

NEWSWORTHY

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inTOUCH

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GAAP club welcomes its first distinguished speaker

The first year as a campus student group was a productive one for the Genocide Awareness and Prevention Club (GAAP), the student organization whose aim is to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur and raise funds for humanitarian organizations serving there. The group made educational presentations about the crisis in Darfur to the College community, local parents' associations and high school students, raising more than \$1,000 for civilian protection in Darfur. They also hosted a screening of the HBO documentary *Sand and Sorrow*, said GAAP president, **Amaka Ozah**, right,



Class of 2008 speech-language pathology student.

A highlight of the year came on March 26 when GAAP welcomed its first distinguished speaker, **Ellen O'Connell**, left, vice president of administration and board relations for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Her presentation, "Advocacy, Security and Humanitarian Aid in a Global Context," focused on the advocacy initiatives and challenges of the organization. IRC initiates and maintains various humanitarian programs in places that are currently in conflict such as Darfur, Afghanistan and Congo, and works as advocates for the people. ▲

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EDUCATION ► RESEARCH ► SERVICE

Class of 2008 revels at Match Day



William Tollefsen, left, and Carlos Muñoz seem thrilled to be headed to New England for their residencies, in emergency medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and in general surgery at the University of Massachusetts, respectively.



Susan Rachlin, M.D., associate professor of clinical radiology, congratulates future radiologist Robin Quazi on his preliminary match in medicine at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, to be followed by a diagnostic radiology residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.



Martha S. Grayson, M.D., right, senior associate dean for undergraduate medical education, was happy to hear that these future physicians will remain in New York for their residencies. Andrew A. Chang, left, matched in medicine at New York University Medical Center and Catherine L. Huey in pediatrics at the The New York Hospital-Cornell.



Their letters from the National Resident Matching Program told them the Lone Star State will be home for the next few years. Marcy Rosen matched in ob/gyn at Baylor College of Medicine and Ameet Nagpal will do a preliminary residency in medicine at the University of Texas Medical School followed by physical medicine and rehabilitation there.

Mission accomplished—after four years at New York Medical College the Class of 2008 is well on its way to becoming a group of exceptional physicians. On Match Day, March 20, they proved it when they learned where they will complete their residencies: at some very well-respected institutions in some highly competitive residency programs.

The celebration started a few minutes before noon in the Medical Education Center lobby, where anxious fourth-years gathered to take part in the largest match in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) history.

Gladys M. Ayala, M.D., associate dean for student and minority affairs, at first teased the group

HIGHLIGHTS

3

Graduate Student Research Forum still going strong after 20 years



4

AOA Iota chapter celebrates 52 years

5

College establishes chapter of Gold Humanism Honor Society



6

National Public Health Week focuses on climate change



- *Jennifer Koestler, M.D.*, associate dean for medical education, was the organizer and lead presenter of a workshop at the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics (COMSEP) national meeting, held in Atlanta in April.
- *Kathryn E. McGoldrick, M.D.*, professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, was elected vice president of the Academy of Anesthesiology, a group of distinguished anesthesiologists whose active membership is limited to 75 anesthesiologists worldwide. She was also recently appointed to the executive committee of the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research and has served on its board of directors since 2005.
- The College was represented at the Society of General Internal Medicine Annual meeting held in April in Pittsburgh. *Martha A. Grayson, M.D.*, senior associate dean for undergraduate medical education, *Gladys M. Ayala, M.D.*, associate dean for student and minority affairs, and colleagues co-presented a workshop, "Serving in the Dean's Office of a Medical School: A Career Option for the General Internist." *Daniel P. Sulmasy, O.F.M., M.D., Ph.D.*, professor of medicine and director of the College's Institute for Bioethics, co-presented "Ethical issues in pay-for-performance," and a workshop, "Hallowed Ground: Spirituality and the Care of Our Patients." Second-year medical student *Andreas Michas-Martin* co-presented a poster, "Shedding an Exoskeleton: Reversal of Calcinosis Universalis in a 44-year-old Woman."
- *I-Fen Liu and Jeanette Sutherland, Ph.D.* candidates in the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences, submitted abstracts for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) meeting at Experimental Biology (EB) 2008 at San Diego in April. Each received a \$1,000 travel award to attend the meeting, participate in a career development session and present their posters. Ms. Liu presented "Identification and Characterization of Bacterial Genes Conferring Resistance to Cell Killing by Topoisomerase I-mediated DNA Cleavage." Ms. Sutherland presented "SOS Induction by Stabilized Topoisomerase IA Cleavage Complex occurs via the RecBCD pathway." Ms. Liu's abstract was also selected for oral presentation.

Medical student receives prestigious cardiovascular research fellowship

For third-year medical student Derin Tugal, perseverance paid off. She was one of 14 medical students nationwide to be presented with the 2008-2009 Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation Fellowship Award at the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation's 28th Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington D.C. earlier this month.

Ms. Tugal will spend one year at Brigham Women's and Children's Hospital in Boston doing research with Piero Anversa, M.D., former professor of medicine and director of the Cardiovascular Research

Institute at the College, where Ms. Tugal longed for a research opportunity during her first year of medical school. Dr. Anversa is now a professor of anesthesiology at Harvard University.

The mission of the Sarnoff Cardiovascular Research Foundation is to engage medical students and young investigators in a personalized research experience with preeminent cardiovascular scientists, and to foster the next generation of leaders in the field. The fellowship provides a stipend of \$27,500.

"I want to be a physician scientist and balance both research and medicine," said Ms. Tugal. "My ultimate goal in life is to become a cardiologist with an in-depth understanding of patients' illnesses, and to contribute to therapeutic advances. I truly believe that a year dedicated to uninterrupted research will greatly enhance my knowledge and allow me to more extensively study a scientific problem."

The Sarnoff Foundation was founded by Stanley J. Sarnoff, a graduate of Princeton and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the son



Third-year medical student Derin Tugal's budding interest in cardiovascular research has earned her a prestigious Sarnoff Fellowship Award.

of a prominent surgeon, Jacob Sarnoff. The younger man initially followed in his father's steps, but soon found his calling in research of the heart and its systems. Many of his early papers were based on his observations in the operating room during his surgical training with his father. During his lifetime, he published more than 200 papers and developed 60 patented devices, including the auto-injector, the precursor of today's Epi-Pen.

To spread his knowledge and good fortune, and to perpetuate the essential mentor-trainee

experience, he established a foundation, originally called The Stanley J. Sarnoff Endowment for Cardiovascular Science, Inc. Sarnoff died in 1990, awaiting a heart transplant, and his colleagues and trainees have continued the mission of the foundation ever since.

Ms. Tugal recognized the importance of scientific research during her junior year of undergraduate studies at New York University. Although she had grown up observing her mother's work as a pediatric hematologist-oncologist and wanted to follow a medical career track, she had never considered anything beyond the clinical aspects of the physician's career. But once she began working summers at the viral and cell immunology laboratory at NYU and presenting posters on her research, she was hooked.

"It is just so gratifying to elucidate a scientific mechanism that either proves or disproves your initial hypothesis. But it takes patience and can be very frustrating at times," Ms. Tugal said.

continued on page 5

Annual Chaikin Lecture will focus on celiac disease

The 37th Annual Chaikin Lecture in Gastroenterology, set for May 28, will feature a talk by a renowned physician with an intense clinical and academic interest and expertise in celiac disease. He is Peter H. R. Green, M.D., professor of clinical medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, attending physician at The New York Presbyterian Hospital and director of The Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University. His lecture is titled, "Celiac Disease: A Hidden Epidemic."

For the past ten years, Dr. Green has divided his focus between celiac patient care and research. He has collaborated on research programs at Columbia and other institutions on the epidemiology, genetics, diagnosis and management of celiac disease and its complications.

Dr. Green is a former president of the New York Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and remains on its council. He served on the postgraduate education committee of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and is a founding member of the clinical teaching project, a committee established by the American Gastroenterological Association to develop teaching materials for gastroenterologists.

Dr. Green received his medical degree from University of Sydney in Australia and completed his residency and G.I. fellowship at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. He became a research fellow at Harvard Medical School and worked in the gastroenterology department at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. He is a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the

American College of Gastroenterology, and is a member of the American Gastroenterologic Association and American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

The Chaikin Lecture, sponsored by the Sarah C. Upham Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatobiliary Diseases, is named in honor of its founder and supporter, the late Nathan W. Chaikin, M.D., clinical professor of gastroenterology. Dr. Chaikin was an active voluntary participant in the departmental academic program and began funding the lectureship himself in 1969. Since his death in 1985, his family continues to support the program, affording the College the opportunity to invite the nation's leading gastroenterologists to offer lectures that provide insight to students and faculty. ▲

Graduate Student Research Forum still going strong after 20 years

Although the first annual Graduate Student Research Forum was held two decades ago, the premise remains the same today: students gain valuable experience



Francis L. Belloni, Ph.D., second from right, dean of the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences, posed with the winners of the 20th Annual Graduate Student Research Forum. From left: Ramray Bhat, Christopher Pappas, Chirag Upreti, Zhijian Wang, Nicolas Kummer, Mike Kalogiannis, Craig Belon, Shilpi Rajoria and Agnes Wong.

explaining and defending their research and receive constructive criticism from their mentors and peers, while the College community gains an awareness and appreciation of the breadth and depth of student research. This year on March 26 the Graduate Student Association (GSA) celebrated the 20th Annual Graduate Student Research Forum with the traditional day of activities, including poster and oral presentations and a keynote address speech by a nationally-recognized researcher.

Research forum founders Helen Badoyannis, Ph.D. '91, and Sherry Downie, Ph.D. '94, returned to Valhalla to emcee the day's events. While they may not have recognized some of the changes on campus, they were familiar with the pre-performance jitters and excitement of the 31 students who presented 21 posters and delivered 10 oral presentations.

Irving Zucker, Ph.D. '72, professor and chairman of the Department of Cellular and Integrated Physiology and director of the Cardiovascular Research Center at the University of Nebraska

Medical Center (UNMC), was eager to share his long time interest in the function of myocardial control mechanisms in his presentation "A Central Role for Angiotensin in the Sympatho-excitation



Graduate Student Association president Mike Kalogiannis welcomed back research forum founders Helen Badoyannis, Ph.D. '91, center, and Sherry Downie, Ph.D. '94, to host the 20th Graduate Student Research Forum.



Students joined keynote speaker Irving Zucker, Ph.D. '72, third from left, for an informal discussion of whatever was on their minds—career paths, balancing family life and work, and the future of research funding were a few of the topics tossed around. From left: Angela Burgess, Jennifer Chang, Craig Belon, Shreekrishna Maharjan, Zhijian Wang, Nicolas Kummer, Agnes Wong, Roni Zilinski, Jeanette Sutherland and Rachel Ackerman.

of Chronic Heart Failure." Dr. Zucker was recently named the second UNMC Scientist Laureate, the highest recognition given to a scientist at that institution.

Members of the College's own faculty received special honors at the forum. The GSA presented Doris J. Bucher, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology and immunology, with this year's Outstanding Faculty Award for her service and support of students and the mission of the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences. ▲

20th Annual Graduate Student Research Forum Winners

FIRST PLACE

Craig Belon

"NTP-Protein Interactions as a Basis of Inhibitor Design for Hepatitis C Virus Helicase"

SECOND PLACE

Nicolas Kummer

"Upregulation of Arachidonic Acid 5-Lipoxygenase in Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Correlates with Increased Tumor Invasion In-Vivo and Increases Extracellular Matrix Degradation and Invasion In-Vitro"

THIRD PLACE

Mike Kalogiannis

"Characterization of Behavioral Arrests in Narcoleptic Double Orexin Receptor Knockout Mice"

NOVICE STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

FIRST PLACE

Shilpi Rajoria

"Non Genomic Signaling of Estrogen Receptor in Thyroid Proliferative Diseases"

SECOND PLACE

Agnes Wong

"Evidence for Genetic Recombination Between Clones of *Staphylococcus Epidermidis*"

THIRD PLACE

Chirag Upreti

"RAB3A and RIM1ALPHA Regulate Long-Term Synaptic Depression (LTD) at Schaffer Collateral-CA1 Synapses in Hippocampus"

SENIOR STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

FIRST PLACE

Ramray Bhat

"Temporal Oscillations of HES1 Gene Expression in Embryonic Limb Bud Mesenchyme: Relation to a Dynamical Model for Skeletal Pattern Formation"

SECOND PLACE

Christopher Pappas

"*Borrelia burgdorferi* Glycerol-3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (GlpA) is Involved in Temperature-Dependent Stationary Phase Adaptation"

THIRD PLACE

Zhijian Wang

"Arachidonic Acid (AA) Inhibits Basolateral K Channels in the Cortical Collecting Duct (CCD) via Cytochrome P450 (CYP) Epoxygenase-Dependent Metabolic Pathways"

D.P.T. students present the results of their doctoral projects

The Department of Physical Therapy had much cause for celebration on April 17 when members of the Class of 2008

participated in the Fourth Annual Doctoral Project

Presentation Day.

Eleven candidates for doctorate of physical therapy (D.P.T.) degrees presented their research projects in the areas of clinical research, education or public health service. Their presentations, in poster and oral format, were the result of work that began during their first year of study at the School of Public Health.

Students shared their findings with an audience of their peers, mentors, faculty and administration.

Projects addressed a wide assortment of topics such as the optimization of teaching methods of anatomy in modern educational theory; the integration of pedagogical principles to promote student learning and confidence in a neurological examination and evaluation course; the influence of American Physical Therapy Association's (APTA) clinical instructor credentialing on the effectiveness of clinical teaching; comparisons of outcomes of physical therapists—one for patients with shoulder injuries and another for patients with low back impairments; physical activity in individuals with Parkinson's Disease and their healthy spouses; evaluations of the effectiveness of injury prevention programs for baseball players and for runners; a comparison study of functional lower extremity strength testing and current methods of open chain testing; and exercise programs for pre-schoolers and children with disabilities.

On the morning of the event, Cassandra Catalano was informed that the pre-school fitness program she helped develop for her doctoral project will become adopted as part of the school's curriculum.



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These D.P.T. students from the Class of 2008 presented their doctoral projects orally. From left: Kimberly Baer, Kimberly Cosetti, Cynthia Novak, Meghan Slemenda, Amy Bruno and Tara McGann.

In addition to the student presentations, participants listened to a talk by keynote speaker Rebecca Craik, P.T., Ph.D., editor-in-chief of *Physical Therapy*, who addressed the APTA strategic goal in her talk "Next Steps to Reach Vision 2020." Alumni and community partners helped cap off the day with a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Physical Therapy program at the College and the recent ten year re-accreditation from the APTA. ▲

Medical students help fifth-graders stay active

When a local elementary school lost the use of its playground and blacktop in late winter due to construction, the College's American Medical Association-Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS) Anti-Obesity Committee stepped in to make sure students didn't become lethargic and unhealthy without outdoor exercise and playtime.

Led by Jordan Roth, a second-year medical student who is the Anti-Obesity Committee chairman, groups of medical student volunteers visited the Post Road Elementary School in White Plains, N.Y., four times during a three-week period to encourage students to walk 10,000 steps a day and to eat healthier foods.

A diverse group of 90 fifth grade students from four classrooms were given pedometers and urged to compete as classes against each other. Medical students demonstrated various exercises and encouraged the children to measure their steps on a daily basis.

In all, the youngsters clocked 3.5 million steps during the three weeks. The winning classroom's students walked about 400,000 steps in all. Steps were measured during the school day only, but at the end of the competition, students were allowed to take the pedometers home.

"About one in five children is overweight, and a big part of that problem is they are not getting

enough exercise," said Mr. Roth. "Obesity among children has tripled during the past 25 years, with one in three children in the United States now reported to be overweight or at risk for becoming so."



These second-year medical students volunteered with others to help a group of fifth-graders stay active and healthy. Back row: Jordan Roth, Jamie Green and Michele Gandolfi. Front row: Angel Johnson, Christine Garruto, Kelly Bush and Lauren Spring.

Studies show that obese children miss more school days on average than their normal-weight classmates, and indicate fat is a better predictor of absenteeism than any other. Other studies claim that overweight children as young as age three are stigmatized by their peers and face bias, even from their parents and teachers.

"The school was a really good fit for us, because the administration wanted to make sure that the kids got exercise even when the outdoor area

wasn't available," said Mr. Roth. "They were so eager to have us come in and give the kids a chance to get moving."

In the first visit, medical students talked to the fifth-graders about the importance of exercise, and explained how the pedometers worked. The youngsters were taught how to calculate steps and keep a running tally. Because it was a group project, the students were encouraged to support each other. The winning classroom was promised a party with healthy snacks.

"At our first meeting, we had students suggest exercises—we even had teachers doing pushups and jumping jacks," said Mr. Roth. "We talked about taking steps in the halls, the cafeteria, wherever they could find space and time to walk. We were just promoting physical activity."

"We were really pleased with the program," he continued. "The students we met with spanned the cultural diversity of this area, and were able to talk about cultural norms in eating and exercise to complement things the physical education teacher was already doing. It was really great to help them out when they needed an extra boost to stay active." ▲

AOA Iota chapter celebrates 52 years of scholarly achievement, character and professionalism

The College's Iota chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), the honor medical society, celebrated its 52nd year with the traditional AOA visiting professor lecture and induction ceremony and banquet on March 26. The festivities began with the keynote address, "Becoming a Physician," by Lynne M. Kirk, M.D., associate dean for undergraduate medical education at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, interim chief of the division of general internal medicine and the Toni and Timothy P. Hartman Distinguished Teaching Professor in Medicine.

Thirty-four medical students were inducted into AOA this year. Junior members were selected based on their academic performance during the basic science courses and the first half of the third year. Also inducted were senior members whose eligibility was based on performance during the



Keynote speaker Lynne M. Kirk, M.D., second from right, was welcomed to New York Medical College by Karl P. Adler, M.D., left, president and chief executive officer. Also on hand for the lecture were Susan A. Kline, M.D., vice provost, university student affairs, and executive vice dean, academic affairs and William H. Frishman, M.D., the Barbara and William Rosenthal Professor and Chair of Medicine who serves as councilor of the College AOA chapter.



AOA Iota chapter officers, from left: Joshua Zeidner, treasurer; Robin Quazi, secretary; Nicole Papastathis, vice president; and Errol Ozdalga, president.

first three years of medical school. The evening also paid tribute to AOA alumni initiates Catherine Small, M.D. '77, associate professor of medicine, and Eric Feldman, M.D. '81; AOA faculty initiates Leanne M. Forman, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and medicine clerkship director, and Martha S. Grayson, M.D., senior associate dean for undergraduate medical education. Kumarie Nandi, M.D., was presented with the 2008 Volunteer Clinical Faculty award. ▲

CLASS OF 2008 JUNIOR AOA INDUCTEES

Kevin Bauer	Stacey Gallacher
Steven Huffman	Christopher Hunter
Michelle Jimerson	Jayson Neil
Errol Ozdalga	Nicole Papastathis
Robin Quazi	Kristin Santini
Joshua Zeidner	

CLASS OF 2008 SENIOR AOA INDUCTEES

Craig Berzofsky	Allison Borowski
Melissa Christino	Comana Cioroiu
Levi Dansby	Jessica Dekhayser
Barry Diener	Sarah Eccles Brown
Elizabeth Farrell	Houman Khakpour
Rebecca McAteer	Orlando Micheli
Anup Panduranga	Haatem Reda
John Ross Rizzo	Gagan Singh
Carolyn Wassong	Cai Ling Wang
Yi Chiun Wang	Kimberly Wings
Vahe Zohrabian	Rachel Zubko

CLASS OF 2009 JUNIOR AOA INDUCTEES

Sinan Altiner	Lisa Bienia
Melissa Burns	Samuel Coffin
Matthew Curley	Julie Goldman
Tyson Hawkins	Siobhan Kierans
Daniel Newman	Marie Ng
Gina Paek	Courtney Sherman
Christopher Szlezak	

College establishes chapter of Gold Humanism Honor Society

Recognizing the importance of empathy, altruism and professionalism in the relationships between physicians and patients, New York Medical College established a chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS), at the end of last year to honor those medical students, residents and faculty members who demonstrate exemplary humanistic qualities.

The first opportunity to nominate students for the newly founded society will take place in June, when medical students from the Class of 2009 will be given questionnaires asking them to nominate three people who come to mind when they think about questions like:

- ◆ The classmates you would like to have working at your side in a medical emergency.
- ◆ The classmates who best personify the quote, “The secret of good patient care lies in caring for the patient.”
- ◆ The classmates who have shown exceptional interest in service to their communities.
- ◆ The classmates who would be the best choices for a highly desired residency.
- ◆ The classmate you would want as a doctor for yourself or a loved one.
- ◆ The classmates who have the best listening skills with patients.

The GHHS awardees will be announced in August so the honor can be included in students’

applications for residency. Approximately 10 percent of the class will be selected each year. After the first year eight residents and one faculty member will also be selected.

The new chapter of the honor society is part of a College-wide initiative to increase awareness of the importance of humanistic medical care and to foster this behavior at the College. A professionalism

“Advanced technology, expansion of knowledge, and increased time pressures interfere with the civic and humanistic aspects of medicine to which most of us were initially drawn.”
— Leanne M. Forman, M.D.

task force was established in 2006 as a subcommittee of the curriculum committee to determine learning objectives and how they could best be taught.

“At New York Medical College, there is growing recognition that a health care provider’s professionalism and humanism directly and tangibly improve the quality of patient care, just as does a physician’s mastery of the science of medicine,” said Leanne M. Forman, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and medicine clerkship director, and faculty advisor to the GHHS. “Advanced technology, expansion of knowledge, and increased time pressures interfere with the civic and humanistic aspects of medicine to which most of us were initially drawn.”

Dr. Forman described the values and behaviors that reflect humanism: traits such as empathy, respect, caring, integrity and service.

Two annual events will highlight the College chapter of the GHHS. During Fall Academic Convocation, medical students participate in the white coat ceremony to establish a symbolic contract for the practice of medicine. During the ceremony, students listen to the Hippocratic Oath, wear their white coats for the first time in public and then listen to a speech by a physician role model. The issues of humanism will be highlighted again at the Senior Honors Convocation during Commencement week, when the inductees will be recognized.

“We want to concentrate on explicitly defining the behaviors we expect of medical trainees and ensure a learning environment that is conducive to advancing the attributes of professionalism rather than distracting from them,” said Dr. Forman. “This affirms that New York Medical College is among the nation’s leaders in its commitment to train humanistic and professional physicians.”

The College joins 69 medical schools nationwide in instituting a chapter of the GHHS. Dr. Forman said that other schools have reported the society as having a positive impact upon the academic environment and found that it enhanced the quality of residency placements for those students initiated into the society. ▲

Class of 2008 revels at Match Day

continued from page 1

with some of the match statistics by hesitating a moment before she made the familiar announcement she knew would get a laugh. “I know we say this every year but this really *is* the best match ever,” she said to delight of the audience of medical students and their families and friends. Then Dr. Ayala gave the signal to distribute the envelopes that would tell the sen-

iors where their future as physicians will begin. That’s when the controlled chaos of yelling, cheering and hugging began.

The exciting event earned a front page spread in *The Journal News*. For more photos and results of Match Day, please visit www.nymc.edu/medical/match/2008. ▲

Medical student receives prestigious cardiovascular research fellowship

continued from page 2

When she entered medical school, she began looking into possible research opportunities. She came across the Cardiovascular Research Institute and approached Dr. Anversa, who was then the institute’s director. He had never accepted a first-year medical student, let alone someone with such limited knowledge of the heart.

“He was a bit apprehensive of my desire to research in the lab,” said Ms. Tugal. “But I knew from previous experience that I had the ability to contribute to the research going on at the College. I would simply apply my skills to a different organ system.”

She diligently attended laboratory meetings every week before classes until she was offered the opportunity to do research during the summer between her first and second year.

“I was ecstatic,” she said. “My interest in his research was further strengthened as I listened to the discussions and developments of the institute’s scientists. And as my medical school classes were progressing, I gained more interest in the heart and vasculature.”

That summer, she worked in the labs of Dr. Anversa and Thomas H. Hintze, Ph.D. ’80, professor and chairman of the Department of Physiology.

continued on page 7

How the Class of 2008 matched up

Career choices:

Internal Medicine	41
Radiology	20
Emergency Medicine	19
Pediatrics	18
General Surgery	18
Anesthesiology	10
Neurology	10
Ophthalmology	9
Family Medicine	8
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	8
Orthopaedic Surgery	6
Otolaryngology	5
Pathology	4
Ob/Gyn	4
Psychiatry	3
Neurosurgery	3
Dermatology	1

Matches at College affiliates:

Westchester Medical Center	8
St. Vincent’s Hospital Manhattan	7
Greenwich Hospital	4
The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary	2
Danbury Hospital	2
Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center	1
Metropolitan Hospital Center	1
St. Vincent’s Hospital Staten Island	1

East coast vs. West coast:

Matches in New York:	44%
Matches in California:	16.6%

Conference addresses well-being of children in foster care

The Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) and the School of Public Health hosted a conference called “Children in Foster Care: Development, Health and Well-Being.” The April 11 conference was developed as part of an ongoing collaboration among the three University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Programs in New York State. WIHD, in affiliation with the School of Public Health, is one of those sites. Other partners include the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and the Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities Protection and Advocacy Program. The conference program was endorsed by New York Chapter 3, American Academy of Pediatrics.



The agenda addressed challenges to optimal development, health and well-being of children in foster care, focusing on children with social, emotional and development needs, and gave examples of successful models.

In attendance were, from left: **David M. O’Hara, Ph.D.**, associate professor of disability and human development, assistant professor of community and preventive medicine and vice president, WIHD; keynote speakers **Steven**

Blatt, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, SUNY Upstate Medical University, and **Sheryl Dicker, J.D.**, senior advisor, National Center on Children in Poverty, and former executive director of Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children; and **Karen Edwards, M.D., M.P.H. ’91**, associate professor of clinical pediatrics and associate professor of disability and human development. ▲

Students reach out to alumni

Fourteen students, representing the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health (SPH) and the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences (GSBMS), spent many evening hours last winter reaching out to alumni to solicit donations for the College’s general annual fund. The upshot of this year’s student phonathon: 250 donors made gifts totaling nearly \$32,000 and there are more confirmed pledges still being fulfilled. As a bonus, the students learned to appreciate the community service aspect of this fundraiser and the chance to network with alums. The phonathon team was led by Tara Alfano, assistant director of individual giving in the Office of University Development.

2008 Student Callers School of Medicine

- John Gillick
- Susan Ly
- Jessica Murphy

School of Public Health

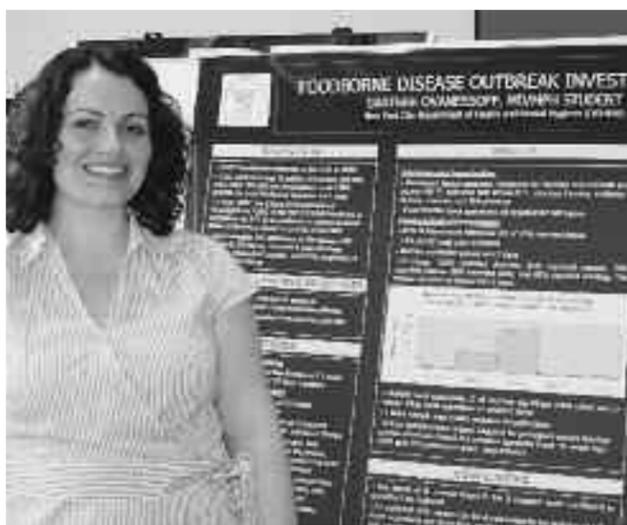
- Jessica Lake
- Rochelle Forrester
- Eric Li
- Michelle Yang
- Megan Kelley
- Sheryl Thomas

Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences

- Sharath Kandhi
- Deepa Rambadri
- Sushma Medikayala
- Angela Burgess ▲

National Public Health Week focuses on climate change and the nation’s health

The week of April 7-13 was set aside by the American Public Health Association to celebrate National Public Health Week. The theme was “Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance,” intended to raise awareness about the direct connection between climate change and global health today. Students and faculty in the School of Public Health used the occasion to host activities, which included a poster session that gave students the opportunity to share their practicum and internship experiences. A highlight of the week was a career panel discussion featuring alumni in the fields of medicine, epidemiology and hospital administration, who shared their insights with current M.P.H. students anticipating their own career development needs.



At the Public Health Week poster session, M.D./M.P.H. candidate **Garineh Ovanessoff, Class of 2008**, explained her work with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene after a gastrointestinal illness outbreak in a New York City restaurant.

Students also coordinated a free screening of *An Inconvenient Truth*, the award-winning film about global warming. Members of the Student Healthcare Executives (StuHE) Club, the student organization focused on healthcare management issues, explained their benefits for potential members. ▲

College hosts interdisciplinary and interfaith end-of-life conference

Issues of death and dying are not always comfortable subjects for discussion, but the subject attracted an overflow crowd to Nevins Auditorium on April 4 when the College hosted the Westchester Region End-of-Life Committee’s second interdisciplinary and interfaith conference, “Stand By Me: The Palliative Care Concept and Approaches.”

The Westchester Region End-of-Life Committee is a grassroots consortium of more than 30 agencies including colleges, home care organizations, hospices, hospitals and social service providers dedicated to advancing the understanding of end-of-life and palliative care issues. The conference featured three keynote speakers: Joseph Sacco, M.D., founder and director of the Palliative Medicine Consultation Service at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital; Luis H. Zayas, Ph.D., the Shanti K. Khinduka Distinguished Professor of Social Work and Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and James. E. Cimino, M.D., clinical professor of medicine at the College, physician at Calvary Hospital and past director of its Palliative Care Institute.



Westchester County Executive **Andrew J. Spano**, left, and **Robert W. Amler, M.D.**, dean of the School of Public Health, were on hand to deliver opening remarks to an audience of healthcare professionals, social workers, caregivers and families. ▲

LEADD program partners with University of the Virgin Islands

The Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD), in association with the School of Public Health (SPH) and in partnership with the Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD), is offering leadership education to maternal and child health professionals in the United States Virgin Islands (USVI). The name of this new program is Leadership Education and Developmental Disabilities (LEADD).

The program employs a blended learning methodology that relies on distance learning through computerized virtual classroom instruction, online discussion and self study, combined with a small number of face-to-face sessions. Students participate in courses at the School of Public Health via web conferences twice a month and through in-person sessions in the USVI once per semester. Each trainee is advised by a faculty mentor from the School of Public Health via teleconference and e-mail. Course curriculum focuses on topics in maternal and child health, with a strong focus on children with disabilities. Topics include leadership development, health disparities and cultural competence, family-centered care, and the distinctive public health concerns of the Caribbean in general and the U.S. Virgin Islands in particular.

The LEADD program at WIHD is directed by Karen Edwards, M.D., M.P.H. '91, associate professor of clinical pediatrics and associate professor of disability and human development, and is sponsored by a grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. John Laurence Miller, Ph.D., associate professor of disability and human development, is the LEADD program coordinator and director of distance learning and continuing education at WIHD. His responsibilities include

training College faculty in distance teaching techniques and establishing and maintaining the distance learning partnership with the VIUCEDD.

Available to maternal and child health professionals on the islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, the program serves



Participating in the first extended weekend program of a new distance learning grant were from left: Karen Edwards, M.D., M.P.H. '91, associate professor of clinical pediatrics and associate professor of disability and human development, and LEADD program director; Patsy Penn, director of maternal and child health (MCH) for the USVI Health Department; and LEADD trainees Arlene Smith-Lockridge M.D., pediatric public health physician, MCH and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) programs, Department of Health, St. Thomas and Janney Hawley B.S.N., head nurse, MCH and CSHCN programs, St. Thomas.

“an urgent and unmet need in the territory,” said Dr. Edwards. Twelve participants have been accepted into the four-semester, two-year program. Upon completion, they will have earned a certificate and academic credits from the SPH. The current 10 students include pediatricians, nurses, a social worker, a physical therapist and an educator. Many of them are employed by the health department in the Virgin Islands.

“One of the most important aspects of the collaboration is that we are working closely with the territorial Department of Health (DOH),” said Dr. Edwards. “USVI DOH leaders are helping us

to make the program responsive to the training needs of maternal and child health professionals in the USVI.”

Since the Virgin Islands are a U.S. territory, there are numerous parallels in the way the two medical systems run, said Dr. Edwards. But the economic status of families is very different, and access to care is variable.

During each semester, students attend one to two hours per week of virtual classroom instruction online, and one extended weekend workshop per semester in the USVI. Drs. Edwards and Miller, along with Sally Schwab Honig, Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of medicine, offered a workshop on communication skills last month.

Classes are mainly taught by College faculty via web conferencing. Dr. Miller has worked hard to help faculty understand the differences between teaching face-to-face in a classroom and via web conference.

“The level of interactivity is very different,” Dr. Miller said. “When you are in the classroom, you can look at student faces and see if they are bored or involved. Not so in distance learning. Visuals are much more important. You have to make a conscious effort to ensure interactivity.”

He said that mentoring is a significant element in the instructional methodology. Access to mentors is essential to trainees in developing and carrying out an individualized leadership plan and an evidence-based longitudinal project.

“One-on-one relationships with faculty makes a huge difference, and we’re very pleased that is part of the program,” Dr. Miller said. “Our mentors are really guiding the students in the U.S. V.I. through the entire process, and are there to listen if there are problems with any aspect of the program.” ▲

Faculty and students celebrate 60th anniversary of World Health Organization

Faculty members and students from the School of Public Health were among the attendees at the World Health

Organization’s (WHO) educational presentation commemorating the WHO’s 60 years of global public health leadership. The invitation-only event, was held on April 2. From left were: **Michael J. Reilly, M.P.H.**, assistant director of the Center for Disaster Medicine and assistant professor of public health practice; **Andrey Pirogov,**



assistant director-general of the WHO office at the United Nations in New York; **Amy Ansehl, R.N., M.S.N.**, assistant professor of public health practice, practicum coordinator and executive director of the Partnership for a Healthy Population; **Padmini Murthy, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.**, assistant professor of behavioral science and community health and director of the international global health program; and **Anarfi Asamoah-Baah, M.D.**, deputy director-general of the WHO, Geneva. ▲

Medical student receives prestigious cardiovascular research fellowship

continued from page 5

“I gained tremendous insight into the mechanisms of heart failure,” said Ms. Tugal. “My experience, both here and at NYU, helped to solidify my understanding of the organ systems, and helped me further my knowledge of the heart as well as immunology. I am very thankful to Drs. Hintze, Anversa and Frishman [William H. Frishman, M.D., the Barbara and William Rosenthal Professor and Chairman of Medicine] for their support and mentorship.”

“She is mature, thoughtful and absolutely enthusiastic about a career in cardiovascular research,” said Dr. Hintze. “If I were to predict, I think that Derin will become one of the dying breed of physician scientists that the Sarnoff Foundation champions. Her career goals clearly indicate that she has caught the bug, been exposed to biomedical research and changed her focus from purely clinical medicine to academic-research oriented medicine.” ▲