

# NEWSPAGER

In the tradition of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann Medical College

## ***Listening to Her Heart: Hearing-Impaired Student Pursues Career in Medicine***

**February 2004**

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Jennifer Lee's electronic stethoscope enables her to hear heart murmurs and other sounds that are often missed by her third-year classmates, who use conventional stethoscopes, at Drexel University College of Medicine. This high tech piece of equipment is one of a number of accommodations and services that are enabling Lee to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a physician despite a significant hearing impairment. She was born with a bilateral, severe-to-profound hearing loss of -110 to -115 decibels.

"I've always had a love of biology and admired what physicians do," she said. During her undergraduate studies at Stanford University, however, she became apprehensive about her career aspirations. "I did not know how a hard-of-hearing person could be entrusted with the lives of others," Lee said in an article that appeared in *The New Physician*, October 2003. As a result, she spent several years conducting molecular biology research.

Missing the personal contact with others and still longing for a career as a physician, she summoned the courage to apply to medical schools after becoming involved with an online support group for hard of hearing health professionals ([www.amphl.org](http://www.amphl.org)). "I was encouraged after learning about the experiences of hearing-impaired physicians, veterinarians, nurses and medical students who were coping successfully every day," she recalled.

After receiving acceptances from three medical schools, Lee chose Drexel. "When I visited the school, Drexel was exceptionally warm and welcoming," she remembered. "Representatives from the College of Medicine assured me that they would do everything possible to make sure I felt comfortable, and I was confident that I would get the support and accommodations I needed here."

Barbara K. Schindler, M.D., Vice Dean for Academic and Educational Affairs concurs. "The staff and faculty worked collaboratively with Jennifer to ensure that she has a strong educational experience."

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## ***Childless Couples Find Hope and Success with Drexel's Unique IVF Money-Back Guarantee Program***



**Jeffrey Russell, M.D.**  
Director

IVF and Embryo Genetics Center

For almost three years, Michelle and Chad Campbell had been trying to have a baby. After several unsuccessful attempts at artificial insemination, the couple was forced to stop their efforts because of the expense. They had just about given up their dream of having a family when Michelle heard about the unique IVF Success Guarantee Program offered by the IVF and Embryo Genetics Center at Drexel University College of Medicine.

Unlike other in vitro fertilization money-back guarantee programs, Drexel offers qualified patients an 80 percent refund after just one cycle if it is unsuccessful or canceled for any reason. Patients qualify for the program if they meet a number of criteria related to age and history.

According to Jeffrey Russell, M.D., Director, IVF and Embryo Genetics Center at Drexel, other IVF programs offer money back on a sliding scale only after three cycles and a much bigger outlay of money, usually \$25,000 to \$30,000. Drexel's IVF program fee is \$10,000 for one cycle, which does not include prescreening or diagnostic work.

"We created the IVF Success Guarantee Program in response to the financial burden patients may face

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**Stephen K. Klasko, M.D., M.B.A.**  
Interim Dean  
Drexel University College of Medicine

### ***What They Don't Teach You in Business School***

On December 18, 2003 Tenet HealthSystem announced their decision to close MCP Hospital on March 31, 2004. The hospital is projected to lose millions of dollars over the next year. Since that decision, we have been working feverishly to mitigate the disruption to our students, faculty, residents and the patients we serve.

As an M.D./M.B.A., I am always caught in the middle between a love and understanding of the social aspects of medicine and health care, and the stark realization of the business component. My Wharton professors used to preach the importance of "getting back to business basics" during periods of change and stress. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth.

On a national basis, on a statewide level, and certainly here at Drexel University College of Medicine — education, patient care and medical humanism are being tested at an unprecedented level. However, the spreadsheets and the business models don't come close to solving the problems. Our ability to survive and succeed gets down to people — so called human assets.

Those human assets will never be more important than during this time of change and opportunity for us here at the medical

school. And while they will predicate our success into a new future, they will never show up on any spreadsheet, will never be heralded by the financial folks, and will never be reflected on the balance sheet.

But the balance of success for Drexel University College of Medicine will be achieved through our people. During this prolonged period of looming threats for MCP Hospital, our faculty and staff have cared about one thing — their patients and the community they serve. Those human assets were able to preserve the healthcare of many underserved patients and families in a manner that is difficult to measure.

The spreadsheet says that we will have less residents if MCP hospital closes. The "human assets" that include program and fellowship directors have worked tirelessly to ensure that their programs remain quality teaching experiences, their residents are taken care of, and that the future of the residency program is assured through aggressive recruiting.

Finally, my M.B.A. might have me think of students in terms of numbers and tuition dollars, but the deans and faculty at the Queen Lane Campus as well as the staff in my office, have used this opportunity to remember why we are here — to support an educational mission that will represent the future of healthcare delivery throughout the country.

So, what have I learned? Well, the "humans" come before the "numbers" for a good reason. They are the reason we all come to work every day.

**Tel: 215-762-8900**

### ***Dr. Houshmand Appointed Interim Provost***

Dr. Ali Houshmand, dean of the Goodwin College of Professional Studies, has been named the University's interim provost. The announcement was made by President Papadakis. Houshmand will succeed Provost Harvill Eaton, who will leave Drexel to assume his new duties as President of Cumberland University.

"The academic business of the University continues as always, with ultimate authority for academic decision-making vested in the *Interim Provost*. It is against this humbling reality that I respectfully ask for your support and cooperation in the days and months to come. I look forward to working with the offices of the College of Medicine to make sure that there will be no interruption in the affairs of the school," said Dr. Houshmand.

Dr. Houshmand joined Drexel in 2000 as an associate provost for academic affairs, focusing on student retention. He was named Goodwin College's Dean in January 2001. In his two years at Goodwin College, Dr. Houshmand was responsible

for developing 30 new academic programs, hiring tenure-track professors, enhancing the quality of the College's faculty and staff, promoting collaboration with other academic institutions and cultivating research in a College that traditionally was comprised of evening students only.



**Ali Houshmand, Ph.D.**  
Interim Provost

A native of Tehran, Iran, Dr. Houshmand earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in mathematical statistics from the University of Essex in Colchester, England, and master's and doctorate degrees in industrial and operations engineering from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

## ***Childless Couples Find Hope and Success with Drexel's Unique IVF Money-Back Guarantee Program...continued***

because infertility treatments are often not fully covered by insurance, if covered at all," Dr. Russell noted.

The IVF and Embryo Genetics Center is the first and only fertility center in the Philadelphia area to offer this type of money back guarantee program. It is also the only program in the region that offers Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis, which eliminates the risk of multiple births and increases the chances of a viable pregnancy.

The IVF and Embryo Genetics Center is part of the College of Medicine's Division of Maternal/Fetal Medicine, headed by Ronald J. Wapner, M.D., Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"Our goal is to make Drexel the leader in infertility and IVF and embryo genetic care in the region," said Dr. Russell. "It made perfect sense to establish a program that combines our high tech IVF program with a cutting edge genetics program.

Since last July when it began, Drexel's IVF Success Guarantee Program has enjoyed a success rate of 60 to 70 percent, well

above the national average of 28 percent.

In November 2003, the Campbells got the news they had waited three years to hear – Michelle was pregnant. "We are helping more and more people go from being childless to becoming parents," Dr. Russell noted.

**Tel: 215-762-4780**

*Drexel's IVF Success Guarantee Program has enjoyed a success rate of 60 to 70 percent, well above the national average.*



**Dr. Jeffrey Russell checks a patient's blood for hormone levels and possible pregnancy.**

## ***Listening to Her Heart...continued***

During her first two years of medical school, Lee relied heavily on Drexel's student-run scribe service, which provided her with typed lecture notes for a fee of about \$150 per semester.

Lee also used Computer-Aided Realtime Translation (CART) for one of her classes, provided by Drexel University's Office of Disability Services (ODS). With this system, a CART reporter types what the lecturer is saying into a computer so the student can read along on a laptop and follow the lecture "live." Drexel pays the CART reporter fee, which ranges from \$100 to \$200 per hour.

Now in her third year, Lee regularly uses oral interpreters during her clinical clerkships, provided by Drexel's ODS. "They assist me with patients, rounds and phone calls by repeating what others say to me," explained Lee, who never learned American Sign Language. At first, Lee worried what patients might think, but she notes, "I have yet to meet a patient who was unwilling to work with me."

Lee said her experiences in the OR have been more of a challenge. "During surgery, the doctors hunch over the table and talk quietly. Consequently, the interpreter can't hear what they're saying because she isn't allowed to stand too close to the sterile field." Lee plans to request a microphone system and orthopedic face helmets with clear face shields during her next surgery clerkship.

Lee said that her peers, professors and attendings have been willing to provide assistance whenever she needs it. Fellow third-year student Fran Puleo made the ultimate sacrifice when they took Gross Anatomy together. "After the first two days of working on cadavers, I realized that Jenn wasn't getting everything," Puleo said. "So I took off my mask and put up with the odor so I could help her."

Lee is already planning strategy for her residency applications. "Most med students apply to 15 or 20 places, but I will apply to double that number," she said. "I want to find a very supportive environment like the one at Drexel."

Lee, whose husband, Paul, is a second-year medical student at Drexel, hasn't yet decided what specialty she will pursue. "While it's important to follow your aspirations, it's also important to know your limitations," she emphasized. "You shouldn't compromise your patients' health just because you want to prove something. I'm confident that I will find a specialty that will be fulfilling for me and beneficial for my patients."

Drexel University College of Medicine is seeking grants and scholarship funding to admit other hearing-impaired students. Anyone interested in supporting this effort is encouraged to call Linda Roth in the Communications Department at **215-762-2330**.

**Frank L. Miller, M.D., HU '41**, received the Patrick Henry Silver Medallion for patriotic achievement from the Philadelphia Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars. The award honors an adult who has made significant contributions to patriotism, either in their community or to the Military Order of the World Wars. Major Miller, a decorated veteran of World War II, joined the Philadelphia Chapter of the organization in 1982 and has been a longtime member of the Friends of Valley Forge, the Trappe Historical Society, the Audubon Society, the British Officers Club, the Pennsylvania Archaeology Society and a trustee of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

**Joseph F. Hacker, III, M.D., HU '79**, was installed as the president of The Medical Society of Delaware at the Society's 214th Annual Meeting Banquet in the Hotel du Pont's Gold Ballroom on Saturday, November 22, 2003. Dr. Hacker, a New Castle County physician specializing in gastroenterology, is a native of Allentown, PA and attended William Allen High School before graduating Cum Laude from Muhlenberg College where he completed a B.S. in Natural Sciences.

**Nancy E. Gary, M.D., M.A.C.P., MCP '62**, recently received the 2003 SELAM Award for Excellence for Promotion of Women in Academic Health. The award is given to the person who best demonstrates excellence in his/her commitment to the advancement and promotion of women in academic health professions. Dr. Gary is a founding member of the ELAM Program's Advisory Committee and serves as a core faculty member of the program. She was the first, and for many years the only, woman to be Dean of more than one medical school. Dr. Gary is Dean Emerita, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; and former Dean, Albany Medical College.



(L to R) Wendy Weinstock Brown, M.D., M.P.H.; Lourdes Corman, M.D.; Barbara Schindler, M.D., Vice Dean for Educational and Academic Affairs, Drexel University College of Medicine; and award recipient Nancy Gary, M.D., M.A.C.P.

**Julie Nathanson, M.D., MCP '43**, passed away on December 6, 2003. Dr. Nathanson began her general practice at 21st and Pine, where she provided medical care for 50 years. Often referred to fondly as "Dr. Juliet," she was especially interested in women's health issues. Dr. Nathanson retired at the age of 85 but continued to volunteer and lecture in the medical community. She was 96.

## Center for Study of Infection Control Created



**Elias Abrutyn, M.D.**  
Professor of Medicine and  
Public Health and  
Interim Chief, Infectious Diseases

As part of Tenet's Commitment to Quality and its focus on patient safety, a \$1.5 million grant from the Tenet Healthcare Foundation has established a Center for the Study of Infection Control at Drexel University College of Medicine. The Center is focused on increasing and automating data collection to better assist infection control

personnel. Tenet's Hahnemann University Hospital, as well as two non-Tenet hospitals, will be research participants.

"This research will help improve efforts to monitor and prevent hospital-acquired infections," said **Elias Abrutyn, M.D.**, the Center's principal investigator and Professor of Medicine and Public Health and Interim Chief, Infectious Diseases at Drexel University College of Medicine. "This grant from the Tenet Healthcare Foundation will allow us to conduct research that could help save lives and improve the quality of care for many patients."

## Upcoming CME Programs

### February 2004

Feb 6 **Pharmacology Update**  
Family Planning Council  
260 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Gina Walton - 215-567-8001, ext. 3014

### March 2004

Mar 17 - 20 **Evidence Based Practices-Practice Based Evidence in Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities**  
The Fairmount-Copley Plaza Hotel of Boston  
138 St. James Avenue, Boston, MA

Contact: Shirely Hines - 215-842-4344

### April 2004

Apr 23 - 25 **Update in Infectious Diseases**  
Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing  
201 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Jennifer Sumter - 215-842-6998

Apr 23 - 29 **Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM)**

Gregg Conference Center, Bryn Mawr, PA  
Contact: Deidre Lyngard - 215-842-6041



**Dr. Delaney**

**Mary Anne Delaney, M.D.**, Associate Professor and Division Director for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, **Richard Malone, M.D.**, a child and adolescent psychiatrist in the Department of Psychiatry, and **Cynthia Gifford-Hollingsworth, M.S.N., C.P.N.P., C.C.R.P.**, a Nurse Practitioner in the Department of Psychiatry presented *Adverse Events during Lithium Treatment in Children and Ziprasidone Treatment-Associated Changes in QTc and Weight in Adolescents with Autism* at the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Miami, FL on October 14-19, 2003.



**Dr. Pelleg**

**Amir Pelleg, Ph.D.**, Professor of Medicine and Physiology and Pharmacology, presented an abstract entitled: *Left Ventricular P2X2/3 Receptors Mediate ATP-triggered Vagal Depressor Reflex* at the recent Annual Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association, November 9-12, 2003 in Orlando, FL. Co-authors were **Jiang Xu, M.D.**, Research Assistant Professor, **William Kussmaul, M.D.**, Associate Professor and **Peter B. Kurnik, M.D.**, Professor, all of the Department of Medicine.



**Dr. Moreland**

**Robert S. Moreland, Ph.D.**, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, co-authored *Sensitivity of rabbit aorta and mesenteric artery to norepinephrine: Role of tyrosine kinases*, which recently appeared in the "European Journal of Pharmacology."



**Dr. Abaza**

**Nabil A. Abaza, D.M.D, Ph.D.**, Professor and Program Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, has been invited to be a lead speaker at the 11th International Congress of the Egyptian Clinical Dental Society in Cairo, Egypt, March 24-26, 2004. Dr. Abaza will speak on the recent advances in surgical management of *Craniofacial Trauma and Odontogenic Tumors and their Reconstruction*.

**Mary Ann Kuzma, M.D.**, Associate Professor and Clerkship Director of Internal Medicine, presented an abstract entitled *Teaching Cardiac Auscultation: a Timesaving Methodology* at the poster session of the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine

(CDIM) meeting in Savannah, GA, October 23, 2003. Co-authors on this abstract were **Michael Barrett, M.D.**, Department of Cardiology, and **Carolyn Lacey**, a recent College of Medicine graduate. The abstract will be published in an upcoming edition of "Teaching and Learning in Medicine."



**Dr. Klasko**

**Stephen K. Klasko, M.D., M.B.A.**, Interim Dean of the College of Medicine, will be the keynote speaker at the second annual meeting of the national program directors for combined M.D./M.B.A. programs in the United States on April 17, 2004 at Thomas Jefferson Medical College.

**Angelo P. Giardino, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, co-authored *Patterns of Designating Special Needs in Maltreated Children by CPS Caseworkers: A Secondary Data Analysis of a Nationally Representative Data Sheet* which appeared in the Fall 2003 "The APSAC Advisor."

**Carol E. Anderson, M.D.**, from the Department of Pediatrics, and **Hope H. Punnett, M.D.**, and **Jean-Pierre de Chadarevian, M.D.**, from the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, published *Characterization of a Wilms Tumor in a 9-Year-Old Girl with Trisomy 18* in the "American Journal of Medical Genetics."



**Dr. Varjavand**



**Dr. Novack**

**Nielufar Varjavand, M.D.**, and **Dennis Novack, M.D.**, published *A Practical Approach to Domestic Violence and Why it Should Concern Physicians* in the November 2003 issue of "Resident & Staff Physician."

**Page Morahan, Ph.D.**, Co-Director of the ELAM program, published *The Complete Biographical Wardrobe—What Every Faculty Member Needs* for the November/December 2003 issue of "Academic Physician & Scientist."



**Ari Brooks, M.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, was among 1,442 initiates from around the world who became Fellows of the American College of Surgeons on October 19, 2003 during convocation ceremonies at the college's 89th annual Clinical Congress in Chicago, IL.

**The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC)**, a non-profit organization that promotes the humane care of animals in research, recently granted Drexel University College of Medicine Full Accreditation with no suggestions for improvement.



**D. Walter Cohen, D.D.S.**, Chancellor Emeritus of MCP, received the 2003 Dr. Irving E. Gruber Award from The Greater New York Dental Meeting on December 1, 2003. This prestigious award recognizes "Excellence in the Advancement of Dental Education."

**The Institute for Women's Health and Leadership** has selected Leslie Anne Miller, General Counsel to Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, to receive the 2004 WOMAN ONE Award. Presented annually, the WOMAN ONE Award recognizes a woman of exceptional achievement. This year's award ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 5pm in the Ormandy Ballroom of the Doubletree Hotel in Philadelphia and will follow Research Advancement Day at the same location.



**Sandra Koffler, Ph.D.**, Director of Neuropsychology Services, was presented the award for Distinguished Service to the Profession by the National Academy of Neuropsychology at the annual meeting of the Academy this year. Dr. Koffler was the first woman president of the Academy and a past president of the Philadelphia

Neuropsychology Society. She was recently elected for a second term to the Board of Trustees of the American Board of Professional Psychology.



**Sandra P. Levison, M.D., M.A.C.P.**, Professor in the Department of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Nephrology, was recently named by the American Medical Women's Association as a Local Legend. This award honors women physicians who have demonstrated commitment, originality, innovation, and creativity in the field of

medicine and have made exceptional contributions to the image of women in medicine. Dr. Levison, along with Local Legends from around the country, will be recognized at this year's AMWA banquet and will be included on a special DVD for a "Changing the Face of Medicine" website. The Local Legends recognition program is a companion project to an exhibition created by the National Library of Medicine entitled "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians."

The third annual Manuel Stamatakis Golf Classic will take place on Monday, July 12, 2004 at the Philadelphia Country Club. Sponsorship information will be available in March. For more information, please contact Mary Vetter at **215-762-4325**.



**Schindler receives Presidential Award**

**Barbara K. Schindler, M.D.**, Vice Dean for Academic and Educational Affairs at Drexel University College of Medicine, received the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society's Presidential Award for 2003 during a special presentation at the annual Benjamin Rush Ball. Established in 1998, the award recognizes members of the Society who have made outstanding contributions to the profession of psychiatry. Dr. Schindler was nominated by the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society for her achievements as an academic consultation/liason psychiatrist, researcher, educator and mentor. She has been teaching medical students and residents since 1975 and is a professor of both psychiatry and pediatrics.



**Barbara Schindler, M.D.**  
Vice Dean for Academic and Educational Affairs



Dr. Sherif



Dr. Núñez



Lynn Yeakel

The Institute for Women's Health and Leadership received a \$62,500 grant from AstraZeneca to present its public outreach program on women's health, "Conversations about Women's Hearts and Minds," in San Diego, California, on February 4, 2004 in conjunction with the 88th Annual Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). Expert panelists include **Katherine Sherif, M.D.** and **Ana Núñez, M.D.** from the Institute; Dr. Lynn Epstein, President of AMWA; and Dr. Elizabeth Barrett-

Connor, Professor at UCSD Cancer Center. Institute Director **Lynn Yeakel**, creator of the "Conversations," will moderate.

**Olimpia Meucci, M.D., Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology & Physiology, has been awarded an \$89,000 research grant entitled "Cell cycle proteins and HIV neuropathogenesis" from the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust.

**Mahesh C. Sharma, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, received an \$112,000 grant from the Department of Defense to study the calcium signaling in breast cancer.

## The Kate Hurd-Mead Lecture for 2004

The 2004 Kate Hurd-Mead Lecture will be held on March 17 at 6:15pm at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd St. This year's lecture, "Confessions of a Tempered Radical: Leading Change in a Half-Changed World for Women in Medicine," features guest speaker Janet Bickel, M.A. Ms. Bickel is a Career Development Coach and a Faculty Career and Diversity Consultant residing and working in the Washington, D.C. area. For 25 years, she worked for the Association of American Medical Colleges, and for 15 of those years she was the AAMC Director of Women in Medicine Programs. She is the author of over 35 articles in peer-reviewed journals, as well as the book *Women in Medicine: Getting in, Growing and Advancing*.

The Lecture, sponsored by the Section on Medical History of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Drexel University College of Medicine, and the College's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership, will be followed by a reception. For more information, contact **Steven J. Peitzman, M.D.** at [sjp27@drexel.edu](mailto:sjp27@drexel.edu) or 215 842-6988.

## Medical Breakthroughs: The Impact on Medicine and Technology

The Cardiology Department and the Laurence A. Baiada Center for Entrepreneurship in Technology will be hosting a seminar entitled *Medical Breakthroughs: The Impact on Medicine and Technology*. Led by **Peter Kurnik, M.D.**, the seminar will focus on what physicians and other healthcare professionals need to know when a new medical product is brought to the market. A panel of experts will address manufacturing, clinical, business and research issues. All students, faculty and alumni are invited to attend the seminar which will take place on Monday, March 15, 2004 from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at the Laurence A. Baiada Center for Entrepreneurship in Technology, 3225 Arch Street. Shuttle service from the Bellet building will be extended for this event. Please contact **215-762-2296** for additional information.

## Compliance Corner: Privacy program training remains a requirement!



**Edward G. Longazel**  
Chief Compliance Officer

The guarantee of "Patient Privacy Rights" provided by the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is to be understood and respected by each member of the Drexel University Physicians™ clinical services team.

Every clinical practice employee (including office administration, staff and clinician) is required to complete the training program within 30 days of receipt of a Drexel e-mail address.

Training is web based at: <http://webcampus.med.drexel.edu/hipaa/> and available 24/7!

Training may be completed in less than 30 minutes. Completion of the training is tracked electronically by individual e-mail address and each participant is provided an opportunity to print a certificate of completion.

The Corporate Compliance Office is charged with ensuring regulatory compliance as everyone works to satisfy the University's non-profit teaching, research and healthcare delivery missions.

E-mail comments or questions to [Edward.G.Longazel@drexel.edu](mailto:Edward.G.Longazel@drexel.edu)

It just became a little easier to do the "right" thing... **Confidential Hotline: 215-762-1010**

Tel: 215-762-2023

245 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Mail Stop 484  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

## Bulletins:

### National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative Update

According to AAMC President Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., over 1,700 hospitals have agreed to report data for the National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative on ten clinical measures. This represents 41 percent of the eligible AAMC Council of Teaching Hospital member institutions. "The collected data will be used to measure and improve the quality of care in our nation's hospitals," said Cohen. More than 1,000 have already submitted their information to a central database. The AAMC expects to release a summary of this information on a consumer-friendly website later this month.

### Diabetes Risk Increases for All Americans

According to a recent article in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average American born today has a one in three chance of developing diabetes, but for Hispanics and African-Americans the risk is one in two. *The Chicago Tribune* announced the results of this study on October 7, 2003 and stated that the effects of this disease will not only reduce life expectancies for the affected patients but will also significantly impact their quality of life.

### Fight Aging by Engaging Your Brain

Researchers from University College of London have found that participating in complex leisure activities can help middle-aged people fight the effects of aging while maintaining and enhancing their mental faculties. The study, led by Dr. Archana Singh-Manoux, was reported in the "Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health." The findings indicate that people who read, visit cultural institutions, listen to music or volunteer, scored higher on tests measuring vocabulary, math reasoning skills and short-term memory tests than those who do not challenge their minds. Researchers statistically eliminated the effects of education and professional occupations when tabulating study results.

### Should Medicine Include Faith?

A growing debate exists in the medical community about whether or not faith has an impact upon a patient's health or recovery from illness. While many physicians prefer to pursue treatment from a purely clinical perspective, others believe that ignoring the benefits of a faith-based approach significantly reduces the chances for a patient's recovery. Hundreds of researchers have been trying to quantify the effects of faith and spirituality on health over the past decade. While empirical evidence has not provided a definitive answer, it is true that patients are increasingly vocal about the need or desire for more spiritual care from their doctors. According to a recent *NEWSWEEK* poll, 72 percent of the U.S. population would speak with their doctors about faith and healing if given the opportunity. In response to this demand, more than half of the medical schools in the country now offer courses on how to talk to patients about faith and illness.

## Calendar:

<b>February</b>	<b>Black History Month; American Heart Month</b>
Feb 3	Surgery GRnd, 7-8pm, MCP, Kaiser Auditorium
Feb 3	OB/GYN GRnd: <i>Medical Ethics in OB/GYN</i> , 7-8am, NCB, 16113
Feb 3	Renal GRnd, 1-2pm, DiPalma Conference Room, NCB, 6th Floor
Feb 4	Dept of Medicine GRnd: <i>Scleroderma Disease Modification in Systemic Sclerosis</i> 8:30am, Hahnemann, Lecture Hall B
Feb 5	Gastroenterology and Hepatology GRnd: <i>Rectal Cancer</i> , 4-6pm, NCB, 6101
Feb 10	Surgery GRnd, 7-8am, MCP, Kaiser Auditorium
Feb 10	OB/GYN GRnd: <i>Journal Club</i> , 7-8am, NCB, 16113
Feb 10	Alton I. Sutnick, M.D., Sculpture Dedication, 5:30pm, Queen Lane, Atrium RSVP <b>215-991-8561</b> or <b>be23@drexel.edu</b>
Feb 10	Renal GRnd, 1-2pm, NCB, 6th Floor, DiPalma Conference Room
Feb 11	Dept of Medicine GRnd: <i>Asthma</i> , 8:30am, Hahnemann, Lecture Hall B
Feb 12	Gastroenterology and Hepatology GRnd: <i>Principles and Applications of Microarray Technology</i> , 4-6pm, NCB, 6101
Feb 14	<b>Valentine's Day</b>
Feb 14	<b>Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day</b>
Feb 17	Surgery GRnd, 7-8am, MCP, Kaiser Auditorium
Feb 17	OB/GYN GRnd: <i>Fragile X Syndrome</i> , 7-8am, NCB, 16113
Feb 17	Renal GRnd, 1-2pm, NCB, 6th Floor, DiPalma Conference Room
Feb 18	Dept of Medicine GRnd: <i>Erectile Dysfunction</i> , 8:30am, Hahnemann, Lecture Hall B
Feb 24	Surgery GRnd, 7-8am, MCP, Kaiser Auditorium
Feb 24	OB/GYN GRnd: <i>Smoking Cessation Counseling Review</i> , 7-8am, NCB, 16113
Feb 24	Renal GRnd, 1-2pm, NCB, 6th Floor, DiPalma Conference Room
Feb 18	Dept of Medicine GRnd: <i>Cardiovascular Disease and HIV</i> 8:30am, Hahnemann, Lecture Hall B
Feb 27	Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert, College of Physicians, 7pm contact Michael Pasirstein <b>mjp35@drexel.edu</b>

**NEWSPAGER**, a monthly newsletter for the Drexel University College of Medicine community of students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni, is published by the Office of Communications, Linda A. Roth, Director. Submissions and pictures for the publication may be mailed to **NEWSPAGER**, Department of Communications, Mail Stop 484, 245 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, or e-mailed to [Linda.Roth@drexel.edu](mailto:Linda.Roth@drexel.edu), or faxed to 215-762-2332. Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. **Telephone: 215-762-2330**. The Drexel University College of Medicine is a not-for-profit subsidiary of Drexel University and is affiliated with Tenet HealthSystem.