Patients who come to Downstate’s Bay Ridge Urgent Care Center complaining of chest pains or shortness of breath are often relieved to find that what they are experiencing is not a serious asthma or heart attack but a treatable gastrointestinal complaint. Often the problem is gastroesophageal reflux disease, commonly known as GERD. Fortunately, the physicians and staff of the Advanced Endoscopy Center are expert at diagnosing and managing this and many other types of GI disorders.

Under the direction of Frank Gress, MD, Downstate’s chief of gastroenterology and hepatology, the Advanced Endoscopy Center is an extension of the Digestive Disease Center at the Central Brooklyn campus. It is also part of the Ambulatory Surgery Center at Bay Ridge. “Endoscopy is a means of examining the esophagus, stomach and bowels to diagnose gastrointestinal and digestive problems,” explains Dr. Gress. All endoscopies are done as an outpatient continued on page 2

**March Is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**

**MARCH 20, 6-7:30 PM**

**HSEB, Classroom 1A**

Lecture on Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment

Yvette Lam-Tsai, MD

**MARCH 21, 9 AM-3 PM**

**SUNY Downstate Bay Ridge Urgent Care Center**

Free colorectal cancer screening

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**Dermatology Chair Alan R. Shalita Awarded Top Honor in His Field**

On March 1, Alan R. Shalita, MD, distinguished teaching professor and chair of dermatology, was awarded the American Academy of Dermatology’s (AAD) Gold Medal at its annual meeting in Miami. The Gold Medal is the AAD’s highest honor, representing outstanding service in the practice, teaching, science, and administration of cutaneous medicine. Dr. Shalita excels in each of these activities.

Gold Medal honorees are accorded honorary membership in the AAD in recognition of their dedication and lifelong commitment to the Academy and its mission.

A pioneer in the treatment of acne, Dr. Shalita is internationally recognized within his profession as a leading clinician, scientist, and educator. In addition to having published more than 50 book and journal articles, Dr. Shalita has served as president of both the American Dermatological Association and the Association of Professors of Dermatology, and as vice president of the American Academy of Dermatology.

The Gold Medal is the latest among many honors and awards that have distinguished Dr. Shalita’s long and productive career.
Advanced Endoscopy Center
(continued from page 1)

procedure so that patients can quickly recover and go home the same day.

The Center treats a wide range of conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome, chronic constipation or diarrhea, peptic ulcer, diverticular disease, hemorrhoids, and GI bleeding. In addition to colonoscopy and colorectal exams to detect the early signs of cancer (see the information on free cancer screening being offered this month), the following diagnostic tests are performed to determine the underlying causes of patients’ complaints:

- **48-hour Bravo ph study** — to determine whether acid entering the esophagus is the cause of heartburn and other symptoms of GERD.

- **Cellvizio** — The Advanced Endoscopy Center in Bay Ridge is the only medical facility in Brooklyn that uses this new technology. By employing one of the world’s smallest microscopes, physicians can view and analyze tissue cells of the digestive tract in minute detail during an endoscopic exam.

- **Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)** — both endoscopy and fluoroscopy are used to diagnose and treat certain problems of the biliary or pancreatic ductal systems.

Along with its broad range of services and advanced technologies, the Center boasts a diverse group of physicians and staff, many of whom share the same ethnic and linguistic backgrounds as their patients.

“In addition to patients from the nearby communities of Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, and Sunset Park, we’ve had people come here from as far away as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and even Florida,” says Diana Perez, RN. Good word of mouth is evidently working.

All endoscopies are done as an outpatient procedure so that patients can quickly recover and go home the same day.

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THE HONORABLE DAVID N. DINKINS, 106th MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY, WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THIS YEAR'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION. STUDENTS FROM PS 235, PARKSIDE PREPARATORY ACADEMY, AND THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS Filled THE AUDIENCE, AND ALTHOUGH THEY WERE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER ALL THE WAYS THAT MAYOR DINKINS IMPROVED CITY LIFE DURING HIS TIME IN OFFICE, THEY WERE VERY EXCITED TO MEET HIM. “DON’T LET ANYONE TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN’T DO,” HE TOLD THEM, “BUT DON’T BE A BULLY. THE BIG ONES HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE LITTLE ONES.”

Many thanks go to Robert Richards, Chairman of the Black History Month Committee, for coordinating this great event.