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Scientists Develop Compound to Block Metastatic Cancer Cells

An estimated 68,000 women and men in the United States die each year from metastatic breast and prostate cancers. Now researchers at Drexel University College of Medicine have developed a compound directed at a target they identified that inhibits metastatic progression by blocking tumor cells from seeding new lesions. Their discovery has been accepted into a highly competitive drug development program at the National Cancer Institute and will now be headed to clinical trials.

The target was initially discovered and validated in 2004 by experimental oncologist Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD, professor in the Departments of Pharmacology & Physiology and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. Fatatis's initial

interest in this target stemmed from collaboration with Olimpia Meucci, MD, PhD, a neuroscientist and professor in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology. However, it would be several years before Fatatis began working with medicinal chemist Joseph Salvino, PhD, also a pharmacology professor at Drexel, and the two discovered that Salvino could develop a compound aimed at Fatatis's target to produce a new therapy to treat cancer patients.

The compound works by targeting circulating tumor cells that leak into the blood, producing new lesions, most commonly in the skeleton, therefore precipitating the progression of the disease. "Cancer cells in the blood survive only a few hours," explains Fatatis. "They need to rapidly find a new home.

What this compound does is block tumor cells from seeding again and again, and push them toward a natural death in the blood."

The compound specifically targets the chemokine receptor CX3CR1, which is expressed on circulating tumor cells and implicated in metastasis to the bone.

"A significant additional benefit is that the new compounds are not toxic," adds Salvino. "We're not talking about chemotherapy. We aim to develop a medication



3 Bridge to the Doctorate offers multifaceted support



4 Alzheimer's and vascular dementia study



6 White coats for members of the Class of 2018



The collaboration between Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD (left), and Joseph Salvino, PhD, led to a patent and acceptance into the NCI's Experimental Therapeutics Program, NExT.

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pulse

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Off to a Great Beginning

School is well underway, and I have already met many new students. I want to welcome everyone to campus and to encourage those of you I have not met to say hello or stop for a chat. The College has a bit of a rolling start. In July, clinical rotations began, and third-year medical students finally had the chance to apply what they had learned so far and then some. In August, the Graduate School held its first full-fledged



Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.

orientation, with three days of combined and program-specific activities, including social events. The medical student orientation, the same week, culminated in the White Coat Ceremony, followed by a lively family reception.

We were very fortunate to have as our speaker Dr. Richard Sloan, the director of medical education and associate dean for our regional medical campus at Wellspan York Hospital. I would like to abstract some of his remarks here.

Dr. Sloan described five key attributes the students will need to be "world class" physicians. Each starts with the letter *P*. The first attribute is a clear sense of *purpose*. In medicine, as in other callings, those who give back find that they receive so much more in return. The second *P* is for outstanding *performance*

— with important caveats: Rather than endless memorizing, know how to find evidence-based answers to your questions. Your ability for teamwork is more important than your factual knowledge.

The third *P* is *presence*, physical and mindful presence. Give to patients our full attention, even if only for a short time. The fourth *P* is *personal touch*. Attempt to hear, see and feel what the patient is perceiving. Let empathy and an attitude of caring radiate naturally from your demeanor!

The final *P* is *professionalism*. What qualities lead us to choose a certain physician for ourselves, for our families? Those that establish "our reputation": Integrity, competence, selflessness, humility.

Two days after White Coat, our faculty organized a brand new ceremony for incoming medical students, on the honor system and code of ethics. Students read aloud portions of the code and a pledge to engage in professional behavior. Each student signed the pledge and served as a witness for another student's signing.

It was a very special moment for the students and the faculty (I was there) to see the class, donning their white coats, promising to themselves and to the larger community to uphold our longstanding ethical and professional values.

As the new academic year fully unfolds, I take the opportunity to recognize our faculty in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania, in New Jersey and in Sacramento for their participation in the education of our students. Their contributions shape the platform upon which our students are educated and gain valuable and diverse experiences. A big and sincere thank you to all!

Daniel V. Schidlow, MD
Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs

Destination Excellence: Bridge to the Doctorate

Funded by the National Science Foundation, Drexel's Bridge to the Doctorate fellowship program promotes the participation of underrepresented minority students in science, technology, engineering or mathematics by providing tuition, a stipend for two years, enriched academic services and mentoring. Steven Jones, PhD '11 (neuroscience), was the first College of Medicine student in the BTD program. Through it, he was able to develop peer relationships with other Drexel BTD fellows, support his research training, and attend national and international scientific meetings to present his findings.

Jones is currently completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. His success in the BTD program was followed by that of Daphney Jean, PhD '13 (neuroscience), who completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Drexel and was awarded a Science & Technology Policy Fellowship by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Says Jean, "The grad school experience can be very isolating, especially for underrepresented minorities. The BTD program provided the professional and social platform to network with other minorities in the STEM fields. I've made lifelong friends I would never have met otherwise."

Here, two current BTD fellows, both in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, give their perspectives:

Andrea Partridge, Fifth-Year PhD Candidate

I have always been passionate about pursuing a career in HIV-1 research, but I was unsure if I wanted to get a terminal degree. I came into Drexel's biomedical graduate program as a master's student and was approached about the fellowship. It assured me a stipend and support to cross over into the PhD program. The BTD program not only provided me with the means to get my PhD, but it also helped me realize that I could provide services for underrepresented minority groups that may be interested in the sciences.

In 2011, I attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (abrcms.org). The sense of community inspired me to start a biomedical graduate minority group on our campus, the Biomedical Graduate Student Association. One of the goals has been to introduce younger minority students to STEM fields. Last year, we went to an elementary school in West Philadelphia as part of the Bio-Rad Laboratories science ambassador program and performed a DNA extraction experiment with seventh-graders. We formed a partnership with the school and plan to return on a regular basis.

As the first person in my Puerto Rican family to pursue a career in science, it's important to me to

give back. My parents came to the United States 30 years ago to provide my brothers and me with these exact opportunities. I want to represent STEM fields as a minority student, and also show young minority students that science can be cool.

Tony LaMark James, Second-Year PhD Student

The BTD program has been key in helping me pursue my goal of acquiring a PhD. As an entering master's student, the only option I had to pay for my matriculation was to hold full-time employment while also pursuing my degree full time in order to maintain financial aid. Then the chairman of my department informed me of the BTD program. After receiving the grant, I could focus solely on my courses.

In addition to removing financial obstacles, the program opened doors when it came time to pick an adviser. Because I had my own funding, I had the opportunity to explore research here at Drexel and find a project that suited my interest and overall goals. The program has also hosted multiple events that have given me an opportunity to meet researchers outside of my field of interest and broaden my sense of community in my institution. I have also had the opportunity to help in mentorship and training of summer students. Overall, the program has broadened my social and academic awareness at Drexel. As I go through this program, I hope to continue building and fine-tuning my research skills and gain experience training and teaching what I have learned.



Tony James and Andrea Partridge are pursuing their PhDs in microbiology and immunology.

Study Concludes Alzheimer's Disease and Vascular Dementia Are Not Wholly Separate

Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia are the most common forms of dementia. Traditionally, these illnesses have been treated as separate clinical syndromes. But new research led by the Department of Neurology suggests that they have much more in common than diagnostic guidelines currently allow. The study is set for publication this fall in *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.*

The study analyzed 223 patients with dementia, who were seen at an outpatient memory clinic and diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD) or vascular dementia (VaD). Participants were evaluated by a team of dementia specialists and underwent neuropsychological testing, appropriate brain scans and necessary blood tests.

What the researchers found is that dementia patients thought to be suffering from either AD or VaD could be sorted into distinct, very nuanced clinical profiles. Using latent class analysis, the researchers were able to identify four distinct groups:

- Moderate/mixed dementia group
- Mild/mixed dementia group
- Dysexecutive group with significant impairment in multitasking
- Amnesic group with profound memory loss

Follow-up analyses comparing these four groups on neuropsychological measures that delved deeper into the process and errors produced on neuropsychological tests showed that the dysexecutive group exhibited marked difficulty sustaining attention and concentration. The moderate/mixed group evidenced pronounced and greater impairment on language-related tests compared to other neuropsychological abilities. Amnesic patients were

clearly distinguished by severe memory problems, but less impaired on other neuropsychological tests. Mild/mixed patients exhibited milder memory deficits that were intermediary between the amnesic and moderate/mixed groups.

"Through this study we were able to determine that these two common forms of dementia are not wholly separate," said David J. Libon, PhD, the study's lead investigator and

a professor in the Department of Neurology. "These shared characteristics should be taken into consideration both in the development of future AD and VaD diagnostic guidelines and in selecting patients for newly emerging medicine designed to treat dementia." Libon went on to say that the heterogeneity seen in this research could be one reason why virtually all clinical trials designed to treat Alzheimer's disease and related conditions have been so disappointing.

In addition to Libon, the study team included postdoc Laura Brennan, PhD, and former research staff members Joel Eppig and Christine Nieves, all three from the Department

of Neurology; and researchers from Temple University; the University of Florida; the University of California, San Diego; the University of Illinois; the University of Southern California; Boston University; and North Dakota Medical School.

*Libon et al. "Neuropsychological Syndromes Associated with Alzheimer's/Vascular Dementia: A Latent Class Analysis" in *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, Vol. 42, No. 3, in press.



Blocking Cancer Cells

• continued from the cover

that someone could safely take in combination with their normal standard of care."

The National Cancer Institute reviewed the discovery and deemed it scientifically meritorious to accept into its highly competitive Experimental Therapeutics Program (NExT), which gives the scientists access to the institute's drug discovery, preclinical and clinical development resources up to stage 2 clinical trials. The funding for this project is not yet finalized, but similar programs funded through NExT had budgets of approximately \$5 million.

The trials, which should begin in the next three to five

years, will focus on advanced breast cancer patients with evidence of metastatic disease. But both scientists believe their discovery could have implications for other types of cancer as well, particularly prostate cancer.

"This really is a translational scientist's dream come true," said Fatatis, who, as a medical doctor in addition to a PhD, stressed the personal significance of working on something that could be brought from the bench to the clinic with the potential to make a real difference for patients.

Salvino adds, "This is the true definition of scientific collaboration. It's not one isolated scientist in a lab. This is the result of scientists with different areas of expertise getting together and figuring out how to really make an impact."

First-Person Profile: Noah Saad, MD '13

Noah Saad, MD '13, is a second-year resident in general surgery at St. Barnabas in New Jersey. Noah's brother, Adam, class of 2005, is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, and their father, Saad A. Saad, MD, is a pediatric surgeon and a member of the College of Medicine faculty. Noah is following in their footsteps — after spending his first career as a hotel and restaurant chef in Chicago.

I started working in a restaurant in high school. I worked in the front of the house first, but then I got interested in the kitchen and realized that I was actually pretty good at cooking. I kind of idolized my father, always thinking that I wanted to do medicine, but as I got older, there was this competing interest. I thought "I'm good at this, I like the fast pace, I like the lifestyle working in the kitchen." I told my parents I wanted to be a chef.

They said "fine, but we want you to own your own restaurant, and to do that you need to have a business degree — you need to go to college." I went to Boston University for hospitality and got a great education, and then I went to the Culinary Institute of America.

My parents, again having foresight, said "all right, you're not ready to open a restaurant and you're going to get a job — get a job with benefits." The only places I knew that offered benefits to everybody were big hotels, and I ended up at the Four Seasons Chicago. The Four Seasons menu was very heavily influenced by French food, and my passion at the time was Italian food, so after a year and a half, I quit the Four Seasons to work at Spiaggia, an Italian restaurant [said to be the Obamas' favorite]. After eight months there, I realized that while I love *eating* Italian food, I was much more of the mindset of French food — much more exacting, precise measurements, those sorts of things. So I wound up leaving Spiaggia for the Park Hyatt in Chicago, and I stayed for a little over two years.

I don't know whether I had an epiphany or a midlife crisis at the ripe old age of 28, but I realized I wasn't really sure what I was doing with my life and how I was affecting the world. I saw my brother going through residency, and I thought of all the stories my father had about the children he had helped and their families. One of the stories that really brought it home for me was about a young girl who came into the emergency room with abdominal pain. They ran the normal tests, and everything came back negative, but there was something that just

didn't feel right to my dad, so he decided to bring her to the operating room. He found that the girl had an ovarian torsion, and he found it in time to save the ovary. She's a little girl — she's just happy she's not in pain anymore. But the amount of gratitude her family had for my dad — they still send him cards. That was the kind of thing that shifted me from "I'm *thinking* about going back to school," to "I'm *going* back to school."

At that point, thank goodness I had gone to college. I went back to school in January 2008, and in three semesters, I took all the premed courses I needed, and I took the MCATs, and then applied to school.

My brother always spoke very highly of Drexel, and how it prepared him for residency. He loved it. And I think having had a sibling go through it, albeit years earlier, gave me a little bit of insight what it would be like.

There were so many memorable professors. I really liked Dr. DePace — he was a wonderful anatomy professor. Dr. Dave Harris — he taught physiology really well. Dr. Shumsky in neuro I thought was wonderful. And Dr. Russo taught microbiology — she was extremely tough, but the way that we were prepared for Step 1 and, beyond that, for our careers has been extremely valuable. She did a great job.

I met my wife, Christine Schad, in medical school. She was the year ahead of me, and she worked in Student Affairs running the orientation when I came in. If you ask her today, she has no idea who I was at that time, but I certainly knew who she was. It took me three times asking her out for her to say yes. We

got married this year on May 31st.

I ended up working in Student Affairs during school. I also did some research here and there, and I volunteered my time to the Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert. You want to help out any way that you can. I would volunteer to make a three-course home-cooked meal for people in return for their donating money.

I'm in the throes of surgical residency right now, in my second year. I'm going to do a subspecialty, but I'm not sure yet what I want to do. Christine wants to do pediatric surgery — I think there are 39 positions in the entire country, so I will apply to fellowship programs in each of those places.

I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity not only to go to college, but med school on top of that. I think we were very blessed.



Six years ago, former chef Noah Saad was cloaked by his physician brother, Adam.

New Vice Dean for Education Starts

Following a national search, Valerie D. Weber, MD, MS, FACP, has been appointed vice dean for education at the College of Medicine, effective October 1, 2014. Weber joins Drexel from The Commonwealth Medical College, where she most recently served as chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences, associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of medicine.

As a member of the senior leadership team at Commonwealth, Weber had a major role in many aspects of the development of the new school, which awarded its first medical degrees in May 2013. She was responsible for recruiting and developing more than 400 faculty members for the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, and Psychiatry, as well as faculty leaders to create and implement the curriculum. She also led the development of the school's innovative clinical curriculum, the centerpiece of which is a third-year longitudinal integrated clerkship, the largest implementation of that model in the world. This involved the development of medical school faculty across a 16-county region, establishing academic affiliations with nearly 30 hospitals and dozens of physician groups, and crafting a robust assessment plan.



Valerie D. Weber, MD

Weber was the first chair of Commonwealth's Committee on Academic and Professional Standards and was the LCME self-study chair (2010/11). She was a member of the school's Academic

Leadership Group and Institutional Leadership Group from their inception in 2009. She has also been active in the teaching of medical students at all levels, including problem-based, team-based and systems (case-based) learning sessions; history and physical examination; and the quality and patient safety curriculum.

Previously, Weber was vice chair of the Division of Medicine at Geisinger Health System, where she co-led an 80-member division, encompassing multiple specialties. She was also department director of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. While at Geisinger, from 2000 to 2009, Weber held appointments as a clinical associate professor of medicine at Temple University School of Medicine (2007–09), as a clinical assistant professor of medicine at Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine (2000–07), and as an adjunct clinical assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Weber earned her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed her residency in internal medicine at Graduate Hospital, where she served as chief resident. In 2010, she completed a master of science in health care management at the Harvard University School of Public Health. She earned her undergraduate degree in psychology, summa cum laude, from Washington and Jefferson College.





The Class of 2018

Our 260 first-year medical students received the traditional symbol of clinical care and compassion — the white coat — on August 8. The new medical students were welcomed at the White Coat Ceremony by Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, and Raymond S. Schreyer, MD, HU '78, president of the Alumni Association. The event's keynote speaker was Richard W. Sloan, MD, RPh, (photo at left) associate dean for the regional medical campus at WellSpan York Hospital.

After being cloaked by faculty, alumni, or family members, the Class of 2018 recited the Hippocratic Oath together, signifying their passage into the medical community and emphasizing, from the first day, their responsibility not just to take care of their patients, but to care for them.

Additional photos from the event are available in an album on the College of Medicine Facebook page.



Vision 2020 Convenes National Congress Toward Women's Equality

Vision 2020, a national initiative to advance women's economic and social equality, gathered women leaders from across the country for its fourth national congress in May. Nearly 100 delegates met in Philadelphia to learn how their work can make a positive impact on women's equality in their communities and collectively across the United States.

Participants identified ways to engage younger genera-

tions in achieving four Vision 2020 goals by the year 2020: advancing women in senior leadership roles in business and government, achieving economic security, teaching the next generation about women's contributions to American history, and mobilizing women to vote.

More than 300 guests joined delegates and allies at a discussion at the National Constitution Center on the 19th Amendment, which granted women's suffrage. Vision 2020 founder and co-chair Lynn Yeakel, MS, spoke about partnering with the National Constitution Center to plan for the National Centennial Celebration of the 19th Amendment in Philadelphia in the year 2020.

Vision 2020 is a center in Drexel University College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership.

Teens Voice Health Information So Other Teens Can Hear It

How do you get important health information out to teens when they find most of the health information aimed at them to be boring or "cheesy"? Easy — just ask them.



That's exactly what Philadelphia Ujima™ at Drexel University College of Medicine does through its six-week Social Media, Health and Leadership Internship. The summer program, which just finished its third year, gives Philadelphia high school students the opportunity and tools to shape health messages about issues concerning them. Ujima hires the students to be the brains and creativity behind teen health information in order to increase youth awareness, advocacy and engagement.

A large majority of American teens have social media accounts, and many pay attention to posted information. Philadelphia Ujima believes that teens have the ability to create messages that are eye-catching and valuable to their peers. Teens who

participate in the program learn extensive research, office and computer skills to understand how to construct a social media project on a health topic that is relevant to teens today. This year's topics included teen drug use, rape culture, suicide and LGBT discrimination.

The projects include a creative component (such as a story, poem, dance, video, app or website), which is posted on Ujima's social media sites — Twitter, YouTube, and so on. Once the projects are posted to one or more of the program's platforms, the interns can begin promoting them on their own and their friends' accounts to increase the likelihood that the information is viewed. For more information, visit servauntgroup.com/youth.

Kai Burton, a sophomore at Science Leadership Academy in Center City and a 2014 intern in the Social Media, Health and Leadership program, listens to Sim Man's heart during a tour of the Independence Blue Cross Medical Simulation Center at the College.

We're Bicoastal!

In Sacramento for a meeting in June, Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, made sure to set aside time to spend with College of Medicine students in the area. During the day, he visited with medical students on rotation at Kaiser Permanente, and in the evening, he was able to speak with students in the Medical Science and Interdepartmental Medical Science programs.



Dean Schidlow (center) and Sandra Kirschenmann (center right), then associate vice provost of Drexel Sacramento, met with students (l-r) Priyanka Teckchandani, David Lin, Jinny Lu, Halley Park, Peter Kim, Joanne Ahn and Wayne Cheng. Kirschenmann retired September 1.

Stamatakis Golf Classic Raises \$275,000 for Scholarships

The 13th annual Manuel Stamatakis Golf Classic raised \$275,000, bringing the total raised to more than \$3 million since the event debuted in 2002.

More than 100 golfers hit the links — and braved the steamy conditions — at the Philadelphia Cricket Club on July 14 to raise scholarship funds for medical students with proven academic ability and financial need.



Scholar Rachel Rafferty, an aspiring pediatrician, receives her certificate from Manny Stamatakis.

“One of the College’s guiding principles is our tradition of providing educational opportunity to those who might not otherwise have it, and this event helps us do just that for several future physicians,” said Stamatakis.

This year’s fundraiser also included the Manuel Stamatakis Matching Gift Challenge for Scholarships in Medicine. Qualifying donations are matched



With Manny Stamatakis are Stamatakis Scholars (l-r) Wayne Cheng, Clare Coda, Blake Bowden, Christopher Scanlon, Bridgette McCabe, David Wong and Peter Kim. Carolyn Park, not pictured, was away on a rotation.

dollar for dollar, doubling the scholarship amounts available to each medical student.

Co-chairs for this year’s golf classic were Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, Annenberg Dean and senior vice president of medical affairs at Drexel University College of Medicine; Michael P. Halter, CEO of Hahnemann University Hospital; and William R. Sasso, Esq., chairman of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP.

Animal Science Students Off to Vet School

Seven students of the Animal Science programs in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies were accepted to veterinary schools in 2014, reports program director Julian Mesina, DVM, PhD, MPH. Jared Cantor, a graduate of the Veterinary Medical Science program, is attending the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. Six Master of Laboratory Animal Science students enrolled in veterinary school this year: Andrea Barr, University of Edinburgh; Nina Pusateri, Western University of Health Sciences; and Ariel Aguiar, Nicole Bacarella, Bryan Hatton and Janysha Taylor, University of Pennsylvania. Every year, about 80 percent of the graduates of the Animal Science programs are accepted by accredited veterinary medical schools.



Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease Symposium Draws Top Scientists

The College hosted some of the world’s top research scientists during the 2014 International Symposium on Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease, held June 16–20 on the Center City Campus. Presentations highlighted ongoing investigations in the areas of immunology, inflammation and autoimmunity; microbial pathogenesis and vaccines; cancer biology and neoplastic disease; spinal cord and traumatic brain injury; and HIV CNS disease, reservoirs and eradication.

Prizes were awarded to five eminent scientists; each day of the symposium featured an hour-long address by one of the prize recipients. The awards were made as follows.

Drexel Prize in Immunology: Charles A. Dinarello, MD, professor of medicine and immunology, University of Colorado School of Medicine; professor of experimental medicine, Radboud University (Netherlands).

Drexel Prize in Infectious Disease: Claire M. Fraser, PhD, professor of medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine; director, Institute for Genome Sciences.

Drexel Prize in Cancer Biology: Craig Thompson, MD, president and CEO, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Drexel Prize in Translational Research: W. Dalton Dietrich, PhD, scientific director, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis; Kinetic Concepts Distinguished Chair in Neurosurgery, senior associate dean for discovery science, and professor of neurological surgery, neurology, and cell biology and anatomy, University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, Lois Pope LIFE Center.

Hilary Koprowski Prize in Neurovirology: Donald H. Gilden, MD, Louise Baum Endowed Chair and Professor, Department of Neurology, University of Colorado School of Medicine.

This is the third year for the symposium, which is spearheaded by Brian Wigdahl, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology and director of the Drexel University College of Medicine Institute for Molecular Medicine & Infectious Disease.

WellSpan York Hospital Now a Regional Medical Campus

WellSpan York Hospital has become a regional medical campus for Drexel University College of Medicine as of July 1. The two institutions have had an affiliation agreement since 2003, enabling Drexel medical students to rotate through select clinical specialties at York during their third and fourth years.

Now, under the regional medical campus designation, Drexel medical students will have the option to select WellSpan York Hospital as their primary clinical campus and complete all of their required clinical rotations there. As a regional medical campus, WellSpan York Hospital expects to attract more medical students from south central Pennsylvania who want to stay in the region after receiving



College Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, presents a Drexel white coat to Richard Sloan, MD, director of medical education and associate dean of the regional medical campus at WellSpan York Hospital.

their medical degree and eventually practice in the area.

Richard Sloan, MD, director of medical education at the hospital, has been appointed associate dean of the regional medical campus.

Batts Dinner Celebrates Diversity

Each spring, the Office of Diversity in Medicine hosts a dinner in honor of graduating seniors who come from populations that are underrepresented in medicine. The namesake of the dinner is James A. Batts Jr., MD, who was an African American physician at the Medical College of Pennsylvania. As senior attending physician at MCP and a professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology,

Batts wanted to increase the number of students from underrepresented backgrounds in medicine. Each year, he celebrated the minority community at MCP at a dinner he gave at his own expense. The College of Medicine has continued this tradition since the death of Batts in 1992. This year alumna Bettina S. Adjei, MD, MCPHU '99 (left), president and medical director of MyCare Express, spoke at a special pre-dinner lecture. The dinner was held May 12 at Queen Lane. More than 75 students, alumni and faculty attended the event.



myHealth at Drexel Medicine

Drexel Medicine has launched an electronic patient portal called myHealth at Drexel Medicine, a secure and convenient way for patients to manage personal health information and communicate with their health care providers.

Patients who sign up for the myHealth portal can check their personal health records using a smartphone, tablet or computer; send secure messages to their health care provider's office; request prescription refills and appointments; and manage their health care all in one place. This service is available at all Drexel practice locations as of October 1.

To learn more, please visit the web: drexelmedicine.org/FAQs.

Student Receives U.S. Public Health Service Award

A representative from the U.S. Public Health Service was on campus July 1 to present the 2014 USPHS Excellence in Public Health Award to student Maurice Hinson. Capt. JoAnne Hittie was introduced by Amy Fuchs, MD (right), senior associate dean for student affairs, before bestowing the award on Hinson, now a fourth-year medical student. Donna Russo, PhD (left), then interim vice dean for educational affairs, also congratulated Hinson, who developed a program for underserved high school students, mentoring them in professionalism and healthy lifestyles while introducing them to medical careers and encouraging participation in community service.



Nine PEG Grants Awarded to Faculty

The 2014-15 Professional Enrichment and Growth (PEG) Grants were awarded to nine faculty members, chosen from a pool of very competitive applications. These awards are intended to help faculty members achieve their professional goals, as well as advance the academic missions of the departments, the College, and the University. Mary M. Moran, MD, vice dean for faculty affairs and professional development, announced the following recipients:

David Blanco, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, to train and collaborate with experts at the Kennedy Krieger Institute for Feeding Disorders.

Hans B. Kersten, MD, associate professor of pediatrics, to participate in the Harvard School of Public Health Leadership Strategies for Evolving Healthcare Executives.

C. Virginia O'Hayer, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry, to participate in a training program for Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Team-Building Intensive Training for Independent Practitioners.

Erica Poletto, MD, assistant professor of radiology, to participate in the American College of Radiology Society of Pediatric Radiology Pediatric Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Course.

Suzanne M. Touch, MD, associate professor of pediatrics, to participate in the Executive Leadership for Healthcare Professionals program sponsored by eCornell.

Kazuhito Toyo-oka, PhD, assistant professor of neurobiology and anatomy, to study in the laboratory of Dr. Masahito Ikawa in the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Animal Resource Center for Infectious Diseases, at Osaka University to further develop novel genetic animal models as part of his research.

Stacey B. Trooskin, MD, assistant professor of medicine, to attend the International Liver Congress annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver.

Christopher Vinnard, MD, assistant professor of medicine, to attend the 45th Union World Conference on Lung Health in Barcelona, Spain.

Ericka Yoo, MD, assistant professor in medicine, to participate in the Lean Sigma Prescription for Healthcare Certificate Programs.

Wish Come True

The College of Medicine was excited to welcome Angeli Rivera to our Mini-Medical School in June. Angeli, who dreams of becoming a pediatrician, was visiting from Puerto Rico thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She spent the week shadowing Drexel physicians at Hahnemann University Hospital and St.

Christopher's Hospital for Children, where she got a first-hand look at what it's like to be a doctor. Angeli is currently in remission for Hodgkins lymphoma and we wish her all the best!



Compliance & Privacy

We Never Guess ... We Ask!

Our tag line for this column and our Corporate Compliance and Privacy Program may be a bit curious to the new arrival on campus. What is it we hope the new student, professional staff or faculty reader is never guessing about? What should they be asking about? A great question to answer in an article



Edward Longazel
Chief Compliance & Privacy Officer

designed to welcome new readers and refresh the tenured Compliance & Privacy column reader about guessing vs. asking.

The Corporate Compliance and Privacy Office trusts that faculty, professional staff and students do not guess on any issues of right versus

wrong. A sea of policies and procedures exists for any institution with patients and insurance payments as a critical revenue stream. Place the complexity of such health care provision under the roof of academic medicine, with the additional missions of education and research, and the regulatory environment becomes a perfect storm of overlapping state, federal and accreditation agency expectations.

The College of Medicine community should not be guessing on questions of policy and procedure regarding Conflict of Interest, Business Relationships with Industry, the Code of Conduct, clinical medical record documentation or proper billing and reimbursement regulation interpretation. We should not be guessing on Human Resource policy issues regarding time keeping, time off and progressive discipline or harassment concerns. The HIPAA Privacy Rule provides our patients with federal rights to confidentiality and, when combined with our ability to move large amounts of data electronically, challenges us with new responsibilities to protect medical information from improper access, use or disclosure.

"We ask" can mean to pose one question that has eluded a definitive answer or to request training on a topic or issue of particular interest or concern at a department, division or activity level. The Corporate Compliance and Privacy Office is eager and prepared to provide thoughtful consideration to questions and to triage tough issues to internal and external experts with the appropriate administrative, legal, or risk management resources to answer the question when necessary.

An independent confidential hotline is also available at 866.358.1010 to report sensitive issues and concerns when confidentiality is important.

We never guess ... we ask!

Corporate Compliance and Privacy Office:
215.255.7818

Confidential hotline: 866.358.1010

Radheshyam M. Agrawal, MD, associate professor of medicine, has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He is a gastroenterologist affiliated with Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.



Dr. Kutzler



Dr. Jacobson

biochemistry and molecular biology; **Isaac Zentner**, a PhD student in the Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics program; **Brian P. Latimer**, an MD/PhD student (finished PhD work in the Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics program in 2014); Seth L. Welles, professor, SPH; **Jeffrey M. Jacobson, MD**, professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine (corresponding author); **Michele A. Kutzler, PhD**, assistant professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, and assistant professor of microbiology and immunology; and colleagues authored "An Optimized, Synthetic DNA Vaccine Encoding the Toxin A and Toxin B Receptor Binding Domains of *Clostridium difficile* Induces Protective Antibody Responses *In Vivo*," to be published in the October 2014 issue of *Infection and Immunity* (published online July 14). The vaccine protected animal models against the purified toxins produced by *C. difficile*, as well as from an orogastric spore infection, a laboratory model that mimics the human disease, after only two immunizations. Animals that received two immunizations did not get sick or show signs of *C. diff*-associated disease against parental strains, while the vaccine was 60 percent effective against hypervirulent strains.



Dr. Barrett

James E. Barrett, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, and director of the Clinical & Translational Research Institute, has been elected to serve on the 2014–2018 Executive Committee of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology.



Dr. Clearfield

Harris R. Clearfield, MD, professor of medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, received the Cristol Award of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, for services to organized medicine. The award was presented at the society's annual meeting on June 24.



Dr. Houlé

Marie-Pascale Côté, PhD, instructor; **Sapan Gandhi, MD '14**; **Marina Zambrotta**, research assistant; and **John D. Houlé, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published "Exercise Modulates Chloride Homeostasis after Spinal Cord Injury" in the July 2 issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience*.



Dr. Detloff

Megan Detloff, PhD, instructor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, was awarded the Edward Jekkal Muscular Dystrophy Research Fellowship, for her proposal "Regulation of RunX Proteins by Exercise Prevents Afferent Sprouting and the Development of Neuropathic Pain After SCI." The fellowship will provide funding for two years at \$55,000 per year.



Dr. Ehrlich

Garth Ehrlich, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, presented "The Distributed Genome Hypothesis and Statistical Genetics Provide an Unbiased Means to Identify Novel Virulence Genes" on January 17 at the Prokaryotic Seminar Series at the University of Pennsylvania. In May, he presented "Nextgen Multiplex PCR Demonstrates That Periodontal Pathogens Are Associated With Both Periprosthetic Joint Infections and Osteoarthritis of the Knee" at the AAOS/ORS research symposium, Musculoskeletal Infection: Where Are We in 2014? in Rosemont, Ill. Ehrlich gave the keynote address at the Microbiology & Infectious Diseases Asia Congress, "Next Generation Molecular Diagnostics Provide for Comprehensive Pathogen Screening at the Domain Level," June 10 in Singapore. He also gave a seminar, "Chronic Bacterial Infections Are Universally Associated With the Biofilm Phenotype," at the SCELSE Biofilm Center at National Technical University of Singapore on June 12.



Ms. Ferrer



Dr. Reginato

Christina M. Ferrer and **Valerie L. Sodi**, both PhD candidates in the Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics program; medical student **John Falcone**; **Mauricio J. Reginato,**

PhD, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; former student Thomas Lynch, PhD; and colleagues are the authors of "O-GlcNAcylation Regulates Cancer Metabolism and Survival Stress Signaling via Regulation of the HIF-1 Pathway" published in *Molecular Cell* (June 5; published online May 22).

In addition, Ferrer was selected for a travel award to present her research "O-GlcNAcylation Regulates Global Cancer Metabolism via Regulation of HIF-1" as a short talk at the Cold Spring Harbor conference Mechanisms and Models of Cancer, held August 12–16 at Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. Ferrer is doing thesis work in the Reginato laboratory.

Margaret Fisher, MD, professor of pediatrics at Drexel and medical director of The Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center, is to be honored by the March of Dimes at its Signature Chefs Auction on October 27 at Eagle Oaks Golf and Country Club in Farmingdale, N.J.



Dr. Gelo

Florence Gelo, D.Min, NCPsychA, associate professor in the Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine and director of the Humanities Scholars program, produced and directed the short film *Emma's Haircut*, which has recently been made available online by the Arnold

P. Gold Foundation (<http://humanism-in-medicine.org/emmas-haircut-helping-young-children-understand-cancer>). The documentary concerns a woman's effort to help her young children cope with her cancer and its treatment. The work was supported in part by a PEG [Professional Enrichment and Growth] grant Gelo received from the College in 2009–10.

Jennifer M. Hawkins, DO, Pathology Resident '14, received the Hahnemann University Hospital award for Excellence in Clinical Practice: Fellow, Resident and Intern. The award was presented on May 14 at Hahnemann's annual service award dinner. The same day, Hawkins was named one of the American Society for Clinical Pathology's national "40 Under 40" for her achievements in the medical laboratory field.



At the Hahnemann service award dinner (l-r): Beth Mapow, DO, program director, Pathology Residency program, Drexel University College of Medicine; Jennifer M. Hawkins, DO; and Olivia Rheinhart, director, Graduate Medical Education, Hahnemann University Hospital.



Dr. Jain

Pooja Jain, PhD, associate professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, has won a 2014 Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Samman award (given by the president of India to non-resident Indians) for outstanding contributions in the field of science and technology.

Jain gave an invited presentation, "Essential Role of MEF-2 in HTLV-1 Infection and T-cell Transformation Linked with ATL," during Immunology 2014, the annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologists, held May 2–6 in Pittsburgh, Pa. She also gave an invited talk, "Neuroimaging and Mechanisms of Dendritic Cells' Trafficking Into the Central Nervous System in Response to Inflammation, Infection, and Tumor," at the Emory Vaccine Center, Emory University, on June 9.

Jain has received two travel grants from the American Association of Immunologists: a laboratory travel grant to

attend the annual meeting, and a Travel for Technique Award in the amount of \$1,500 to perform a collaborative study at Emory University School of Medicine.



Dr. Jean

Daphney Jean, PhD '12, who finished her postdoctoral fellowship in the Baas Lab in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy last spring, was awarded a 2014–15 Science and Technology Policy Fellowship by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The goal

of this fellowship is to educate scientists and engineers about the process of policymaking and implementation while they contribute their knowledge and analytical skills to policymakers. Jean secured a fellowship placement in the Engineering Education and Centers at the National Science Foundation, where she will work on projects related to the development of various educational and professional programs that will improve pathways to engineering careers.



Dr. Lexa

Frank J. Lexa, MD, MBA, professor and vice chair of research and academic affairs in the Department of Radiologic Sciences, was a featured speaker at the Radiology Leadership Institute Summit meeting at Babson on August 9, 2014.

This is an elite meeting of the American College of Radiology. His talk focused on innovation in medicine and how it differs from other types of business and scientific innovation.

Maurie Markman, MD, clinical professor of medicine, has been named president of the Medicine & Science unit at Cancer Treatment Centers of America. He had been serving as senior vice president of clinical affairs and national director of medical oncology at CTCA. He is also the editor-in-chief of *Oncology Live* magazine.



Ms. Marino (left) and Ms. Nacarelli

Sarah Marino and Erin Nacarelli, students in the master's program in histotechnology, each received a 2013–14 Siemens-ASCP Scholarship of \$1,000 for their outstanding achievement in academics and leadership. The awards are made to medical laboratory students in their final year of study in a program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

• continued on next page

Susan V. McLeer, MD, professor emerita of psychiatry, received the David M. Ellis, MD, Lifetime Achievement Award of the Regional Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry of Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey, the district branch of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The award was presented June 4. On June 5, the College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry presented McLeer with its Distinguished Faculty Award, commemorating her 40 years of service.



Paul Ambrosini, MD, professor of psychiatry, was invited to present the Ellis Award to Dr. McLeer.

Joshua Chang Mell, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, recently published three manuscripts: "Natural Competence and the Evolution of DNA Uptake Specificity" in *Journal of Bacteriology* (April 2014); "Extensive Cotransformation of Natural Variation Into Chromosomes of Naturally Competent *Haemophilus influenzae*," in *G3: Genes, Genetics, and Genomes* (April 1); and "Characterization of Nontypable *Haemophilus influenzae* Isolates Recovered from Adult Patients With Underlying Chronic Lung Disease Reveals Genotypic and Phenotypic Traits Associated With Persistent Infection" in *PLoS One* (May 2014).

Chiemeka Onyima, a second-year medical student, received a certificate of special recognition from U.S. Sen. Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania for his selection for the United Health Foundation/NMF [National Medical Fellowships] Diverse Medical Scholars program and for participating in the Diverse Scholars Forum, held July 23–26 in Washington, D.C.



Chiemeka Onyima and other scholars presented their fellowship projects at an event held at Hofstra University on June 10.

Lee M. Pachter, DO, professor of pediatrics, presented "The Relationship Between Racial Discrimination and Mental Health in African American and Afro-Caribbean Youth: Results from a National Study" at the Pediatric Academic Societies annual meeting held May 3–6 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Matthew Recker, a first-year medical student, has been awarded a 2014 Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship by Alpha Omega Alpha. His project title is "The Role of mTOR in Exercise Dependent Axon Regeneration Through a Peripheral Nerve Graft Following Spinal Cord Injury."



Dr. Wigdahl



Dr. Khan

Divya Sagar, doctoral candidate, and **Drs. Brian Wigdahl**, professor and chair; **Pooja Jain**, associate professor; and **Zafar Kamal Khan**, professor, all in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, are among the authors of "In Vivo Immunogenicity of Tax(11-19) Epitope in HLA-A2/DTR Transgenic Mice: Implication for Dendritic Cell-based Anti-HTLV-1 Vaccine," published in *Vaccine* 32 (26), May 30, 2014.

Sagar received a graduate trainee poster award from the American Association of Immunologists to attend Immunology 2014 in Pittsburgh, Pa., May 2–6, and present "Lectin-based Passive Dendritic Cell Immunotherapies Against Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis/Multiple Sclerosis."

In addition, Sagar, Khan, Jain and former research intern Rebecca Hollenbach are among the authors of "Effect of Morphine and SIV on Dendritic Cell Trafficking Into the Central Nervous System of Rhesus Macaques," published in *Journal of NeuroVirology*, 20 (2), 2014.

Mohit Sehgal, doctoral candidate, and **Pooja Jain, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, are among the authors of "Human T-lymphotropic Virus Type 1 Infected Cells Secrete Exosomes That Contain Tax Protein" published in *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 289, August 8, 2014 (first published online June 17).



Dr. Schindler

Barbara A. Schindler, MD, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics, has been elected by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education as a professional member effective July 1, 2014.



Dr. Sudak

Donna M. Sudak, MD, professor of psychiatry, senior associate training director, and director of psychotherapy training, chaired a case conference, "CBT for Treatment-Resistant Depression," and a workshop, "High-Yield Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Brief Sessions," at the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting, May 3–7, in New York City. She also presented at four workshops during the meeting: "Training the 21st Century Psychiatrist"; "AVATAR Therapy and Cognitive Behavior Therapy: New Developments in Treatment of Medication-Resistant Psychosis"; "Loneliness and Social Isolation: A CBT Approach for the Busy Psychiatrist"; and "Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Suicide Risk."



Dr. Taylor

Daniel R. Taylor, DO, associate professor of pediatrics, published "The Big Emotional, Financial Costs of Childhood Poverty" in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on June 23. He is the director of Community Pediatrics and Child Advocacy at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.



Dr. Tomi-Olugbodi

Adeola Tomi-Olugbodi, MD, a first-year resident in the Drexel/Hahnemann Pathology Residency program, presented a poster abstract, "Cystatin C as a Marker of Renal Function in Adult Nigerians with Hypertension and Diabetes," at the American Association for Clinical Chemistry annual meeting, held July 27-31 in

Chicago. Tomi-Olugbodi took bronze and silver medals for laboratory skills and proficiency in bench work in the Artel Pipetting Challenge during the meeting. In August, she learned that she has been appointed to the American Society for Clinical Pathology Resident Council for a two-year term, beginning October 1, 2014.



Dr. Turchi

Renee M. Turchi, MD, MPH, associate professor of pediatrics, received the Practitioner of the Year Award from the Philadelphia County Medical Society for her dedication to the medical profession in the area of quality patient care and community service. An alumna of MCP,

Turchi also holds an appointment in Drexel's School of Public Health.



Dr. Van Bockstaele

Elisabeth Van Bockstaele, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies and professor of pharmacology and physiology, received the Interdisciplinary Partners award from the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems at the school's commencement and honors celebration on June 14.

Michael S. Weingarten, MD, MBA, professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery, completed his sixth tour as a volunteer vascular surgeon with the Combat Casualty program working with the U.S. Military at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany caring for wounded troops from Afghanistan.



Dr. Weingarten

Calendar

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- 17-18 **PACE Philadelphia 2014: Optimization of Device Therapy**
The Union League of Philadelphia
Contact: Valerie Paoletti, 215.762.3457
- 18 **Reception at American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting**
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- 19 **Reception at American Association of Animal Laboratory Science National Meeting**
San Antonio Grand Hyatt, 3 - 4:30 p.m.
- 19 **Reception at American College of Gastroenterology Annual Meeting**
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- 27 **William C. Meyers, MD, Dinner**
The American College of Surgeons
San Francisco

November

American Diabetes Month

- 8 **Reception at AAMC Annual Meeting**
Chicago
- 12-13 **NADD Annual Conference & Exhibit: Models of Excellence in Dual Diagnosis That Shape the Future**
Hilton Palacio del Rio, San Antonio, Texas
Contact: Anna Auch, 215.831.6923
- 15 **The Annual Day of Trauma**
Courtyard by Marriott, Philadelphia
Contact: Jennifer Sumter, 215.762.2580
- 16 **Reception at Neuroscience 2014**
Washington, D.C.

Save the Date - 2015

- April 17-19 **Fifth National Forum on Women's Issues in Gastroenterology and Hepatology**
Sonesta Hotel Philadelphia
Contact: Jennifer Sumter, 215.762.2580

Receptions: For further information about receptions at meetings, please call 215.255.7345, or email medical.alumni@drexel.edu; website: drexelmed.edu/alumni

'40s

Frank L. Miller, MD, HU '41, who is 99 years old, was honored by Einstein Medical Center Montgomery for his 50-year medical career and military accomplishments. He earned a Silver Star for gallantry in battle and the Bronze Star for heroism and meritorious conduct. [See the *College of Medicine Alumni Magazine*, Winter/Spring 2014]

'60s

William N. Toth, MD, HU '60, received one of four Vision and Legacy Awards presented by the Summit Medical Group Foundation at its inaugural fundraising event. Toth is the former medical director and former chief of the Department of Medicine of Summit Medical Group in Short Hills, N.J. He is currently the vice president for medical affairs of DRG International in Springfield, N.J.

Ronald M. Repice, MD, HU '65, returned to an aesthetic medicine practice in Naples, Fla., in June 2013. Repice practiced medicine in Pennsylvania and Delaware before originally retiring in 2004. Repice also has an online radio show that discusses advanced slimming technology and the effects of stress on your hormones.

Arthur Smukler, MD, HU '68, has written three mystery books. They are titled *Chasing Backwards*, *Skin Dance* and *The Man with a Microphone in His Ear*.

'70s

Margaret H. McAloon, MD, MCP '71, was named one of the "2014 Healthcare 50" by *Business First* magazine. McAloon is a clinical professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Buffalo's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She is also the medical director at Hertel Elmwood Internal Medicine Center, part of Kaleida Health, also in Buffalo, and the director of employee health services at University Medical and Dental Resident Services.

Sister Eileen Catterson, MD, MCP '74, a retired pediatrician, has been honored by the establishment of the Sister Eileen C. Catterson, MD Scholarship Fund at the Beckley Area Foundation through The Children's Healthcare Fund in West Virginia for females pursuing an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a health science field.

Stephen K. Klasko, MD, HU '78, the president and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health System in Philadelphia, was appointed to the Lehigh University board of trustees.

Wendy Johnson, MS, HU '79, was appointed to the board of directors of AmpliPhi BioSciences, a developer of bacteriophage-based antibacterial therapies to treat drug-resistant infections, with U.S. headquarters in Glen Allen, Va. Most recently, Johnson was a venture partner at ProQuest Investments and she served as CEO of Aires Pharmaceuticals.

'80s

Judith A. Farley Hoffman, MD, HU '80, a physician with Cardiovascular Anesthesia Services, Providence Hospital, Columbia, S.C., was inducted into the Society of St. Luke, a program that celebrates and honors physicians for their distinguished service to their patients, the mission of the hospital and their service to the community. Hoffman was the first full-time hospital-based female physician at Providence Hospitals.

Kenneth P. Skorinko, MD, HU '80, was selected for inclusion in *The Leading Physicians of the World*, a publication of the International Association of HealthCare Professionals. A fellow of the American College of Cardiology, Skorinko specializes in endovascular medicine and interventional cardiology at Lehigh Valley Cardiology Associates in Bethlehem, Pa.

Thomas J. Weida, MD, HU '80, was appointed to the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetics Board by Governor Tom Corbett. He was also appointed to be the American Academy of Family Physicians alternate delegate to the AMA Relative Value Update Committee. Weida is the medical director of information technology in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Penn State Hershey Medical Center and head professor in the Family and Community Medicine Department at Penn State College of Medicine.

Daniel V. Wilkinson, MD, HU '80, was named a 2014 Top Doctor by *Seattle* magazine. He is a cardiologist at Summit Cardiology in Seattle, Wash.

Samuel H. Foote, MD, HU '81, who retired from practice at the VA Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz., last September, was the whistleblower who filed a complaint with the VA Office of the Inspector General, leading to nationwide investigations and congressional hearings over delays in patient appointments and falsification of related records.

Jon A. Levenson, MD, HU '84, received the 2014 Outstanding Clinical Care Award from the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. He is currently an attending psychiatrist in the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center and chief of the HIV Liaison Psychiatry Service at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center.

Christine McCarty, MD, MCP '84; General Surgery Resident, MCP '89, has been appointed chief of the section of cardiothoracic surgery at Reading Health System in Reading, Pa. She is an expert in minimally invasive cardiac and valve surgery and introduced robotic cardiothoracic surgical procedures to Berks County.

Raul Perez, MD, HU '84, a family practice physician, has joined the Sonora Regional Medical Center in Sonora, Calif. Perez has spent more than 20 years in private practices in West Virginia, Georgia and California.

Daniel Rader, MD, MCP '84, was named chair of the Department of Genetics in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a faculty member at Penn for 20 years and is currently the chief of the Division of Translational Medicine and Human Genetics and the Edward S. Cooper, MD/Norman Roosevelt and Elizabeth Meriwether McLure Professor of Medicine.

Susan A. Reisinger, MD, HU '84; Surgery Intern, MCP '85, a radiation oncologist, was named a Top Doctor by *The Sunday* magazine of Las Vegas. Reisinger practices at 21st Century Oncology of Las Vegas.

Edward Stanford, MD, MCP '85, was recently promoted to chief medical officer at OASIS International Hospital in Beijing, China. Before joining OASIS as chief of obstetrics and gynecology, Stanford served as professor of obstetrics and gynecology; division head, Gynecologic Specialties; chief of Urogynecology/Female Pelvic Medicine; chief of Ambulatory Services; and fellowship director, Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, at the University of Tennessee.



Stephen Chidylo, MD, HU '87, served on the faculty at the recent American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons Basic Maxillofacial Course, held at the NYU School of Medicine and Dentistry. He is also a co-author of the chapter "Impressions, Models, and Splints: The Basic Maxillofacial Laboratory" in *Ferraro's Fundamentals of Maxillofacial Surgery*, 2nd ed. (Springer, November 2014).



Chris Bowden, MD, HU '88, was appointed to the newly created position of chief medical officer of Agios Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. He was previously vice president, global signaling franchise head, in the product development, oncology, group at Genentech, Inc.

Edward K. Leventhal, MD, MCP '88, joined Hanover Medical Group Urology in Hanover, Pa. Board certified in urology, Leventhal served in the U.S. Army following medical school and was stationed in Texas, North Carolina and Hawaii. He was deployed to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Storm.

Guy Miller, MD, MCP '88; PhD, CEO and founder of Edison Pharmaceuticals in Mountain View, Calif., was recognized by MitoAction with its "Making a Difference for Mito" award. MitoAction is a charity that helps families navigate mitochondrial disease.

Reginald Blaber III, MD, HU '89; Cardiology Fellow, HU, joined the board of The Joseph Fund, a Camden, N.J.-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting the Ministries of St. Joseph's Pro-Cathedral. Blaber, a cardiologist, serves as executive director of the Lourdes Cardiovascular Institute, also located in Camden, N.J. He is vice president of Cardiovascular Services and chairman of the Department of Medicine at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden.

Lawrence M. Levin, DMD; MD, MCP '89, was named a 2014 Top Dentist by *Main Line Today*. Levin is associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery/pharmacology at Penn Dental Medicine and is chief of the Division of Dentistry at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Joseph R. Taddeo, MD, HU '89, has been appointed to the medical staff of Central Maine Medical Center and is practicing with Central Maine Surgical Associates in Lewiston. Taddeo previously worked as a trauma and general surgeon at Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va. While serving with the Navy, he was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he served as chief of trauma. He is board certified in surgery and surgical critical care.

'90s

Anthony E. Addesa, MD, HU '90, board certified in radiation oncology, joined the Ella Milbank Foshay Cancer Center at the Jupiter Medical Center and Jupiter Medical Specialties, LLC, located in Jupiter, Fla., as medical director of radiation oncology.

Barrie Baker, MD, MCP '91, has been appointed chief medical officer for Network Health, a division of Tufts Health Plan. Prior to joining Tufts Health Plan, Baker was the chief medical officer for Aetna Better Health and Aetna Better Health Kids in Philadelphia.



Christopher Burky, MD, HU '92, board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, joined Ellis Mental Health at Ellis Hospital and Ellis Adolescent Treatment Center in Schenectady, N.Y. Burky is also an assistant professor at Albany Medical College and an outpatient preceptor for students at Albany Medical College, Sage College School of Nursing and Rochester School of Nursing.

Deepak Gupta, MD, MCP '92, currently serves as the director of anesthesia for the Cleveland Clinic/Strongsville Ambulatory Surgery Center. He has been with the Cleveland Clinic for the past 15 years.

Kathleen C. Kobashi, MD, HU '92, who specializes in urogynecology/female urology, urinary incontinence and pelvic prolapse, was ranked as a Top Doctor by *Seattle* magazine. She practices at Virginia Mason Hospital & Seattle Medical Center in Seattle, Wash.

Maureen Russell, MD, HU '92, a gynecologist, joined the Butler Health System in Butler, Pa.

Seung Yeun “Sunny” Rha-Waitze, MD, HU ‘93, was listed as a Top Doctor in *Connecticut* magazine. Rha-Waitze is medical director of Pomperaug Plastic Surgery, her Southbury-based solo practice.

Alan S. Waitze, MD, HU ‘93, was listed as a Top Doctor in *Connecticut* magazine. Waitze, a neurosurgeon, is in practice at Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics & Spine Specialists, a comprehensive spine center with offices in Waterbury and Southbury, Conn.

Kamal Ahmed, MD, MCP ‘94, is currently the president of Yuma Nephrology, P.C., a nephrology group practice in Yuma, Ariz. Ahmed is also a voluntary associate clinical professor of medicine at the University of California at San Diego. He previously served as chief of medicine and chief of staff at Yuma Regional Medical Center.

Thomas J. Rick, MD, HU ‘94, was selected by the International Association of HealthCare Professionals to represent anesthesiology in *The Leading Physicians of the World*. He is in private practice in Phoenix, Ariz., and provides services to patients at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center and Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, also in Phoenix.

Jay C. D’Orso, MD, MCP ‘95, was named a Top Doctor in *Connecticut* magazine. He is in private practice with Western Connecticut Medical Group-Ridgefield, an affiliate of Western Connecticut Health Network, located in Ridgefield, Conn.

Kathy Elizeus, MD, MCP ‘95, an obstetrician/gynecologist, joined Penn Highlands Healthcare Obstetrics and Gynecology in DuBois, Pa. Prior to joining Penn Highlands, Elizeus practiced with Allegheny Medical Practice Network, Health Services for Women and Premier Medical Associates. She was affiliated with several hospitals, including UPMC McKeesport, UPMC East and West Penn Allegheny.

Monica L. Norris, MD, MCP ‘98, has been appointed medical director of Gateway Medical Associates, P.C., a physician-owned practice in Downingtown, Pa.

’00s

Andrew Aronson, MD, MCPHU ‘01, joined Privia Health as chief medical officer. Privia is a physician practice management and population health technology company in Arlington, Va. Aronson most recently led clinical programs for Cigna-HealthSpring and Bravo Health, serving as senior medical director and president of Bravo Health’s Advanced Care Centers, and as a board member of the HealthSpring LivingWell Centers.

Erum N. Ilyas, MD, MCPHU ‘01, was recently appointed the system chief of dermatology for the Main Line Health System located in the Philadelphia suburbs. He also maintains a private practice in King of Prussia, Pa.

Jeffrey Pitcher, MD ‘02, board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, joined Grand River Health in Rifle, Colo. He previously practiced at ReGenesis Plastic Surgery and Skin Care Center in Grand Junction, Colo.

Michael A. Medeiros, MD; MS ‘03, board certified in neurology, joined Adventist Health/Physicians Network in Selma, Calif.

Amie Y. Miklavcic, MD ‘05, has moved to the Tappahannock office of the Virginia Women’s Center. She was previously at the Mechanicsville office. Miklavcic earned an MS in the Medical Science program (MCPHU ‘01).

Robert I. Hacker, MD ‘07, a vascular surgeon, joined Ephraim McDowell Health in Danville, Ky. He completed his general surgery residency at North Shore-LIJ in Long Island, N.Y., and a fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of Pittsburgh. He is board certified in general surgery and board-eligible in vascular. He is also a registered physician in vascular interpretation, credentialed by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

’10s

Zachary Cerini, MD ‘12, a family medicine resident at Washington Hospital in Washington, Pa., published an article on men’s health on Observer-Reporter.com.

Daphney Jean, PhD ‘12, see page 13.

Stephany Alvarez Silva, MLAS ‘12, was elected president-elect of the Delaware Valley branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) in May. Silva was also chosen to represent the branch at Leadership Academy, held at the national meeting of AALAS in San Antonio, Texas, in October. Since graduating, she has been employed at the University of Pennsylvania as husbandry training specialist with their Animal Resources team.



Ryan Stancil, MD ‘12, spent a month on assignment by the Navy as mission doctor for Fabien Cousteau’s Mission 31 aboard Aquarius, a laboratory 63 feet below the surface off Key Largo, Fla. Stancil is a diving medical officer attached to the Bangor Submarine Base outside of Seattle. He completed a general surgery internship at the University of Washington prior to attending dive training at Naval Diving and Salvage Training Command in Panama City Beach, Fla. He is the nephew of **Melody Stancil, MD, MCP ‘71**.



Ryan Stancil, MD (right), with Fabien Cousteau, grandson of Jacques Cousteau.

Laura Turner, MLAS '14, is co-president-elect of the newly formed Virginia Maryland student chapter of Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative. She will graduate with the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine class of 2016.



Former Residents and Fellows

Steven Galson, MD, MPH; Resident, MCP; Hon. '08, was appointed senior vice president, global regulatory affairs and safety for Amgen, a biotechnology company in California. Galson joined Amgen as vice president of global regulatory affairs in October 2010.

Mayar Jundi, MD; Cardiology Fellow, HU '07, a cardiologist with Covenant Center for the Heart in Saginaw, Mich., will be participating in a new partnership to increase cardiology services in local communities in Michigan. He is board certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease and nuclear cardiology.

Lawrence Livornese, MD; Internal Medicine Resident, MCP '89; Infectious Disease Fellow, MCP '91, has been named the Dorrance H. Hamilton Chair of Medicine at Main Line Health. He had served as interim chair of the Department of Medicine since 2012, as well as Lankenau Medical Center's campus chief of medicine and chairman of infection control. He is a clinical assistant professor of medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine.



Marla Gold, MD, Resident, MCP '86, Infectious Diseases Fellow, MCP '88, professor and dean emerita at Drexel's School of Public Health, gave the keynote address at a dinner honoring Dr. Livornese.

Donald Mazur, MD; Orthopedic Surgery Resident, HU '98, joined the Rothman Institute in King of Prussia, Pa. A sports medicine surgeon, Mazur practiced for 16 years at the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Center Division of Premier Orthopaedics.

Matthew Rogalski, MD; Ob/Gyn Resident '09, an obstetrician/gynecologist, joined the staff at The Foxboro Center for Women's & Family Health in Foxboro, Mass.

Jack Sobel, MD; Infectious Diseases Fellow, MCP '78, was appointed chair of the Wayne State University Department of Internal Medicine. He is also the chair of research in internal medicine, and a professor of immunology and microbiology, and obstetrics and gynecology.

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In Memoriam

A. Anthony Arce, MD, adjunct professor of psychiatry, June 27

Courtney F. Baker, MD, HU '70, July 13

Janice C. Benson, MD, MCP '74, March 28

Carl R. Blanche, MD, HU '54, June 29

Albert J. Casale, MD, HU '60, May 27

Joan Ann Christie, MD, WMC '59, July 11

John G. Fraser, MD, HU '51, May 23

James K. Fugate Sr., MD, HU '56, August 22

Pyrrha Gladys Grodman, MD, WMC '48, February 17

Dean S. Hoover, MD, HU '48, August 1

Alan J. Isquith, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology, HU '66, June 1

David V. Kauffman, MD, HU '57, April 14

Joel D. Klein, MD, HU '68, August 6

Mark A. Kniss, MD, HU '56, June 6

Lucille Morgan Koehler, MD, WMC '49, June 28

Michael J. Kotch, MD, HU '55, June 12

Martha Williams McDonald, MD, WMC '63, August 27

Edward McLaughlin, MD, HU '72, May 6

Donald B. McNeill, MD, HU '48, June 2

Mary E. Myers, MD, WMC '52, August 8

Peter A. Robson, MD, HU '87, September 2

Ann Salitsky, MS, Microbiology & Immunology, HU '84, August 30

John L. Sbarbaro, MD, HU '55, September 2

Daphne Thelma Stricklan, MD, HU '92, July 12

Charles S. Williams, MD, HU '50, August 8

G. John DiGregorio, PhD, Pharmacology, HU '66; MD, HU '78, professor emeritus in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology and former medical director of Drexel's Physician Assistant program, passed away on July 12. An esteemed colleague and teacher for more than 45 years, he was already earning recognition as a researcher and educator while enrolled in medical school. Clearly embraced by students, he collected five Golden Apple awards and was nominated for at least five more. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; his children, Drs. Catherine DiGregorio Ingino (MD, HU '94) and Robert DiGregorio; stepdaughter, Dana Keddie; and five grandchildren.



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Back to School

It was 1958, and the earnest student arrived wearing a summer suit, sporting a fresh haircut, and carrying two trim suitcases (perhaps he shipped a trunk). What was the look in 1928? Or 1898? Or 1998?

The Legacy Center has digitized all of the yearbooks it holds from our predecessor institutions. The oldest are a Hahnemann Medical College yearbook from 1898 and one from Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania published in 1911. Coverage of the early years is spotty, but consecutive volumes are available from 1928 to 1998 for Hahnemann, and 1956 to 1970 for Woman's, as well as 1971 to 1998 for MCP and 1999 to 2011 for MCP-Hahnemann and Drexel.

Explore the classes of our past at archives.drexelmed.edu/yearbooks.

