



Fall 2006
Vol. II, No.2

The Residents & Fellows Alumni Society

Sharing the State of Downstate

Welcome Dean Taylor

INTRODUCING OUR NEW DEAN, DR. IAN L. TAYLOR*

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Ian L. Taylor, MD, PhD, as Senior Vice President for Biomedical Education & Research and Dean of the College of Medicine, effective September 1, 2006. The selection of Dr. Taylor is the result of a national search.

Dr. Taylor will be responsible for all aspects of medical education in the College of Medicine, including all undergraduate, GME and CME programs and their academic affiliations. In addition, he will have primary responsibility for the research enterprise in all of the colleges, except the School of Public Health, if one is established. Dr. Taylor's initial priorities will be the review of the medical school curriculum and the entire research enterprise.

A native of Liverpool, England and a graduate of the medical school there, Dr. Taylor most recently was Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine at Tulane University. Prior to that, he was Chairman of the Department of Medicine and President of the University Medical Associates at the Medical University of South Carolina; and prior to that, Director of the Division of Gastroenterology at Duke University. He has been actively involved in both basic and clinical research for most of his career in the United States, beginning at the University of California at Los Angeles.



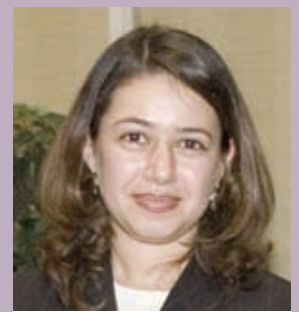
Ian L. Taylor, MD, PhD
Dean, SUNY Downstate

2006 Residents & Fellows Honorees

Announced at the May 18th, 2006 Graduates Event sponsored by the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society



NEIL H. GRAFSTEIN, MD
Outstanding Academic Performance
Department of Urology



MARIAN BORUK, MD
Outstanding Achievement in Research
Department of Otolaryngology



OTHMANE ALAMI, MD
Outstanding Service to SUNY Downstate
Department of Psychiatry



RICHARD SOBOTKA, DO
Outstanding Achievement in Teaching
Department of Anesthesiology

DON'T MISS...
**THE 2007 GRADUATING
RESIDENTS & FELLOWS EVENT**
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007
N.Y. MARRIOTT, BROOKLYN BRIDGE

* Excerpts from President John LaRosa's Announcement to the Downstate Community, June 2006



George Waring, IV, MD
Chair, Resident Subcommittee
Graduate Medical Education Committee

MESSAGE FROM THE RESIDENT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

2006 has been an exciting year for the resident body of SUNY Downstate Medical Center. As the program continues to grow, new and exciting initiatives are being explored by the resident subcommittee of the GME Committee to continuously improve resident education and working conditions.

The GME committee has been diligently preparing for the upcoming institutional site review by the ACMGE for accreditation.

Preparations have included a comprehensive analysis of resident working conditions, work hours, ancillary services, on-call facilities and resident safety. Steps have been taken by each department to make improvements where needed, and we feel confident that the careful preparation will serve us well in the site review.

The resident subcommittee of the GME committee has enjoyed record attendance this year. New and exciting initiatives in resident education include strategies to standardize and enhance resident research opportunities, a hospital wide resident “core curriculum” emphasizing the core competencies, and emphasis on resident committee involvement.

As Chairman of the resident subcommittee for GME committee, I would like to formally encourage all graduates to become members of the Residents and Fellows Alumni Society, and become donors to their former department's project supporting residents and fellows—**listed in this issue's section, “Opportunities to Give.”** It is with your financial contributions and support of the Residents and Fellows Alumni Society that SUNY Downstate Medical Center will continue to grow into one of New York's premier medical facilities producing the leaders of tomorrow in health care.

THE ALVIN M. SIEGLER, MD SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

New Scholarship Established to Honor Excellence in Resident Education

Dr. Alvin M. Siegler, MD, Professor Emeritus of



Dr. Ovadia Abulafia, Professor & Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology (left), congratulates Dr. Ehab Abdelmalek, the first recipient of the scholarship.

the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has given SUNY Downstate Medical Center \$15,000 to create a new scholarship fund.

A scholarship will be awarded annually to the Senior Resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology who has shown excellence in the care of patients and skill in operative techniques. The recipient should have demonstrated an interest in research and scholarship.

We are very proud to announce that Dr. Ehab Abdelmalek is the first recipient of the Alvin M. Siegler, MD, Scholarship Award. A 2005 resident graduate, Dr. Abdelmalek is now a faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Please join us in thanking Dr. Siegler for his vision and generosity. Downstate is most grateful.

Congratulations to Dr. Ehab Abdelmalek, Dr. Ovadia Abulafia and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In This Issue:

1 Introducing Our New Dean Dr. Ian L. Taylor

2006 Residents & Fellows Honorees

2 George Waring, IV, MD

3. Class News

5. 2006 Faculty Honorees

6. Opportunities to Give

Photo Sale

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The Residents & Fellows Alumni Society



President John C. LaRosa

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Very shortly the Medical Center will launch the observance and celebration of our one hundred fiftieth anniversary. The Center's history can be traced back to the Perry Mansion on Henry Street between Amity and Pacific Streets, with the first diploma issued under the name of Long Island College Hospital on the evening of July 24, 1860.

The Medical Society of the County of Kings and the Long Island College Hospital combined to form the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Education and began to establish a program of postgraduate teaching on April 16, 1923.

Since that year, SUNY Downstate Medical Center has trained hundreds of physicians to be specialists in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Anesthesiology, Family Medicine, Cardiology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Radiology, Dermatology, Otolaryngology, Neurology and more.

On this page, for the next several issues leading up to the Medical Center's formal celebration activities, I will share with you the reflections of some of the graduates of our residency and fellowship programs. In their own words, the graduates will explain what their training experience was like at SUNY Downstate and the impact of that training and our faculty on their career.

The first graduate to describe his training experience is a 1958 Obstetrics & Gynecology residency graduate, Robert C. Knapp, a 2006 Tribute Honoree of the Residents & Fellows Alumni Society and recipient of SUNY Downstate's 2003 Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science. Dr. Knapp made the theme of his comments, which follow, "The Prepared Mind".



Celebrating 150 years of Medical Education • 1860 - 2010

THE PREPARED MIND

I spent my formative medical years in Brooklyn as a SUNY Downstate medical student, intern, resident and fellow. It was here that I developed my passion for obstetrics and gynecology, my interest in an academic career and, above all, my empathy for my patients.

After graduating medical school in 1953, I began my internship at Kings County Hospital. There was no University Hospital at that time. I spent six months in medicine under Dr. Perrin Long and six months in surgery under Dr. Clarence Dennis. While a medical student, I had decided to become an obstetrician and gynecologist. I applied to and was accepted by Dr. Louis M. Hellman for residency at Kings County Hospital. It was a very prestigious program and highly sought after. Eight first-year residents were accepted and four of these were chosen to continue for the next three years.

During my residency, my esteemed colleagues included Drs. James Giambalvo, Randolph Bloomfield, and Frank O'Brien. In residency above us were Drs. David Bauer, Arthur Perell and Frederick Perl. Two years above us, the residents were Drs. Gerald Stober, John Perente, George Solish and Ernest Greenberg. The faculty were Drs. Louis Hellman, Schuyler G. Kohl, Leon C. Chesley, Joseph E. Hall and John G. Masterson. I also learned a great deal of clinical obstetrics and gynecology from the private attendings who volunteered so much of their time to direct the care of our patients. They often came in to help us, even in the middle of the night. Although this voluntary staff received no monetary compensation, it was regarded as very prestigious position. They held both a faculty appointment at SUNY Downstate and an attending position at Kings County Hospital. We were in the hospital taking call on every other night and every other weekend. As chief residents we were on-call all the time. Sometimes we were working all night. We could be up Thursday and Friday night and yet present rounds on Saturday morning.

During my internship in surgery, I witnessed heart surgery in pregnant patients and I cared for these patients while a resident on obstetrics. During residency, I published my first paper, "Mitral Commissurotomy in Pregnancy" in 1956. I was appalled by the death rate from illegally induced abortions prior to the legalization of the abortion law which allowed abortions to be performed. I spent many nights trying to save these women. I published my second paper on this problem, "Acute Renal Failure in Pregnancy" in 1959. Under the leadership of Drs. Hellman and Kohl, I was exposed to excellent translational research, which has proven indispensable in my career. As chief resident, I developed an interest in gynecologic malignancy and particularly in ovarian cancer. I thought of pursuing a tumor fellowship, but when Dr. R. Gordon Douglas at Cornell



Robert C. Knapp, MD: Downstate Resident Graduate 1958 (left) and January 2007 (right).

Medical School offered me a full-time position I accepted. I stayed at Cornell from 1959 until 1962, returning to SUNY Downstate to take an American Cancer Society Fellowship under Dr. John Masterson.

Following the fellowship, I returned to Cornell until 1967, when I became Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Nassau County Medical Center. In 1970, I was appointed Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School and Director of Gynecology at the Beth Israel Hospital. In 1975, I was named the William H. Baker Professor of Gynecology, Harvard Medical School, and Director of Gynecology at the Boston Hospital for Women, which later became part of the Brigham and Women's Hospital. I was also appointed Chief of Gynecology for the Dana Farber Cancer Center. When I became Emeritus Professor in 1998, I returned to New York and Weill Medical College, Cornell University. At Cornell I was named Visiting Scholar in Obstetrics and Gynecology. I lecture the Cornell medical students on ovarian cancer and the patient/doctor dyad.

Throughout my career, I've never forgotten my days in Brooklyn at Downstate and the solid clinical training I received. The large volume of patients and the exposure to the many complications we had to manage proved invaluable. The understanding and compassion I felt for my patients have never left me.

I appreciate the stimulation and foundation for research that I received from Drs. Hellman, Chesley and Masterson. I was able to maintain my laboratory research and at the same time continue an active practice in gynecologic oncology. My research has focused on ovarian cancer. In our laboratory, we were fortunate to discover the ovarian tumor antigen, CA 125.

At my graduation from Downstate, I remember the guest speaker. The graduation was in the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He spoke on "Chance and the Prepared Mind." My training at SUNY Downstate Medical Center certainly prepared me to take advantage of the career "chances" that came my way. ■



CLASS NEWS

80 H. ARTIE CARRASQUILLO, MD / OB - Gyn writes, “been in practice with my old chief resident, CheriAnn Brodhurst since graduation. Private practice in Brattleboro, Vt. Married with three sons and two dogs.”

83 PETER J. BRYNILDSEN, MD / Plastic, Reconstructive and Hand Surgery shares, “I reside with wife, Hilary Cheslack Brynildsen, MD (SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 1976; practicing Endocrinology) and youngest of our six children, in north central New Jersey. Eldest Son, Mark, married Fiancée, Keiko Taga, in Philadelphia on August 6, 2006.”

85 LAURA ARCONA, MD / Psychiatry is the Director, Counseling Services at Wagner College, Staten Island and a staff psychiatrist at South Beach Hospital, SI. Lives on Staten Island. Has 2 daughters, 22 and 19 years old, and a son 15 years old. Married to P. Wickremesinghe, MD / gastroenterologist, also practicing on Staten Island.

89 DAVID WALSHIN, MD / Physical Medicine & Rehab writes, “Have private practice in Stamford, CT since 1997. Divorced with two girls, 8 & 6. Enjoy spending time with my girls when not working, coaching soccer and other things. When not working, try to make time for exercise.”

92 ROBERT AUERBACH, MD / Ophthalmology Has been living in Manhattan with wife Beth and children—Paige, 11, and Jordan, 7. Beth is a lawyer in investment management. Have been practicing child, adolescent and adult ophthalmology in Nassau and Westchester Counties. Sends his fond regards to Dr. Douglas Lazzaro and Dr. Monica Dweck.

JAIME DEVILLE MD / Pediatrics writes “Graduated in Pediatrics in 1991, was Chief Resident the following year, and have never been back to New York, (what a shame). After leaving Downstate, I went on to do an ID fellowship at UCLA, and subsequently stayed on as faculty.” Some publications include:

Deville J.G. *Linezolid in Children With Severe Gram-Positive Infections*. *Pediatric Drugs* 2003, 5(6): 430-431.

Ching N., Deville J.G., Nielson K., Ank B., Wei L., Sim M.S., Wolinsky S.M., Bryson Y.J. *Cellular and Humoral Immune Responses to a Tetanus Toxoid Booster in Perinatally HIV-1 Infected Children and Adolescent Receiving Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART)* *Eur J Pediatr*. 2006 Jul 26; [Epub ahead of print].

Book Chapters:

1. Deville J.G. and Bryson Y.J. HIV: Timing of Transmission and Risk Factors. In: Shearer W.T. and Hanson I.C., eds. *Medical Management of AIDS in Children*. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, PA. 2003, pp 29-51.
2. Cherry, J.D., Deville J.G. Infection in the compromised host. In: Stiehm E.R., Ochs H.D., Winkelstein J.A., eds. *Immunologic Disorders in Infants and Children*, 5th edition, Elsevier Saunders, Philadelphia, PA. 2004, pp 1310-1359.

93 ANUP GHEEWALA, MD / Plastic Surgery shares, “have a private practice in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, and have been Director of Department of Plastic Surgery at Coney Island Hospital since 1993. Family living in Long Island. Have 2 children, a daughter in college and a son in junior HS. Wife practices pathology at Mary Immaculate Hospital, Queens NY.”

94 FRANK FALCONE, MD / Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, writes, “After my graduation from Downstate, I did a year fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery / Temporomandibular Joint and Facial Cosmetic Surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ University Hospital. I am a solo practitioner in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. My business is Falcone / Getter Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, PC. I have been in private practice here since July of 1996.



My wife is Linda Rocanelli, a certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist who graduated from Downstate in 1990. In our spare time we play golf and entertain our friends as we both have a passion for cooking (and eating!). We visit Brooklyn a few times a year as Linda's parents own Ember's Restaurant, a well known steak and chop house on 3rd Avenue between 95th and 96th streets in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. Here is a recent photo of Linda and me."

00 MICHELLE ZWEIFLER, MD / Plastic Surgery writes "After completing my plastic surgery training at Downstate and an Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship in California over five years ago, I started a solo private practice." Publications include:

An Outcome-Based Study of Aesthetic Surgery in a Clinic Setting. Annals of Plastic Surgery. 2000: 44(4), 355-360.

Breast Reconstruction among Inner City Women with Breast Carcinoma. Annals of Plastic Surgery. 2001: 47(1), 53-59

MidFace Life of the Malar Fat Pad: Technical Advances. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. 2002: 110(2), 674-685.

Additionally gives lectures to Downstate Medical students at Lenox Hill Hospital on the topic of Plastic Surgery.

01 JOHN NAJJAR, MD / Vascular Surgery shares "currently practicing at Fallon Clinic and Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA since 2001. Married in July 4, 2004. Rania, my wife, and I are blessed with a 10 month old baby girl, Luciana.

MAXINE ORRIS, MD / Medicine writes, "I am now working (and have been for 3 and half years) for LICH (in Williamsburg) in great community center health clinic. Married and have a wonderful 3 year old daughter, Alicia Trudy Orris Maitland. Still working volunteering as a professor at the Latin American Medical School. My family and I still live in Manhattan."

04 FRIEDA WOLF, MD / Nephrology shares "I have been on faculty at Downstate since 2004, after finishing my training in nephrology, then transplantation. I am married to Greg Wolf, who owns and operates Tea Lounge, a coffee/tea/jazz lounge, and we have two children, Noah-7 and Shai-4. We live in Brooklyn and LOVE it."

Send your Class News by email to: ingrid.dildy@downstate.edu

2006 Graduate Salute to the Faculty Honorees—Graduating Residents & Fellows Event *



Allon Amitai, MD
Former Chair, Resident Subcommittee,
GME Committee

Successfully completing a SUNY-Downstate/Kings County Hospital residency has got to be one of the most difficult 3 to 6 years anyone can handle. You know when you meet doctors who graduated here in the '70s and '80s? When they look back at their experience training here, when they talk about how tough it was, they're always smiling and nostalgic. They've got the "I'm a veteran of the legendary Downstate-Kings County, and that's why I'm the clinician I am today" attitude. Twenty or thirty years from now, when we've all advanced in our careers, if anybody asks us where we trained, our choice of residency programs will still be a source of pride for us.

This is a night that I never really imagined coming over the last few years, mainly because I was too sleep-deprived and overworked to look ahead more than a week or two. The world is wide open to us.

And for this we must thank not only our challenging work environ-

ment and patient population but also our faculty. Clinical medicine isn't a science, or a branch of bioengineering. It's an applied art form, and an oral tradition stretching back unbroken for thousands of years. This is why we speak of different styles of practice, and why we see three different attendings approach the same clinical scenario in four different ways. You can't learn to practice medicine just by reading journal articles and textbooks. As young physicians, we look for attendings to emulate and then we strive to bring our practice to their level.

We are fortunate to have at Downstate many excellent teaching and research faculty. Over the last few years the GME committee and I have examined many issues affecting graduate medical education here, and faculty teachers have always been our strong point.

In short, we residents are a self-selected group, and so are our faculty. Our attendings work as hard as residents do. I've seen on many occasions my residency directors putting in IVs and wheeling patients to cat scan. This is the rule rather than an exception among our attendings. Their teaching by personal example has been as powerful as their teaching by rounds and lectures.

I would now like to salute our faculty by presenting the teaching awards.

* Excerpts from Dr. Amitai's May 18th 2006 Comments.



Alexandru Apostol, MD
Department of Anesthesiology



Edward R. Heilman, MD
Department of Dermatology



Miriam T. Vincent, MD, PhD
Department of Family Medicine



Shrarior Sehtabchi, MD
Department of Emergency Medicine



Munish Khaneja, MD, MPH
Department of Medicine



Mahendra Somasundaram, MD
Department of Neurology



Joseph Osho, MD
Department of OB/GYN



E. Clifford Lazzaro, MD
Department of Ophthalmology



Ciril J. Godec, MD
Department of Urology



Vijay Rasquinha, MD
Department of Orthopaedic Med. & Rehabilitation Med.



Paul A. Pipia, MD
Department of Orthopaedic Med. & Rehabilitation Med.



Krishnamurtha Sundaram, MD
Department of Otolaryngology



Anthony D. Nicastrì, MD
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Harry L. Zinn, MD
Department of Radiology



Dale A. Distant, MD
Department of Surgery



Henry Begleiter, PhD**
*Distinguished Professor
Department of Psychiatry*
[** Deceased, April 2006]

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TO RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS**

SELECT FROM THE LIST BELOW THE TRAINING PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT YOU WANT TO SUPPORT.

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- 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, Education Center (**Neurology**)
- The Residents Education Fund (**Ophthalmology**)
- The Stanley Gordon, MD, Library & Resident Education Fund (**Orthopaedic Surgery**)
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- The Family Room (**Pediatrics**)
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- The Residents Education Fund (**Urology**)



Thank You!

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