



Winter 2005-2006  
Vol. II, No.1

# The Residents & Fellows Alumni Society

*Sharing the State of Downstate*

## 2005 FACULTY HONOREES



Dr. Anne Skamai



Dr. Prabhdeep Sandhu



Dr. Eric Shrier



Dr. Nira A. Goldstein



Dr. Anthony D. Nicastrì



Dr. Jack Moallem



Dr. Randall R. Dwenger



Dr. Isamettin Aral



Dr. Raffaele Borriello



Dr. Llewellyn Hyacinthe



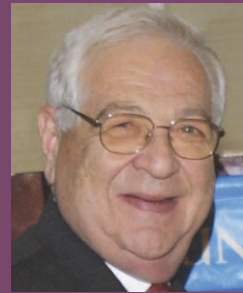
Dr. Mudar Dalloul



Dr. Banu Lokhandwala



Dr. Steven R. Izzo



Dr. Alan R. Shalita



Dr. Tsai Chao



Dr. Geetha Chari



Dr. Christopher Doty



Dr. Arash Gohari

# Congratulations 2005 Faculty Honorees

Family Medicine - Dr. Anne Skamai

Medicine - Dr. Prabhdeep Sandhu

Ophthalmology - Dr. Eric Shrier

Otolaryngology - Dr. Nira A. Goldstein

Pathology - Dr. Anthony D. Nicastrì

Pediatrics - Dr. Jack Moallem

Psychiatry - Dr. Randall R. Dwenger

Radiation Oncology - Dr. Isamettin Aral

Surgery - Dr. Raffaele Borriello

Urology - Dr. Llewellyn Hyacinthe

Obstetrics & Gynecology - Dr. Mudar Dalloul

Anesthesiology - Dr. Banu Lokhandwala

Dental & Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery - Dr. Steven R. Izzo

Dermatology - Dr. Alan R. Shalita

Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine - Dr. Tsai Chao

Neurology - Dr. Geetha Chari

Emergency Medicine - Dr. Christopher Doty

Radiology - Dr. Arash Gohari

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Graduates,*

*Happy New Year! to You and Your Families from your Downstate Family. Our faculty and staff join me in wishing you a Joyous and Successful 2006...and years and years to come.*

*On behalf of Downstate, I am proud to share with you the winter issue of the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society Newsletter. It pays tribute to our 2005 graduates and distinguished faculty.*

*I am honored to be a part of this new tradition on our campus of annually celebrating the graduating residents and fellows as they, too, honor the faculty that have trained them. On Thursday, May 18th, 2006, Downstate will celebrate its fifth Graduating Residents & Fellows Event at the NY Marriott, Brooklyn. All of the medical center's graduating residents and fellows and honored faculty will be saluted. I invite you to come back and join us --- be with us on this exciting evening.*

*The Residents & Fellows Alumni Society was created in 2001 to formally recognize the excellence of our graduates and to build a robust relationship with you! So, in these pages you'll find photos of tribute and memorabilia of Downstate's strength and formidable success in Graduate Medical Education. Take pride in them, as we have taken great pride in you.*

*Through the Society, our goal is to celebrate your achievements and keep you connected to Downstate and, if you wish, to fellow graduates around the world. With that in mind, we invite you to visit the Society's web site at [www.downstate.edu/residents-alumni-society.com](http://www.downstate.edu/residents-alumni-society.com). View the graduates' events since 2002 and the graduates of each department. See how you can get involved with your department and make a dynamic impact, and how to contact the Society.*

*We also invite you to become a member of the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society. Come back to Brooklyn, to Clarkson Avenue.*

*Very shortly Downstate Medical Center will celebrate its one hundred fiftieth anniversary, a very distinctive epoch in our rich and vibrant legacy --- the legacy of Excellence that includes you. The Residents & Fellows Alumni Society through its newsletter and web site, will make you a part of our planning. What an exciting time!*

*Again, my Best Wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John C. LaRosa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

*John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP*

*President*

*SUNY Downstate Medical Center*

# Department Newsbriefs

## DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY



The Department of Anesthesiology is proud to recognize its Faculty Honors and Achievements: **James E. Cottrell, MD**, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, and Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, 2005. **Michael Mendezsoon, MD, MBA**, Chair, Kings County Hospital Center, and elected President, New York State Society of Anesthesiologists. **David Wlody, MD**, Chair, Long Island College Hospital, is President of the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia & Perinatology. **Rebecca Twersky, MD, MPH**, Professor, Anesthesiology and author of *The Ambulatory Anesthesia Handbook*, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA), 2005. **Audrée Bendo, MD**, Professor, Clinical Anesthesiology is the Representative to ACGME's Residency Review for Anesthesiology, 2005 and Chair, New York State Society of Anesthesiologists Committee on Academic Anesthesiology, 2005. **Banu Lokhandwala, MD**, Director, Anesthesiology, Long Island College Hospital was selected by the residents as the 2005 Faculty Honoree for the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society Award. **Constance Hill, MD**, Director, Perioperative Anesthesiology Clerkship & Associate Dean for Minority Affairs, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, College of Medicine, is Recipient of a \$1,463,344 Grant from the Department of Health & Human Services Administration.

The American Society of Anesthesiology Annual Meeting held in October, 2005 featured Refresher Courses Lecturers: **James Cottrell, MD**: Techniques & Drugs for Cerebral Protection; **Audrée Bendo, MD**: Supratentorial Tumors: Evolving Management & Techniques; **Rebecca Twersky, MD**: Recovery & Discharge of the Ambulatory Anesthesia Patient; **Ira Kass, MD**: Brain Metabolism & Mechanisms of Cerebral Ischemia; **John Hartung, MD**: Basic Science Review: Statistics: When to Suspect a False Negative Inference.

The Fall CME Meeting: District One New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA) in association with SUNY Downstate Medical Center – "Anesthesia Update – A Celebration of 100 years of Anesthesia in Brooklyn" was held on October 29-30, 2005.

The department's Newsletter can be found at [www.downstate.edu](http://www.downstate.edu)

## DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY



The Department of Dermatology congratulates the outstanding achievement of our faculty, **Dr. Hilary Baldwin** who was awarded the 2005 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service and **Dr. Daniel Siegel** who was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Dermatology.

We are also delighted to welcome **Dr. Gina Taylor** as the newest member of our full-time faculty. Dr. Taylor is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She completed her dermatology training at SUNY Downstate and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology. She also recently completed a fellowship in Dermatopathology. Dr. Taylor will direct the dermatology service at Kings County Hospital Center and will also be actively involved in our faculty practice as well as the teaching of our medical students and residents.

We would also like to welcome the newest members of our clinical faculty, **Drs. Stefan Bradu** and **Amy Wechsler**. Dr. Bradu holds the MD/PhD degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Dr. Wechsler is board certified in both psychiatry and dermatology.

The Department of Dermatology would also like to take this opportunity to thank the voluntary clinical faculty who give generously of their time, without remuneration, to supervise residents in our clinics: **Drs. David Biro, Allyson Brockman, Shoshana Landow** and **Eric Siegel**. **Dr. Sharon Glick**, Chief of Pediatric Dermatology, provided invaluable assistance and supervision in the presentation of an extraordinary variety and number of patients at the 2005 Atlantic Dermatological Conference.

The contributions of the dermatology faculty at local, regional and national dermatology meetings are too numerous to mention here, suffice to say that they have made significant contributions to furthering the education of our specialty.

## DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE



The Emergency Medicine Residency has grown to the largest in the entire United States. Some skeptics may argue that large numbers do not necessarily translate into high quality. However, we defy that hypothesis by showing that there is tremendous quality in our residency: Not only academically and clinically but also regarding human values, compassion and diversity. We are clearly recognized for that on a national level and we will continue to seek perfection and be role models for our specialty.

The subdivisions of EM — Ultrasound led by **Dr. Aleksandr Gleyzer**; Patient Simulation led by **Dr. Brian Gillet**; Community Training Center led by **Dr. Seth Manoach**; Disaster Preparedness led by **Dr. Bonnie Arquilla**; Research led by **Dr. Richard Sinert** and Toxicology led by **Dr. Mark Su**—have made unbelievable strides gaining us respect and recognition beyond national borders.

The addition of the MPH to the residency training is going into its third year. We are adding an international EM division and expanding both, the disaster preparedness and the patient simulator activities.

This year we will graduate our first Disaster Preparedness Fellow. The future is bright for our graduates and for our department.

## DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE



The Department of Family Medicine has just completed a favorable internal institutional review and had a formal accreditation review by the Residency Review Committee for Family Medicine, which took place in early November 2005. We invite all our alumni to our

CME-accredited monthly Grand Rounds at 12:00 noon on the last Wednesday of each month. Our department's Annual Holiday Party was held in our departmental office on Wednesday, December 21, 2005. We enjoyed the opportunity to share our good news with our distinguished resident and fellow alumni, and we recognized the hard work of our Residents & Fellows Alumni Society for making that possible.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Margaret Donat** (SUNY Downstate Class of 2001, Residency, Fellow 2001-2002) was appointed Program Director of Residency Training in Family Medicine at SUNY-Downstate in June 2005, following completion of her Fellowship in Women's Health/Faculty Development in our department. Dr. Donat worked at Brookdale Hospital in Family Medicine. We were fortunate to recruit her back in 2003 to lead our department as Medical Director in Suite B and Pre-Doctoral Coordinator. Her excellent performance in this vital dual role, while building a thriving clinical practice including prenatal care and OB delivery, made her a clear choice for the position of Residency Director. She brings a unique combination of clinical expertise, administrative and leadership skills, and "the human touch" to Family Medicine.

**Dr. Gloria Mtomboti**, (SUNY Downstate Class of 1999, SUNY Downstate Family Medicine Residency Class of 2002), was recognized for her excellence as a busy staff physician in Suite B and her dedication to teaching residents and medical students and was promoted to the role of Medical Director in Suite B and Pre-Doctoral Coordinator. We salute the accomplishments of this promising Downstate alumna.

## DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE



**Edmund Bourke, MD** was appointed Chair of the Department of Medicine in May, 2004. **William McCormack, MD** Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases was awarded the SUNY title Distinguished Teaching Professor and **Michael Augenbraun, MD**, of Infectious Diseases received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. **Samy McFarlane, MD** has been appointed Interim Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and also serves as the Fellowship Program Director. **Rauno Joks, MD** has been appointed the Interim Chief of the Division of Allergy/Immunology and Program Director of that Fellowship

Training Program. **John Kassotis, MD**, has been appointed Director of the Clinical Electrophysiology Lab and Program Director for the Electrophysiology Fellowship Program in the Division of Cardiology. Dr. Kassotis graduated from and trained at Columbia University. **Erdal Cavusoglu, MD**, has also joined the Division of Cardiology as an Interventional Cardiologist. Dr. Cavusoglu came to us from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. **Aung Zaw Min, MD** has joined the Division as Director of the CCU here at UHB. **Thomas Williams, Jr., MD** has joined the Division as an Attending Physician in Electrophysiology from Mt. Sinai.

**Judith C. Ahronheim, MD** has been appointed Chief of the Division of Geriatrics. Dr. Ahronheim was Professor of Medicine at New York Medical College. **Jasotha Sanmugarajah, MD** joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology as an attending physician. Dr. Sanmugarajah came to us from Coney Island Hospital and Lenox Hill Hospital. **Gerald Soff, MD** has been recruited from Northwestern University College of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois as Chief of the Hematology/Oncology Division here at Downstate effective January 1, 2006.

**Frieda Wolf, MD** joined the Division of Renal Diseases as an Attending Physician and Director of their CME programs. **Moro Salifu, MD** was appointed Director of the Fellowship Training Program in Nephrology. Drs. Wolf and Salifu completed their training in Internal Medicine and Nephrology here at SUNY Downstate. Dr. Wolf further trained in Transplant Nephrology here. **Joe Georges Zein, MD** has joined the Division of Pulmonary Medicine as an Attending Physician. **Albert Heurich, MD**, Attending Physician in Pulmonary has retired although he is still active in the teaching activities of the division.

Hospitalist Service University Hospital of Brooklyn: **Eduard Porosnicu, MD** is the Director of the Hospitalist Service. **Drs. Madalina Butnariu, Sandeep Dham, Rovie Mesola, Prabhdeep Sandhu, and Mafuzur Rahman** have joined the Hospitalist Service here at University Hospital of Brooklyn. All are former trainees here at SUNY Downstate in the Internal Medicine Residency Program and Chief Medical Residents.

**Edward Carbonell, MD**, is Director of the Physician Assistant Service at UHB. The PA Service handles the private community physician's patients under the direction of Dr. Carbonell.

Mildred "Barry" and Eli A. Friedman Chair in Medicine: Thirty-five years ago, when chronic renal failure meant certain near term death, the concept of prolonging life by chronic dialysis was introduced in Seattle and extended to Brooklyn where the first federally funded hemodialysis unit in the United States was established at Kings County Hospital Center. When the inventor of modern automated laboratory chemistry, Edwin J. Weiskopf developed kidney failure in Cleveland, he was advised that the Seattle program was full but that a startup in Brooklyn might have room for an additional patient. At the age of 62, Mr. Weiskopf traveled to Downstate where he was effectively managed with substantial prolongation of life. In recognition of this accomplishment, an endowment of \$4.5 million was donated and the Mildred "Barry" and Eli A. Friedman Chair of Medicine was created by the Weiskopf family in 2004.

The Hugh Carroll Library Fund has been resurrected and we are at approximately 50% of the needed funds. The campaign is ongoing until our goal is reached.

## DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY



The Department of Neurological Surgery has expanded considerably over the past three years. **Dr. Stephen T. Onesti**, Professor and Chair, and **Dr. Mark K. Thompson**, Vice-Chair, have recruited several outstanding faculty with subspecialty interests in neurosurgery. **Dr. Ethan Benardete** is the only fellowship-trained pediatric surgeon in the borough of Brooklyn. Working closely with the Department of Neurology, he has established the epilepsy surgery program, and recently performed the first epilepsy surgery cases ever performed at Downstate. Dr. Benardete also has interests in neurovascular and peripheral nerve surgery. **Dr. Sundeeep Mangla** has initiated the interventional neuroradiology program, with interventional treatment of cerebral aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, and tumors. **Dr. Ali Sadr** is a fellowship-trained skull base neurosurgeon with additional interests in neurooncology and the neurosurgical treatment of pain. The Department is also recruiting an additional surgeon to join the faculty who will be able to initiate the functional neurosurgery program. Dr. Onesti and Dr. Thompson are very grateful to the administration at SUNY Downstate for providing the resources necessary to recruit and establish these talented new clinical faculty. The Department would also like to recognize the many Departments who have supported neurosurgery at Downstate with collaboration, affiliation, and referrals.

The Department has re-established the basic science initiative under Dr. Benardete, in collaboration with **Dr. Peter Bergold** and **Dr. John Chapin** of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. The Department has also formed an academic spine surgery group with the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, with participation of Orthopaedic residents in neurosurgery spine cases and the Department's educational program. The Department has continued to develop academic and educational affiliations in the borough, with a view to the eventual restoration of the residency program.

## ■ DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY



The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has continued its tremendous growth under the leadership of **Dr. Ovdia Abulafia**, Professor & Chair. **Dr. Joseph Osho** has been recruited as Vice Chair of the Department. In addition, other community physicians have joined the Department: **Dr. Mary Toussaint**, **Dr. George McMillan** and **Dr. Jose Castro**. New faculty have joined the Department: **Dr. Francine Hippolyte**, **Dr. Fady Collado**, **Dr. Pierre Eugene**, **Dr. Tudor Gavilescu**, **Dr. Sharon Lojun** and **Dr. Raphael Stimpfil**. New faculty has joined Kings County, as well: **Dr. Kimberly Munroe**, **Dr. Melissa Philadelphia**, and **Dr. Lisa Holcomb**.

The new Labor and Delivery Suite at Downstate has 9 LDRs, a 7 bed triage and 6 observation/recovery beds. Under the direction of **Dr. David Sherer**, the Sonogram and Antepartum Testing Unit at Downstate continues to expand and sees about 15,000 patients annually. A new Labor and Delivery floor is planned to open at KCH in 2006. The gynecologic volume at SUH has greatly increased with cases every day of the week. The Department now has the largest surgical volume in the hospital.

Following a successful Residency Review Committee site visit in October 2004, the department was granted a full accreditation and an increase in the resident complement from five to six residents per year.

Research continues to be prolific in the department with about 20 publications a year and presentations at local and national groups including the Brooklyn Gynecologic Society, Society of Gynecology Oncology, American Professors of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Society of Gynecology Investigation and the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

The Oncology Fellowship Program remains strong with another successful match. The department has recruited a former SUNY Downstate College of Medicine graduate, **Dr. Allison Wagreich**, as its next fellow. The fellowship currently provides oncology services for Downstate, Kings County, Lutheran and Brooklyn Hospitals.

Congratulations to **Dr. Ozgul Muneyyirici-Delale** on receiving a \$2.1 million dollar grant from the NIH.

Congratulations to **Dr. Yi-Chun Lee** who has been appointed

as the Director of Gynecologic Oncology.

Congratulations to **Dr. Mudar Dalloul** on the birth of his daughter on November 8, 2005.

Upcoming departmental events include the 8th Annual Obstetrics & Gynecology Review Course in May 2006.

## ■ DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY



**Dr. Douglas R. Lazzaro** has been appointed Interim Chairman. We have just recruited two new faculty members who have joined the department on a full time basis. **Dr. Michael Ehrenhaus** completed a Cornea Fellowship under **Dr. David Schanzlin** in California and brings with him new emerging techniques in corneal transplantation and refractive surgery. He will lead the division of cornea. **Dr. Shobit Rastogi** completed a fellowship in Glaucoma under **Dr. Theodore Krupin** in 2003 and is joining us to perform diagnostic glaucoma evaluations and complicated glaucoma surgeries. He will head up the Glaucoma Division at Downstate.

The Department of Ophthalmology is proud to have had 3 presentations accepted for the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting held in Chicago, October 2005. The department presented scientific material regarding glaucoma screenings and their implications, the use of trypan blue to facilitate cataract surgery and optic nerve blood flow data. We are very excited to be at the forefront in ophthalmology research.

Three of our residents made well received presentations at the annual National Medical Association conference held in New York City this past August. One of our residents earned second prize among resident and fellow presentations for a very well conceived animal model of cataract formation in Bin3 knockout mice.

We held the regional CME meeting January 2006. The scientific symposium was held at SUNY Downstate on January 26th. It was a stimulating educational day. Visiting lecturers included **Drs. Stephen Foster**, **Richard Mackool** and **Celso Tello** among others. We were happy to have had some of our graduates join us for the day of academia and collegiality.

## DEPARTMENT OF DENTAL & ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY



The Department would like to take this opportunity to update you on some of our departmental achievements for the past year. Six of our past oral and maxillofacial surgery residents have passed the written portion of their boards. Congratulations go out to **Drs. Richard Pihlstrom, Jason Auerbach, Korous Izadi, David Kim, Reza Bolourian and Eugene Poginsky**. Three of our General Practice Residents have been accepted into speciality programs. Congratulations to **Drs. Homayoun Aminyar and Barbara Peterson**, who have been accepted into the Maimonides Orthodontic Program and **Dr. Aminollah Bagheri**, who has been accepted into the Maimonides Pediatric Program. Our most recent graduate chiefs, **Drs. Ayman Chritah and Afshin Rezvani**, have had articles accepted for the *Journal Of Maxillofacial Surgery*. **Drs. Berger and Lazow**, Department Chair and Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery respectively, have had an article accepted for the *New York State Dental Journal*. Our current chiefs, **Drs. Ross Chavkin and Gregory Urfrig**, presented a poster on the "Treatment of TMJ Ankylosis using Computer Assisted and Image Guided Surgical Technique", at the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) meeting in Boston in October 2005.

## DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY & REHABILITATION MEDICINE



It has been a busy year for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine. The department is proud to welcome

the addition of several new faculty members and staff. **John Sharkey, MD**, Assistant Professor did his residency at SUNY Downstate and went on to a Sports Medicine fellowship at The Ohio State University. Dr. Sharkey is an energetic young attending who is proud to return to Downstate and join the team. The department appointed **Subrata Saha, PhD** as the Director of Musculoskeletal Research. Dr. Saha is eminently qualified to build the department's research program. Dr. Saha developed the musculoskeletal research programs at both Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport, LA and Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA where he served as Vice Chair for Research in the Orthopaedic Surgery Department. As Brooklyn's only academic musculoskeletal group, the department continues to strive for excellence as we continue to build our team and look towards the future.

In the fall of 2004, **Arnold Trachtenberg MS, ATC** joined the department. Mr. Trachtenberg has extensive experience in physical therapy and athletic training and serves as the divisional administrator for the Division of Sports Medicine. In addition, **James Darrow, MA, MS** joined the department in June 2005. Mr. Darrow has worked at SUNY Downstate for 7 years and has joined the department as the divisional administrator for the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery as well as the departmental Director of Education.

The 3rd Annual Sports Medicine Conference for High School Coaches and Athletic Directors was held on Saturday, January 28, 2006.

## DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY



The 2004-05 academic year marked the 14th anniversary of the creation of the Department of Otolaryngology of Downstate and its affiliated hospitals. The past year has witnessed continued growth of our clinical efforts in all areas.

**Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH**, was selected Editor of *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. This journal is the peer-reviewed journal with the largest circulation in the field of Otolaryngology. This is an extremely prestigious honor.

**Gady Har-El, MD**, Vice-Chair, has been named President-Elect of the American Broncho-Esophageal Association. He has also been named Director of the Division of Head and Neck Surgery at Long Island College Hospital. **Jessica W. Lim, MD**, Director of Resident Training, has replaced Dr. Har-El as Director of Otolaryngology at Kings County Hospital Center.

**Christopher Song, MD**, has done an excellent job in his first year as Coordinator of Medical Student Education for our department. **Richard Westreich, MD**, has been recruited to lead the Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Division of the department, replacing **Jon B. Turk, MD** who had left to pursue practice at Long Island and Manhattan. **Matthew Hanson, MD**, has been recruited as Chief of Otolaryngology at University Hospital and KCHC. He comes to us from Temple University.

Drs. Har-El and Rosenfeld continue to serve as examiners for the American Board of Otolaryngology. **Nira A. Goldstein, MD**, **Joseph McPhee, PhD** and **Richard Rosenfeld, MD** continue to provide excellent leadership to our residents who are pursuing research grants.

## DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY



**Carolyn A. Webber, MD** is the current President of the American Medical Women's Association. **Peter Howanitz, MD** received the Improved Quality Processes Award from the Institute for Quality in Laboratory Medicine (IQLM) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He also received the President's Award from the College of American Pathologists.

**Suzanne S. Mirra, MD**, received the Award for Meritorious Contributions to Neuropathology from the American Association of Neuropathologists. **Elizabeth S. Gloster, MD**, Director of Blood Banks, has been appointed to the Annual Meeting Education Program Unit of the American Association of Blood Banks. **Joan Howanitz, MD** serves on the Immunology and Ligand Assay Committee of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute.

**Martin J. Salwen, MD**, Past Chair, Board of Trustees and Past President, Downstate Medical Center Alumni Association of the College of Medicine, currently chairs the Summer Research Fellowship, the Full Year Scholarship, Faculty GEM Lecture, and Presidents' Portrait Gallery committees. At his suggestion, plans are underway for celebration of the COM's sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary in 2010.

Faculty and Residents have instituted two weekly conferences in Anatomic Pathology. A glass slide projection system was purchased for use at these conferences. **Peter Howanitz, MD** and **Andrew Nelson** have initiated the videotaping of resident presentations at our Friday morning Anatomic Pathology conferences. These videotapes will be used as tools to improve resident teaching and communication skills. The department is actively recruiting faculty members with expertise in surgical pathology, cytopathology,

molecular pathology and transfusion medicine/anatomic pathology.

## DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS



The Department of Pediatrics at Downstate has continued its steady growth over the past year. The General Pediatrics division has added **Dr. Christina Guillen** (a former chief resident and a Downstate graduate), as well as **Dr. Ernest Garnier** (former med-peds resident and Downstate graduate) and **Dr. Temitope Jose**. Meanwhile, at Kings County Hospital Center, **Drs. Carla Howard, Shelley Ann Bailey** and **Valery Chorny** have joined us in General Pediatrics. **Dr. Ninad Desai**, from the division of Pediatric Hematology, has been appointed the new Clinical Director of Pediatrics at KCHC. In the subspecialty areas we also have several new faculty: **Dr. Jose Quintos** (Endocrinology), **Dr. Lawrence Fordjour** (Neonatology), **Dr. William Treem** (gastroenterology and vice-chair for clinical development), **Dr. Stephan Kohlhoff (ID)**, **Dr. Gregory Kraus** (Critical Care), **Dr. Shirley Chang** (Nephrology) and **Dr. Gus Agoritsas** (Emergency Pediatrics and a Downstate graduate). **Dr. Nooruddin Tejani** has been appointed Director of the new pediatric emergency room at Downstate's University Hospital.

We are pleased to report the opening of our new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at University Hospital. This state-of-the-art 6000 sq.ft. NICU, directed by **Dr. Gloria Valencia**, will care for up to 29 premature infants, under the umbrella of the Downstate Regional Perinatal Center (RPC). Downstate is one of only two state-designated RPCs in the borough of Brooklyn. We will be growing the neonatal staff at University Hospital to a total of seven, including a new Neonatology division director. Coupled with the 5 Neonatologists at KCHC, the division will have grown to 12, up from just five in 1997. The former Neonatology division director, **Dr. Paul Toubas** has "retired" to work in the laboratory of **Dr. Randall Barbour** on an NIH funded project in Neonatal Intestinal Microcirculation.

The Department would like to thank the alumni of the Downstate class of '91 for their support of our Child Life program through a wonderful fund-raising event last November. The bowl-a-thon fund-raiser was organized by **Drs. Howard Shaw** and **Anthony Petrosini** and their wives. The Department also held its

own annual dinner-dance last spring at the Palm House, honoring one of the new members of the neurosurgery faculty, **Dr. Roland Torres**. The next dinner-dance is being planned for the fall.

Finally, the Department launched its Clinical Practice Plan website. Please check [www.downstatekids.com](http://www.downstatekids.com).

## ■ DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY



The Department of Psychiatry has continued to expand its programs of academic excellence and research:

In September 2004, **Stephen M. Goldfinger, MD** was appointed Chair of the Department. During the past year, numerous additional faculty have joined us. **Daniel Cukor, PhD** who has been working in the Department since before receiving his doctorate, was appointed as Assistant Professor. He is continuing a program of research in the areas of anxiety disorders, psychiatric aspects of medical illness, and post-traumatic stress disorder. **Jeffrey Feola, MD** was appointed as director of Downstate Mental Hygiene Associates, and **Pamela Saha, MD** began work on our inpatient psychiatry unit, NS 52. **Thomas Brouette, MD** previously an attending physician at Kings County Hospital was appointed as Director of Undergraduate Medical Education. All have joined DMC with appointments as clinical assistant professors. In addition, several faculty have been promoted. **Dr. Nyapati Rao** became a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and **Dr. Nina Schooler** became Professor of Psychiatry. In addition, a number of individuals passed subspecialty Board certification exams – including **Drs. Janardhanan, Forman** and **Viswanathan**.

Department of Psychiatry faculty have been recognized nationally and internationally for their work. Some highlights of faculty achievement:

The Neurodynamics laboratory, **Henri Begleiter PhD**, **Bernice Porjesz PhD**, and others have obtained renewal of an NIH merit award application and of the COGA grant for five more years of support. They have received additional grant support from Marshfield, and CIDR. They have been asked to contribute an invited review to Clinical Neurophysiology. Dr. Begleiter was the keynote speaker at a conference on brain oscillations in Istanbul, Turkey. Dr. Porjesz has presented to NIAAA, NIDA, and in the Netherlands. Their publications are too numerous to mention.

**Ellen J. Berkowitz, MD** has presented at several national meet-

ings in the area of residency training and community psychiatry. She was appointed to the Committee of International Medical Graduates Mentorship at the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training.

**Miranda Chakos, MD** has presented at the International Congress of Schizophrenia, the Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, and the New Clinical Drug Evaluations Unit (NCDEU) Conference. She has published five articles in peer reviewed journals. She is a Principal Investigator on five pharmaceutically sponsored clinical trials that focus on efficacy and safety of investigational antipsychotic medications and metabolic and safety issues of approved atypical antipsychotic medications.

**Carl Cohen, MD** received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, CUNY Brooklyn College, 2004. (One of two given at graduation ceremony in June, 2004).

He was also named on the Best Doctors in the NY Area, Castle-Connolly, 2005. He is a member of the SUNY Million Dollar Club, 2005. He authored and co-authored 13 book chapters and refereed journal articles. He is the principal investigator on a \$2 million HRSA fellowship training grant, and his two Alzheimer's state-funded service grants were both renewed for five years. In addition, he serves as the co-principal investigator on three other federally funded grants.

**Jeremy Coplan, MD** has presented at the Society of Neuroscience and at the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP). His work has been published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, *The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, and in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

**Daniel Cukor, PhD** received the American Psychological Association's Young Investigator's Award (2005)– for work on 'Depression in African American Dialysis Patients'. In addition, he was invited to participate in the American Psychological Association's Minority Fellowship Program/Summer Psychology Institute for investigators studying health disparity issues. His work has appeared in three peer-reviewed journals and he authored a book chapter.

**Steve Friedman, PhD** has been asked to participate in the Expert Consensus Panel on Cultural Adaptations of Evidenced-Based Practices at the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. He has had several peer reviewed articles and book chapters published this year.

**Michael Garrett, MD** the Vice Chair of the Department, was made a reviewer for the Harvard Review of Psychiatry. He is an associate editor of *Psychology and Psychotherapy: Theory, Research and Practice*. He is a coinvestigator on a number of departmental research programs as well as a principal investigator of several clinical pilot studies. He recently presented a paper at the European Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Association meetings in Greece.

**Laksmi Gogate, PhD** has received funding from the Thrasher Research Fund for a study of intersensory perception in early infancy.

**Stephen M. Goldfinger, MD** was made a fellow of the

American College of Psychiatrists. He was recently appointed Chair of the 2007 American Psychiatric Association Institute on Psychiatric Services, as well as appointed co-editor of a regular column in the Journal Psychiatric Services. He has, for the tenth year in a row, chaired a federally funded national training institute on "Teaching Residents to Work with Homeless Mentally Ill Individuals." He recently completed his work as principal investigator of a funded study of long-acting risperidone, and serves as a co-investigator on six other funded research grants. **Ali Kawi, MD** a member of the faculty for over 30 years, has gone on sabbatical after winning numerous teaching awards from the department's residents.

**Nyapati Rao, MD** was appointed the Chair of the newly created Committee on International Medical Graduates at the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry. He was recently elected to membership in the prestigious American College of Psychiatrists, and the position of President-elect of the Brooklyn Psychiatric Society. He has also been reappointed as an Associate Editor of the American Psychiatric Publishing and to the editorial board of *Academic Psychiatry*.

**Leonard A. Rosenblum, PhD** has published and presented at many major meetings, including an invited Lecture at the Chinese Sexological Society in Tongli, China, one at Beijing Normal University and at the New York Academy of Sciences. He was filmed for in Interview British Television (IV) on "Life and Times of Professor Harry Harlow."

**Nina Schooler, PhD** was elected a member of Council Collegium Internationale Neuropsychopharmacologicum 2004 – 2006 and also a Faculty Member at Lundbeck Psychiatric Institute.

**Jean Tropnas, MD** was honored for being one of the founders of the Haitian-American Psychiatric Association which was founded 20 years ago. He was also the first president of the organization.

**Peter Weiden, MD** continues as a member of the editorial board of *Psychiatric Services* and the board of directors of National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) New York City. Author of 10 publications this past year, his works have been published in the American Journal of Psychiatry, Academic Psychiatry, and Schizophrenia Research. He also won a National open contestant bridge championship.

In addition to our faculty, our residents have been the recipients of numerous national fellowships and awards and have collectively presented over 15 times at national and international psychiatric meetings.

**Lauren Gabelman Urban** also joins us this year as our new Departmental Administrator. She is replacing **Mr. Fidel Lakew** who has left on sabbatical to work in Africa overseeing the opening of HIV clinics through a grant with Columbia University.

## DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY



**Dr. Ismatin Aral**, Clinical Assistant Professor, a graduate of both Downstate Medical School and our Radiation Oncology Residency Program, has become the new Chief of Radiation Oncology at Staten Island University Hospital. He was selected by the Faculty of Radiation Oncology Department to be the Faculty Honoree for the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society Award, 2005.

**Dr. Kwang Choi**, Clinical Professor and Chief of Service in Radiation Oncology at University Hospital Brooklyn, was a 2002 Faculty Honoree of the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society. **Dr. Hassan Aziz**, Clinical Professor and Chief of Service in Radiation Oncology at Long Island College Hospital received the 2003 Faculty Honoree from the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society. He has just returned after a long and fruitful career in Radiation Oncology. **Dr. Alan Schulsinger**, Clinical Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology and Attending at both University Hospital of Brooklyn and Long Island College Hospital, was a 2004 Faculty Honoree of the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society. **Dr. Christopher Lange**, Professor of Radiation Oncology and Director of Radiation Biology, was honored by the President of Poland with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Service of the Republic of Poland for his contributions to Polish Science and Education and International Collaborations. The award was issued in November 2004 and Dr. Lange received it in a ceremony in Poland in March 2005.

**Dr. Audrey Saitta**, a graduate of our Radiation Oncology Residency program, is now Chief of Service in the Radiation Oncology Department at the Brooklyn Veterans Administration Medical Center. **Dr. Emanuel Nwokedi**, a graduate of our Radiation Oncology Residency program, is now an attending in Radiation Oncology at the Brooklyn Veterans Administration Medical Center. He received the 2003 Resident's Award of the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society. **Dr. David Goff**, a 2005 graduate of our Radiation Oncology Residency program, is now a Fellow in Radiation Oncology at Beth Israel Hospital Medical

*Congratulations to all Residents & Fellows*

Center in Manhattan. **Dr. Peter Han**, a graduate of our Radiation Oncology Residency program, received the 2004 Residents & Fellows Society Award.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, our department was able to help by hosting **Dr. Mary Ella Sanders**, a Radiation Oncologist and Vice Chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Centers. She described how she had slept several nights on the hospital floor, several floors above the flood, without electricity and all of the things that require electricity to run. Care of her ICU patients was particularly difficult without the modern power-dependent equipment. She heard gunshots in the streets and rodents were running through the hospital, driven up by the flood waters. She was helicoptered out, after her patients were evacuated. She lived with **Dr. Marvin Rotman**, Department Chair, and his family for a few weeks and attended our conferences at DMC and LICH, while she was here. She returned to New Orleans to help get her hospitals back in working order.

## ■ DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY



The Department of Radiology has made considerable changes in the past year. Among the fourteen new faculty since the change in leadership, three promising faculty arrived in July 2005. They include former residents **Amy Yaghmai, MD** (Neuroradiology) and **Yudell Edelstein, MD** (Musculoskeletal Radiology) and **Stephen Waite, MD** (Cardiothoracic Radiology) from the University of Maryland. The department finally has divisions of musculoskeletal radiology and of cardiothoracic radiology! We are extremely fortunate to have recruited **Dr. Erich Lang**, a foremost genitourinary and interventional radiologist and he will start in the near future. The Department added Interventional Radiology at Lutheran Medical Center to its portfolio and has also begun a Teleradiology service.

Considerable enhancements in technology have been accomplished at UHB and KCHC where the new pavilion of diagnostic imaging is scheduled to open this year. We are in the process of adding four IR suites, ten digital radiography rooms, three digital fluoro units, another MRI and three new MDCT (40-64 channels) and four digital mammography units.

A most noteworthy comment is the dominance of our residents at Board time in June. We had a 100% PASS rate for our

graduating residents. NO FAILS, NOT CONDITIONS, NOTHING BUT PASS. I cannot recall this accomplishment before. I believe we are alone in NYC with that achievement. Congratulations go out to **Drs. Kedar Jambhekar, Frank Chia, Sergei Sobelevsky, Vinh Nguyen, Yevgeny Margulis and Wilfredo Navarro**.

We continue to seek out a recruit in pediatric radiologist and anyone who has a suitable candidate should pass them our way.

## ■ DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



The Department of Surgery welcomes new recruits **Wilbur Bowne, MD** to the section of Surgical Oncology, **Hatem Moussa, MD** to the section of General Surgery, **Robert Davis, MD** to the division of Trauma and Critical Care, and **Thomas McIntyre, MD** to the section of Surgical Laparoscopy. Our Department is growing on all fronts. Under the direction of Division Chief **Dale Distant, MD** our Kidney program has grown this year by almost 40%, and we plan to recruit more staff to put together a team to start pancreas transplants; under our Division Chief **Jonathan Deitch, MD** our vascular complexity and volume have increased both here and at the Brooklyn VA, and under Division Chief **Alex Schwartzman, MD** our volumes have almost doubled here at University Hospital. Minimally access surgery for vascular, general and transplant surgery is now routine at our hospitals.

The Department is very proud to announce that all the chief residents who matriculated in June, 2005 passed the Qualifying Exam for the American Board of Surgery. This envious statistic is directly the result of the new focus on education of our faculty, new curricula developed over the past four years and improved quality of residents who are coming into our program.

The Brooklyn Surgical Society conference, sponsored by our Department, is held the first Thursday of the month at Marco Polo Restaurant. Past speakers have included: **Mark Wallach, MD** (NY Medical College)- Tumor Vaccines, **Jeffery Norton, MD** (Stanford University)- Zollinger Ellison Syndrome, and **David Sutherland, MD** (University of Minnesota)- Pancreatic Transplantation. The Annual Reception at the American College of Surgeons was held on October 17, 2005, sponsored by the Department of Surgery, SUNY Downstate Alumni Association and the Clarence Dennis

Society. The Brooklyn Surgical Society, Nassau Surgical Society and SUNY Dept of Surgery Annual Clinic Day was held on December 7, 2005 at the Long Island Marriott. Our first annual conference, Selected Topics in Surgery, was held on December 8-10, 2005 sponsored by SUNY Downstate/Lutheran Hospital at the Brooklyn Marriott. Upcoming events include the Samuel Kountz Lecture on April 20th and Vincent Uybaratta Lecture in June.

The Department regrets to announce the passing of **Clarence Dennis, MD** on July 11, 2005 at the age of 96. Dr. Dennis was a pioneer in the development of the heart-lung machine, was Chairman of the Department of Surgery at SUNY Downstate from 1951-1972, and benefactor to our school and department.

## ■ DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY



**Dr. Ivan Colon**, who joined our faculty a number of years ago, has brought new expertise to Downstate in the form of laparoendoscopic and cryosurgery. **Dr. Wellman Cheung**, a SUNY Downstate medical school graduate, is fellowship trained in female urology. **Dr. Llewellyn Hyacinthe**, formerly assistant director of urology at KCHC, was recently appointed as the full-time director. All three of these individuals work with our students and residents extensively. **Dr. Mark Horowitz**, a graduate of our residency program, is our director of pediatric urology. Drs. Colon, Hyacinthe, and Horowitz have all been recognized by our residents for their outstanding contributions to residency training. **Dr. Rosalia Misseri**, another SUNY Downstate graduate, completed a fellowship in pediatric urology and now is on our faculty as director of pediatric urology at Long Island College Hospital. **Dr. Rajveer Purohit** com-

pleted his training at UCSF and joined our faculty at The Brooklyn Hospital.

The department's educational program is a strong one and continues to develop rapidly. More students have gone into urology residency training programs from SUNY Downstate than from any other school in the country since the initiation of the AUA matching program. Also some of the best SUNY Downstate students have been recruited to the department's residency training program. Of the current group of residents or pre-urology residents **Drs. Neil Grafstein, Jeffrey Blitstein, Alex Sokol, Ervin Teper, and Joseph Feliciano** are all Downstate graduates. Applicants to our program come from the best schools across the country. Our residency-training program has a full ACGME accreditation.

In addition to its activities educating students and residents, the urology faculty also participates in educating students in the nursing school and the physician assistant school. We are also involved in educating high school students as part of an outreach program of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.

The department has also been very successful in placing its residency graduates in excellent private practice situations or fellowship training. Since 2002, **Drs. Rosalia Misseri, Chong Min Kim, Sovrin Shah, Jeffery Donohoe, Nicholas Karanikolas, Eliecer Kurzer, Steven Maislos, Lee Schachter, Brent Yanke, and Neil Grafstein** have all secured prestigious fellowships to continue their training. Two of our most recent graduates, **Drs. Alexander Epelbaum, and Robin Leitner**, have gone into private practice in Long Island and New Jersey respectively.

The department is pleased that our residents continue to present and publish papers and win prizes at competitive essay contests. **Dr. Sherman Chan**, a medical school graduate 2005, won the institutional competition for the best research by a medical student and represented SUNY Downstate at the statewide competition amongst all New York state medical schools.

Since **Dr. Richard J. Macchia** assumed the chair in 1982, Urology has always had a very strong relationship with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The relationship spans education, clinical care and research. The relationship continues to develop. Most recently, we were invited to send our chief residents to MSKCC to complete four-month fellowships. This is an invaluable experience and has contributed greatly to the confidence and surgical expertise of our residency training program graduates.

The department has an excellent, informative up-to-date website. Interested readers are directed to [www.downstate.edu/urology](http://www.downstate.edu/urology).

## PHOTOS FOR SALE

See the Society's Web Site at  
[www.downstate.edu/residents-alumni-society](http://www.downstate.edu/residents-alumni-society)

Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center  
Kings County Hospital Center  
Long Island College Hospital  
Lutheran Medical Center  
Maimonides Medical Center

North Shore University Hospital  
St. John's Episcopal Hospital, South Shore  
Staten Island University Hospital  
VA NY Harbor Healthcare System, Brooklyn

## Opportunities to Give

### GRADUATES

*A donation to your Department's fund supports residents and fellows education:*

**The Ira S. Kass, PhD, Anesthesia Alumni Molecular Neuroscience Lab** (Anesthesiology)

**Computerized Library** (Dental & Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery)

**The Thelma Fried Fund for Resident Education** (Dermatology)

**Doctors Against Murder** (Emergency Medicine)

**The George Liberman, MD, Family Medicine Resident Fund** (Family Medicine)

**The Hugh Carroll, MD, Professor Emeritus Residents Conference Room** (Medicine)

**The Roger Q. Cracco, MD, Professor & Chair of Neurology** (Neurology)

**The Residents Education Fund** (Ophthalmology)

**The Joseph Benton, MD, Library & the Resident Education Fund** (Rehabilitation Medicine)

**The Gady Har-El, MD, Education Center** (Otolaryngology)

**The Family Room** (Pediatrics)

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**The Vincent Uybarrata Memorial Fund** (Surgery)

**The Residents Education Fund** (Urology)

**The Stanley Gordon, MD, Library & Resident Education Fund** (Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine)

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**See the Society's web site for the picture codes  
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# Through the Years...



2/90 - 12/90



1993 - 1994

# Through the Years...



1997 - 1998



1998 - 2000