

*A letter from the Director of Pharmacy at SUNY Downstate Medical Center*

*To the Downstate Community:*

*The unspeakable horrors of September 11th need not be rehashed. The sympathies of our department go out to all members of the Downstate community who lost loved ones and to the members of the New York City Police Department, the Fire Department of New York City, the PAPD and the EMS who gave unselfishly in valiant rescue attempts so that others may live.*

*I witnessed many things in my 25 years as a member of the staff of our hospital. Through all of the endurances and human tests that all of us experienced over the last six weeks,, strength and hope has risen in the way we prepared to be part of the city-wide efforts to meet the disaster of September 11th. I saw an emergency department, relatively young, prepare to receive casualties as if it were a major trauma center. I saw the Medical and Nursing staff mobilize through all shifts for the tasks that were to come. Medical students came to help where they could. Hospital administrators coordinated efforts to activate the disaster command center so that all of the medical services would be well supported. I would be remiss if I did not also mention the Pharmacy Department's response that made me proud.*

*Even though the reality of the day set in at around 2:00 P.M., what happened that day at Downstate was remarkable. We were a team. We helped each other. We gave unselfishly to exemplify our mission. In 25 years here at Downstate, I was never more proud to say I am a member of our staff than on September 11th.*

*God Bless Downstate and God Bless America*

*Nicholas Galeota, M.S., RPh*

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has approved and has recommended for approval to the Executive Committee of the Medical Board the following drugs

Drug Name	Therapeutic Category
Nateglinide (Starlix ®)	Antidiabetic drug
Isosulfan blue (Lymphazurin ®) inj	Diagnostic contrast dye
ASA & dipyridamole (Aggrenox ®)	Anti-platelet drug

The following drugs have been removed from the formulary:

Drug Name	Therapeutic Category
Tolazamide (Tolinase ®)	Antidiabetic drug
Tolbutamide (Orinase ®)	Antidiabetic drug

## Infectious Disease News



1. Vancomycin availability in the operating room:  
Infectious Disease Division approval is not needed for prophylactic dosing of vancomycin if the patient is penicillin allergic. However, there is a requirement that the order for vancomycin be written the day before surgery so that the antibiotic will be available at the scheduled time.
2. Infectious Disease approval for restricted antibiotics on N.S. 74:  
I.D. Division attendings are no longer stationed on N.S. 74 and all physicians requesting restricted antibiotics for their patients must write the order on the Restricted Antibiotic Order Form upon approval from Infectious Disease.