Interim Dean Dr. Robert R. Frank poised to advance school’s missions

Wayne State University President Irvin Reid announced the appointment of Robert R. Frank, M.D., as interim dean of the School of Medicine, effective October 25, 2004. Dr. Frank will provide leadership while a national search is being conducted for a permanent dean.

Dr. Frank is associate professor of medicine and associate dean for academic and student programs for the medical school. He has been a member of the faculty since 1977.

“During this critical period, I am not interested in babysitting the School of Medicine, but in vigorously advancing our missions,” Dr. Frank said. “I plan to move forward with John Crissman’s agenda and add to it, making this a great place for our 14th permanent dean to join. As we approach our critical 2006 LCME accreditation renewal beginning with the self-study this spring, I want to take the opportunity to energize the whole community of people teaching here. We are going to emerge as a much stronger school.”

As associate dean, Dr. Frank has been primarily responsible for shaping a comprehensive medical curriculum. He has made social responsibility an intrinsic component of medical education, bringing an important and appropriate balance to the medical student experience. He has incorporated subjects such as doctor-patient communication, end-of-life care, geriatric medicine, palliative care, environmental-health exposures and cultural differences into the medical school curriculum.

“I feel very passionately about this school: what it does, who it educates, the people who work here, the people who do research here, the people who care for patients here. It’s been an important part of my life, and it will continue to move forward,” Dr. Frank said.

Dr. Frank’s major clinical interests are in geriatrics and end-of-life care. He was the chief of medicine at Detroit Receiving Hospital from 1983-1985. He co-founded the Palliative Care Service at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Dr. Frank has been active in university and School of Medicine administrative and academic initiatives, and is now spearheading the fund drive for the construction of the Education Commons, a new medical education building that will greatly enhance the school’s ability to recruit top calibre students and to ensure them an unparalleled education.

He is a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility and is a strong advocate for often forgotten patient groups like the elderly and the indigent. He was the geriatrician in charge of the St. Pat’s Senior Center Medical Clinic in Detroit for 20 years.

Dr. Frank is providing leadership to the WSU School of Medicine while a national search is conducted for a permanent dean.
Dr. Frank urges all to “make a difference”

As interim dean, Dr. Robert R. Frank is touting 2005 as “A Year to Make a Difference.” Returning to the school’s mission of service, Dr. Frank is urging students, faculty and staff to commit themselves to meaningful actions and initiatives that promote a culture of kindness, compassion and altruism at the School of Medicine. “We have a service-driven mission and we take it seriously,” Dr. Frank said. “We are a good citizen and we comprise a major portion of the health care safety net in Detroit. This medical school has not turned its back on patients who don’t have the proper Blue Cross card or proper address. I’m proud of that.”

Recognizing the national economic problem of caring for under- and uninsured citizens, Dr. Frank said, “These are not just numbers. They are real people deserving of our care. And we do care deeply. We will continue providing the highest quality care to patients and the most advanced medical education to students in a spirit of responsibility and service to this community.”

Throughout the year, Dr. Frank will reward and recognize those individuals who provide outstanding service in the form of exceptional patient care, student mentoring, socially responsible research, public health initiatives, charitable activities and patient advocacy. The year’s activities will culminate in a recognition event on “Make a Difference Day” on Oct. 22, 2005.

“There are countless people who already provide care to the indigent, lead charitable activities and participate in service activities all over this community. We want them to be recognized and allow that spirit to spread. It is our calling and our responsibility.”

One-year plan begins to take shape

Interim Dean Dr. Robert R. Frank has engaged the faculty, staff and students in a planning and discussion process to produce a 12-month plan that will address the school’s most immediate needs and missions in education, research, clinical care and community outreach. Dr. Frank will hold a public forum, called Conversation with the Dean, approximately every six weeks to provide updates and information.

At his forum on education, his first order of business was the creation of a WSU School of Medicine Lamp and Staff Society to advise the school on medical education and curriculum issues and to form a nucleus of scholars. The first members of the group are past winners of the Lamp and Staff awards, honors bestowed annually by students at Lampoon.

“I want everyone to know how important these people are to us,” Dean Frank said in recognizing the Lamp and Staff awardees, many of whom were present. “I think students really do know who their best teachers are.” This group is to be instrumental in advancing medical education to students, peers, and the community at large who simply want to learn more about their own nutrition, disease or health concerns.

Other education-related items that are under consideration are: raising the class size to address the forecasted doctor shortage, combining or reorganizing some academic departments to better strengthen our focus and resources, implementing initiatives like the Education Commons and medical education research resources to be the dominant force for medical education in southeast Michigan, and to ensure that students have a personalized and meaningful experience in medical school.

Dr. Frank has appointed a committee to study the proposition of adding up to 30 new students, increasing enrollment from 270 students to 300 students. This plan has been offered by the university to aid in providing revenue to the School of Medicine. Under the plan, the school would directly receive all tuition revenues generated by each student accepted over the traditional cap of 270.

Dean Frank said that the plan dovetailed well with a recent report showing that by 2015, there will be a doctor shortage in the United States by as many as 100,000 to 150,000 physicians. He said there will be a national trend to admit more students for training, perhaps leading to the construction of additional medical schools. He acknowledged, however, that expanded facilities would be required as well as additional resources, particularly in terms of faculty commitment.

Dean Frank also noted that the administration will have to think creatively to ensure that students entering into the school’s large community have a way of feeling a personalized connection with their experience. “The business of medicine is challenging,” Dr. Frank said. “But we should all look at what we can do individually to make this a better place.”

Chartier Members of the WSU School of Medicine Lamp and Staff Society

Ray Brown, M.D., Ph.D. 
Pau Voters, M.D. 
Piero Foa, M.D., Ph.D. 
Harry Goshgarian, Ph.D. 
Robert P. Preuscho, Ph.D. 
Sam Brooks, Ph.D. 
Dyung Rhothen, M.D. 
James Hazlett, Ph.D. 
Kenneth Palmer, Ph.D. 
Stephen Gauthier, M.D. 
Paula Grannam, Ph.D. 
Lawrence Weener, Ph.D. 
William kapsky, M.D. 
Danie Visscher, M.D. 
Thomas McGuffith, M.D. 
Donald Whalen, M.D. 
Stephan DaRico, Ph.D. 
Diane Levine, M.D. 
Carl Lustier, M.D. 
Anna Ledgerwood, M.D. 
Ronald Townesy, M.D. 
Z. Stanger, M.D. 
Blaine White, M.D. 
Valentina Valentinovna, M.D. 
James Collins, M.D. 
Robert R. Frank, M.D. 
Ernest Yoder, M.D. 
Bernard Mandelbaum, M.D. 
Henry Vandenbong, M.D. 
Vivek Swar, M.D. 
Scott Dulevsky, M.D. 
Mark Edelson, M.D. 
Carl Christensen, M.D., Ph.D. 
Lavoro Tranchida, M.D. 
Mislion Varden, M.D. 
Lawrence Schwartz, M.D. 
James Tybarski, M.D.
Prenatal alcohol exposure linked to subtle cognitive defects

Detecting subtleties is perhaps what Sandra Jacobson, Ph.D, does best. With volumes of literature on deficits in children with fetal alcohol syndrome, Dr. Jacobson asks the follow-up questions: how much prenatal alcohol exposure is dangerous, what are the measurable effects, and are some children more susceptible than others?

Dr. Jacobson’s study in the November issue of Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research reports the following:

• Many children with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) have an IQ of less than 70.

• Less is known about IQ deficits in children with alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder (ARND), who have generally subtler neurobehavioral deficits than those with FAS.

• New findings indicate substantial effects on IQ among children with ARND who were born to older mothers, mothers with alcohol dependence, and mothers who drank during the time of conception.

In essence, pregnant women who drink even moderately increase the risk of neurobehavioral deficits in their children. They can range from subtle to severe, but they are measurable nonetheless. The newly published report by Wayne State researchers examines the impact of certain moderator variables on the relation between prenatal alcohol exposure and subsequent child IQ. Results indicate that drinking during pregnancy by an older mother or by a mother with a history of drinking problems can have substantial effects on IQ.

“FAS is characterized by growth retardation, central nervous system impairment, and a distinctive pattern of craniofacial anomalies,” said Dr. Jacobson, professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences. “ARND refers to nonsyndromal individuals with confirmed heavy prenatal alcohol exposure who exhibit measurable, but generally subtler neurobehavioral deficits than those seen with FAS. Whereas FAS is well established and easier to diagnose, it is not generally recognized that a child can be adversely affected by prenatal alcohol exposure without the characteristic facial features and growth deficits. Nonetheless, alcohol-exposed children with attention deficits or poor social judgment who lack the pattern of facial dysmorphic features may suffer from a similar set of problems that interfere with their academic and social performance.”

“The incidence and severity of FAS and ARND vary considerably among children with similar prenatal exposures,” Dr. Jacobson said. “Despite extensive interest in the differential susceptibility attributed to influences ranging from genetic predisposition to nutritional inadequacy, there has been relatively little systematic empirical investigation of the factors that may determine which children are affected.”

Researchers administered the Wechsler Intelligence Scales for Children-III (WISC-III) to 337 inner-city African American children at 7.5 years of age whose mothers were recruited prenatally. (The WISC-III is the most commonly used standardized test of IQ administered to children.) Numerous potential confounding variables were examined, including maternal education and IQ, smoking and illicit drug use, quality of parenting, maternal depression and psychopathology, and current maternal drinking. Researchers also used the Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST) to assess severity of psychosocial and physical alcohol-related problems.

This and other studies have shown that the wide variability in child outcomes is related to the fact that some children are more susceptible than others to the effects of alcohol exposure. In the Jacobson et al. study the most susceptible children had mothers who were 30 years or older at time of delivery, were more likely to have had drinking problems, provided the child with a less stimulating environment, and drank during time of conception.

Dr. Jacobson’s future research will attempt to identify the underlying neural substrates that mediate the effects of alcohol exposure on behavior. “For example, we are beginning to study effects of alcohol exposure on components of arithmetic and number processing which have been linked to specific brain regions,” she said. “We plan to use innovative neuroimaging procedures to help target when and where the damage occurs. By also identifying critical moderators of the relation between alcohol exposure and outcome, we hope to improve the ability to identify affected individuals and thus better understand the specific damage and mechanism by which this damage occurs. We have also collected data on a genetic polymorphism involved in maternal alcohol metabolism that appears to protect some children from the adverse effects of fetal alcohol exposure. Ultimately, the goal is to improve diagnosis and treatment of the full range of FASD and better identify women at high risk of having children with FASD.”

WSU co-authors include: Joseph Chiodo and Raluca Corobana.
Wayne State University School of Medicine study published in the Feb. 23, 2005, issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association has found that hormone replacement therapies once touted for beneficial effects on urinary incontinence may actually increase the incidence of incontinence in postmenopausal women.

Menopausal hormone therapy consisting of oral estrogen plus progestin or estrogen alone has long been used to treat postmenopausal women and, until recently, was credited with many benefits well beyond the indications for symptomatic relief of hot flashes, night sweats and vaginal dryness, according to background information in the article. One of the purported benefits of menopausal hormone therapy was to improve the symptoms of urinary incontinence; thus, it has often been prescribed to treat incontinence.

Susan Hendrix, D.O., WSU professor of obstetrics & gynecology, along with her colleagues conducted a study to determine the effects of estrogen and progestin or estrogen alone on the one-year incidence and severity of symptoms of three types of incontinence in healthy postmenopausal women: stress incontinence, which occurs when involuntary pressure is put on the bladder by coughing, laughing, sneezing, lifting or straining; urge incontinence, which is generally attributable to involuntary contractions of the bladder muscle; and mixed urinary incontinence, which involves involuntary leakage associated with urgency and also with exertion, effort, sneezing or coughing.

The researchers analyzed data from the Women's Health Initiative, a multicenter double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trial of menopausal hormone therapy in 27,347 postmenopausal women aged 50 to 79 years enrolled between 1993 and 1998. Existence of any urinary incontinence symptoms was known for 23,296 participants at baseline and one year.

Women were randomized to receive estrogen alone, estrogen plus progestin or placebo. The WHI trials were designed to evaluate the effects of menopausal hormone therapy using estrogen and progesterin or estrogen alone in preventing coronary heart disease and hip fractures in postmenopausal women. Both trials ended prematurely because more harm than benefit was observed.

However, the researchers found that menopausal hormone therapy increased the incidence of all types of urinary incontinence at one year among women who were continent at baseline.

The risk was highest for stress incontinence (1.87-fold increased risk with estrogen plus progestin; estrogen alone alone, 2.15-fold increased risk), followed by mixed incontinence (1.49-fold increased risk with estrogen plus progestin; estrogen alone alone, 1.79-fold increased risk). Combination therapy had no significant effect on developing urge incontinence, but estrogen alone increased the risk by 1.32 fold.

Among women who reported having urinary incontinence at baseline, both frequency and amount of incontinence worsened in both trials. Women receiving menopausal hormone therapy were more likely to report that urinary incontinence limited their daily activities and bothered or disturbed them at one year. ■
The experts on HIV are not just the doctors, but also the people living with HIV, said community researcher Julie Gleason-Comstock, Ph.D. “To learn more about risk behaviors associated with HIV, we ask the women who have it and listen to what they say.”

With a public health perspective and an interest on HIV/AIDS prevention and care, Dr. Gleason-Comstock is principal investigator for six related research and evaluation projects in Detroit and she recently won a Women of Wayne Alumni Association Research Award grant to focus on HIV and aging women. Her approach is risk reduction through community empowerment and advocacy.

In partnership with the Community Health Awareness Group (CHAG), the largest community-based provider of HIV counseling and testing in Detroit, Dr. Gleason-Comstock has noted an increase in older people diagnosed as HIV-positive. “We recently completed a study with internal medicine residents at an urban medical school and found that the majority reported seeing at least one HIV-positive woman 45 years or older in the last six months.”

Cindy Bolden Calhoun, executive director of CHAG agrees. “In our HIV care services, proportionately, we are seeing older clients and serving more women,” she said.

Older women may be at risk for HIV for a number of reasons. In general, they are still sexually active. They have likely had multiple sex partners throughout their lives. Because they are less concerned about pregnancy, they may be less concerned with condom use. As they age, they or their partners may continue risk behaviors such as drug use. Plus, people are living longer and better with HIV, which could contribute to more people becoming infected. These are the issues Dr. Gleason-Comstock hopes to address as she learns more about HIV-associated risk behaviors.

One of her interests is learning how women with HIV receive primary care and how satisfactory their care is. She also wants to know what the primary care physician’s perception is regarding HIV and aging women. In the same way that a physician would ask a 50-year-old woman questions about diabetes, hypertension and osteoporosis, would he or she also automatically screen for HIV? Dr. Gleason-Comstock and community medicine colleagues Drs. Alicia Streeter and Rosalie Young are surveying WSU School of Medicine alumni to gather some data on the subject.

Finally, Dr. Gleason-Comstock’s research involves giving HIV-positive women computer access, familiarity and basic skills. Planning is underway to ask study subjects to complete a computer-based survey to increase their comfort with Web technology. “It’s a win-win situation,” she said. “We learn what these community experts have to say and we can offer them some skills in addition.”

Dr. Gleason-Comstock is an assistant professor in the Department of Community Medicine. She holds a Ph.D. in educational policy and administration/community education from the University of Minnesota. She began working in public health research in 1985 in the Department of Epidemiology/School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Minnesota Heart Health Program, where she published research on community organization interventions. As coordinator of the Michigan Department of Community Health HIV/AIDS Continuum of Care and the first City of Detroit Health Department Ryan White CARE Act Title I, she has presented nationally on community health challenges of HIV/AIDS.
For many years, ultrasonographers have identified fetuses with Down syndrome through three classic features: thick skin in the neck area; a flat face; and an unusually small or absent nasal bone. Although abnormal nasal bones are generally seen with 2-dimensional ultrasound, 3-D technology provides a clearer picture of bone formation patterns that can help evaluate the severity of the problem.

Absence of nasal bones during the second trimester of pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of Down syndrome. Delayed ossification is associated with a lower risk, similar to that of fetuses with normal nasal bones according to a publication by Luís Gonçalves, M.D., in the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine. Dr. Gonçalves and his colleagues at WSU and the Perinatology Research Branch used a maximum intensity projection algorithm to reconstruct nasal bones 3-dimensionally and to identify ossification patterns. Of the examined fetuses with absent nasal bones, 90 percent had Down syndrome.

There is clinical significance to this finding, said Dr. Gonçalves. “The association between absence of the nasal bone and Down syndrome has been reported by many investigators. However, it was recently challenged by a large population-based study conducted in the United States (FASTER trial). A possible reason for the discrepancies may be the degree of difficulty in obtaining proper images of nasal bones in a longitudinal plane of the fetal face. Three-dimensional ultrasound overcomes these difficulties and expands the evaluation of the fetal nasal bones to include ossification patterns that have not been previously visualized by ultrasound. The importance is that, with three-dimensional ultrasound, examiners can be sure that nasal bones are actually absent when counseling patients, avoiding the offer of invasive tests based on false-positive diagnoses.”

The journal article titled “Phenotypic Characteristics of Absent and Hypoplastic Nasal Bones in Fetuses with Down Syndrome” was co-authored by Jimmy Espinoza, M.D., Wesley Lee, M.D., Mary Lou Schoen, Patricia Devers, Moshe Mazor, M.D., Tinnakorn Chaiworapongsa, M.D., Greggory DeVore, M.D. and Roberto Romero, M.D.

Researchers examined 74 ultrasounds of the fetal skull and were able to formulate sensitive likelihood ratios for detection of Down syndrome. The work was done primarily through the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Wayne State University and the Perinatology Research Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health. This work also received the best free communication in its category award at the 14th World Congress of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology (the annual meeting of the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology) in Stockholm, Sweden, in September 2004.
Subtle behaviors, deficits serve as early warning of schizophrenia

“Early” is a common buzzword in treatment programs. When it comes to schizophrenia symptoms, earlier intervention is definitely better, says Matcheri Keshavan, M.D. Based on research that comprehensive therapy can improve long-term outcomes for people with mental illness, he established the STEP program—Services for the Treatment in Early Psychoses—which seeks to identify people who have unusual experiences or episodes that may be precursors to serious psychotic conditions.

The early signs of schizophrenia are subtle, said Dr. Keshavan, professor and associate chair for research in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences. “A person may experience vague thinking, social withdrawal, depressed mood or interpersonal problems. If these mild conditions are monitored with appropriate and timely professional psychotherapy and medication interventions, a person is more likely to have improved long-term outcomes and function productively.”

With support from the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Keshavan has found that these subtle behavioral traits coincide with structural brain abnormalities that are present before the actual onset of schizophrenia. Dr. Keshavan and his colleague Rajaprabhakaran Rajarethinam, M.D., looked at brain scans of children (average age 14) with a schizophrenic parent and compared them with a control group. They found that genetically predisposed kids have evidence of attentional, neurological and executive function deficits, and impaired structural and molecular integrity of the association cortex (frontal and temporal) and subcortical brain structures (such as the basal ganglia and thalamus).

Although it is uncertain whether behavioral interventions during adolescence can stop schizophrenia, Dr. Keshavan’s research found that one-third to one-half of the predisposed children can present with cognitive and behavioral difficulties (notably attentional impairment), even before psychotic symptoms manifest, that are amenable to early interventions. Future research can tell us whether such treatments can actually prevent the likelihood of schizophrenia emerging later.

In a related research effort supported by the NIMH, Dr. Keshavan is testing the efficacy of a novel approach to treatment. He’s comparing cognition enhancement therapy (developed by Professor Hogarty in Pittsburgh) with supportive therapy regimens to restore social cognition abilities to younger, first-episode schizophrenia patients. “A fundamental problem in schizophrenia is social cognition. Mentally ill persons often can’t figure out how others will react to them. They don’t exercise judgment in conversation, often make people very angry, and they don’t know how to formulate appropriate responses. Those cognitive skills can be learned, however. Much like the muscles can be retrained after they are injured by a stroke, a person’s cognitive functioning can be improved by retraining,” Dr. Keshavan said.

The STEP program, offered through University Psychiatric Centers, provides a comprehensive treatment protocol for people experiencing psychotic symptoms for the first time. “We make efforts to identify these illnesses early and treat intensively for at least two years or more with a hope that we can prevent lasting damage. We also make efforts to identify individuals at increased risk for this illness so that early diagnosis can be ensured,” said Dr. Rajarethinam, who co-directs the STEP clinic.

For more information on the STEP program, please call (888) 362-7792.
Pregnant mothers are typically screened for birth defects such as Down syndrome during their second trimester, or at 15-20 weeks gestation. A new and earlier blood test and screening procedure offered by WSU doctors provides risk evaluation in the first trimester, between 11 and 14 weeks gestation. The procedure is called FIRST, and it stands for first trimester integrated risk screening for trisomy study. It has been especially welcomed by mothers over age 35 who are at higher risk for birth defects.

Marjorie Treadwell, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of obstetric ultrasound, is leading the FIRST study at Wayne State University and Hutzel Hospital with colleague Roderick Hume, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of reproductive genetics. Dr. Treadwell says preliminary data show that by integrating maternal age, maternal blood protein levels and the nuchal thickness, FIRST has provided an 80 percent detection rate for Down syndrome and a 90 percent detection rate for trisomy 18. FIRST and other maternal serum tests are screening tests, meaning they estimate the chance of birth defects based on multiple factors. More conclusive diagnostic tests like chorionic villus sampling (CVS) and amniocentesis are offered for definitive diagnosis, but they are more invasive and carry a measured risk for miscarriage.

“As a woman wonders about the health of her unborn baby, this early screening allows her to consider whether or not she should opt for the diagnostic CVS or amniocentesis,” Dr. Treadwell said.

“If the screening determines that a woman is at an increased risk, further testing and genetic counseling can be pursued. If she is determined to have a low risk, she can feel more assured that there is no need for advanced testing.”

Any woman who is less than 14 weeks pregnant is eligible for this screening. For more information, call the Division of Reproductive Genetics at (313) 745-7066.

Dr. Maryjean Schenk fills interim role for academic and student programs

Maryjean Schenk, M.D., M.P.H., has agreed to serve as interim associate dean for academic and student programs, while Dr. Robert Frank serves as interim dean for the School of Medicine. In this role, Dr. Schenk will provide overall leadership to the graduate medical education enterprise, with a focus of leading the 2006 LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) accreditation process. During this time, Dr. Schenk also will continue to serve as chair of the Department of Family Medicine.

Dr. Schenk joined Wayne State University in 1991 and became chair of the Department of Family Medicine in 2001. She has been a leader in curriculum development at the School of Medicine. After joining the faculty, Dr. Schenk began work on designing and implementing a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences-funded medical student curriculum on occupational and environmental health that has since been integrated into all four years of the medical school curriculum. As director of clinical curriculum development, she was responsible for the reorganization of the school’s public health and preventive medicine course and implementation of the community clinic clerkship. She also served as director of the highly competitive Undergraduate Medical Education for the 21st Century academic award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health Professions and played an integral role in the institutional self-study for the medical school’s highly successful 1998 LCME accreditation.

As an alumna of the School of Medicine, Dr. Schenk holds master’s degrees in health planning and administration and industrial health from the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on cancer epidemiology.

“I have full confidence that Dr. Schenk will do a fine job in this position — one that is of the utmost importance to me — while I continue to serve as interim dean,” Dr. Frank said. “I know you will join me in welcoming Dr. Schenk to this interim post and in providing cooperation and assistance as she leads the intensive reaccreditation effort.”

“As a woman wonders about the health of her unborn baby, this early screening allows her to consider whether or not she should opt for the diagnostic CVS or amniocentesis,” Dr. Treadwell said.
Want to know if domestic violence is a problem in a woman’s household? Just ask.

A study published in the November issue of Pediatrics shows that when pediatricians routinely ask female caretakers/guardians in a clinic about domestic violence, they get honest answers and are able to predict who needs referral services.

“If you ask, you will find,” said Teresa Holtrop, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and lead author on the study. Researchers established a partner violence screening protocol at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan general pediatric clinic in March 2002. The year before the project, the social work department got nine referrals from physicians whose patients needed help with violence in the home. The year after the project, the number of referrals jumped to 164, based on a positive screen. Of those, 150 cases involved true domestic violence perpetrated by intimate partners, for a positive predictive value of 91.5 percent.

The screening tool asked women whether they had encountered violence within the past 12 months, whether they felt safe in their current relationship, and whether somebody from a previous relationship was making them feel unsafe now.

“Clearly, use of the violence screening tool increases detection of domestic violence,” Dr. Holtrop said. “But the presence of experienced social workers becomes a necessity. Step two is making sure we provide adequate assistance, counseling and safety measures. If we are going to ask the questions, we have to be prepared.”

A national survey reported that only 5 percent of pediatricians and 8 percent of family practitioners routinely screen for partner violence. The American Academy of Pediatrics issued guidelines in 1998, recommending screening for all female caretakers of children presenting to their practices. WSU and Children’s Hospital researchers recommend development of simple and effective management protocols that would allow practitioners to handle the large number of newly identified violence cases they are likely to encounter once they begin routine screening or not.”

Honest answers come from domestic violence screening

Dr. Holtrop’s research shows that screening for domestic violence clearly uncovers violence.
Children who have tubes surgically placed in their ears for drainage may be better off without an IV during the short operation, says Michael Haupert, D.O., of Wayne State University and Children’s Hospital of Michigan in a recently published study.

Children who had intravenous (IV) access for bilateral myringotomy (BMT) ear tube placement surgery spent more time in the operating room and in the hospital and required more pain medication than those who underwent the same procedure without an IV, according to an article in the September issue of *The Archives of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery*, one of the JAMA/Archives journals.

Hospitals and medical institutions vary greatly in use of IVs for ear tube procedures, even though BMT is the most common surgical procedure performed on children in the United States. An IV line is used to administer medicines and fluids to prevent dehydration, but can result in discomfort and parental dissatisfaction if many attempts are made to puncture the vein.

"Intravenous access in otherwise healthy children undergoing myringotomy provided no added benefit," Dr. Haupert said. "Children without IV access had reduced pain requirement and spent less time in the operating room, in phase 2 recovery, and in the hospital. Parental satisfaction, a clinically relevant outcome, was significantly greater for parents of children without IV access."

Dr. Haupert, assistant professor of otolaryngology at Children’s Hospital of Michigan, and colleagues investigated whether IV access affects the incidence of postoperative vomiting (POV), postoperative pain, and length of hospital stay in children undergoing BMT placement. Researchers enrolled 100 healthy children between the ages of 2 and 12 who were having BMT placement at a single hospital. The children were divided into two groups: one received IV access, and the other group did not. Anesthesia was administered through a face mask and all children received an injection of pain medicine into a muscle.

The researchers found that the two groups were similar in age, weight and incidence of vomiting. Children with IV access spent more time than those without IV access in the operating room (21 minutes vs. 17 minutes), in phase 2 recovery (75 minutes vs. 51 minutes) and in the hospital (119 minutes vs. 88 minutes). Children with IV access also required more pain medication (31 percent vs. 2 percent) and parents of children in the IV access group were less satisfied with the procedure than parents whose children did not receive IV access (28 percent vs. 95 percent).

"As physicians, we continually strive to improve the quality of care we deliver as well as improve the quality of our patients’ lives," Dr. Haupert said. "Recent studies have shown that the quality of life in children with otitis media has been improved following BMT. Parental satisfaction can be either directly or individually linked to this improved quality of life. A small but significant part of care, such as IV access or lack thereof, can greatly affect the child’s hospital stay and the parent’s satisfaction," study authors wrote.

Dr. Haupert’s research helps make ear tube surgery more effective and comfortable for kids.
SU’s chapter of the American Medical Student Association hosted other Midwest chapters for a regional convention in October that focused on “The Faces of Health Care Disparities.”

Hundreds of future physicians met with health care leaders to improve access to care and equality. Medical students from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio tried to offer solutions for patients who are underinsured, uninsured or who lack adequate access to care.

Conference highlights included: a keynote address by James Haveman, senior advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Health; a universal health care discussion led by Ken Frisof, M.D., national director of Universal Health Care Action Network; an anti-tobacco rally in Hart Plaza; and an urban health discussion by John Flack, M.D., M.P.H., director of the Center for African-American Urban Health.

Also debuting at the conference was a special art exhibit called “People of Detroit: A Living Project.” This photography collection depicting the faces and stories of Detroiters and their health concerns was created by amateur photographer and second-year WSU medical students John Staško and Meegan Greene and Marilyn Zimmerman, WSU associate professor of photography. They are using photography for societal change and calling attention to the problem of health disparities.

Staško has been asked to consider taking the exhibit on the road as an advocacy tool.

“We are facing a serious crisis in health care,” said Laurie Boore, WSU medical student and one of the AMSA conference organizers. “Meetings like this are important because we are the physicians who will be treating patients in this difficult environment. The conference provided useful suggestions for providing affordable health care for all, and it encouraged us to think about how to sustain our commitment to this advocacy over years and decades.”
“Disquieting” advances of biotechnology raise ethical concerns for distinguished lecturer

We need to defend against the “devilish promise of technological perfection,” said Leon Kass, M.D., Ph.D., who delivered the 2005 Dean’s Distinguished Lecture on “Ageless Bodies, Happy Souls: Biotechnology and the Pursuit of Happiness.” As chairman of President George Bush’s Council on Bioethics, Dr. Kass explores the ideas and issues guiding public policy today. His lecture at WSU focused on the ethics of enhancement therapies including such issues as steroids for increased strength, drugs for improved memory, mood and attention, and genetic engineering.

Dr. Kass raised many questions about the ethical uses of biotechnology and challenged the audience to consider: How do we know when we’ve gone too far in our efforts to improve upon human nature? “To turn a man into a cockroach would be dehumanizing. To try to turn a man into more than a man might be so as well,” said Dr. Kass, who is also the Addie Clark Harding Professor in the College and the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.

In considering the positive and negative nature of scientific advances, Dr. Kass said one has to consider the intrinsic matter of a person’s character. “Children whose disruptive behavior is remedied by pacifying drugs rather than by their own efforts are not learning self-control. If anything, they are learning to think it unnecessary. People who take pills to block out from memory the painful or hateful aspects of a new experience will not learn how to deal with suffering or sorrow. A drug to induce fearlessness does not produce courage,” he said.

He worries that if mood stabilizers and physical enhancements are used en masse, the world may become homogenized and unreal. He says biomedical interventions that act directly on the human body and mind might make people merely passive subjects who play no role at all in their own efforts. “All of our encounters with the world, both natural and interpersonal, would be mediated, filtered and altered. Human experience under biological intervention becomes increasingly mediated by unintelligible forces and vehicles, separated from the human significance of the activities so altered. … Our genuine happiness requires that there be little gap, if any, between the dancer and the dance.

With biotechnical interventions that skip the realm of intelligible meaning, we cannot really own the transformations nor experience them as genuinely ours.” Although Dr. Kass admits it may be priggish to refuse the help of pharmacology for our happiness when we accept it to correct for an absence of insulin or thyroid hormone, he fears such pursuits will “deflect us from realizing more fully the aspirations to which our lives naturally point, from living well rather than merely staying alive or living longer.” “Let me suggest, then, that a flourishing human life is not a life lived with an ageless body or untroubled soul, but rather a life lived in rhythm time, mindful of time’s limits, appreciative of each season and filled first of all with those intimate human relations that are ours only because we are born, age, replace ourselves, decline, and die—and know it,” he concluded.

Dr. Kass has been chairman of the President’s Council on Bioethics since 2001, and he is a founding member of the Hastings Center, a highly influential bioethics think tank, and a fellow of the American Enterprise Institute. He is an internationally celebrated philosopher, lecturer and author. His widely reprinted essays in biomedical ethics have dealt with issues raised by in vitro fertilization, cloning, genetic screening and genetic technology, organ transplantation, aging research, euthanasia and assisted suicide, and the moral nature of the medical profession.
Ken Palmer, Ph.D., assistant dean for graduate programs, recently announced the appointment of Ambika Mathur, Ph.D., WSU professor of pediatrics, as director of the School of Medicine’s formal M.D.-Ph.D. joint degree program.

Dr. Mathur will provide administrative leadership to insure the medical scientist program continues to grow, remain innovative in its training and attractive to top scientific talent seeking such a unique education.

Dr. Mathur received her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology with Dr. Richard Lynch at the University of Iowa. After a post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Minnesota with Dr. Brian Van Ness, she was subsequently appointed assistant professor and then tenured associate professor of tumor immunology at the University of Minnesota, where she developed a strong interest in research training. She mentored post-doctoral fellows, doctoral students, master’s students and undergraduate students, as well as medical fellows, medical residents, medical students and dental students.

Dr. Mathur was associated with developing and implementing a number of National Institutes of Health-funded training grants, including the NIH-funded Clinical Scientist Training Program, T32 training grants, summer research training grants and training grants to support minority high-school students.

She served on the University of Minnesota’s Medical School admissions committee as well as on the Education Policy Committee of the School of Dentistry and was responsible for overseeing curriculum development. After serving as professor at West Virginia University, for the past year Dr. Mathur has been on the faculty of The Carman & Ann Adams Department of Pediatrics at Wayne State University and the Children’s Hospital of Michigan, where she is currently associate director of the Institute of Medical Education, Scientific Faculty Development.

Dr. Mathur and her husband, Dr. Deepak Kamat, professor and vice chair for education in the Department of Pediatrics, have twins, who are 13 years old. Dr. Mathur is also a published author of a series of books for children, and her passion is promoting literacy among children.

Dr. Mathur will be aided by the program’s associate director, Dr. Stan Terlecky, associate professor of pharmacology. Dr. Terlecky has been intimately involved in the original M.D.-Ph.D. concept at the School of Medicine and was the principal author of the program proposal approved by the university’s provost and president.

Dr. Terlecky brings to the program his enthusiasm, a strong record of funded research and successful student mentorship. Drs. Mathur and Terlecky share a common vision to elevate WSU’s M.D.-Ph.D. program to national prominence and enable the university to recruit the very best candidates.

Dr. Mathur is growing the medical scientist program at WSU.
Congratulations to the winners of the eighth annual Graduate Student Research Day held in September 2004. In addition to interesting oral and poster presentations, the day’s events featured keynote speaker Susan Horwitz, Ph.D., Falkenstein Professor of Cancer Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, who discussed “Taxol, Tubulin and Tumors: Challenges in the New Era of Cancer Therapeutics.”

Congratulations to the top-ranked research projects listed below.

**Poster Session I**

**First Place:** Stefanie Roshy, Ph.D. Program, Cancer Biology, for “Mammary Acini Development in Matrigel Overlay Cultures in Vitro is Blocked by Selective Inhibitors of Cysteine Proteases and Matrix Metalloproteinases”

**Second Place:** Shantel Weinsheimer, Ph.D. Program, Center for Molecular Medicine & Genetics, for “Identification of Candidate Genes in Intracranial Aneurysm”

**Third Place:** Beth Pochert, Ph.D. Program, Immunology & Microbiology, for “Response of Streptococcus Iniae to the Host Environment”

**Poster Session II**

**First Place:** Sarah Krueger, Ph.D. Program, Radiation Biology, for “Linking G2 Phase Cell Hyper-Radiosensitivity and Cell Cycle Arrest”

**Second Place:** Sarah Stapels, Ph.D. Program, Cancer Biology, for “Restoration of transport activity by co-expression of human reduced folate carrier half molecules in transport-impaired K562 cells: Localization of a substrate binding domain to transmembrane domains 7-12”

**Third Place:** Aviva Levine Fridman, Ph.D. Program, Center for Molecular Medicine & Genetics, for “Identification of Candidate Genes in Intracranial Aneurysm”

**Oral Presentations**

**First Place, Session I:** Joshua Dilworth, M.D./Ph.D. Program, Pharmacology, for “Deregulated N-Ras Increases EGFR Expression and Activity in NF1 Neurofibrosarcoma-Derived Cells”

**First Place, Session II:** Rui Pires Martins, Ph.D. Program, CMMG, for “Nuclear matrix association and establishment of a potentiated chromatin domain at the human protamine gene cluster”

**First Place, Session III:** Sanjay Rakhade, Ph.D. Program, CMMG, for “Activity-Dependent Induction of Signaling Pathways in Human Neocortical Epilepsy”

Student research recognized

Congratulations to the outstanding participants who presented their work at the annual Medical Student Research Symposium held in January. Winners are as follows:

**The Sandberg Prize** (overall winner): Henrikas Valtkevicius

**Completed Projects**

**1st prize:** Henrikas Valtkevicius

**2nd prize:** Seema Mukerjee

**Work in Progress Projects:**

**1st prize:** Kimberly Hartman

**2nd prize:** Abdul-Rahman Albeiruti

Kudos to the winners and organizers of this year’s Graduate Student Research Day.
In Memoriam: James Hazlett, Jr., Ph.D.

Wayne State University School of Medicine
Interim Dean
Robert Frank was saddened to announce the death of Dr. James Hazlett, assistant dean for basic science education, on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Dr. Hazlett joined the WSU faculty in 1968, he became an assistant professor and was eventually named professor in WSU’s Department of Physiology. Dr. Hazlett completed a doctorate in anatomy at the University of Georgia in 1971. He joined the Department of Anatomy as an assistant professor and served for seven years. He then took a faculty appointment at Loyola University of Chicago’s Stritch School of Medicine and returned to WSU in 1980.

Hazlett is survived by his wife, Dr. Linda Hazlett, chair of anatomy and cell biology, their son, and a grandson.

In Memoriam: Lowell McCoy, Ph.D.

Lowell McCoy, Ph.D., 67, professor of physiology, died in February after a long and productive research and teaching career at the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Dr. McCoy received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Miami University in Ohio, then came to WSU to earn his doctorate in physiology. Immediately after completing postdoctoral training in 1968, he became an assistant professor in WSU’s Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and eventually was named professor in 1979. At that time, he was also appointed adjunct professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science at the WSU School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

Dr. McCoy’s research interests involved the control, regulation and regenerative mechanisms in hematology and the maintenance of hemostasis in animals. He studied potential oxygen transport media for blood transfusion and as tools in the study of regeneration and regulatory mechanisms during recovery from blood-free states. Committed to the growth and longevity of the Department of Physiology, Dr. McCoy was critically involved in the recruitment and admission of graduate students and took a keen interest in the education of young scientists. In 1989, he became the graduate officer for physiology students, and in 1991, he was appointed director of the master’s program in basic medical science and medical research.

Outside the university, Dr. McCoy served as director of the USA Hockey Division, U.S. Olympic Committee and as vice president of the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association.

He is survived by his wife, Nina, four sons, two step-daughters and four grandchildren.
Conkervation recognizes students and faculty

more than 100 WSU School of Medicine students and faculty members were recognized for their dedication to the field of medical education at the 2004 Conkervation. “Education is the core mission of this medical school,” said Dean Robert Frank in introducing the awards. “We are not a research institute, although research is very important to us. We are not a hospital system, although the practice of medicine is very important to us. Education is our core business. And, from my point of view, it’s important that we act like it is.” In addition to the recognition, Dean Frank reinstated the old School of Medicine tradition of awarding $1,000 stipends to faculty recipients and $500 scholarships to student recipients. “People should be rewarded with recognition, but cold cash helps also,” Dean Frank said. ■

College Teaching Awards
Glaura Kado, D.O., Ph.D., Emergency Medicine
Na'ula Israel, M.D., Family Medicine
Thomas Rao, M.D., Family Medicine
Methodos Niyi, Ph.D., Immunology and Microbiology
Farhad Sohboldt, Ph.D., Immunology and Microbiology
Judith Allen, Ph.D., Internal Medicine
Daniel Alt-Hamadani, M.D., Internal Medicine
Mohammed Boui, M.D., Internal Medicine
Robert Bunczik, M.D., Internal Medicine
Lawrence Crans, M.D., Internal Medicine
Michael Falaki, M.D., Internal Medicine
Lawrence Elbaht, M.D., Internal Medicine
Leonard Johnson, M.D., Internal Medicine
Paul Krasiczak, Ph.D., Internal Medicine
Diane Levine, M.D., Internal Medicine
Rodger Max-Hetteson, M.D., Internal Medicine
Philip A. Philip, M.D., Ph.D., Internal Medicine
Melissa Runge-Morris, M.D., Internal Medicine
Philip A. Philip, M.D., Ph.D., Internal Medicine
Michael Stellini, M.D., Internal Medicine
Jack Soel, M.D., Internal Medicine
Michael Stiller, M.D., Internal Medicine
Paul Swendsen, M.D., Internal Medicine
Ulrich Wilhelm, Ph.D., Internal Medicine
Jose Vasques, M.D., Internal Medicine
Craig Watson, M.D., Ph.D., Neurology
Ammar Mohamed, M.D., Pathology
Thomas Ullmer, M.D., Pediatrics
Mary Libo, M.D., Pediatrics
Rebecca Warner, Ph.D., Pharmacology
Susan Stine, M.D., Ph.D., Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience
Vivianne Sansepolo, Ph.D., Surgery
Academic Teaching Awards
Lamp award: Thomas McCollough, M.D.
Academic Teaching Award: Thomas Roe, M.D., Family Medicine
Class of 2007: Jennifer Klein, Samuel Mcgrath, Thomas Pulling, Ruppa Shah, Gabriel Solomon, Jennifer Van Dulan, Eric Slattery, Kristopher Sugg
Class of 2006: Jennifer Klein, Samuel Mcgrath, Thomas Pulling, Ruppa Shah, Gabriel Solomon, Jennifer Van Dulan, Eric Slattery, Kristopher Sugg
Alpha Omega Alpha - Class of 2005
Rahman Ashraf, William Slater, Ilye Laur, Ethan Smith, Jacob Mariniello, Mahmoud El-Sanadi, Jennifer Troope, Samuel McGraw, Amanda Long, Dune Reisch, Michael Nisflo, Erik Lusa, Kathleen Doherty, Gabriel Solomon, Albert Martino-Camacho, Christopher Cappy, Jennifer Van Dulan
Class of 2005 - Honors in Year 1
Class of 2004 - Honors in Year 2
Alpha Omega Alpha - Class of 2005
Rahman Ashraf, William Slater, Ilye Laur, Ethan Smith, Jacob Mariniello, Mahmoud El-Sanadi, Jennifer Troope, Samuel McGraw
Class of 2005 - Honors in Year 1
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Class of 2005 - Honors in Year 1
Class of 2004 - Honors in Year 2
Class of 2005 - Honors in Year 1
Class of 2004 - Honors in Year 2
Class of 2005 - Honors in Year 1
Class of 2004 - Honors in Year 2

Sarcoidosis is an autoimmune systemic disease with no known cause or cure that can affect any part of the body. The disease affects 20 to 50 of every 100,000 individuals in the United States. Most victims are between 20 and 40 years of age and while anyone can contract the illness, African Americans are affected at least 10 times more often than Caucasians,” said Dr. Saifan Badr, medical director. To schedule an appointment with the ProCord Center, call (888) 472-2588.

Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan to participate in Spinal Cord Injury trial
The Detroit Medical Center’s Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM) will participate as the first Midwest rehabilitation center in Proteon Biotechnologies’ international, multi-center, randomized-controlled Phase II study of ProCord, an experimental procedure for acute spinal cord injury (SCI). Detroit Receiving Hospital is participating in the screening. “This is one of the most exciting research projects in which Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan has had the opportunity to participate,” said Steve Hinderer, M.D., medical director of RIM’s Center for Spinal Cord Injury Recovery, and principal investigator of the ProCord study at RIM.

The Phase II trial commenced at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer, Israel, in September 2003 and expanded to the U.S. in 2004. Currently, six other centers in the U.S. are participating in the study. Experimental study is open to patients who meet eligibility criteria, including but not limited to ASIA Grade A, C5-T11, within 14 days of injury. Patients found eligible for the study will be randomized to either a treatment or control group, two treatment patients for every one control patient, on average. Control patients will not receive the procedure. All control and treatment patients will receive standard spinal cord injury rehabilitation and will receive follow-up testing for one year. It is crucial that trial site investigators are notified of a potential candidate within a few days of their spinal cord injury in order to give ample time for patients to enroll and participate in the 14-day window of the clinical trial. Recently, RIM opened its Center for Spinal Cord Injury Recovery and it treats more spinal cord injury patients than any hospital in the state, including the most complex cases.

Improved method for hepatitis treatment among African Americans
Twice as many African-American patients infected with the most difficult-to-treat form of chronic hepatitis C successfully cleared the virus when given a weight-based dose of ribavirin rather than a flat dose, in combination with peginterferon alfa-2b, according to investigators at the WSU School of Medicine, which participated in the multicenter study, called WIN-R. The new findings were recently presented at the 55th annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. The results are significant because African Americans are known to have generally lower rates of response to hepatitis C therapy, and efforts are underway to improve outcomes for these patients.

Milton Mutchnick, M.D., professor of internal medicine, and Firdous Siddiqui, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, were lead investigators for the WSU branch of the WIN-R (Weight-Based Dosing of Peg-Interon and Rebetol) study. It is the largest prospective clinical study in hepatitis C undertaken to date, involving approximately 4,900 patients from about 230 centers throughout the United States.

The two-arm study is evaluating the safety and efficacy of weight-based Peg-Interon, or peg interferon alfa-2b, in combination with fixed or weight-based Rebetol, or ribavirin, in a diverse patient population, including the largest number of African-American students to student recipients.
Mehrdad Ghaffari, M.D., internal medicine resident at Sinai-Grace, won second place for an oral research presentation at a scientific meeting of the American College of Physicians Michigan Chapter. The project title was “PPAR-γ is a Potent Inhibitor of Neutrophil Function in Segsins.”

Kimberly Hart, M.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology, was named Huron Valley-Sinai Physician of the Year, 2004.

Ahmed Khan, M.D., a senior fellow in the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has won the $40,000 GlaxoSmithKline fellowship award for his outstanding research achievements. Under the guidance of Dr. Adhip Majumdar, Dr. Khan has been characterizing the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) mediated signal transduction pattern and the effect of a novel endogenous peptide ERPR on shutting the over-expressed EGFR induced uncontrolled cell proliferation in different non-small cell lung cancer cells.

Ramesh Kotikal, M.D., internal medicine resident at Sinai-Grace, was a research award finalist for a poster on “Antiplatelet Therapy for Secondary Prevention of Coronary Artery Disease” at the American College of Cardiology Michigan Chapter scientific meeting and the American College of Physicians - Michigan Chapter scientific meeting.

Diane Levine, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine and executive director of medical education for the department, was honored with a 2004 Pillar Award from Michigan’s Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (MPRO). The award recognizes Dr. Flack for reducing health care disparities, particularly through his role as director of WSU’s Center for Urban and African American Health.

American patients (approximately 400) in any study to date.

Dr. Brooks Bock to run Harper University and Hutzel Women’s Hospitals
Brooks Bock, M.D., has been appointed president of Harper University Hospital and Hutzel Women’s Hospital. Dr. Bock is the DMC’s specialist-in-chief of emergency medicine and Dayanandan Professor and chair of the department of emergency medicine in the Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine.

“Dr. Bock is a national leader in emergency medicine. He has an impeccable reputation in running all our emergency rooms which serve more than 200,000 patient visits annually,” said Mike Duggan, DMC president and CEO. “Under his leadership, Harper and Hutzel will continue to build on a 135-year history of providing outstanding specialized care for their patients while meeting their business objectives as nationally recognized hospitals.”

Dr. Bock has worked at the DMC/WSU for the last 20 years and leads the emergency department at Detroit Receiving Hospital, Detroit’s Level 1 Trauma Center. Additionally, he serves as the medical director for the City of Detroit EMS System.

WSU students win 3 seats on MSMS governing council
WSU School of Medicine students recently were elected to three of four student posts on the Michigan State Medical Society Governing Council. Liam Howley will serve as governing council chair; Megan Losmer will serve as vice-chair; and Brendan Burns has been named to the MSMS board of directors. The council is a direct link between students and physicians and aids in coordinating state-wide medical policy efforts.
Notes


Nancy Artinian, Ph.D., R.N., professor and director of the doctoral and postdoctoral programs in the College of Nursing at Wayne State University, has been named co-principal investigator of WSU’s National Institutes of Health-funded Center for Urban and African American Health. She is studying the impact of home blood pressure tele-monitoring on blood pressure control in African Americans.

Joyce Benjamins, Ph.D., professor and associate chair of neurology, presented a study titled “Metaheteropotic Glutamate Receptors Protect Mature Oligodendrocytes from Excitotoxic Injury” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Neurochemistry in New York City in August. Her co-authors were Liliana Noleikoska, M. Johnston and Diane Studzinski.

Sara Bobak, a fourth-year student working in Dr. David Rosenberg’s laboratory, presented her work, “Orbital frontal abnormalities in siblings of pediatric patients with OCD” at the 51st annual meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Her work identified brain abnormalities in children at increased genetic risk for developing obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics faculty members published “Accelerated Evolution of the Electroid Transport Chain in Arthropod Primates,” in the November issue of Trends in Genetics. Authors of the paper include Drs. Lawrence Grossman, interim center director; Derek Wildman, research scientist; Timothy Schmidt, research assistant; and Morris Goodwin, WSU distinguished professor of anatomy and cell biology and CMMG.

Seemant Chaturvedi, M.D., associate professor of neurology and director of the WSU/DMC Stroke Program, co-edited a book titled Transient Ischemic Attacks. He also gave an invited presentation at the 2005 International Stroke Conference in New Orleans. The paper was titled “Optimal Level of Blood Pressure and Other Risk Factors in Patients with Symptomatic Intracranial Stenosis.” The study found that a systolic blood pressure of <140 mm Hg was associated with better outcomes in patients with intracranial stenosis. At the American Stroke Association International Stroke Conference, Dr. Chaturvedi presented “Early Identification of African Americans at Increased Risk for Stroke.” WSU co-authors included Bradley Jacobs, M.D., Angela Vouyouka, M.D., and Mohammed Sunbuli M.D.

Jeffrey Clarke, M.D., associate clinical professor of anesthesiology, has been appointed chief of staff, medical affairs, at Harper University Hospital.

Abhinav Deol, M.D., and Janeline Dautert, M.D., internal medicine residents, presented a poster at the American Medical Association’s December research symposium in Atlanta. The title of their work is: “Hemoptysis as a Presenting Complaint in Sarcoidosis: A Case Report and Review of Literature.” (Dr. Lie Lui assisted in preparing the abstract and poster.)

Michael Diamond, M.D., director of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Hutzel Women’s Hospital and the Kamran S. Moghissi Professor and associate chair of obstetrics and gynecology at Wayne State University, was elected vice-president nominee of the Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

Paula Dore-Duffy, Ph.D., professor of neurology, presented the following:

• “Central Nervous System (CNS) Microvascular Pericyte Polarization to Alternatively Activated Phenotypes” at the 7th International Congress of Neuroimmunology in Italy in October. Her co-authors were R. Balabanov and T. Williams.

• “The Role of the Pericyte in Angiogenesis” at the Winter Conference for Brain Research in Breckenridge, Colo.

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Raymond Esper, graduate research assistant, and Jeffrey Loeb, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, presented a study titled “Rapid Protein Kinase C Dependent Release of Axonal Neuregulin by Schwann Cell Neurotrophic Factors” at the annual meeting of the Society of Neuroscience.

Robert Freedman, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences and obstetrics/gynecology, was elected to the board of trustees of the North American Menopause Society. In addition, he was appointed to the editorial board of Current Women’s Health Reviews, published by Bentham Science Publishers.

Richard Gallagher, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, served as a chair of a National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel in Washington reviewing R-25 grant applications. He also served on a National Cancer Institute Committee G-Cancer Education in October.

James Garbern, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor in neurology and the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, presented the following:

• “Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease” at the Society for Metabolic and Inherited Disease symposium in Florida.


• “Clinical Classification of Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease” at the Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease International Workshop in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

• “Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease” at the Myelin Project/European Leukodystrophy Association meeting in Nice, France.


• “Asparaginoylase is Expressed Predominantly in Oligodendrocytes and is Decreased in MS Plaques” at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis in Toronto in October. His co-authors included Diana Hristova and John Kamholz.

Alexander Gow, Ph.D., associate professor in the Center for Molecular Medicine & Genetics, pediatrics and neuroscience, presented “Gadene-Somatic Interactions Blood/Testis and Epididymal Barriers and Tight Junctions” at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development’s meeting on the future of male contraception. In addition, his manuscript titled “CNS Myelin Para noodes Require Nks6-D Homeospecific Transcriptional Activity for Normal Structure” has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Neuroscience.

Abhiheet Goyal, M.D., internal medicine resident, published “Dia- thiazolidiones (TZDs) and Progressions of Renal Disease.” in the Journal of Diabetes, Volume 14, Autumn 2004. He was mentored by Dr. Errol Crook, chair of internal medicine.

X Guo was the first author on a presentation titled “Paradoxical Imaging Findings in Lesional Epilepsy” at the 58th Annual Meeting of the American Epilepsy Society in New Orleans. Co-authors included: Jagdish Shah, Csaba Jahasz, Robert Johnson, William Kupsky and Craig Watson.

Kimberly Hart, M.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology, presented “Prostate Localization for IMRT Using Gold Seed Markers: A Simple and Cost Effective Alternative” at the meeting of the Radiological Society of North America in December.

Raul Torres-Heiseche, M.D., and Laura Johnson, M.D., internal medicine residents, presented a poster at the American Medical Association’s December research symposium in Atlanta. The title of their work is: “Insidious Onset of Chylothorax after Thoracic Surgery.” (Dr. Jorge Guzman assisted in preparing the abstract and poster.)

Susan Hendrick, D.O., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is writing a book on menopause for the “Chicken Soup for the Soul Healthy Living Series,” which will be out in April 2005.

John Kamholz, M.D., Ph.D., professor in neurology and the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, presented a study titled “White Matter Atrophy Correlates with Clinical Disability in Patients with Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Disease” at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis in Toronto in October. His co-authors were J. Laukka and James Garbern.

Peter Karpawich, M.D., professor of pediatric medicine and director of cardiac electrophysiology at Children’s Hospital, was an invited faculty member at the annual scientific meeting of the Egyptian Society of Cardiology, Working Group of Electrophysiology in Cairo in January. His presentations included: “Optimizing Paced Ventricular Function in Children” and “Therapies for Abnormal Arrhythmias in Children.” Dr. Karpawich also appeared on Egyptian national television after performing the first intracardiac electrophysiology and ablation study in a child with abnormal heart rhythms at the newly built National El-Galaa Hospital. He has additionally been appointed to the Pediatric Advisory Panel for Medtronic, Inc., to discuss device application in children, and he’s been appointed to the faculty of the annual scientific sessions of the International Heart Rhythm Society, to be held in New Orleans in May.

Deepak Koul, M.D., and Shalini Modi, M.D., internal medicine residents, published “Unusual Pulmonary Venous Flow Profile in a Patient with Mitral Valve Perforation Secondary to Bacterial Endocarditis” in the journal Echoardiogaphy. Their faculty research mentor was Dr. Luis Alfonso.
Robert Lisak, M.D. Parker Webber Chair of Neurology, professor and chair of neurology and professor of immunology and microbiology, has been elected chair of the Accreditation Council for the United Council for Neurological Suspiculities. In addition, he presented the following:

• “New Treatments in Multiple Sclerosis” in Toronto in October.
• “Symptoms and Signs of Multiple Sclerosis: The Role of Early Diagnosis in an Era of Therapy” at Info 2004. International Neurology Forum in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the first international neurologic meeting held in Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War. He also chaired the session on White Matter Disease and Stroke.

Tsveti Markova, M.D., assistant professor and residency program director in the Department of Family Medicine, became a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Mark Marunick, D.D.S., associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, completed his term as president of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics in October. In addition, his publication, “Hybrid Gate Design Frameworks for the Rehabilitation of the Maxillotomology Patient,” was featured on the cover of the April 2004 issue of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry.

June Kan-Mitchell, Ph.D., associate professor of immunology/microbiology and pathology at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center, will serve as a member of the Vaccines of Infectious Diseases Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, of the National Institute of Health for the next two years.

Jose Rafols, Ph.D., WSU professor of anatomy and cell biology, has been invited as a visiting professor in the international program of the school of medicine at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico. He will teach neuroscience to second-year medical students. In addition, Dr. Rafols has published a neuronatomy atlas that serves as the primary text for the course curriculum.

Samia Ragheb, Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, presented a study titled “Glutamater Acute (GA) and the Immune System: Characterization of GA-responsive Cells” at the 7th International Congress of Neuroimmunology in Italy in October. Her co-authors were F. Fernandez and Robert Lisak.

David Rosenberg, M.D., Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair of Child Psychiatry, chaired a special symposium on MRI studies of childhood disorders at the 51st annual meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Washington. Dr. Rosenberg also presented his work on pharmacologic strategies for management of children with treatment-resistant neuropsychiatric disorders as part of an institute at the same meeting.

Aashit Shah, M.D., associate professor of neurology, presented:

• “Surgical Management of Epilepsy in Children: Electrophysiological Evaluation” at the 8th Asian and Oceanic Congress of Child Neurology in New Delhi, India in October.

• “Epilepsy Surgery in Multifocal (Multilobar) Partial Epilepsy” at the American Epilepsy Society meeting in New Orleans. Co-authors include Eishi Asano, Csaba Juhasz, Sandeep Sood and Harry Chugani.

• “Compressed EEG Pattern Analysis Can Reveal Clinically Relevant Changes in Brain Functional State During Long-Term EEG Monitoring of Neurologically Critically Ill” at the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society meeting in Montreal in the fall of 2004. Co-authors included R. Agarwal, I. Ricardo Carhuapoma and Jeffrey Loeh.


Savittha Shastry, M.D., and Laura Johnson, M.D., internal medicine residents, presented a poster at the American Medical Association’s December research symposium in Atlanta. The title of their work is: “Persistent High-Grade Fever as a Presenting Symptom in Adrenal Insufficiency.” (Dr. Gappy assisted in preparing the abstract and poster.)

Kasem Sirithanakul, M.D., a fellow in pulmonary and critical care medicine, published “Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Newer Therapy Improves Outcome,” in the November issue of The Journal of Family Practice. Dr. Kamal Mubarak, assistant professor, mentored Dr. Sirithanakul.

Debra Skafar, Ph.D., associate professor in physiology and at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, gave an invited talk on “Understanding the Estrogen Receptor-alpha Through Targeted Mutagenesis” and served as a session co-chair at the International Symposium on Steroid Hormone Receptors and Molecular Signaling, held in India in November 2004.

Dusanka Skundric, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of neurology, presented a study titled “Immune Therapy of Relapsing EAE by Neutralization of CD4+ T-cell Chemotactant Cytokine IL-16” at the 7th International Congress of Neuroimmunology in Italy in September. Co-authors included R. Dia, V. Zakarian, Robert Skoff, D. Bessert, W. Cruikshank and Zhukarov. She also presented work on IL-16 and EAE, an animal model of MS, at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis in Toronto in October.

E. Thomas, neurology, presented “[11C] Methyl-L-tryptophan (AMT) PET Can Localize Epileptic Tubers When Scalp EEG is Poorly Localizing in Children with Tuberous Sclerosis” at the American Epilepsy Society meeting in New Orleans. Co-authors on this study were Csaba Juhasz, Diane Chugani, K. Kagaw, Otto Muzik, Aashit Shah, Eishi Asano, Sandeep Sood and Harry Chugani.

Jane Thomas, Ph.D., assistant dean for special programs, was elected chair of the St. John Health board of directors.

Jinheng Zhang, Ph.D., assistant professor of otolaryngology, received a grant from the American Tinnitus Association to study the possible link between electrical stimulation and hyperactivity in the dorsal cochlear nucleus. Dr. Zhang’s team hopes to learn whether electrical stimulation can provide an extended sense of quiet from tinnitus during and after stimulation.
Wayne State University
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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.
Each fall, during the months of October and November, students and alumni volunteer to call graduates of the School of Medicine to request financial gifts in support of the Alumni Annual Fund. This fund supports student scholarships, fellowships, advanced research and educational programs.

The 2004-2005 Telefund Kick-Off reception took place on October 6, 2004, at the Skyline Club high atop the Town Center in Southfield, Mich. Nearly 60 alumni, friends, and students attended. Dr. Ernest Yoder, class of 1978 and chair of the Telefund committee, announced the 2004-2005 goal of $550,000 and indicated his confidence in our success with the assistance of our volunteer callers. Other speakers at the kick-off included Dr. Carol Clark, ’85, president of the Medical Alumni Association, Dr. Robert Frank, ’73, interim dean, Dr. Kertia Black, assistant dean for student affairs, and Dr. Kenneth Palmer, assistant dean for graduate programs.

Alumni and students began placing calls on October 11, 2004. Herman Kado, year III student and president of the class of 2006, was the top volunteer student caller, single-handedly raising $8,850. "A little bit of money can make a big difference. This is my way of thanking the alumni for supporting student programs," he explained. Jasmine Oliver, ’07, brought in the second highest number of donations totaling $5,960. Oliver volunteered her time every evening of Telefund. She said, "It’s really great when alumni say yes. Volunteering is a great study-break that’s productive and fun."

Kevin Jamil, year I student and president of the class of 2008, said that he already realizes the importance of the Alumni Annual Fund and plans to donate his time throughout his tenure as a student at the WSU School of Medicine. The 32nd Annual Telefund ended on November 9, 2004 but alumni volunteers will continue making calls long after Telefund is over. "As of February 2005, we have raised $494,928," said Lori Robitaille, manager of medical alumni affairs. "Our goal is $550,000 and we are hopeful that the continued persistence of our alumni volunteers and our follow-up letters will bring in the remaining $55,072."

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

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

continued on page 22
Greetings and Happy New Year on behalf of the Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Governors.

As you know, we are in the midst of raising money for the 2004-2005 Annual Fund. I would like to personally thank those of you who sent us donations for this important effort that benefits medical students, graduate students, alumni, resident alumni and graduate alumni. For those of you who are still deciding whether or not to donate, I would like to take this opportunity to share the results of the allocations from the 2003-2004 alumni annual fund. The School of Medicine’s Allocation Committee met in August to assign money to be distributed from last year’s annual fund. The committee approved the following allocations:

- Student Affairs ........................................... $128,500.00
- Research and Graduate Programs ................. $105,760.00
- Alumni Affairs Office ................................... $134,147.50
- Library Addition ........................................ $100,000.00
- Academic and Student Programs (venture account) ........ $50,000.00
- Funding for the USMLE Prep Program for Year I Medical Students .............................. $10,000.00
- Salary Funding for Study Skills Counselor ......... $10,000.00

Please remember to mark your calendar for the 2005 Medical Alumni Reunion Day, which will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2005. We are planning to have the CME program at Scott Hall and the special receptions and dinner at the Somerset Inn again this spring.

The alumni association looks forward to another productive year of improving our students’ educational experience and strengthening the school’s alumni network.

Carol L. Clark, M.D., ’85
President
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Medical Alumni Association

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The President’s Greeting

GREATEST DOLLAR TOTAL RAISED
First Place: Herman Kado, Year III – Bed and Breakfast at the Ritz Carlton, Dearborn
Second Place: Jasmine Oliver, Year II – Complimentary evening at the Hotel Pontchartrain and two tickets to the Freedom Festival Fireworks event hosted by the Medical Alumni Association
Third Place: Kianoosh Fallahi, Year III – $50 gift certificate for Opus One Restaurant

MOST PLEDGES
First Place: Millicent Traylor, Year II – Complimentary evening at the Somerset Inn, Troy
Second Place: Aniel Majhoo, Year IV – $50 Target gift card

LARGEST SINGLE GIFT
Chris Gappy, Year IV – Complimentary dinner for two at Mario’s Restaurant

MUST “FIRST TIME GIVERS”
Angie Garcia, Year IV – Complimentary dinner for two at Hockeytown Café

TELEFUND DRAWINGS
Two complimentary tickets to a performance at the Main Art Theatre – Ebony Rucker, Year III
Free lunch for a week at the AVI Vital Signs Café in Scott Hall (4 winners)
Liam Howley, Year II
Kevin Jamil, Year I
Alex Madgy, Year II
John-Mina Ibrahim, Year IV

The alumni annual fund supports programs that are vital to the WSU School of Medicine community. Our goal this year is $550,000. We are counting on your support. Please contact Lisa Ramos in Medical Alumni Affairs at (313) 577-3587 if you would like to volunteer to make calls or make a donation.

The President’s Greeting

Carol L. Clark, M.D., ’85
President
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Medical Alumni Association

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Telefund Winners

Greatest Dollar Total Raised
First Place: Herman Kado, Year III – Bed and Breakfast at the Ritz Carlton, Dearborn
Second Place: Jasmine Oliver, Year II – Complimentary evening at the Hotel Pontchartrain and two tickets to the Freedom Festival Fireworks event hosted by the Medical Alumni Association
Third Place: Kianoosh Fallahi, Year III – $50 gift certificate for Opus One Restaurant

Largest Single Gift
Chris Gappy, Year IV – Complimentary dinner for two at Mario’s Restaurant

Most “First Time Givers”
Angie Garcia, Year IV – Complimentary dinner for two at Hockeytown Café

Telefund Drawings
Two complimentary tickets to a performance at the Main Art Theatre – Ebony Rucker, Year III
Free lunch for a week at the AVI Vital Signs Café in Scott Hall (4 winners)
Liam Howley, Year II
Kevin Jamil, Year I
Alex Madgy, Year II
John-Mina Ibrahim, Year IV

Autographed photo of Detroit Tigers Bull Pen Coach, Lance Parrish – Lisa Randazzo, Year III
Detroit Shock poster autographed by Bill Laimbeer – Ifty Ahmad, Year IV
$30 AMC Movie Theatre Entertainment Card – Jenese Reynolds, Year II

The Medical Alumni Association thanks all metropolitan Detroit businesses that donated gifts for student prizes.
As a boy, Daniel Spitz would wait until his parents weren’t looking, grab the illicit reading material and head to the basement with his friends. There, they would thumb through the pages and giggle—focusing on the pictures, of course. But the images they eyed weren’t the usual ones teenage boys like to look at; These bodies were dead.

“That was a bit shocking for a young kid,” said Spitz, now 35. “Basically, I would gauge my friends’ reactions to the pictures.”

The photos were in a book written by his father, Werner Spitz, an internationally renowned forensic pathologist who, until September, had worked as the Macomb County Medical Examiner for about 15 years. Before that, he had worked as Macomb County’s pathologist and made headlines as Wayne County’s medical examiner.

The book, “Medico-Legal Investigation of Death,” symbolizes how life for the Spitz children was a tad different from that of their peers in the Grosse Points. Its pictures show death at its most gruesome: skulls splattered by hatchets, necks sawed in brutal suicides, faces caved in from shotgun blasts.

As a child, Daniel Spitz was morbidly curious as he thumbed through the book. But as he grew older, curiosity turned into interest—and interest into a career.

The young Spitz recently took over for his dad as Macomb County’s medical examiner, the go-to guy when someone dies of natural causes. He became tops in his field over time, and interest turned into a career. Werner Spitz’s father, a doctor, landed him a job at a local medical examiner’s office where he would clean the office and pick up lunch. Eventually, the pathologist allowed him to help with an autopsy. He still remembers the patient—the husband of then-Israel Prime Minister Golda Meir. He’d died of a heart attack.

Werner Spitz recalled, but the autopsy was needed because he’d collapsed in the street with no witnesses, making his death seem suspicious.

Werner Spitz was hooked. He found the process fascinating: piecing together a story using the shell of a human who could no longer explain why he or she died. Despite people’s reactions to his vocation, he said the job isn’t creepy.

“If you really think surgery is much less gruesome than our job?” he asked with a laugh.

Werner Spitz first came to the United States in 1959 on a work visa. He worked in Baltimore, met his wife-to-be, then returned to Germany for two years before he was allowed to come back to the States.

He became tops in his field overseas—but that’s not saying much, he said.

“In seven years in Israel, there was only one murder,” he said, his words still heavy with a German accent.

“It wasn’t the right place for a forensic pathologist.”

During his second boat voyage to America, he learned the news that brought the country to its knees: President John F. Kennedy had been shot and killed. Werner Spitz was asked to join the assassination commission that determined suspect Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman.

Daniel Spitz was too young to remember those years. But he sat and watched his father testify in another high-profile murder trial: O.J. Simpson’s.

Werner Spitz testified for the prosecution in the civil suit alleging that Simpson killed his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ron Goldman. He said the smattering of small, semi-circle cuts in O.J. Simpson’s left hand were defensive nail marks caused by Simpson’s ex-wife fighting for her life.

He still talks openly about his belief in Simpson’s guilt—going so far as to show pictures of the 11 tiny cuts to a gathering of police officers at a recent medical examiners seminar. Though the former football star was acquitted of the criminal charges, Werner Spitz’s testimony helped lead a jury to find him responsible for the deaths in civil court. Daniel Spitz considers himself an uncredited consultant on many of his father’s cases.

“The older I got—especially when I was in medical school—the more we talked about his cases,” Daniel Spitz said. “I’d get slides in the mail with notes asking me what I thought.”

That professional camaraderie translated into an adult friendship with his father, he said.

Growing up with death
Daniel Spitz got an inside look at death from an early age.

His father often brought home graphic crime-scene pictures—glossy 8-by-10 images of untimely demise.

And then there was the book. Werner Spitz, along with the late Russell Fisher, first wrote the nearly 600-page tome analyzing different manners of deaths in the 1970s. The fourth edition of the book includes 1,410 pictures and is to be published early next year, Werner Spitz said.

An index includes entries such as “ice-pick wounds” and electrolyte studies in the timing of death.

“We had a lot of skeletons in the basement,” Daniel Spitz recalled. He quickly added: “Teaching tools—not real bodies or anything.”

He knew he wanted to study forensic pathology, but Daniel Spitz flirted with surgery first before switching gears.

He was drawn, in part, to the whodunit element, he said—and to the closure that he, as medical examiner, could bring to families with his findings.

Case in point: A long-forgotten county car was pulled from a Florida canal. Inside were remnants of clothing—encasing a human skeleton.

Ultimately, Daniel Spitz and police realized the body inside was a county employee who had disappeared 20 years earlier without a trace. He’d apparently driven home drunk one night and disappeared into the murky water.

Once Daniel Spitz positively identified the remains, the man’s family could put the mystery to rest.

That’s not the type of story featured on TV shows such as “CSI” and “Cold Case,” Spitz acknowledged.

“I never got caught up in all these medical examiner shows,” he said. “Those cases are meant to wrap up in an hour.

“Cases often have loose ends that tie up in a month or a year or maybe never.”

Since graduating from medical school, he has co-written his own book—“Differential Diagnosis in Surgical Pathology”—and worked as an associate examiner in Florida’s high-crime Miami area.

He came to Michigan with his wife, Jodi, he said, to be close to his parents and to raise his two sons—2-year-old Keegan and 11-month-old Jacob.

“Today, Daniel Spitz is the one bringing home the gory pictures and testifying in trials. In his office dangles a teaching skeleton made of real human bones. On top of a bookcase, he keeps a human skull carefully boxed in mahogany.

Like his father, he is on call for the county 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Werner Spitz said he’s comfortable handing over the county reins.

“He works his tail off,” he said of his son. “It seems to be in the genes.”

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Daniel Spitz, M.D., graduated from the WSU School of Medicine in 1995. His father, Werner Spitz, M.D., is a WSU professor of pathology.
Beaumont alumni attend reception

The Medical Alumni Association held its second Beaumont Chapter Alumni Reception on October 26, 2004. Nearly 45 alumni and friends attended the reception, which took place at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. Carol Clark, M.D., ’85, president of the Medical Alumni Association, welcomed everyone and was followed by Interim Dean Robert R. Frank, ’73, who provided a brief update on the School of Medicine. Drs. William O’Neill and Carl Lauter, ’65, also spoke about the Alumni Annual Fund and the importance of giving back to the school.

Carls Foundation gives $150,000 to fetal alcohol syndrome research

The Carls Foundation has approved a cash grant of $150,000 to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The funds will be used to support the FAStar program, designed to address the needs of children suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and their caregivers. The program is multi-faceted and will address the most pertinent issues surrounding alcohol-related disorders.

FAS refers to a group of physical and mental birth defects resulting from a woman drinking alcohol during pregnancy. In fact, FAS is the leading known cause of mental retardation. Symptoms can include organ dysfunction, growth deficiencies before and after birth, central nervous dysfunction resulting in learning disabilities, and physical malformations. These children also experience behavioral problems that persist into adulthood.

FAS and other fetal alcohol-related disorders have become a special area of interest within the department of OB-GYN. Though there is no cure for FAS or fetal alcohol-related disorders, interventions can make a significant impact on quality of life for both the affected child and his or her caregivers. Identifying children with alcohol-related disorders and providing the appropriate medical attention and psychosocial support is critical to their ability to lead a fulfilling life.

The grant, in addition to the recent gift from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan, has greatly aided the FAStar program. The generosity of the Carls Foundation will have a significant impact for researchers at the School of Medicine. Their gift will strengthen understanding and help researchers meet the needs of FAS sufferers.
On November 5, 2004, alumni and students took a trip down memory lane at the Motown Historical Museum, the birthplace of the Motown sound. Guests strolled through Hitsville, USA, while enjoying a variety of Detroit-themed hors d’oeuvres and beverages.

The Ultrasounds, an a cappella singing group comprised entirely of WSU School of Medicine students, performed a compilation of Motown hits for guests. As is the case every fall, the Ultrasounds have a crop of new faces and voices for the 2004-2005 academic year. As second-year students move onto their third-year clinical rotations, it is up to the junior members of the group to fill the leadership void and recruit new members. Far from being problematic, this constant turnover in membership is part of what makes the Ultrasounds so special.

Guests also had an opportunity to karaoke to the Motown sound in the world famous Studio A. All in all, the event was a success with nearly 80 alumni, students and guests in attendance.

The Office of Alumni Affairs would like to recognize new Medical Alumni Association Life Members

8.1.04 – 10.25.04

Mark R. Britton, M.D.
Alain Y. Fahl, M.D.
Leia R. Fizzette Meyers, M.D.
Pamela D. Johnson, M.D.
Taylor A. Lewis, M.D.
Barbara A. O’Malley, M.D.

Daniel M. Ryan, M.D.
Aaron W. Sahle, M.D.
Steven B. Sunford, M.D.
Kathleen E. Sharp, M.D.
Kenneth G. Wolf, M.D.

Thank you to those who have signed up for the life installment plan. We look forward to you becoming full-fledged life members in the near future.

Would you like to receive your membership renewal via email?

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

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

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

Thank you!
1974
Susan Stuckey Thoms, M.D., reports that since leaving private practice ophthalmology nine years ago, she has been on the clinical faculty at the University of Michigan. She is the medical director of the U of M Center for Specialty Care Clinics in Livonia. Dr. Stuckey Thoms recently returned from her second medical teaching trip to Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia. In 1997, she traveled there with a diode laser which had been donated to S.E.E. International. She spent a week instructing doctors on its use. This year, she went with project ORBIS to teach modern cataract surgery and to set up a Web-based consultation system, linking the eye centers there with specific subspecialty ophthalmologists here. After finishing the project, she had the opportunity to travel for a few days with a guide in the Gobi. They visited nomadic families, rode bacterian camels, and slept in the traditional round tent called a ger.

1976
Robert Aiken, M.D., reported that after 22 years in Philadelphia at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, he recently returned to NYC as director of neurological oncology at the Institute for Neurology and Neurosurgery of Continuum Health Partners, the hospital group formed by the merger of Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center. He is also professor of neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. “Now I can go to watch an American League baseball game,” he said. “It is easy to be a Yankee fan although I hope the Tigers get better.”

Larry J. Fowler, M.D., was named chair of the National Organization of Pathology Program Residency Directors (FOPRD) for 2004-2006 at their summer meeting in Mont Tremblant, Quebec. Dr. Fowler practiced internal medicine in Hillsdale, Mich. for nine years and then retrained in anatomic and clinical pathology with a subspecialty in cytopathology at UNC Hospitals at Chapel Hill, North Carolina from 1988-93. In 1993, he joined the Department of Pathology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where he is currently an associate professor. He has been the pathology program director at UTHSCSA since 1996 and also currently serves as the director of The Fine Needle Aspiration Service as well as the interim director of the autopsy service. His current research work includes the proteomics of breast cancer utilizing SELDI-TOF methodology on cytology specimens as published in Modern Pathology (2004) 17, 1012-1020.

Basia Matthews Jenkins, M.D., continues to enjoy an anesthesiology practice with a special group of physicians. She says she loves living in the South and appreciates the gentility and warmth of the people. She is an avid gardener and passionate tennis player, both facilitated by the climate there. Her son, Sean, begins a Ph.D. program at UVA in Charlottesville this fall. Her daughter, Sasha, started her first year of medical school at UNC in Chapel Hill where she loves the Web-based learning of anatomy. She is UNC’s stealth student, she says. If you are in the area, visit. The welcome mat is out, the guest room faces the lake and tennis court and she is often cooking up a brunch for friends. Southern hospitality served there!

1979
James A. Thorp, M.D., is a maternal-fetal medicine physician in Pensacola, Fla.

1985
Joan Luby, M.D., received the Gerald Klerman Award from the National Association for Research in Schizophrenia, Anxiety and Depression at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York on July 30, 2004. The award was given for research funded by NARSAD on mood disorders and neuroendocrine changes in preschool children. Her work may represent a target for future early intervention or prevention for individuals at risk for major depressive disorder. Dr. Luby is an associate professor of psychiatry and the founder and director of the Washington University School of Medicine Early Emotional Development Program and director of training in child and adolescent psychiatry. She is married to Dr. Steven Hirsch, associate professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh.

1990
George Kucyj, M.D., and his wife, Dr. Christina Juzych-Kucyj, proudly announced the arrival of their fourth child, Dianna Amalia, on Sunday January 23, 2005. Alexander (11), Mark (8), and Christina (3) are having fun and are helping out with the newest addition to the family. Dr. Kucyj is currently a pathologist and head of chemistry at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Oakland.

1991
Abdish R. Bhavsar, M.D., was named one of the 100 Most Influential Health Care Leaders in Minnesota and was featured in Minnesota Physician and in Minnesota Healthcare News. On a non-medical, but artistic note, his sculpture entitled “Metamorphosis” was featured in an article in the August 27 issue of the Star Tribune in Minnesota for the most interesting or award-winning artwork that gained entry into the fine arts competition in the 2004 Minnesota State Fair.

1994
Douglas Files, M.D., M.P.H., has been a U.S. Air Force flight surgeon for several years. He is completing a second residency in aerospace medicine at Brooks City-Base, Tex. He recently spent a month at Al al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, doing operational medicine in a deployed setting.

1995
Alan and Anne Carbajo are enjoying private practice in family medicine and pediatrics. They are proud parents of four children and live in Troy, Mich.

2001
Michael Swaney, M.D., is a first-year child and adolescent psychiatry fellow at MUSC in Charleston. He and his wife, Cathy, are the proud parents of Benjamin Patrick Swaney, born October 5, 2004.

Notes

1964
Gertrude (Trudy) B. Gregory, M.D., retired from Ford Motor Co. in 1986. She writes: “After doing various locum tenens in occupational medicine locally, I started to pursue my gardening hobby in earnest. I became a master gardener in 1992, and in 1996 I took a TV production course with my husband, Ralph. Together we produced and I hosted a gardening series called Bloomtime for local TV. Our Romeo garden has been featured twice in a garden walk as a fund raising event for the local library, most recently, in August 2004. We pursued our interest in chestnuts by periodically planting trees of different varieties in Rome and in 2003 we planted a chestnut orchard on our farm in Clifford, Mich. We are on the board of the Michigan Nut Producers Council, working with MSU to establish a chestnut industry in Michigan. Since being diagnosed with celiac disease in 2001, I am also active in celiac support groups, especially in developing recipes for gluten-free baked goods and making them available free of charge. I have been trying to bring the signs of celiac disease to the attention of physicians and dentists to increase disease to the attention of physicians.

Wayne State University School of Medicine

Upcoming Alumni Events and Meetings

April 12, 2005
Department of Neurology
Alumni Reception
Miami, Fla.

Saturday, May 7, 2005
Medical Alumni Reunion and Clinic Day
WSU School of Medicine, Detroit
Somerset Inn, Troy, Mich.

May 14, 2005
Department of Pediatrics
Alumni Reception
Washington, D.C.

May 7-11, 2005
Department of Ob/Gyn Alumni Reception
San Francisco, Calif.

May 21-26, 2005
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences
Alumni Reception
Atlanta, Ga.

June 29, 2005
12th Annual Alumni Fireworks Event
Hotel Pontchartrain
Detroit

September 2005
Department of Otolaryngology
Alumni Reception
Location to be determined

Winter 2005 - Volume 16, No. 1

Michigan Medicine
Alumni and students gather at Michigan State Medical Society Meeting

The Medical Alumni Association held its annual reception during the Michigan State Medical Society’s annual meeting on November 3, 2004, at the Somerset Inn in Troy, Mich. More than 50 alumni, students and guests attended.

Carol Clark, M.D., ’85, president of the Medical Alumni Association, welcomed everyone to the reception and provided an update on the 2004-2005 Annual Fund and the plans for the 2005 Medical Alumni Reunion. Interim Dean Dr. Robert R. Frank, presented the State of the School address, during which he took the time to thank the alumni association for allocating annual fund money that will provide opportunities for students to work on special projects. Dr. Frank also provided a brief update on the Education Commons and indicated that an architect has been hired. Following the presentation, alumni mingled and enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

Planned Giving

By making a planned gift to Wayne State University’s School of Medicine today, you guarantee tomorrow’s discoveries. Private support from alumni and friends is essential to Wayne State’s ability to remain a leader among the nation’s medical schools.

You can be a catalyst by:

Establishing a bequest in your will or trust. Your bequest may be designated to a specific program, a medical specialty, faculty support or scholarships, or it may be unrestricted and used by the School of Medicine where it is needed most.

Creating a life-income gift to generate payments to you and/or another individual, such as a spouse. You realize income tax savings in the year the gift is given. A charitable gift annuity, for example, provides a guaranteed income for you and/or another individual age 60 or older, and a deferred income gift annuity provides you additional retirement income. At the end of the beneficiary’s lifetime(s), the remainder is transferred to the School of Medicine.

Leaving the remainder of your retirement fund assets, which can be heavily taxed if given to an individual other than a spouse. After your lifetime, the remainder of your retirement fund can be transferred to the School of Medicine as an unrestricted gift or designated for a program, faculty support or student scholarships.

Giving life insurance, in the form of an old policy no longer needed by the original beneficiary or a newly created policy, to benefit the School of Medicine. Small premiums now can generate a major gift in the future, and premiums for these policies may be tax deductible. Many employers provide group life insurance as a benefit, and Wayne State can be named for a portion of proceeds.

Your carefully planned gift can make an impact on the future of the School of Medicine and our students. Call us to discuss how you can be a catalyst for the extraordinary!

Planned Gifts
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
(313) 577-6481
2005 Medical Alumni Reunion: SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, May 7

Don’t miss an opportunity to catch up with your former classmates and current colleagues. On May 7, 2005, you can get in touch with fellow physicians, take a walk down memory lane in Scott Hall and even earn CME credits. This year’s continuing medical education session is titled “You Heard it Here First: Experts Discuss the Latest Advances in Their Fields” with hot new topics forthcoming. In addition, there will be special events for those classes celebrating benchmark reunions (1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000).

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

1945
Charles R. Fielder, M.D.
Frank L. Groat, M.D.

1950
Nicholas Cherup, M.D.
Peter V. Kane, M.D.
Frank L. Groat, M.D.

1955
Marvin Murray, M.D., Ph.D.

1960
Helen M. Annis, M.D.
Ronald Bennett, M.D.
Edward L. Klorman, M.D.
Sanford J. Rauthert, M.D.
Lawrence G. Thorley, M.D.
Ralph E. Wittenberg, M.D.
Lee A. Wood, M.D.

1965
Kenneth G. Lerner, M.D.
Paul S. Seiffert, M.D.
Henry M. Taylor, M.D.

1970
Robert Cantor, Jr., M.D.
William M. Coeh, M.D.
Fred S. Lamb, M.D.
Jules F. Levey, M.D.
Kenneth C. Osgood, M.D.
Kerry J. Ozer, M.D.
Michele K. Rivera, M.D.
Robert C. Shaw, M.D.
Morris Steffin, M.D.
Alan H. Weitenherner, M.D.
Melvyn Westreich, M.D.

1975
Donald R. Anderson, M.D.
Gary L. Haseltine, M.D.
Randall W. Holden, M.D.
Vassyl A. Luchyna, M.D.
Thomas H. Webster, M.D.
Linda W. Williams, M.D.
Michela M. Zogl, M.D.

1980
Kenneth J. Riley, M.D.
Thomas L. Schautz, M.D.

1985
Kimberly Bucc, M.D.
Tom C. Chew, M.D.
Anthony M. Dajnowicz, M.D.
David W. Drobnicki, M.D.
Mary Jane Elam, M.D.
David M. Garagolzi, M.D.
Norman L. Gove, M.D.
Kurt W. Graham, M.D.
Denise M. Marable, M.D.
Douglas R. Mower, M.D.
Paul G. Olejnjeczak, M.D.
Thomas H. Picard, M.D.
Cheryl A. Rudnig, M.D.
Jeffrey D. Shapiro, M.D.
Timothy E. Whiteus, M.D.

1990
Harshad Patel
Christopher T. Bajzer, M.D.
Joseph R. Blodgett, M.D.
Lynnette Brown, M.D.
Susan T. Dombroski, M.D.
Ronald L. Fong, M.D.
Charles M. Kendall, M.D.
Kirsten J. Kinsman, M.D.
Daniel H. Macklin, III, M.D.
Madhu Prasad, M.D.

1995
Kimberly Meeks
Walter E. Albrecht, M.D.
Donna Smith
Gregory N. Arends, M.D.
Katherine Spangenberger
Roberto L. Barreto, Jr., M.D.
Eileen M. Donovan, M.D.
Amy L. Folk, M.D.
Lisa M. Groeneveld, M.D.
Beck A. Hur, M.D.
Michael P. Kennedy, M.D.
Lawrence H. Liefberman, M.D.
Matthew W. Miller, M.D.
Steven R. Miller, M.D.
Yasser H. Salem, M.D.
Deborah J. See, M.D.
Samir K. Sharma, M.D.
Mia M. Song, M.D.
Moe T. Tin, M.D.
Farnoosh Tinoosh, M.D.
Joel L. Toft, M.D.
Can N. Tran, M.D.
Glen P. Wilson, M.D.
Joseph F. Zajchowski, M.D.

2000
Egle Berzinskas
Sandy F. Abdelall, M.D.
Colleen Coleman
Stephen M. AIX, M.D.
Daniel Wilkerson
Leemor Basse, M.D.
Aster Berhane, M.D.
Egle E. Berzinaskas, M.D.
Timothy L. Chapman, M.D.
Leslie D. Danley, M.D.
Zachary S. Delproposto, M.D.
Kate D. Fitzgerald, M.D.
Luis C. Gago, M.D.
Emily B. Grossberg, M.D.
Kevin N. Hakimi, M.D.
Amy D. Halanski, M.D.
Sue Kim, M.D.
Paul J. Kinde, M.D.
Brett D. Krasner, M.D.
Suzan Mokhavesh, M.D.
Giancarlo A. Pillot, M.D.
Glen P. Wilson, M.D.

Harris Online Community

The Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association is proud to announce the newest way to keep in touch with fellow alumni. As a registered member, you are connected with over 9,200 WSU School of Medicine alumni and have access to information on upcoming events, member benefits, alumni news and more. It is free and secure. Only Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni will be able to join this community, so you can feel safe knowing your information remains private.

In order to register for the community, you will need your membership ID number, which has been sent to you. If you did not receive this information, email us at alumni@med.wayne.edu or call (313) 577-3587. Once you have registered, you will create your own username and password to enter the online community regularly. The information you approve for display in your personal profile is accessible only by password to authorized Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association officials and to registered Wayne State University School of Medicine alumni who, as a condition of registration, have agreed not to use the directory information for any purpose other than private, non-commercial communication. The entire directory is protected by Secure Socket Layering (SSL) technology.
Do you know the value of membership?

Membership dues help support many different student activities and programs such as Alumni-Student Career Evening, the year 1 student and family luncheon, and the bed and breakfast program for residency interviews. Furthermore, dues help support alumni events including specialty receptions and Reunion/Clinic Day. There are many other advantages for our members including:

- Free use of the Matthaei Physical Education Center
- Special membership promotion at Costco Wholesale
- Quest Hotel discount program
- 10% discount on membership at the Detroit Zoo
- Hertz, Avis, and National car rental discounts
- 40% discount on WSU Press Books
- Discounts at Medical Book Center & Barnes and Noble University Bookstore
- Subscription to quarterly Wayne State Magazine
- Use of University Libraries

Our members also enjoy all of the benefits of the Wayne State University Alumni Association including alumni group travel worldwide, WSU athletic event ticket discounts, and university bookstore discounts to name a few. Take a moment to view these additional benefits at:

www.dev-alumni.wayne.edu/alumni/memberbenefits.php

Wayne State University School of Medicine is more than just our alma mater; it enabled us to fulfill our dreams of becoming physicians. As alumni, we are part of an extraordinary history of education, research and patient care. We are also essential components in the future of the School of Medicine.

We hope we can count on you to become a new member or renew your membership. If you have any questions regarding this program, feel free to call the Alumni Affairs Office at (313) 577-3587.
Dear Graduate Alums,

A number of events have taken place in the School of Medicine since our last issue of Alum Notes. Foremost among them is the resignation of John Crissman as dean. Dean Crissman was a resolute supporter of the school’s educational mission. Much of our progress in the last five years has come as a direct result of Dean Crissman’s efforts. One reflection of his success is the approval and full financial support for a formal M.D./Ph.D. program he negotiated with the university. While a search for a permanent dean is underway, Interim Dean Dr. Robert Frank has clearly made his mark as the “education” dean. His lengthy experience directing undergraduate medical education now evolves to encompass graduate training as well. We look forward to continued student education and enthusiasm for our graduate education mission under Dr. Frank’s leadership.

Yet another major event this fall was the 8th annual Graduate Student Research Day in late September. No surprises here - the program exceeded expectations as it has done each of the last seven years! With 40 oral and poster presentations drawn from more than 14 graduate programs, including several main campus departments, Scott Hall was alive with the excitement of good science. Our student-invited speaker, noted cancer researcher Dr. Susan Horwitz, was genuinely impressed with the breadth and quality of the research being conducted by our students. The adjacent sidebar lists this year’s winners – congratulations everyone!

Recruitment and admissions for fall 2005 is well underway. Applications to our M.D./Ph.D. program have nearly doubled over last year, while the quality continues to be impressive. As mentioned in the last issue, our senior M.D./Ph.D. students will be highlighted with a brief biography over the next several installments of Alum Notes. Leading off is Mark Pankonin of the molecular biology and genetics program, whose background appears in the sidebar.

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

Kenneth C. Palmer, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Would you like advance notice of alumni events?

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

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

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

Thank you!

We’re on the Web

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

You can access the alumni web site via the above address or through a link from the school’s homepage located at:

http://www.med.wayne.edu/

Features M.D./Ph.D. Student: Mark Pankonin

Mark Pankonin is one of the early members of the M.D./Ph.D. program, coming to WSU from the University of Arizona. He is the recipient of a prestigious National Institutes of Health M.D./Ph.D. predoctoral training grant. According to Dr. David Womble, graduate director for molecular biology and genetics, in the past year, Pankonin has performed elegant research that has defined the specificity by which a heparin-binding growth and differentiation factor binds heparin. To accomplish this, he developed several new assays in the laboratory including a heparin gel-shift assay. He was chosen last summer to present his work to research scientists from around the world at a prestigious Gordon Conference. The early stages of his work are now in press in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, where he is the first author. “He has been an outstanding student,” Dr. Womble said.

Congratulations to the 8th Annual Graduate Student Research Day Winners

POSTER SESSION I

1st Place: Stefanie Rosby – Ph.D.
Program: Cancer Biology
Identification of Candidate Genes in Intracranial Aneurysm

2nd Place: Shantall Weinsheimer – Ph.D.
Program: CMMG
Molecular Analysis of Potentially Inhibitory mRNAs against Cysteine Protease Expression and Activity in NF1

3rd Place: Beth Pochert – Ph.D.
Program: Immunology and Microbiology
Response of Streptococcus Iniae to the Host Environment

POSTER SESSION II

1st Place: Sarah Krueger – Ph.D.
Program: Radiation Biology
Identification of Candidate Genes in Intracranial Aneurysm

2nd Place: Sarah Stapels – Ph.D.
Program: Cancer Biology
Identification of Potential Inhibitor of Cysteine Protease Expression and Activity in NF1

3rd Place: Arlisa Levine Fridman – Ph.D.
Program: Cancer Biology
Signaling Pathways in Human Neocortical Epilepsy
The Office of Research and Graduate Programs ensures that the School of Medicine continues to cultivate its national reputation of excellence in biomedical research. Its mission, to facilitate and promote research and research-related educational activities in the School of Medicine, has brought WSU worldwide recognition and continues to increase its standing as a leading medical institution.

Daniel Walz, Ph.D., is associate dean for research and graduate programs. “The three fundamental goals of the School of Medicine are patient care, education and research,” he explained. “It cannot function without all three. By assembling an extensive and diverse research portfolio, we attract notable researchers and put the school in the national rankings.”

The office also works to make certain that the School of Medicine’s basic biomedical science training for its Ph.D. students maintains a level of excellence. “The boundary between basic science education/training and faculty research is and has always been virtually indistinguishable,” said Kenneth Palmer, Ph.D., assistant dean of graduate programs at the School of Medicine. “We work to train researchers in graduate programs, but one cannot reasonably separate the biomedical educational component from the research component. The goals and objectives of the research enterprise and those of the training programs are intimately linked. Neither would be as effective without the other.” As a consequence, Dr. Palmer works closely with Dr. Walz, Ph.D. “We have a very effective and cooperative interaction that facilitates both missions,” he said.

The Office of Research and Graduate Programs oversees biomedical research carried out by faculty throughout 25 basic and clinical departments. Areas of particular research excellence within the school include the neurosciences and advanced imaging, women’s and children’s health, cancer, and urban and African-American health studies.

“Despite various challenges and trying economic times our faculty continue to be successful and bring important discoveries to the School of Medicine.”

Let your classmates know what you’ve been doing.

Last name ____________________ First name ____________________ Year ________
Street Address ____________________
City ____________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone ____________________ E-mail ____________________

My news for class notes: ____________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

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

Let your classmates know what you’ve been doing.

Do you know an alum whose accomplishments should be highlighted in alum notes? If so, please provide us with their contact information.

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Mail this form to:
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Alumni Affairs
101 East Alexandrine
Detroit, MI 48201
Or call us, toll-free: (877) WSU-MED1
Or email information to: alumni@med.wayne.edu

My news for class notes:

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