in the April 25-29 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), further elucidates the biochemical mechanisms involved in aerobic energy metabolism, a complex process that coincides with the expansion of the energy-dependent neocortex of the brain during the emergence of higher primates like monkeys, apes and humans.

The study’s corresponding author, Lawrence Grossman, Ph.D., professor and director of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, said the WSU team, which also included Timothy Schmidt, Derek Wildman, Monica Uddin, Juan Opazo, and Morris Goodman, found rapid evolution at the cytochrome c (CYC) binding site on cytochrome c oxidase (COX) in anthropoid primates. CYC is known to interact directly with COX during electron transport by binding to specific sites. Previous research has shown that in vertebrates, CYC and COX are largely conserved and have few amino acid replacements. In contrast, the WSU researchers have identified 57 amino acids of COX that may bind CYC during electron transfer. Furthermore, the replacement rate for these residues was significantly accelerated in anthropoids compared to tarsiers, the most closely related non-anthropoid primate.

“With thorough DNA sequencing, we are identifying those positively selected mutations that shaped the genetic basis of being human,” Dr. Grossman said.

COX is the enzyme that catalyzes the final step of electron transfer through the respiratory chain, thus playing a vital role in providing energy for aerobic tissues. Phylogenetic analyses of gene sequences in different families indicate positively selected evolution of COX in lineages leading to gorilla, human and chimpanzee.

By parsimony from an interspecies alignment of binding site residues, the scientists discovered 27 changes from the earlier eutherians (placental mammalian ancestors) to humans, of which 59 percent were at electrostatically significant (ES) residue positions. The changes to the ES residues reduced the overall number of charged residues at the CYC binding site. The ES changes occurred only in stem-anthropoids and stem-catarrhines, and few changes occurred in the ape and Old World monkey lineages.

“This reduction in rate of amino acid replacement is consistent with the hypothesis that the changes in ancestral lineages were advantageous and positively selected and, in descendant lineages, have been maintained by purifying selection,” Dr. Grossman said.

Dr. Grossman and his colleagues have developed evidence that cytochrome c and subunits of complex III and COX that interact with it have undergone a period of accelerated evolution suggestive of positive selection at similar times in an ancestor of modern primates. “We believe that this remodeling of the electron transport chain supported the expansion of the energy-consuming enlarged neocortex that was taking place in these primate lineages. We are now seeking to characterize biochemically any modifications in electron transport that resulted. Finally, we are interested in the relationship between rapidly evolving genes and human disease,” he said.

This paper was contributed by Morris Goodman, Ph.D., who was elected into the National Academy of Sciences in 2002.
Low-dose estrogen prevents bone loss at menopause in most women, WSU study finds

Lower doses of estrogen alone or in combination with a progesterone-like drug increase mean bone-mineral density, according to a new Wayne State University School of Medicine study published recently in Osteoporosis International.

In a two-year study assessing the impact of hormone-replacement therapy on bone loss, women who took lower doses of estrogen alone or in combination with a progesterone-like drug suffered significantly less bone loss in their spines and hips than women who took a placebo. The study, which was conducted at four U.S. universities, was led in Detroit by Michael Kleerekoper, M.D., WSU professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology.

“ar the message of the article is that even in low doses estrogen prevents bone loss at menopause in the vast majority of women. That’s exciting news when you consider that women experience up to 20 percent of their lifetime bone loss in the five to seven years after the menopause,” Dr. Kleerekoper said. “The need to give every woman the old standard, one-size-fits-all dose is gone.”

In the randomized, double-blind study, 822 healthy post-menopausal women with intact uteri received either a placebo or varying doses of conjugated estrogens alone or in combination with two different doses of medroxyprogesterone acetate. The women also took 600 mg of calcium per day.

More than 85 percent of women receiving hormone therapy experienced no additional bone-mineral density loss at one year and two years, in comparison to 30.6 percent of women on placebo at 12 months and 36.5 percent of women on placebo at 24 months.

Dr. Kleerekoper also served on the planning committee for the Sixth International Symposium on Osteoporosis, “Current Status & Future Directions.” Sponsored by the National Osteoporosis Foundation, it is the only biennial scientific meeting in the United States to focus on osteoporosis and bone health across the lifespan. Dr. Kleerekoper notes: since no single specialty is focused on this disease, it is important to reach all healthcare professionals — including primary care providers, physical therapists, geriatricians, nurses and orthopedists — with the tools to fight osteoporosis.

3D scan detects heart disease with 99 percent accuracy

The face of cardiology is changing as the tools of the trade advance from research novelty to highly reliable diagnostic tests. Forget about invasive cardiac catheterizations and outpatient surgeries to detect heart disease. Instead, hold your breath for 20 seconds in the doctor’s office while he or she snaps your picture. That’s it.

Multi-slice computed tomography (MSCT) provides a 3-dimensional, high-resolution rendering of the heart. It allows doctors to see the heart on a computer screen as if were actually in plain view in the operating room. Once used mainly for research purposes, MSCT is quickly challenging traditional coronary angiography as the non-invasive alternative for detecting blockages, lesions, calcifications and plaque in the heart—even before a person experiences symptoms. Within seconds, a physician can look at the rendering on the screen and assess the health of the heart.

“The equipment is readily available, but has just recently passed rigorous testing and outpatient surgeries to detect heart disease. Instead, hold your breath for 20 seconds in the doctor’s office while he or she snaps your picture. That’s it.

Patients at risk of developing a stroke caused by narrowed brain arteries should take aspirin rather than a well-known anti-clotting medication to prevent a stroke from occurring, according to the results of a major national study published in the New England Journal of Medicine on March 31, 2005.

Seemant Chaturvedi, M.D., Wayne State University associate professor of neurology and director of the university’s stroke program, conducted the Detroit-area portion of the study and served on the study’s steering committee. The research was led by Dr. Marc Chimowitz of Emory University.

Funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, a division of the National Institutes of Health, the nearly $15 million, five-year study ended early because the anti-clotting drug, warfarin (marketed under the brand name
Spring 2005

Counadrin), was associated with more complications while showing no advantages over a high dose of aspirin. The study is known as the Warfarin-Aspirin Symptomatic Intracranial Disease study, or WASID.

Doctors describe narrowed or clogged arteries in the brain as intracranial arterial stenosis, accounting for approximately 90,000 strokes or stroke warning spells (transient ischemic attacks or TIAs) per year in the United States. Patients with this condition are at high risk for another stroke.

Warfarin or similar drugs were first suggested as a treatment for stroke caused by narrowed brain arteries 50 years ago. Previous studies had suggested that warfarin may be superior to aspirin for this cause of stroke, but the finding was inconclusive because of the limitations in the design of those studies.

The WASID study was conducted in a double-blind fashion, meaning that neither participants nor researchers knew which medication (warfarin or aspirin) was being taken until the study ended. Participants took either dose-adjusted warfarin (according to monthly blood tests) or 1300 mg. of aspirin daily (a higher dose than is usually recommended for heart disease and strokes of other causes).

The higher dose of aspirin was chosen because this was the dose for which there was the most reliable data from previous studies. There is some evidence that higher doses of aspirin may be more effective for inhibiting inflammation of blood vessels and preventing platelets (blood cells important for clotting) from sticking to the narrowed artery, although this is controversial. The concern with using higher doses of aspirin is the risk of causing stomach ulcers and bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract.

When the WASID study started in February of 1999, researchers had planned to enroll more than 800 participants over five years at more than 50 sites in the U.S. and Canada. However, after 569 participants were enrolled, NINDS stopped the study early on the recommendation of the independent Data Monitoring Committee because the warfarin group was developing complications at a higher rate than the aspirin group.

Complications included higher rates of major bleeding (8.3 percent of warfarin participants vs. 3.2 percent of aspirin participants) and death (9.7 percent of warfarin participants vs. 4.3 percent of aspirin participants) during an average follow-up time of 1.8 years.

“This study is likely to have a significant impact on physician practices for patients with narrowed blood vessels leading to the brain,” Dr. Chaturvedi said.

The researchers point out that warfarin is still a useful treatment for a variety of disorders, including atrial fibrillation. Patients who have questions about the use of warfarin should consult their doctors before making any decisions about altering their prescription regimens.

The researchers note that the costs to treat intracranial arterial stenosis would be reduced by using aspirin instead of warfarin. Not only is warfarin more expensive to purchase, repeated blood tests must be done also while taking the drug. Expenses climb again for treatment of increased complications of warfarin compared to aspirin.

The researchers estimate that these savings could amount to at least $20 million per year.

The research group is now planning another study that will evaluate the use of stenting (using a device to hold the blocked arteries open) to treat stroke related to narrowed brain arteries, in the hope that it will prove more effective than existing therapies.

Dr. Atallah’s main reason for touting the benefits of 3D heart scans rests in this fact: only 30 percent of people with serious blockages will ever show symptoms. For most people, the first symptom of heart disease is a heart attack or sudden cardiac death.

Although he doesn’t believe everybody needs to be universally screened with this $1000 heart scan, he believes it bridges the gap for high-risk people, with multiple risk factors, who want assurance in their diagnosis. If a person presents with chest pain or exertional shortness of breath, Dr. Atallah prescribes a traditional nuclear stress test and echocardiogram. If those tests show no need for concern, he considers their age, lifestyle behaviors, history of hypertension and genetic predisposition—all of which are determining factors for who should get the MSCT study.

He uses the example of an active, seemingly healthy 52-year old woman who went to Dr. Atallah because her three brothers had serious heart disease at a very young age. Nothing suspicious showed up on the stress test or ECHO, but because of her family history, she had the scan. The results showed severe triple vessel disease, and she immediately had three drug-eluted stents surgically placed. “We saved her life, but we would have never known her condition without this imaging technology,” he said.

“This isn’t the future of cardiology, it’s the present,” Dr. Atallah said. “We are doing it now.”

Dr. Atallah has been a WSU faculty member since 1976. He trains cardiology fellows and spends one day each week at the cardiac cath lab at Harper. He recently presented his work on MSCT coronary angiography at the Department of Internal Medicine Grand Rounds at WSU’s Scott Hall. As a keynote speaker, he recently presented his data at the “New Frontiers in Cardiology,” a CME symposium with nationally acclaimed staff, jointly offered by Harper University Hospital and Wayne State University. Incidentally, his son, Pierre, has recently been accepted to the WSU School of Medicine and will begin his medical education in the fall.
Dr. Jackson appointed interim assistant dean for basic-science education

Matthew Jackson, Ph.D., associate professor of immunology and microbiology, has been appointed interim assistant dean for basic-science education. Previously, the post was held by James Hazlett, Jr., Ph.D., who died unexpectedly Feb. 22.

“Although we are still mourning the loss of Dr. Hazlett, we are dedicated to preserving the important work he led here at the School of Medicine,” said Maryjean Schenk, M.D., M.P.H., interim associate dean for academic and student programs. “I am very grateful to have an exemplary educator and scholar such as Dr. Jackson to build on the foundation laid by Dr. Hazlett.”

In 1989, Dr. Jackson joined the WSU School of Medicine as an assistant professor of immunology and microbiology; he was promoted six years later to the rank of associate professor. His research has focused primarily on E. coli.

Dr. Jackson also has a strong interest in technology-enhanced medical education. In 2002, he led an effort to supply personal digital assistants, or PDAs, as educational tools to sophomore students. The interactive program allows course instructors to gauge in real time how well students are grasping various concepts discussed during a class.

Dr. Jackson received his Ph.D. in microbiology from Kansas State University in 1985 before completing a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Uniformed Services University Health Sciences, in Bethesda, Md. He also obtained a master’s degree in microbiology as well as a bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Dr. Jackson received an Excellence in Teaching Award from the WSU School of Medicine in 2000. He has served as a member of several study sections; Dr. Jackson is currently a member of the Enteric Diseases Panel, Military Infectious Disease Research Program, in Herndon, Va.

Patrick Bridge, Ph.D., to head medical evaluation and research initiative

Following his announcement in December to establish a Department of Medical Evaluation and Education Research for the School of Medicine, Interim Dean Robert R. Frank, M.D., announced the appointment of Patrick D. Bridge, Ph.D., to head the new initiative.

As assistant dean for medical evaluation and education research, Dr. Bridge is responsible for overseeing a schoolwide program to ensure the most progressive and effective medical curriculum and faculty development.

Dr. Bridge has been closely involved in medical school curriculum development and evaluation since joining the WSU faculty in 1997. An assistant professor of family medicine, Dr. Bridge has assisted in educating faculty in the development of research and evaluation methods and the application of statistical tests and educational theory (psychometrics). His role as medical educator has guided his scholarship and research activities in the areas of program evaluation, community-based cancer education and educational theory. He was fundamental in integrating the unique use of hand-held computers, or PDAs, into the medical education curriculum.

“Pat Bridge brings a high level of expertise and scholarship to this important new initiative,” noted Dean Frank. “He will do an excellent job in guiding medical education through effective use of new technology and applications in order to maintain our strength as a first-rate medical school.”

Dr. Bridge received his doctorate in evaluation and research from WSU in 1995. He holds a master’s degree from the University of Detroit and earned his undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan University. He held positions as medical software product designer with the MEDSTAT Group in Ann Arbor, as senior research administrator for SelectCare, Inc. in Troy and as quality improvement specialist/biostatistician with Sinai Hospital before joining the faculty.

Graduate student finds genetic clues to hydrocephalus

When Janet Miller defended her dissertation on March 27, she also summarized research that identifies for the first time a suite of genes that switch on or off as congenital hydrocephalus develops. “I’m really proud of the work she has done,” said Miller’s doctoral advisor Pat McAllister, Ph.D., a WSU professor of neurological surgery.

Miller’s goal at the outset was to search for a genetic component that was triggering the closure of the cerebral aqueduct and causing hydrocephalus. The aqueduct is a canal between balloon-like spaces, or ventricles, in the brain. Cerebrospinal fluid normally fills the ventricles and drains through the cerebral aqueduct. When the aqueduct closes or narrows, the fluid builds up and causes hydrocephalus, or “water on the brain,” a condition that affects as many as three of every 1,000 children born in the United States.

In her project, Miller sifted through the 7,000 estimated genes in the rat genome, she said. “Instead of studying one gene at a time, I tried to screen the entire genome to find out what was happening.” To do it, she turned to a rare animal model at Wayne State. In this rat colony, one of just a handful worldwide, the animals years ago developed a spontaneous mutation that caused them to develop hydrocephalus just as humans commonly do: by a closure of the cerebral aqueduct.

She examined the animals at 5 days old when those with the condition develop the domed head that is an obvious external sign of hydrocephalus. With guidance from Gary Krause, M.D., WSU professor of emergency medicine, she then compared midbrain RNA from affected and unaffected rats using isometric microarray analysis, and discovered 47 transcripts related to the incidence of congenital hydrocephalus. “Those 47 transcripts were representations of 21 genes, and the other significant transcripts represented expressed sequence tags. Seventeen of the 47 were upregulated, which means that there were more of them present in the hydrocephalic animal than in the control animal, and 30 of them were downregulated,” she said. “Then, using PubMed to search for any commonalities between our study and previously done research on hydrocephalus, I found that eight of the genes we identified were already known to be associated with hydrocephalus. To me, that was like finding eight little needles in this huge haystack of genes.”

The eight previously identified genes resulted from separate studies on human or other models, Miller said. “I think it’s pretty cool and significant that using a rat model, we still found a change in the same genes that these other laboratories did using different animals. The only common thing was hydrocephalus.”

Her findings are just the beginning, she said. “If we can target those genes that are acting to cause the closure of the cerebral aqueduct in animal models, we then have a springboard to start looking for those genes in humans.” She added, “It’s not going to be just one gene that magically turns on or off hydrocephalus. It’s going to be a conglomeration of genes acting together, but this at least gives us a starting point to ask, ‘If they’re altered in the rat, can they be altered in the human model as well, and if so, what can we do to change that and stop it from occurring?’”

Miller is a graduate student in the physiology department, performs research through the neurology department and is associated with the pediatric neurosurgery department at Children’s Hospital. Funding for her study came from the STARS Foundation.
Student recognized for outstanding community service

Healthy lifestyles are often hard to come by in urban areas like Detroit, where residents may not have reliable transportation, convenience stores and fast-food chains outnumber fresh produce markets, and many people have inadequate health insurance. Second-year WSU medical student Meredith Greene understands these problems and is taking steps to improve access to care in Detroit.

Greene volunteers at the Cass Clinic, educates inner city kids through Code Blue, is a youth mentor for Covenant House, was elected a medical student representative to the Wayne County Medical Society, is an advisor to the Detroit/Wayne County Public Health Authority, and has just finished her role as president of WSU’s chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). She was recently honored with an Outstanding Community Impact Award from Michigan Campus Compact, an organization that encourages Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens.

As part of her award, Greene was granted $200 to be donated to an organization of her choice. She donated it to Covenant House, which provides services to homeless and at-risk youth. Greene mentored a young man there for a year-and-a-half, providing encouragement and friendship. The young man has since left the shelter and is succeeding on his own.

“In order to understand and address any issue facing the community, it is critical to spend time with the people who live in the community to see the problems they are facing and the services they need,” Greene said. “Through mentorship, I have learned what it is like to survive the foster care system and survive life on the streets of Detroit. Similarly, by working at Cass Clinic, I see firsthand how many people are left out of the existing medical system and about the concerns they face including unemployment, lack of benefits, substance abuse, lack of prescription drug insurance coverage and difficulty getting to appointments because of inadequate public transportation.”

Laurie Boore, who nominated Greene for the award after serving with her on the AMSA board, said, “Meredith has an endless supply of energy to fuel her compassion. She is very dedicated to everything that she is involved with and she inspires other students to serve their community to the extent that she does.”

Greene believes it is her obligation as a future physician to advocate for and empower patients. She intends to practice medicine in an area like Detroit where there is a real need for improved medical care. She earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry and Spanish from Albion College in 1999, and expects to pursue a career in primary care and public health with a focus on service to the community.

Medical student wins award at resident research conference

When sickness or injury requires hospitalization, our already compromised immune system may be further insulted by anesthesia and surgical procedures. Interactions between anesthesia and the immune system are of clinical relevance because anesthetics are generally immunosuppressive.

Second-year medical student Leila Wing studied the effects of anesthetics on the immune system during a summer research preceptorship at the University of Michigan Medical School last year. She presented that research at the Midwest Anesthesiology Residents Conference in April and was awarded first place in her category—anesthetic mechanisms. Her win is especially impressive because she was competing with anesthesiology residents from prestigious institutions including the Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic and Northwestern University.

Wing’s research tested propofol, an injectable anesthetic, which is thought to have less impact on immune function than volatile anesthetics. To elucidate further interactions between propofol and the immune system, she used the pro-inflammatory cytokine interleukin-1 (IL-1) to induce acute immune responses in rats and determined the impact of these interactions on anesthesia time (or time it takes to “go under”), loss of righting reflex (ability to return to an upright position), and brain temperature.

Several results suggest clinical relevance of the propofol/immune system interaction. “The observation that central injections of IL-1 increases the proportion of animals that become anesthetized suggests that immune activation may sensitize the animal to anesthetic actions. In addition, because central IL-1 did reduce the duration of propofol-induced hypothermia, some mechanisms common to IL-1 responses and anesthetic actions may become activated with IL-1 administration. It is possible that manipulations at different circadian times or using different doses of IL-1 and/or propofol would reveal additional interactions. Additional investigations aim to further clarify relationships between immune activation and responses to anesthetics,” she said.

Professor Mark Opp, Ph.D., was Wing’s mentor during the U-M summer research program. “Leila’s project was difficult because it focused on interactions among anesthetics, an activated immune system and physiological responses. She tackled this project with enthusiasm, and the results of her initial study have provided a framework for future investigations. Leila was without doubt the best medical student I have had in my laboratory. I believe she will have a promising career in academic medicine.”

Wing hopes her research will help find anesthesia protocols that facilitate recovery after surgery.

Medical student Leila Wing won a first place research award at the Midwest Anesthesiology Residents Conference, beating out anesthesiology residents from prestigious institutions including the Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic and Northwestern University.
Class of 2005

Congratulations to the class of 2005 who celebrated Match Day and will pursue postgraduate medical training at the following institutions. Transitional students will begin training at one place and later transfer to another for their second year of postgraduate training, as indicated.

[Table listing of students and their institutions]
Michelle Dumler high-fives Rusty Masaru Oshita.
Class of 2005

Abdul M. Al Farsi
Deepawali 2005

Mazen Harake and Waled Ezzat offer mutual congrats.

Raji Senthivel
Orthopedic Surgery
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan

Brian J. Sullivan
Emergency Medicine
Martin Luther King Jr. - Charles R. Drew Medical Center
Los Angeles, California

**Naglap J. Shah (AOA)
Internal Medicine
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Shridha R. Shah
Emergency Medicine
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Gregory W. Shalhoub
Medicine-Preliminary
Oakwood Hospital
Dearborn, Michigan

Ahmed O. Shalwa
Transitional (1)
Neurology (2)
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Anupama Shivaraju
Internal Medicine
University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals
Tucson, Arizona

**Madhi A. Shkoukani (AOA)
Surgery-Preliminary (1)
Ophthalmology (2)
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Amr K. Shukairy
Postponing postgraduate training

Douglas A. Shuman
Internal Medicine
University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals
Tucson, Arizona

Crystal C. Simpson
Internal Medicine
St. John Hospital and Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Prawna Srinivasan
Internal Medicine
Ochsner Clinic Foundation
New Orleans, Louisiana

**William A. Smith (AOA)
Transitional (1)
St. John Hospital and Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Sonia Vishin
Internal Medicine
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Cheryl A. Villareal
Internal Medicine
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Barbara A. White
Emergency Medicine
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Andrew J. Weise
Psychiatry
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Clara E. Ward
Postponing postgraduate training

Charles Wang
Emergency Medicine
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

*Ethel A. Smith (AOA)
Transitional (1)
St. Joseph Mercy – Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor, Michigan

*Jennifer A. Van Dahm
Transitional (1)
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

Yvan Tran
Transitional (1)
Neurology (2)
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

**Jennifer A. Van Deurzen (AOA)
Transitional (1)
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

**Kaiya A. Van der Kooi (AOA)
Transitional (1)
Oakwood Hospital
Dearborn, Michigan

Sanu Vyas
Internal Medicine
University of Alabama Medical Center
Birmingham, Alabama

Mazin M. Waireno (AOA)
Surgery-Preliminary (1)
Orthopedic Surgery
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan

Bronson W. Wild
Postponing postgraduate training

**Thomas L. Williams (AOA)
Emergency Medicine
St. John Hospital and Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

**Sarah Williams
Orthopedic Surgery
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan

Celebrating among friends are Naznin Mahmood, Aman Shukairy, Nahla Salem and Mary Mathew.

The appearance of a name on this list is presumptive but not conclusive evidence of graduation.

*AOA Alpha Omega Alpha Academic Honor Society

* With Distinction – Comprehensive honors in Year I & II or I & III

** With High Distinction – Comprehensive honors in Years I, II & III

James M. Wells
Sandy Medicine
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
North Carolina

Lafaye Y. Woods
Sandy Medicine
McLaren Regional Medical Center
Flint, Michigan

Joanna G. Wu
Internal Medicine
University of Texas Southwest Medical School
Dallas, Texas

Alok Yowarkar
Internal Medicine
Bowneview Armory Medical Center
Fort Belvoir, Georgia

Michael H. Yoo
Psychiatry
University of Michigan Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Eric H. Young
Medicine-Preliminary
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan

Zena G. Youssef
Surgery-Preliminary
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

*Manoj Zolotarsky
Internal Medicine
University of Michigan Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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James M. Wells
Sandy Medicine
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
North Carolina

Lafaye Y. Woods
Sandy Medicine
McLaren Regional Medical Center
Flint, Michigan

Joanna G. Wu
Internal Medicine
University of Texas Southwest Medical School
Dallas, Texas

Alok Yowarkar
Internal Medicine
Bowneview Armory Medical Center
Fort Belvoir, Georgia

Michael H. Yoo
Psychiatry
University of Michigan Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Eric H. Young
Medicine-Preliminary
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan

Zena G. Youssef
Surgery-Preliminary
Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center
Detroit, Michigan

*Manoj Zolotarsky
Internal Medicine
University of Michigan Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The appearance of a name on this list is presumptive but not conclusive evidence of graduation.

*AOA Alpha Omega Alpha Academic Honor Society

* With Distinction – Comprehensive honors in Year I & II or I & III

** With High Distinction – Comprehensive honors in Years I, II & III
Brain awareness shared
Real, dead brains were on display March 19 at the Detroit Public Library as part of the WSU School of Medicine’s Brain Awareness Day. Organized by graduate students in the Cellular and Clinical Neurobiology Program, the event was the culmination of a week of events in schools throughout metropolitan Detroit that teach children about the human brain and its function.

“We spend our lives in the laboratories performing experiments to try to figure out how the brain functions and how diseases alter that function,” said Mays Imad, one of the co-chairs of Brain Awareness Week. “It is refreshing for us to be able to take a step back and share our knowledge in another way by educating the community about the brain in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.”

Michigan legislators learn about life of medical residents
Nearly 40 legislators and legislative aids from the state of Michigan gathered at Project Medical Education, a program developed to showcase the value of medical education to Michigan’s health-care system.

A partnership of the Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Southeast Michigan Center for Medical Education, the program provided policymakers with an accurate background that will empower them to make sound decisions about graduate medical education. These decisions, in turn, affect Michigan’s medical schools, affiliated teaching hospitals and the people they serve. As part of the two-day event, legislators participated in on-site learning experiences that illustrate the critical value of supporting the educational environment within the health-care system.

Brain imaging advances new driver distraction research
What happens deep inside your brain when you’re talking on the phone and suddenly have to brake? Soon, researchers from General Motors, Wayne State University and Henry Ford Hospital may have an answer, thanks to new research revealed at the SAE World Congress in April.

The research was conducted in 2003 and 2004 and benchmarks data against which future studies can be measured. It was funded by the GM Foundation and is believed to be the first research that addresses driver distraction by using brain imaging to examine driving-like behaviors in a laboratory setting.

The team used functional (real-time) magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) at Wayne State and magnetoencephalography (MEG) at Henry Ford to determine where and when areas of the brain were activated when a test subject viewed a driving video and stepped on a brake pedal when cued by a light. Human factors safety researchers consider this an established driver performance test.

In the next phase of research, the team is studying how cell phone use while driving affects brain activity.

Research enhancement program benefits medical school researchers
For the third year in a row, President Irvin Reid has earmarked $1.8 million for the WSU research enhancement program, the bulk of which went to School of Medicine programs.

This program is intended to contribute to developing research themes for the university with an emphasis on an urban mission, a global presence and technology. This year’s funds are designated for research aimed at understanding and overcoming the disparity in health outcomes, particularly those related to chronic diseases among medically underserved and ethnic minority populations living in an urban environment.

Part of this year’s funds will be used to build capacity in the WSU Center for Urban and African American Health, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Led by John Flack, M.D., M.P.H., WSU associate chair of internal medicine, the center seeks new ways to redress health disparities by identifying preventive strategies and therapeutic approaches to chronic diseases that plague this population, namely obesity, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

In addition to funding CUAH, five additional WSU proposals will receive funding from the research enhancement program.

• “Looking for Answers in Lymphedema Prevention: Is it what we inherit? Is it what we do? Is it what we treat?” The goal of this project is to reduce the incidence of arm lymphedema in breast cancer survivors in Detroit. The interdisciplinary team for this project is led by Mary Ann Kosir, WSU associate professor of surgery at the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

• “Feasibility Study of Testing Fecal DNA/RNA and Bacterial Markers for Population Studies.” The goal of this interdisciplinary project is to gain knowledge that is useful in the prevention of colorectal cancer for high-risk populations, such as African Americans. Ikuko Kato, WSU associate professor of surgery at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, leads this project.

• “Prostate Cancer Admixture Mapping in African-American Men” This two-year study will use an approach called admixture to identify genes involved in prostate cancer susceptibility in African-American men. The project is led by Cathryn Bock, WSU assistant professor at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, and Elisabeth Heath, WSU assistant professor of internal medicine.

• “Reducing Health Disparities in Urban Adult Populations through Personalized E-Technology: Impacts and Effects of eHealthSmart.” The goal of this project is to research use and effectiveness of personalized computer software that identifies and addresses specific health-promoting lifestyle needs of individuals disproportionately affected by smoking, obesity and other chronic diseases. Joseph Tan, chair of information systems and manufacturing at the School of Business Administration, leads the interdisciplinary team for this project.

• “Helping Older Minority Women Transition from Homelessness” This two-year study involves 75 African-American women, age 45 and older, during their transition from homelessness. The project’s interdisciplinary team is led by Olivia Washington, WSU associate professor of nursing at the Institute of Gerontology, and David Moxley, WSU professor of social work.

Internal medicine researchers honored
Congratulations to the winners of the 12th annual Department of Internal Medicine Research Day. Dr. Diane Levine, executive director of medical education, said, “Research day represents the culmination of the scholarly work of our trainees and serves as a stepping stone to presentations at regional and national meetings and publications. We congratulate our residents and fellows on their accomplishments.”

1st place oral presentation – research
Dr. Yelena Selektor – Is Triopinin Elevation as a Single Variable Sufficient to Refer a Patient for Cardiac Catherization?
2nd place oral presentation – research
Dr. Sabrena Misra – Aging is Associated with Decreased Expression of Cell Cycle Apoptosis Regulatory Protein (CARP-1) in the Colonic Mucosa
1st place oral presentation – clinical
Dr. Neesha Griffin Berry – Unusual Site of Internal Jugular Thrombosis Associated with Factor V Leiden Mutation
2nd place oral presentation – clinical
Dr. Leandro Perez – Michael’s Thyroid Factor, More Than Just a Storm
1st place poster presentation
Dr. Nirav MAMDANI – A Rare Case of ANCA Negative Wegener’s Granulomatosis
Dr. Julie WRIGHT – A Rare Case of Primary Mediastinal Non-Seminomatous Germ Cell Tumor Presenting with SVC Syndrome

2nd place poster presentation
Dr. Khaled Esmaeel Awad – Aspirin Induced Stevens – Johnson Syndrome

Sinaí Grace Research Day 2005
Congratulations to the Sinaí Grace Research Day 2005 winners. This year’s program was a great success with a record number of abstract submissions. First-place winners received a $500 prize; second-place received $250; and third-place winners were awarded $100.

Basic Science Research-Oral
First Place-Pravin Goud, M.D., OB/GYN
Second Place-Aamir Memon, M.D., Medicine

Case Report-Oral
First Place-Courtney Jones, M.D., Medicine
Second Place-Kamal Nasser, M.D., Medicine
Third Place-Wahed Ishaqei, M.D., Medicine

Clinical Research-Oral
First Place-Irfan Hameed, M.D., Medicine
Second Place-Farah Mullah, M.D., Family Medicine
Third Place-Jason Moore, M.D., Emergency Medicine

Clinical Research-Poster
First Place-Israel Hendler, M.D., OB/GYN
Second Place-Mohamed Mitwally, M.D., OB/GYN
Third Place-Lisa Potts, Pharm.D., Pharmacy

Honors
Thomas Beaumont, M.D./Ph.D., student, received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award fellowship for his proposal, “Activity-Dependent Gene Expression in Epileptogenesis.” Beaumont’s work is sponsored by Jeffery Loeb, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology and a member of the Center for Molecular Medicine & Genetics. The award covers all educational expenses, provides benefits, a stipend and a limited institutional allowance for equipment. It also allows Beaumont to participate in career-development exercises, including mentoring and an annual trip to the National Institutes of Health. Beaumont’s research focuses on molecular mechanisms leading to the development of epilepsy.

Mark Juzych, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology and assistant dean for graduate medical education, is a recipient of the Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award granted by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The award is given annually to 10 outstanding residency program directors of more than 8,000 eligible individuals throughout the nation. According to the ACGME, “Program directors face many challenges in administering a residency program. Those finding innovative ways to teach residents and to provide quality health care in this harsh environment should be celebrated.”

Ahmed Kaseb, M.D., internal medicine resident, won an award for a research poster at the 2005 American College of Physicians National Meeting.

Tabarak Qureshi, M.D., internal medicine resident, won an award for a poster at the 2005 American College of Physicians National Meeting. The research title was “Peripheral But Not Central Chemoreflex Responsiveness is Enhanced in African Americans Compared to Caucasians During Wakefulness.”
Dr. John Crissman keeps good company as Case Western’s notable alumn

Imagine a list that includes among its notables two former U.S. surgeons general, three Nobel laureates, and a former dean of the WSU School of Medicine. John Crissman, M.D., is a proud member of this list of notable alumni in health care and medicine from Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Crissman earned his medical degree from Case Western in 1966, the same year the Medicare program began, insulin was first synthesized, and the first scribe in China, and it cost a nickel to send a letter.

It’s true that former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., was a key speaker on the research agenda list for his position as ‘America’s doctor’ but at the same time, Dr. Crissman was running the nation’s fourth largest medical school, graduating more than 250 new doctors each year to care for patients all over Michigan and throughout the country. Furthermore, he successfully coordinated the WSU School of Medicine’s faculty practice plans into a streamlined organization, the Wayne State University Physician Group—an achievement, in some WSU circles, that rivals the Nobel Peace Prize, joke administrators.

Upon graduation from Case Western, Dr. Crissman completed a surgery internship at the University of Michigan and a residency at Detroit General Hospital. From 1968 to 1970, he was a captain in the United States Air Force, and then returned to Ohio for a four-year pathology residency.

Dr. Crissman was appointed to the faculty at the University of Cincinnati in 1974 and remained there until 1981 when he was named a professor of pathology at Wayne State University. In 1990, he became chair of the Department of Pathology, pathologist-in-chief for the Detroit Medical Center, and medical director for the DMC University Laboratories. After a short stint as associate dean for research and graduate programs at the Wayne State University School of Medicine, he was named interim dean, until the faculty voted to forego the national search process and appoint Dr. Crissman as permanent dean in 2000.

During his five-year tenure as dean, Dr. Crissman boosted the quality and stature of the school in many ways. He negotiated a landmark contract with the WSU’s primary teaching hospital system, the Detroit Medical Center, and ensured strong, long-term partnerships. He built relationships with hospitals throughout southeastern Michigan for education and research opportunities. He increased peer-reviewed research funding by 30 percent, secured for the school a 10-year contract for the Perinatology Research Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and established a formal research and education affiliation with Detroit’s Henry Ford Health System.

A pathologist specializing in head and neck tumors, Dr. Crissman has written more than 250 papers and chapters on the study of cancer and the spread of malignant tumors. He continues to serve WSU as professor of pathology, and enjoys golfing and skiing in his off-time. Kudos to Dr. Crissman, a notable Case Western alum indeed, and a distinguished WSU leader.

S. Freeya Banerjee, Ph.D., post-doctoral fellow in psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, published a paper in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics on a possible new treatment for children with severe phobia of choking on food or liquids. Dr. Banerjee works with David Rosenberg, M.D., Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair of Child Psychiatry and director of the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Clinical Research Program.

Cancer researchers from WSU had 34 abstracts accepted for presentation at the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research. The meeting was held in April in Anaheim, Calif. Wayne State University was represented well.

Seemant Chaturvedi, M.D., WSU associate professor of neurology, co-chaired a session on the clinical aspects of stroke at the 2005 American Academy of Neurology’s annual meeting. In a separate matter, Dr. Chaturvedi recently was interviewed in the American College of Radiology, a publication of the American Academy of Neurology, on the topic of carotid endarterectomy and stenting.

William Coplin, M.D., associate professor of neurology, is chair-elect of the American Academy of Neurology’s Section on Critical Care and Emergency Neurology.

Nicolas Cottaris, Ph.D., and Sylvia Elfar, Ph.D., assistant professors of ophthalmology, published a paper titled “How the Retinal Network Reacts to Epiretinal Stimulation to Form the Prosthetic Visual Input to the Cortex,” in the Journal of Neural Engineering.

Errol Cook, M.D., interim chair, Department of Medicine, decided to return to his home state of Alabama to accept a position as chair of internal medicine at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile.

Robert Freedman, Ph.D., professor in the departments of obstetrics & gynecology and psychiatry & behavioral neurosciences, gave a talk at the National Institutes State-of-the-Science Conference on Menopause, in Bethesda, Md. The talk was titled “Hot Flashes: Behavioral Treatments, Mechanisms and Relationships with Sleep.”

Richard Gallagher, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, has been appointed to the editorial board of Virtual Cancer Centre.com, that educates primary care physicians and patients about emerging treatments and clinical trials. He also participated in a meeting of the National Cancer Institute Committee G – Education in Washington, D.C. Dr. Gallagher also serves as director of the Division of Medical Education within his department.

David Grignon, M.D., professor and chair of pathology, was co-author a new long-term study by the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), a clinical research component of the American College of Radiology (ACR). The study showed that prostate cancer patients live longer when given goserelin immediately following radiotherapy. It was published in the April issue of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics and details the 10-year results of a national multicenter clinical trial that enrolled nearly 1,000 patients with locally advanced prostate cancer.

Murali Guthikonda, M.D., interim chair of neurological surgery, was invited by the Greater Detroit Endocrine Club as a guest neurosurgeon at their March 3 meeting.

Susan Hendrix, D.O., WSU professor of obstetrics & gynecology, was the first guest on “Author in the Room,” a new program sponsored by the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Institute of Healthcare Improvement. The program, a live conference call aimed at closing the gap between research publication and physician practice, will help journal readers consider the implications of study results for improved practice. The first session focused on Dr. Hendrix’s recent study, “Effects of Estrogen with and without Progestin Therapy on Urinary Incontinence.” Dr. Hendrix also served on a National Institutes of Health state-of-science panel that issued a statement stressing that menopause must not be viewed as a disease. The panel, which Dr. Hendrix helped to plan and served as a speaker for, found that many women move through the menopausal transition with few disabling symptoms.

Peter Karpawich, M.D., professor of pediatrics and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children’s Hospital Michigan, was an invited Grand Rounds speaker at New York University School of Medicine. His topic was “Interventional Device Therapy in Children with Congenital Heart Defects.” He was also an invited faculty speaker at the 26th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Heart Rhythm Society, held in New Orleans. His topics included “Hurdles in Pacemaker Lead Implant and Removal” and “Concepts, Strategies and Technologies of Cardiac Pacing in Children.”

Omar Khan, M.D., WSU associate professor of neurology, co-chaired a session on clinical trials for multiple sclerosis at the 2005 American Academy of Neurology’s annual meeting.

Michael Kleerekoper, M.D., professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, served on the planning committee for the National Osteoporosis Foundation’s Sixth International Symposium on Osteoporosis, “Current Status and Future Directions,” which was held in April, is the only biennial scientific meeting in the United States to focus on osteoporosis and bone health across the lifespan.

Tammy Lundstrom, M.D., J.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, has been appointed to a newly established Pandemic Influenza Working Group. The group was established by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, a federal body that reports to the Department of Health and Human Services, to solicit input regarding national preparedness and response. Dr. Lundstrom was appointed to represent the National Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

Frank McMaster, Ph.D., post-doctoral fellow in psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, was selected from a pool of 150 applicants as a 2005 Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion Travel Awardee. The focus of the symposium is on genes, brain and emotion. He works with David Rosenberg, M.D., Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair of Child Psychiatry and director of the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Clinical Research Program.

Qasim Omran, M.D., resident in internal medicine, is presenting an abstract titled “Induction of Periodic Breathing. The Influence of Gender” at the 19th annual meeting of the American Professional Sleep Societies in June. His research mentor was Dr. Safwan Badr.

Sridivei Pitta, M.D., resident in internal medicine, published “ST-Segment Depression on the Initial ECG in Acute MI: Prognostic Significance and its Effect on Short Term Mortality: A Report from the National Registry of Myocardial Infarction” in The American Journal of Cardiology. Her research mentor is Dr. Robert Zalenski.

Padrac Sweny, M.D., associate professor of emergency medicine, has been named chief of emergency medicine at Detroit Receiving Hospital and University Health Center.