Downstate at 150: A Celebration of Achievement

FOLIO

Martin J. Salwen, MD
Downstate at 150:
A Celebration of Achievement

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Martin J. Salwen, MD 1957
Editor

Honoring the sesquicentennial of the College of Medicine
Downstate Medical Center
State University of New York
1860 - 2010

Published by
Alumni Association - College of Medicine
2010
Dedicated
To our teachers

We are all students
Where observation is concerned, chance favors only the prepared mind.

Louis Pasteur

Willie Sutton, the notorious bank-robber, was asked by reporters why he always robbed banks rather than hotel clerks, filling stations, or other easy marks. He replied, “Because that’s where the money is.”

William Dock

A physician who is a lover of wisdom is the equal of a god.

Hippocrates
Acknowledgments

I am grateful that so many people were eager and willing to help create the FOLIO. We started with scant resources and little idea of what we were doing or how to succeed to accomplish this testament to achievement. The help and support have been critical to this project’s success.

Haseeb Siddiqi, PhD, early on has been a stalwart source of excellent advice and superb suggestions, good judgment, and ever present encouragement. Randall Bloomfield, MD, cheered this effort forward from a nascent idea with boosts of reassurance and expressions of confidence in the project and my decisions. Ellen Watson, a continuing supporter, provided significant aid and assistance. Mark Stewart, MD, PhD, has given enthusiastic encouragement and tangible provision of resources that have been crucial to the overall project. Bruce Gordon, MD, has from the very outset provided help, encouragement, and the support of the Alumni Fund. Cheryl Marriott has delivered records and leads believed long-since lost; she has been indefatigable in the quest for needed information and portraits. Douglas W. Blackeller has ably assisted in the search for photographs and records. The unbribled enthusiasm with which President John C. LaRosa responded to this idea and then welcomed the evolution of the program and supported it in the face of its many obstacles has my heartfelt appreciation. Jill Ditchik provided help and needed resources from the Alumni Association. The authors of the monographs need be acknowledged for their time and effort. Much more will be said about this volunteer workforce in the publication of the next act Downstate at 150: A Celebration of Achievement. Also, I appreciate the aid and assistance from so many others to this project.

John Zubrovich and his terrific staff in Biomedical Communications are a marvelous, talented group translating vague ideas into handsome presentations in many media. John has assembled all 153 portraits of the honorees and sought out the needed pictures. Ernest Cuni skillfully assisted in the recovery of the photographs. Bruce Kuo has created splendid graphic designs. He has done the layouts for the FOLIO and designed the invitations and the Innovation Symposium program. Aaron P. Cormier was responsible for the terrific web development to disseminate the contents of the FOLIO to the Downstate community and to our many friends and associates. The handsome screens and simple elegance of access are a credit his inventive and creative ability. Sze-Ying Lee continues her formidable struggle with the notices and communication records in order to share our work with the authors and honorees and with all of those who have worked to make this a success.

My not-so-secret sharer Jane Stafford Salwen, continues to be central to my work and creativity. Her enthusiasm, patience, humor, support and warmth are, for me, my fuel and my sustenance.

My deepest thanks and warmest appreciation to all who have shared in this effort to celebrate these achievers.

Martin J. Salwen, MD 1957
Introduction

The FOLIO is sister to Downstate at 150: A Celebration of Achievement, a collection of biographical monographs about notable alumni and faculty who have been at Downstate. A title and brief abstract written for each of those included in the FOLIO was taken from the monograph. In this volume the authors of the essays are given. However, most of the titles and abstracts have been written by the editor, Martin Salwen, MD derived from the monographs.

Partly, the decision to include a candidate in this project was influenced by both the available biographical record of scholarship and academic achievement and by my success in recruiting an essayist to undertake the time-consuming work of writing the monograph. Many declined my invitation. Some who tried, withdrew or were dropped. My eternal appreciation is reserved for the twelve dozen who are responsible for this great gift that documents how great a place this is.

Portraits are provided for every entry, an extraordinary accomplishment by John Zubrovich, the staff of Biomedical Communications and Cheryl Marriott, the Archives Coordinator. On several occasions we almost abandoned this terrific idea, but driven by John Zubrovich’s zeal, or what he called his fixation, the impossible was done, including the image of Richard Augustus Taylor, MD 1903. No graduation portrait was located of Richard Taylor. However, a class photograph was found on the front page of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and is included in this volume. It was first called to our attention by Joy Holland, PhD, division manager of the Brooklyn Collection at the Brooklyn Public Library, who participated in several other searches. A copy of the front page photograph was in our Archives. There was no legend for the photograph however, and there hangs a legend. There were three men in the Class of 1903 who appear to be black, a finding that warrants a graduate thesis, but what to do? Initially we thought to publish the picture with the title, “Can you identify Richard Taylor?” However, luck was with us, or rather, Dr. and Mrs. Randall Bloomfield. Richard Taylor was their family physician more than half a century ago. Randy thought the fellow on the upper right of the photograph looked like Taylor, Edris independently clinched the identification, and so the set was completed.

The heading of each entry is the name of the honoree. For Downstate Alumni the year their degree was awarded is given, following the degree without punctuation. Honorary Alumni are identified with the year of election followed by an H.

Other than our archives which were established by Jack E. Termine there are few files about our forebears. It is sad that Jack could not be with us for this adventure and share some of the tales of Henry Street and of Clarkson Avenue. There is little else at Downstate to provide the record of the many creative and talented workers who came through these halls. The great Downstate eraser abolishes the traces so soon as anyone leaves the campus. We are dependent on oral history and that is, in part, the basis for these monographs, because they should not be forgotten.

I agree that the abstracts are too short. It is one of the many compromises made in this project. Why stop at about 150 essays. There are so many others. I agree and leave that fertile ground for those who wish to explore the Downstate achievers by discipline or specialty, or sex, or ethnicity or just to assemble the many luminaries I left out.

Martin J. Salwen, MD 1957
Foreword

This is a history of Downstate and its College of Medicine without it being about the construction of buildings, funding of programs, or the approval of government agencies. The history of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center can best be told through the activities and achievements of the alumni and faculty. We present here titles and abstract about those included in the volume *Downstate at 150: A Celebration of Achievement* that will be published in a few weeks. That collection of biographical essays records the careers and contributions and the academic accomplishments of these noteworthy people who were educated or who taught and worked at this school.

In celebration of the sesquicentennial of the College of Medicine at Downstate I initially thought it would be a nice idea to arrange for a symposium about a few of the super-achievers. There was little interest or willingness. I then proposed essays on thirty of these luminaries. The list proved impossible. Just too short. Too many of the giants of this turf could not be included. Subsequent efforts limited to fifty and one hundred suffered the same fate. Ellen Watson suggested 150, since it was a sesquicentennial that we were celebrating and that became the objective.

These records of achievement are little short of astounding. How is it possible that so many talented people who have worked here had such outstanding creative careers of accomplishment? They have made the world a better place. Who to credit? Is it Brooklyn and its environment and the legacy of all those generations of hard-working, dedicated health care workers? This school never had enough money and always struggled with limited resources. But what we have had is talent and an environment that worked for science and for patient care.

For many of us, the gift of Downstate has been the many wonderful teachers and classmates and students and the rich supply of sick patients. The debt we owe is that we have been given an outstanding education that let us see further. After all, we have stood on the shoulders of giants. These volumes are a testament to the treasures on Henry Street and on Clarkson Avenue and are an expression of appreciation for all that we have been given. It is also a record for generations to come, and perhaps it will help to guide their striving for success. These books document some of those who reflect on this school and another time.

“Make recollection as durable as possible by putting it down on paper.’ Benjamin Franklin

Martin J. Salwen, MD 1957
Herbert L. Abrams, MD 1946
The fourth dimension: Activism
by Stanley Baum, MD
Radiologist, former chairman at Harvard Medical School, 1967–1985. Since then professor at Stanford University and member of the University Center for International Security and Arms Control. Authored eight books on cardiovascular imaging, health policy and presidential disability and more than 200 articles on cardiovascular disease, technology assessment, the effects of weapons of mass destruction, and the health of national leaders. Member of the IOM of the National Academy of Sciences.

Alfred Adler, MD
Scientist of the ego
One of the greatest influences in modern psychiatry, joined the faculty at LICM in 1934. Founded his School of Individual Psychotherapy. Stimulated prominent psychiatric theorists and had an enormous effect on the disciplines of counseling and psychotherapy. Published over 300 books and articles and lectured widely in America and Europe.

Michael A. Apicella, MD 1963
The pathogenetic mechanisms of human pathogens
Long interest in infectious disease and the mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis of strict human pathogens. An internist, Apicella is an international leader in basic microbiological research. Trained almost 50 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers.

Stanley M. Aronson, MD
Neuropathologist, educator
by Daniel P. Perl, MD 1967
Director of Neuropathology at Downstate beginning in 1954. Trained a large number of fellows most of whom went on to leadership positions in neuropathology. An erudite and effective lecturer popular with students. Went to Brown University in 1970 as chair of Pathology and as founding dean for their new medical school.

Robert Austrian, MD
An elegant person in thought and in action
by Margaret Hammerschlag, MD
Clinician, epidemiologist and microbiologist, he developed a pneumococcal vaccine that saves the lives of hundreds of thousands. At the time of introduction of penicillin and other antibiotics the assumption of most was that infectious disease was no longer life threatening. Austrian demonstrated through meticulous studies that pneumococcal pneumonia was still a killer, especially in the elderly. Member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Oswald T. Avery, MD
The nature and cause of disease
by Michael Augenbraun, MD
Hoagland Laboratory was the first privately endowed bacteriologic research laboratory in America. Appointed associate director in 1907, performed systematic work on many strains of bacteria, applying immunologic and chemical methods, to understand the biologic activities of pathogenic bacteria through their chemical composition. Clinical study of tuberculosis resulted in appointment to Rockefeller Institute Hospital in 1913, where he did his Pneumococcus work, the immunology of bacterial infections, and analysis of DNA, until retirement in 1948.
Frank L. Babbott, Jr. MD  
Brought the College to Clarkson Avenue  

Joined the staff as a pediatrician. Subsequently served as president of LICM for 10 years and then chaired the Board of Trustees. Led the separation of the College from LICH and the purchase of the three blocks opposite KCH for the medical school. Had the vision to create a major medical center for Brooklyn.

Alfred C. Beck, MD  
Great obstetrical innovator  
by Vincent Tricomi, MD 1950  

Developed numerous obstetrical procedures and techniques that became associated with the Beck name. Loved teaching and was dedicated to patient care. Initiated major advances. Popularized local anesthesia in obstetrics. His textbook, *Obstetrical Practice*, had seven editions and several additional printings.

Henri Begleiter, PhD  
Scientist, mentor and life enthusiast  
by Bernice Porjesz, PhD  

Established the Neurodynamics Laboratory at Downstate. Begleiter, with studies in both animals and humans, made significant contributions to the neuroscience and genetics of alcoholism and identified the antecedent abnormalities present prior to exposure to alcohol that were predisposing factors and the progressive effects of alcoholism. Initiated the NIH long-term well-funded Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism.

Lowell E. Bellin, MD 1951, MPH  
Charismatic leader and devoted public servant  
by Pascal J. Imperato, MD 1962, MPH&TM  

Was New York City Commissioner of Health in the 1970s and launched several important initiatives, including the first bans on smoking in public places, the mandatory use of window guards to safeguard children, and the prevention of burning high sulphur fuels in the city. Trained large numbers of professionals who later assumed leadership positions in public health and health care administration across the country.

Angela A. Bennett, MD 1953  
Labored to improve the lives of children and everyone else  
by Margaret Golden, MD  

Director of pediatric undergraduate medical education for 30 years and led the program through those years of major changes in patient care as new diseases emerged and pediatrics expanded to include adolescence and all of its special problems. Students were always her priority.

Joseph R. Bertino, MD 1954  
Cancer chemotherapy and antifolate drugs  

Leading cancer researcher, is chairman of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. Known for his research into folate metabolism and the development of antifolate chemotherapeutic agents that were widely adopted for treating cancers. Was at Yale in Medicine and Pharmacology for 25 years. Author or co-author of 300 scientific publications and 130 reviews and editorials.
Randall Bloomfield, MD 1953
Service and caring for youth
by Marvin Kochman, MD 1953

A long record of doing good punctuated by his many successful initiatives, coupled with his public and personal stature. This has usually thrust Randy into the leadership of many professional, political, and community organizations and allowed him to assert his concerns about the need for opportunities and support for the disadvantaged. He has actively encouraged inner city youths to consider careers in medicine.

Alfred Jay Bollet, MD
Peripatetic scholar with wit and a prodigious memory
by Donald Gerber, MD, 1997H

Rheumatologist with record of consequential research and successive successful academic chairmanships crowned with his appointment as chairman of Medicine at Downstate in 1974. Member of the ABIM, AAMC, NBME, several advisory committees for the NIH, and visiting professorships in several medical schools in this period. In 1979, clinical professor of Medicine at Yale. Has numerous publications and continues to write and lecture about epidemic diseases and Civil War medicine.

John G. Boyce, MD, 1993H, MS
Epidemiology of gynecological malignancies
by Alexander Sedlis, MD

This talented physician was an outstanding gynecologic oncologist with expertise in the epidemiology of malignancies of the genital tract. Was chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Downstate and was promoted to Distinguished Service Professor. Awarded “One of the Best Doctors in NYC” several times.

JoAnn Bradley, EdD, 2002H
Remarkable and effective administrator and fund raiser
by Ellen Watson

Held senior academic and administrative positions here and raised millions of dollars for Downstate as senior vice president for institutional advancement and philanthropy. Graduated from Downstate’s College of Health Related Professions, and was subsequently dean. Expanded the programs to provide enhanced career opportunities attracting exceptional ethnic and racial diversity. Planned the institute for urban health which Arthur Ashe founded. Continues to contribute leadership to many of our programs.

Albert S. Braverman, MD
Battles against compromises in patient care
by Peter Gillette, MD

Director of hematology-oncology division. Vast energies devoted to clinical care and training and teaching fellows, residents and students. Defies institutional compromises. Has trained over 200 fellows and 700 residents. For more than 30 years maintained the multidiscipline breast cancer clinic. Developed a pre-operative neo-adjuvant chemotherapy service for advanced breast cancer. Continues to publish literary criticism.

Chandler McC. Brooks, PhD
The scientist and the man
by Kiyomi Koizumi, MD, PhD

Chairman of Physiology for 25 years, he created world-class research laboratories and recruited other department chairs for Downstate. His many stellar contributions include the founding of the Graduate School. Was an accomplished investigator, and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Unstinting in his aid to colleagues and his help to international scientists earned him honors and medals from many countries.
William A. Console, MD 1937
Psychoanalyst and a caring, dedicated teacher
by Alan Eisnitz, MD 1949

Wartime experience convinced him of the importance of emotional factors in all illness and in all of life as well. A talented physician and an enthusiastic teacher who was always available to students, residents, and faculty. Studied the effectiveness of free or very low-fee psychoanalytic treatment and also treatment outcomes of psychotherapy.

Hugh J. Carroll, MD, 1990H
Salt and water
by Man Oh, MD, 2004H

Distinguished teaching professor of Medicine, epitomizes Downstate’s mission of education, research, and patient care. Is a revered teacher who has received numerous awards, especially from students. Has studied, taught about and headed the division concerned with hypertension, electrolytes, and acid-base metabolism for many years. For 15 years was an attending physician for the NYC Marathon and worked the acute-care tent at the finish line.

Duncan W. Clark, MD 1936
Preventive medicine advocate
by Pascal J. Imperato, MD 1962, MPH & TM

Chair emeritus of Preventive Medicine and dean emeritus of the College of Medicine. Prominent educator, scientist, public health leader and spokesman. Had a critical role in the merge of LICM and SUNY. Strong advocate of water fluoridation, was instrumental in gaining public acceptance. Responsible for establishing the Eta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha at Downstate. Received numerous awards and honors.

Roger Cracco, MD, 1999H
Stimulating faculty and evoked potentials
by George Vas, MD

Distinguished professor of Neurology, has authored over 300 publications, mostly about evoked potentials and transcranial magnetic stimulation. Chairman since 1980, now vice-dean of the College of Medicine and director of the Furchgott Center for Neural and Behavioral Science at Downstate. Expanded Neurology from seven to thirty full-time faculty.
**John P. Craig, MD, MPH, 1996H**
An ardent student and teacher of biology
by Haseeb A. Siddiqi, PhD, 2006H

Distinguished Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. Attained international renown for studying the biologic properties of cholera enterotoxin, stimulating widespread research that has elucidated its structure and mechanism of action. Has a profound understanding of the natural history and pathogenesis of infectious diseases and the multifactorial determinants of susceptibility and/or resistance to infection. Has consistently maintained the academic essentials: research, productive scholarship, service, teaching, stimulated interest, and a passion for integrity.

**Eva B. Cramer, PhD, 1999H**
Brooklyn Biotechnology Centers
by George Ojakian, PhD

As vice-president for Scientific Affairs, established the two Biotechnology Centers for technology companies and medical innovators and provides research opportunities for translational research programs: the Advanced Biotechnology Incubator adjacent to the Downstate campus and the newly developed Brooklyn Army Terminal provide space for development and manufacturing.

**Paul F. Cranefield, PhD, MD**
Rhythms of the heart, science and theatre
by Andrew L. Wit, PhD

Taught Physiology at Downstate in the 1950s where with Brian Hoffman established the new discipline of cellular cardiac electrophysiology, revolutionizing the study of cardiac arrhythmias. Spent most of his scientific career at Rockefeller University, in further studies of arrhythmia electrophysiology, after earning an MD. Was editor of the Journal of General Physiology for 30 years, and an eminent scientific historian, and directed several off-Broadway theatre companies.

**Jean A. Curran, MD, 1973H**
SUNY and LICM, first and last Dean
by Pascal J. Imperato, MD 1962, MPH & TM

Dean, LICM in 1937 and then president in 1942. Numerous initiatives for improving the school and its affiliates. Raised admission standards and installed full-time department heads. Oversaw the SUNY merger and the relocation to Clarkson Avenue. Urged students to seek stronger internships. Also, active locally and nationally in improving quality of internships and residencies.

**Richard L. Day, MD**
Courtesy, care of patients and clinical investigation
by Henry A. Schaeffer, MD

The father of modern perinatology. Did basic work in thermoregulation and described familial dysautonomia, correctly postulated that bilirubin caused kernicterus, and using the randomized trial, identified the role of oxygen in causing retrolental fibroplasias. As the first full-time salaried chairman of Pediatrics at Downstate, significantly enlarged the pediatric faculty and strengthened the training of medical students and residents.

**Gerald W. Deas, MS, MPH, MD 1962**
Activist, author, poet, playwright, teacher
by Clinton Brown, MD

Patient advocate and compassionate public health crusader, traced the anemia in black women and especially those pregnant, to the ingestion of laundry starch that blocked iron absorption. Active in clinical practice and prominent radio and television host who focuses on health care and preventive medicine and has inspired many boys and girls to become doctors.
Raymond V. Damadian, MD, 1999H
Inventor of magnetic resonance imaging
by Paul Dreizen, MD, 2001H

First conceived of applying nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy as a diagnostic tool for scanning to distinguish diseased from healthy cells, after having demonstrated that cancers produced abnormal MR signals. When he was professor of Medicine at Downstate. Inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame and awarded the National Medal of Technology by President Reagan.

Robert L. Dickinson, MD 1882
Art and science of obstetrics
by Vincent Tricomi, MD 1950

Private practice; clinical professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Published more than 100 clinical articles. Introduced major ObGyn clinical advances. During WW I commissioned as a lieutenant general. Postwar devoted himself to the physical and social problems of marital relations contending with Victorian attitudes. Staunch supporter of birth control. Textbooks on conception control, sexual anatomy, and marriage still relevant and readable. Artist and sculptor of ability. His 100 models of the stages of labor and pregnancy are at the NY Academy of Medicine.

Clarence Dennis, MD, MA, PhD, 1990H
Translational scientist, developed extracorporeal oxygenator
by Gerald Shafton, MD and Michael E. Zenilman, MD 1984

Studied cardiopulmonary bypass physiology and developed and implemented, with John Gibbon, the extracorporeal membrane oxygenator. Performed the first open heart operation for a congenital heart defect. His interest in general surgery was far sighted. While chairman of Surgery at Downstate performed successful open-heart surgeries with a pump built here. Was a gifted educator who trained scores of surgeons.

Thomas C. Detwiler, PhD
Brought physiology to hematology
by Richard D. Feinman, PhD

Contributed to the understanding of platelet physiology. Changed the way platelet research is done, employing the methods of quantitative biochemistry and cell biology with quantitative studies of platelet receptors, agonist-response coupling mechanisms and secretory mechanisms. Shortened experimental time frame from hours to seconds. Stimulated a fundamental reevaluation of accepted concepts. Was an outstanding and very popular teacher.

William Dock, MD
“Go to the patient, because that’s where the diagnosis is.”
by Peter Gillette, MD

Brilliant physician and enthusiastic teacher with astounding diagnostic acumen. Volunteered as ambulance driver in France in WWI, cited for bravery. After training, appointed professor of Pathology at Stanford. After a couple of years, moved to Cornell as professor of Pathology and then to Downstate as professor of Medicine and chief of service. Introduced early move from bed to chair, within a day or two following an acute myocardial infarct. Enjoyed teaching.

Paul Dreizen, MD, 2001H
From cardiology to biophysics to graduate dean and back again
by Lewis Gershman, MD, PhD 1968

Recruited from NYU following cardiology at National Naval Medical Center and a decade long biophysics fellowship at MIT. Muscle research at Downstate was well funded. Investigated structure and function of myosin and other contractile proteins. Graduate school dean, after administrative urging, for 24 years, with center-wide activities, and since, returned to muscle research, now molecular modeling of model polypeptides.
Eli A. Friedman, MD 1957
Averted the death sentence of renal failure

Established first federally funded dialysis facility, a model for clinical care, education and training, and research programs around the world. Evolution of his career and nephrology coincided with the dramatic technological changes accompanying introduction of hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and kidney transplantation. Recipient of the 2010 Edward Gibbs Award in Nephrology by the New York Academy of Medicine. Gave those with chronic kidney failure a new lease on life.

Austin Flint, Sr., MD
Therapy of a disease requires knowledge of its natural history

A founding member of Downstate’s faculty in 1860, was professor of Pathology and Practical Medicine. Was the first to insist that the sounds and their pitch heard through the stethoscope are important for diagnosis. His *Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Medicine* is a medical classic. Emphasized that a systematic study of the natural history of disease was necessary. His view of the doctor-patient relation emphasized “frankness…candor and plainness.”

Hugh E. Evans, MD 1958
Productive research and academic career

Published extensively on infectious diseases following two years at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Subsequently chairman of Pediatrics at Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn and then at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Published over 130 papers and his best-known books: *Perinatal Medicine*, co-authored with Leonard Glass, *Lung Diseases of Children*, and *The Hidden Campaign: FDR’s Health in the 1944 Election*. Received numerous awards.

Ludwig W. Eichna, MD 1979
Dedicated teacher, insightful critic

Chairman of Medicine at Downstate 1960 – 1974. Recruited talented faculty. Instrumental in creation of the MD/PhD program. “Verities in Chaos” spoke of the need to maintain the basic standards of medical education in chaotic times. After stepping down, entered Downstate College of Medicine as a medical student and chronicled and published his perspectives of the full four-year experience in the NEJM. Concluded that needs were: “patient-first” education, strengthened basic sciences, a problem-solving approach, and the teaching of ethics.

Laurence Finberg, MD, 1992H
Quiz Kid: U. of Chicago :: Chairman of Pediatrics:


Stanley Friedman, MD, 2001H
There is nothing permanent except change – Heraclitus

No one knows better than Stanley Friedman what is actually taught at Downstate. As senior associate dean for education has reconciled the disparate components and competing priorities to provide leadership and assure a coherent, comprehensive, and effective program of instruction. Broad knowledge and considerable skill combined with prior research, administrative, and graduate student responsibilities constitute his ideal preparation. Distinguished Teaching Professor of Pharmacology.
Robert F. Furchgott, PhD, 1993H
Wanted his license plate EDRFNO
by Stanley Friedman, MD, 2001H and Desingarao Jothianandan, PhD

1998 Nobel Prize winning pharmacologist, helped show that nitric oxide (NO) is the signaling molecule in vascular system. Discovered at Downstate that cells lining blood vessels produce a labile substance he called “Endothelium Derived Relaxing Factor” (EDRF) that induces vascular relaxation, later shown to be NO. Founding chairman and distinguished professor emeritus of Pharmacology at Downstate. Member National Academy of Sciences. Extraordinary scientist, teacher, mentor, and friend to many.

Leonard Glass, MD 1958
Compassion, commitment, and gusto
by Sheela Laungani, MD

Director of neonatology, developed interdisciplinary project protocols and procedures for Regional Perinatal Center he established at University Hospital and at KCHC to improve perinatal/neonatal outcomes. Initiated early intervention programs and high-risk followup clinics. Strong residency and fellowship training. Legendary Finberg, Kravath, Glass daily car pool prepared for morning rounds.

Seymour Furman, MD 1955
Transvenous endocardial pacing of heart
by E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., MD

Director emeritus of Pacemaker Center at Montefiore Medical Center. Called “enabler of modern electrophysiologic diagnostic and therapeutic modalities.” The techniques have saved or improved lives of many patients worldwide. With his knowledge of right-heart catheterization and intracardiac electrocardiography, proposed and proved that the heart could be paced endocardially. Refined the techniques of temporary and permanent pacemaker application. Has received numerous honors.

Marc Goldstein, MD 1952
Maintain and restore fertility in men
by Sheela Laungani, MD

Urologic surgeon at Weill Medical College of Cornell. Internationally known for pioneering work in vasectomy reversals and repair of varicoceles and blockages. In 1984 developed microsurgical method of varicocelectomy, most common operation to treat male infertility. Published more than 230 articles, book chapters and books. Many national and international professional societies.

Michael C. Gelfand, MD 1968
Marrow and thymus cells together produce immunity
by Harvinder S. Sandhu, MD

Recruited to run orthopedic surgery service. Found on appointment a daunting service that provided inadequate care and ineffective teaching. Through successful recruitment, hard work, and assertive leadership, created an outstanding program focused on patient care that offered a broad range of services with talented subspecialists. Became first chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, included Rehabilitation. Trained many who gained regional or national prominence.
Charles Green, MD
My door stands ajar
by Tak-Shun Choi, MD 1953
Dean of Students for over 27 years and more than five thousand medical students and colleagues. Provided a welcoming refuge. Good listener who dispensed understanding and wise counsel and aided students to deal with their inner and external stresses. Maintained a private practice that included house calls throughout his term as dean.

Mimi Halpern, PhD, 2001H
Sought the common substrate of emotions and the limbic system
by John Kubie, PhD
Neuroanatomist, studied the vomeronasal system of terrestrial vertebrates that required techniques from physiology, biochemistry, and cell biology to understand the functional significance and contrast it to the main olfactory system. Research on the chemical identification of pheromones, and the relation of the physiological mechanisms of odor detection to reptilian brain structure and to learning and reward. Also active in teaching, administration, and school affairs.

Brian F. Hoffman, MD 1947
A founder of modern cardiac electrophysiology
by Mario Vassalle, MD
Former chairman of Pharmacology and associate dean at Columbia, following appointment as professor and acting chairman of Physiology at Downstate. Perfected microelectrode technique and with Paul Cranefield obtained cardiac intracellular recording to study normal cardiac impulses, arrhythmias, action of antiarrhythmic agents, and the application of basic research to patient care. Mentored two generations of clinical and basic scientists. Author of more than 500 publications. Member National Academy of Sciences and has received worldwide recognition, awards, and honors.

Louis Hellman, MD
Championed reproductive rights
by Robert C. Knapp, MD 1953
Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 1950-1970. Published many articles characterizing labor and uterine contractions, induction and stimulation of labor, and an atlas on fetal and gynecologic sonography. Co-editor of 12th, 13th, and 14th editions of Williams Obstetrics. Identified that frequently induced septic abortions caused significant proportion of obstetrical deaths. Supported nurse-midwives program. Strong advocate of family planning. Left for active role in population affairs at HEW.

Frank H. Hamilton, MD
Found the Surgery Departments at what became four medical schools in New York
by Dana Anderson, MD
The first professor and chairman of surgery at LICM and subsequent professor of military surgery. Widely respected for his contributions to plastic, reconstructive, and orthopedic surgery. Wrote several popular textbooks on orthopedics. At Bull Run was promoted to brigade surgeon and based on his experience wrote A Practical Treatise on Military History and Hygiene, and Surgical Memoirs of the War of Rebellion, and his opus-magnus, Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

Dorothy Holden, MD
Strong commitment to patient care
by Peter Gillette, MD
Joon-Ho Hong, MD, PhD

Compassionate pioneer transplant surgeon
by Nabil Sumrani, MD

Early developer of the kidney transplant program, has performed over 1,000 kidney transplants and cared for over 2,000 kidney transplant recipients. Initiated individualization of immunosuppression which has now become widely accepted. Published extensively on organ transplantation. Developed new technique of auxiliary liver transplantation in dogs that is of interest for patients with inborn errors of hepatic metabolism. Focused on humane care of patients and continues to perform general surgery.

Jacqueline S. Jakway, PhD

Imparted a broad scope of knowledge with ease
by Samuel Marquez, PhD

A favorite of students, directed gross anatomy and was a member of the neuroscience, and histology faculty for over 40 years. Produced now famous trademark handouts for her superb lectures. Excelling in laboratory and lecture modes of teaching. Research on brain, especially thalamus, is of lasting significance.

Pascal J. Imperato, MD 1962, MPH & TM

Authority on public health and tropical medicine
by Florence Kavaler, MD 1959, MS, MPH

Founding dean, School of Public Health at Downstate. Leading Africanist known for his expertise in African art, history and culture, especially Mali. Served as Commissioner of Health of NYC and chairman of the board of the Health and Hospitals Corporation. Published over 300 scientific articles, 100 book reviews, 7 medical texts, almost 100 non-medical articles mostly about Africa and African art, and 21 books about a variety of scholarly subjects. Numerous awards and honors.

Swaminath “Sam” K. Iyer, MBBS, MD

Rock and beacon for patients and staff
Eugene W. Straus, MD

A pillar of the medical staff at Downstate for over 40 years. Master gastrointestinal endoscopist. Exemplified dedication to patient care and mentoring of medical students and young staff members. Generous with his skills and time with generations of students, residents, fellows, and faculty who remain dedicated to him.

Adrian Kantrowitz, MD 1943D

One of the greatest innovators in cardiac surgery

Conducted the first heart transplant in America, in Brooklyn, three days after the first heart transplant in the world. Invented an early heart-lung machine, an early internal pacemaker, and the first auxiliary left heart ventricle. Among other innovations, his most far-reaching contribution is the intraaortic balloon pump that boosts cardiac output and has been used in the past 35 years to treat acute heart failure in more than 1,500,000 patients. Still working on novel approaches to treat heart failure.

David A. Kaplan, MD, 1992H

Advocate for his patients, mentor to students, teacher to all
by Sarah Kaplan Browne, MD

Donald A. Gerber, MD, 1997H

First full-time director of Rheumatology at Downstate, grew the division. Research interests included heritable disorders of connective tissue, management of scleroderma, excretion of uric acid, osteoarthritis, and outcome and treatment of SLE. Also, long-standing dean of the fourth-year medical students for which he was beloved and respected. Was a scholar regarded for his integrity.
E. George Kassner, MD
A bright star among stars
by Harris L. Cohen, MD 1976

Outstanding pediatric radiologist and excellent director of Radiology at KCHC. Innovator, outstanding teacher, administrator, manager, editor, and writer. Knew a lot. His textbooks: *Iatrogenic Disorders of the Fetus, Infant and Child, Atlas of Radiologic Imaging*, and *Imaging of Cardiac Disorders* were works of scholarship. Strong ethical and social consciousness.

Florence Kavaler, MD 1959, MS, MPH
Successful Public Health activist
by Richard Sadovsky, MD 1974


Michael Katz, MD 1956
Champion of mothers and babies
by Barbara J. Stoll, MD

Senior vice president for Research and Global Programs at March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. Chairman emeritus of Pediatrics at Columbia. Many administrative and leadership roles. Expertise in Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Broad research interests and important contributions to science and education. Champion of childhood vaccines and relationship between malnutrition and infection. Member Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Erudite scholar and humanist.

Michael Kennéy, MD, 1983H
Leading Pathologist-Parasitologist
by Vern Eveland, PhD

Former Downstate chief of Tropical Medicine and director of Parasitology. Educated at Warsaw University, MD from U. of Geneva, trained at the School of Tropical Medicine in Brussels. Belgian Colonial Medical Service and was medical officer for Katanga in southeastern Congo. Entered US just prior to WW II. Professor of Pathology at Downstate. Published magnificent Pathoparasitology monograph, distributed gratis on his insistence.

Shirley L. Kauffman, MA, MD
Usually got perfection from residents
by Virginia Anderson, MD

Chief of Pediatric Pathology at Downstate for more than 40 years. Authored a series on pediatric soft tissue tumors and classic papers from her research on lung development. Widely regarded for meticulous dissections and disciplined approach to resident education and training. Careful and thorough descriptions of findings in disease conditions not well understood at that time helped enormously as knowledge of the etiologies emerged.

Donald F. Klein, MD 1952
Psychological and pharmaceutical approaches to therapy

Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia. Pioneered use of psychopharmacology in treatment of psychiatric disorders. Extensive research. Numerous grants. Many prestigious professional awards. Authored 18 books, over 400 articles, more than 300 chapters, abstracts, reviews and other publications. On editorial boards of 10 journals. One of his priorities is informing the public of advances in psychiatric treatment. Has alleviated much human suffering.
Robert C. Knapp, MD 1953
Revered teacher and mentor
by Ovadia Abulafia, MD

Professor emeritus of gynecology at Harvard. Trained at KCHC under Louis Hellman. Famed for his operative skills. Perfected surgical techniques for gynecologic cancers. Described the dissection of paravesical and pararectal spaces in pelvic operations. Detection of the ovarian cancer antigen CA-125 in blood of patients with ovarian cancer lead to co-invention of an immunoassay for diagnosing and monitoring the course of ovarian carcinoma. Co-author of *Gynecological Oncology*, and published over 200 articles.

Schuyler G. Kohl, MD, MS, PhD
Be on time for lectures, appropriately attired
by Richard H. Schwarz, MD, 1994H


Kiyomi Koizumi, MD, MS, PhD
Inside and outside hypothalamic neurons
by Mark Stewart, MD, PhD 1991

Chaired Physiology during difficult financial times. Worked to ensure excellence in teaching and research. Nurtured and protected faculty and staff. With Chandler Brooks first to record intracellularly from single spinal neurons. Made many substantial contributions to spinal cord, hypothalamic, and autonomic physiology. Established the link between sensory stimulation and the release of pituitary hormones. Extracellular recording from hypothalamic neurons and single neurons intracellularly. Produced nearly as many prominent scientists as her scientific papers.

Peter Kottmeier, MD, MS
Pediatric trauma surgeon
by Francisca T. Velcek, MD

Following surgical residency with Clarence Dennis, was sent for training in pediatric surgery. Surgical innovator applying his research experience to clinical care. Established the first pediatric trauma unit in the U.S. at KCHC, predated the adult trauma unit. Initiated the pediatric ICU and the Children’s Emergency Room. Trained many pediatric trauma surgeons. Distinguished professor. Compassionate care-giver, outstanding teacher who continues to mentor after his retirement.

Samuel L. Kountz, MA, MD
Gifted with vision, optimism, and energy
by Khalid M. H. Butt, MD

Grandmother born into slavery. Granted a full scholarship to U. of Arkansas Medical School. First African-American Downstate professor and chairman of Surgery. Founded Transplant Program. Discovered that methylprednisolone could counter transplant rejection. Used his charisma to publicize organ donations. Raised the level of training of surgical residents. Productive scholarship, editorial board activity and visiting professorships. Believed his actions were important in countering racism.

Richard E. Kravath, MD 1960
Relentless in pursuit of truth
by Angela Bennett, MD 1953

Directed in-patient pediatrics at Downstate. From Montefiore where he was director of Pediatric Intensive Care. Certified in neonatal and perinatal medicine and pulmonology. Many publications, co-authored textbook on fluid and electrolytes. The Alumni Mentoring Program was his idea as were many other innovative initiatives. Caring physician, knowledgeable provocative teacher. Believed that there was no higher calling than teacher and physician.
Jonathan T. Lanman, MD
Health policy activity and Population Council
by Steven W. Piecuck, MD 1979

Chairman of Pediatrics at Downstate, then director National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Subsequently Nutritional Sciences professor at U. of California, Berkeley. Recognized that sequential gene expression fundamental to all developmental phenomena. Studied developmental biochemistry of intestinal enzymes and also child health in developing world. Member of the Institute of Medicine. Career exemplified teaching, broad understanding of child health, joys of collegiality, and excitement of research and never-ending learning.

Christopher S. Lange, DPhil
Formulates paradigms
by Marvin Rotman, MD

Professor of Radiation Oncology. Many honors. Early worker in stem cell research. New interpretation of animal mortality curves. Contribution to understanding of aging. Showed that ratio of differentiated cells per stem cell rose with age, allowing cell errors. Proposed mechanism of spatial orientation in embryology and regeneration related to polarity in intrinsic electric field. Proposed a molecular basis for radiosensitivity and survival of irradiated cells. Developed a cancer stem cell hypothesis.

Jonathan T. Lanman, MD
Health policy activity and Population Council
by Steven W. Piecuck, MD 1979

Chairman of Pediatrics, Downstate, 1960-1972. Was professor at NYU. Increased Pediatric staff and number of subspecialties. Broadened department’s research interests. Maintained own research in reproductive physiology and the retinopathy of prematurity. Participated in commissioning University Hospital of Brooklyn. Excellent teacher and clinical pediatrician. Mentored faculty and trainees. Subsequently directed Center for Research for Mothers and Children at NIH.

Norman Kretchmer, PhD, MD 1952
Biochemistry in human development
by Robert E. Greenberg, MD 1985

Chairman of Pediatrics at Stanford, then director National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Subsequently Nutritional Sciences professor at U. of California, Berkeley. Recognized that sequential gene expression fundamental to all developmental phenomena. Studied developmental biochemistry of intestinal enzymes and also child health in developing world. Member of the Institute of Medicine. Career exemplified teaching, broad understanding of child health, joys of collegiality, and excitement of research and never-ending learning.

Harold E. Lebovitz, MD
Diagnosis and management of diabetes
by Samy I. McFarlane, MD


Stanley L. Lee, MD
Superb teacher, clinician, and researcher
by Harvey Dosik, MD

Leadership academic and administrative positions at Downstate. Professor of Medicine, acting president, and dean of College of Medicine. Was director of Hematology at Maimonides and later, director of Hematology/Oncology at Brookdale. Recently taught residents and fellows at Methodist. Published almost 100 papers and eight book chapters. First to publish existence of lupus anticoagulant and produced the first review of hairy cell leukemia.

Julius Lempert, MD 1913
Father of modern otologic surgery
by John W. House, MD

Extraordinary technical skill. A great twentieth century innovative ear surgeon. As young physician, produced a motion picture demonstrating submucous resection of the septum. Introduced the endaural approach for mastoidectomies. His one-stage fenestration operation revolutionized treatment of otosclerosis and restored hearing to thousands of patients. In 1940s and 50s, physicians from around the world studied with Lempert who generously gave his time and taught with missionary zeal.
Susan M. Love, MD 1974
Outspoken advocate for women’s health


Thomas P. Magill, MD
Early skeptic of antibiotics use
by John P. Craig, MD, MPH, 1996H

Chairman of Microbiology and Immunology upon establishment of Downstate. Almost half a century of research in virology, epidemiology of influenza and development of vaccines. Earliest recognition of pliability of genetic determinants of influenza virus. First to describe influenza B virus. Recognized influenza A virus variability explained the escape from immunologic protection after previous infection. Concern for negative effects of wide use of antibiotics has come to fruition.

A. Peter Lundin III, MD 1972
Remarkable physician and patient
by Eli A. Friedman, MD 1957

Epitome of courage and perseverance. Self-dialysis in college, due to hereditary renal disease. Came to Downstate for medical school and renal dialysis. After earning MD, medical residency at Downstate, and Nephrology fellowship at Harvard, joined faculty at Downstate. Rose to professor of Medicine all the while requiring dialysis. First to determine that heart disease in dialysis patients due to hypertension. Very bright clinician and investigator. Pleasant, positive personality.

John G. Masterson, MD
Founded Gynecologic Oncology Service
by Richard Calame, MD

Gynecology residency at KCHC. Louis Hellman, chose him to develop gynecologic oncology, sent him to Memorial for training. Extraordinary surgical skills and leadership abilities. Upon return to Downstate, developed tumor service, tumor board, and fellowship in gynecologic cancer. Sought to prove that radical surgery could duplicate the cervical cancer results from radiotherapy. Recognized role that chemotherapy would play, and presented first paper on ovarian cancer management by alkylating agents.

Harold Lyons, MD 1940
Teaching, research, and patient care
by Abraham Sanders, MD 1976
Albert E. Heurich, MD

Director of pulmonary disease division, 1953-1983. Taught thousands of medical students, hundreds of residents, and dozens of fellows. Important contributions in tuberculosis treatment, asthma management, and pulmonary physiology in SLE. NIH training program in pulmonary medicine. Emphasized physiology and critical care medicine. Service had a physiology laboratory, and bronchoscopy suite. Greatly regarded, had extraordinary clinical acumen. Legacy extended widely.

William M. McCormack, MD 1963
Dedicated teacher and tireless academician
by John M. Quale, Jr., MD 1980

Professor of Medicine and ObGyn and chief of infectious diseases division at Downstate in 1982. Promoted to Distinguished Professor in 2005. On numerous editorial boards. Published over 200 papers. Recent publications concern sexually transmitted diseases. Definitive studies on genital mycoplasmas and the evaluation of victims of sexual assault. Edited textbook, *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* and written chapters in *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* and Harrison’s *Principles of Internal Medicine*. 

John P. Craig, MD, MPH, 1996H
Harry Z. Mellins, MD 1944, MS
The radiologist perceived the shadow, sees a lesion, and imagines the man.
by Edward H. Smith, MD 1960

Returned to Downstate in 1956 as the first professor and chairman of Radiology, following residency at U. of Minnesota. Modernized the department and introduced subspecialties with expanded academic faculty. Enthusiastic, dynamic, and inspiring teacher, talented clinical radiologist. Worked closely with residents. Had many visiting professorships. In 1969, accepted invitation to become professor of Radiology at Harvard and director of Diagnostic Radiology. Numerous awards.

Hermann Mendez, MD
Faced the epidemic of his time
by Jeffrey M. Birnbaum, MD 1986, MPH

Early report of perinatal HIV infection. With Joan Hittelman, federal funding over 20 years ago for pioneering providers’ network for HIV infected infants, children, and families for medical care, research, management, nutrition, and mental health services. Investigations: Women and Infants Transmission Study; Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study; Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group. For many hundreds changed this infection from a death sentence to a chronic disease.

Michael H. Merson, MD 1970
Director of Duke Global Health Institute
by Judith H. LaRosa, PhD, RN, 2005H


Ascher L. Mestel, MD 1952, MS
Downstate Admissions Committee
by Constance Shames, MD 1963

Pediatric surgeon widely recognized for separation of Siamese twins. Directorship at Brookdale Hospital. Appointments at neighboring teaching hospitals. Volunteer instructor in pre-clinical courses. Visiting professorships at University of the West Indies, Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, and Hospital Sophia Aghia in Athens. Memberships in many medical, scientific, and community organizations. Sculptor and stained glass artist widely exhibited since retirement. Active in Alumni Association – College of Medicine.

Martin Metz, MD
Students and staff were his patients
by Brian K. Metz, MD 1991

Professor of Medicine. Director of Student and House Staff Health Services, 1956-1990. Cared for many of faculty, particularly many prominent clinicians, investigators, and administrators. Institutional Review Board chairman for KCHC and Downstate, 1960-1985. Sought to provide excellent medical care for each student and staff member who became his patient.

Doris H. Milman, MD
Articulate, with patience, respect, and humility
by Susanna L. Neumann, PhD

Suzanne S. Mirra, MD 1969
Active on search committees for dean and chairpersons
by Lisa R. Merlin, MD 1986


Robert A. Moore, MD
The biology of today is the medicine of tomorrow


Michael W. Mosesson, MD 1959
A stellar fibrinogen journey
by Dennis Galanakis, MD

For more than 50 years has steadily advanced the state of knowledge of fibrinogen and fibrin, in addition to discovering and characterizing the plasma form of fibronectin. His research achievements abound. His contributions are innovative, comprehensive, well reasoned, and meticulous with a distinctively unifying quality. Faculty appointments: Downstate 1967-1981. Mount Sinai Medical Center, Milwaukee, 1981-1999. Current, Blood Research Institute of the Blood Center of Wisconsin.

Neuropathology Laboratory and trainees 1954-1970
Many of the fellows trained achieved leadership academic positions
by Stanley M. Aronson, MD

Established well organized neuropathology laboratory for diagnoses, investigative, undergraduate and graduate teaching activities supporting productive scholarship. Developed histochemistry and biochemistry resources and skeletal muscle diseases laboratory. Documentation and indexing of diagnostic findings supported scholarship. Consultations including forensic neuropathology freely offered to the physicians and community hospitals. Provided fellowships under an NIH training grant, and training rotations for anatomic pathology, neurology, and neurosurgery residents. Initiated broad research programs with many scholarly publications.

Marvin Moser, MD 1947
Hypertension complications can be prevented or reversed by lowering blood pressure.

Hypertension researcher and clinician for over 60 years. Evaluated every new antihypertensive medication since the 1950s. Prolific writer, authored over 500 scientific papers, 32 book chapters, and 11 books. On the editorial boards of several major medical journals and been a visiting professor at many universities in the United States and abroad. Recipient of numerous honors and awards. A powerful patient advocate cautioning against fraudulent claims for miracle cures.

Robert B. Nussenblatt, MD 1972, MPH
Expert in uveitis and inflammatory and AIDS-related eye diseases
by Igal Gery, PhD

Ophthalmologist at NIH. Established Laboratory of Immunology at National Eye Institute. Clinical and scientific director of the National Eye Institute and chief of Laboratory of Immunology. Has provided clinical fellowship program for over 20 years for ophthalmologists. Also chief of the Office of Protocol Services for NIH with responsibility for administering the 1100 NIH campus protocols. Many of his fellows have achieved leadership academic positions. Author or coauthor of over 500 publications and several books. Many awards and honors.
Jean Redman Oliver, MD, 1974H
Father of modern nephropathology
by Leopold G. Koss, MD, 2010H

Chairman of Pathology, 1929-1954. From Stanford. Studied renal disorders using meticulous but tedious microdissection of nephrons. Characterized the link between renal anatomy and function (“form follows function”). Published several books and over 100 papers covering a broad range of renal diseases from 1915 through 1968. Brilliant lecturer who included medical history and philosophy. First Distinguished Service Professor of the State University of New York. Numerous honors and awards. Endowed the biennial New York Pathological Society Jean Oliver Lecture.

Herbert Pardes, MD 1960
Expertise in education, research, clinical care and health policy
by Constance Shames, MD 1963

Psychiatrist. President and CEO of New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Previous director of NIMH, U.S. Assistant Surgeon General. Chairman of Psychiatry, vice president for Health Sciences, dean of faculty, at Columbia University. Chairman of Psychiatry, Downstate. Serves on numerous editorial boards. Wrote over 130 articles and chapters on mental health and academic medicine topics. Conducted international collaborations with India, China, and the former Soviet Union. Member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Numerous awards and honors.

Ismail Parsa, MD
Inspiration to students, colleagues and all who knew him
by Andrew Parsa, MD 1996

Professor of Pathology and School of Graduate Studies and director of Histocompatibility and Organ Preservation Laboratories at Downstate. Pioneered innovative ways to identify donor-recipient matches and optimize renal organ transplantation. Research: induced pancreatic malignancy in experimental animal and adult and fetal human organ cultures by chemical carcinogens. Developed monoclonal antibodies to normal human acinar and duct cells to prove cellular origin of the cancers. Fertile creative mind. Died at an early age.

William E. Paul, MD 1960
Discovered the cytokine Interleukin-4, key regulator of the immune system
by Helen Durkin, PhD, 2002H


Matthew R. Pincus, PhD, MD 1979
Pioneered in the development of anti-cancer peptides
by Wilbur B.F. Bowne, MD 1994

Professor of Pathology at Downstate and chairman of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at New York Harbor Veterans Affairs Health Care System. Co-editor of Henry’s Clinical Diagnosis and Management by Laboratory Methods, 21st Edition. Outstanding teacher, mentored many residents, fellows and faculty to successful advancement. Important research contributions with collaborator Josef Michl, MD: oncogenesis and oncoprotein structure, mitogenic signal transduction, and design of anti-cancer peptides leading to novel death pathways unique to cancer cells. Received many patents, grants, and awards.

Calvin H. Plimpton, MD, DMedSc
Convivial, ready access from students and faculty
by Richard Schwarz, MD, 1994H

Howard W. Potter, MD
Established psychoanalytical training at our school
by Michael Berzofsky, PhD
Chairman of Psychiatry and dean at Downstate. Established a graduate school of Psychoanalytic Medicine. Contributed to Psychiatry in many ways. Championed psychoanalytic training in a university setting and urged low-cost provision of treatment. Tried to bring care and treatment of mental retardation into the province of psychiatry about which he published extensively, especially regarding children. Sought the best care for all patients proportional to the severity of their condition.

Qutub H. Qazi, MD, MA, PhD
Taught students and colleagues about genetics
by Asif Q. Qazi, MD
Directed genetics program at Downstate for 30 years. Pediatric residency at Downstate, then earned a master’s degree and PhD in Genetics at U. of Toronto. Founded Downstate Genetics Clinic and cytogenetics laboratory for chromosome studies. Expert in dermatoglyphics. Published over 60 papers and over a dozen book chapters. Expert on fetal alcohol syndrome. On State Task Force to educate women about harmful effects of alcohol during pregnancy. Consulted widely by Brooklyn physicians.

Charles Plotz, MD 1944
At the dawn of rheumatology and immunology
by Maja Nowakowski, PhD
Emeritus professor of Medicine, 1991. With Downstate since 1941 as a medical student, resident, founder of the rheumatology section, and department head. Studied the effects of newly introduced steroids. Invented Latex Fixation Test for detection of rheumatoid factor. With many modifications, now in wide use for rapid antigen detection to identify and type bacterial pathogens. First chairman of Family Practice. Followed Duncan Clark as chancellor of the medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha. Many honors and awards.

Alan Rabson, MD 1950
A half century of service to cancer research
by Robert Wiltrour, MD
Pathologist. National Cancer Institute (NCI) since 1955. Research, viral oncology. First demonstrated that latent herpes virus can reside in human trigeminal ganglion. Found that human cells can be simultaneously infected by two different DNA viruses. Clinical professorships of Pathology at Georgetown, George Washington, and Uniformed Services University. Authored or co-authored over 180 scientific publications. Deputy director NCI since 1995. Prior 20 years director, NCI’s Division of Cancer Biology. Member of Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

James B. Ranck, Jr., MD
Helped merge neurobiology and psychology into neuroscience
by John Kubie, PhD
Professor of Physiology at Downstate since 1975. Biophysicist who specialized in the physics of current flow in brain tissue. By recording from a single brain cell, studied linkage between single cell neurons of hippocampus and the mind. Started hippocampal laboratory. Known as a great teacher. Taught neuroscience and physiology to generations of neuroscientists and medical students. Promoted to Distinguished Teaching Professor in 2005.
**Madu Rao, MD**
Consulting resource on asthma
by Philip Steiner, MD

Professor of Pediatrics. At Downstate 1969-2003. Developed and directed the Pediatric Asthma Center, Pulmonary Function Laboratory, Sleep Apnea Laboratory and Neonatal Metabolic Laboratory. Directed Pediatric Pulmonary Division. Many papers and presentations on asthma and other pediatric pulmonary conditions. Trained many pediatric pulmonologists. Dr. Rao with wife established a foundation for research awards to those training in pediatric pulmonary program and scholarships for children with asthma.

**C. Julian Rosenthal, MD**
Forged the foundation for modern oncologic practice
by Albert S. Braverman, MD

Established possibly the first outpatient chemotherapy facility in the nation. Trained oncologic nurses for drug administration and patient support. Pioneered combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Discovered and characterized serum amyloid-associated protein. Charming, gentle, and affable. His workaholic schedule, vast knowledge, and intense idealism made him larger than life.

**Mitchell S. Rosenthal, MD 1960**
Founded Phoenix House in 1967


**Ronald F. Rieder, MD**
Studied abnormal human hemoglobins and thalassemia syndromes
by William Solomon, MD, 2000H

Professor of Medicine, Director of Hematology. Downstate 1967-2007. Characterization of structure, synthesis, and clinical presentation of several new unstable hemoglobins with hemolytic anemia. Demonstrated that short-chain fatty acids caused transcriptional upregulation of gamma globin expression. Augmentation is currently mainstay of sickle cell anemia treatment. Career encompassed eras of protein biochemistry, genetic code, and recombinant DNA technology and he used all three for his studies.

**Sheldon P. Rothenberg, MA, MD**
Knowledgeable about radioimmunossay
by Maria DaCosta, MD

Professor of Medicine, Downstate 1980-2007. Outstanding hematology investigator and clinician. His studies altered concepts and improved diagnoses and management. Developed methods to measure vitamin B12, folic acid, intrinsic factor, receptors, autoantibodies, and vitamin B12 binding proteins. Identified folate binding proteins in study of folate coenzymes. Demonstrated autoantibodies to folate binding protein in serum from many women with neural tube defect pregnancy supporting need for additional folate. Many publications and awards.

**Arthur Rose, MD, 2009H**
Initiated student exchange with his alma mater, U. of Bristol
by Joan B. Cracco, PhD, 2003H

Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics, Downstate 1975-2010. Director, Pediatric Neurology for 20 years. Excellent clinician, committed to teaching and mentoring students and residents. Publications include polymyositis and pseudotumor cerebri. Landmark study of EEG in neonatal seizures. Basic research involved studies of mechanism of bilirubin encephalopathy and neurotoxicity of hexachlorophene.
Marvin Rotman, MD
Advocated concomitant chemotherapy and radiation
by Samuel Packer, MD 1966

Professor and chairman of Radiation Oncology at Downstate for over 30 years. Promoted to Distinguished Professor in 2002. Active investigator. Studied chemotherapy in radiation treatment of solid tumors. Chemotherapy served as radiation sensitizer. Used different drugs and tested efficacy of continuous infusion. Co-edited three textbooks with Dr. Julian Rosenthal on the use of concomitant therapies. Published 150 articles. Received a gold medal and many awards and honors.

Andre A. Fenton, PhD 1998
Memory formation and storage
by Roger Q. Cracco, MD

Neuroscientist and biomedical engineer. Research: how neurons store information in memory; how brains selectively activate relevant and suppress irrelevant information; how to record this electrical activity. Hippocampal place cells provide information about location in space. Found that these neurons focus on what the animal needs and ignore what is irrelevant. When injected where spatial memories are localized, Zip erased memory.

Nathan Rudolph, MD
Driving force in neonatal research
by Steven P. Piecuch, MD 1979

Professor of Pediatrics, neonatologist, Downstate. Active investigator particularly of selenium metabolism and oxidant injury. Had encyclopedic knowledge of neonatology and of general pediatrics. Excellent clinical judgment. Outstanding bedside teacher, but demanding. Always spoke to families in a caring, empathetic manner explaining their infant’s condition. Was role model and mentor to generations of students and fellows.

Franklin R. Scalia, PhD 1964
Encyclopedic knowledge of neuroanatomy
by John A. Lewis, PhD

Professor, Neuroanatomy, 1963-present. Earlier work on olfactory and vomeronasal systems lead to new findings. Then studied visual system and confirmed findings of retinal projections in multiple species. Used same techniques to study nerve regeneration and showed the defined growth orientation. Now, uses molecular probes to identify those molecules guiding axonal growth. Superb and demanding teacher. Great experimental skill and talent. Gifted artist of brain.

Todd C. Sacktor, MD
How brain stores long-term memories
by Roger Q. Cracco, MD

Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology and Neurology. Came to Downstate in 1990. Increased strength of synaptic connections was thought to be physiologic mechanism for long-term memory. Discovered molecule PKMzeta, that seemed to be responsible for synaptic strengthening. ZIP blocked PKMzeta. After ZIP was injected spatial memory was lost. After ZIP was no longer effective, spatial memory was still erased but new spatial memories could be learned and stored.

Gerald Schiffman, PhD
Pneumococcus vaccine

Distinguished professor emeritus of microbiology and immunology. At Downstate since 1970. Worked with Robert Austrian to develop improved, highly effective vaccine for infection with Streptococcus pneumoniae, introduced in 1978. Large-scale testing confirmed its efficacy. Developed a measure of immune system function he used for elderly and immune-deficient patients. Retired in 1997 but continues to participate in pneumococcal reference laboratory.
Richard H. Schwarz, MD, 1994H
Deft interpersonal touch
Howard Minkoff, MD

Alan R. Shalita, MD, 2000H
One of world’s foremost experts in acne
by Hilary Baldwin, MD

Alexander Sedlis, MD
Important contributions in gynecologic oncology
by Neil S. Prose, MD
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Came to Downstate in 1980 after 24 years at New York Medical College. Diagnostic staging for cervical cancer known as the Sedlis criteria. Demonstrated role of radiation therapy. Authored more than 80 publications and numerous book chapters. Supervises culposcopy clinic at KCH and gynecologic pathology conferences for residents. Described as the modest, gentle, kind, and sensitive physician he has always been.

Abraham Shulman, MD
Dedicated to “stopping the ringing”
By Richard Rosenfeld, MD
Professor of Otolaryngology and director of division. Following residency, fellowship with Julius Lempert. Clinical interest in hearing loss, tinnitus, and vertigo. Research: neurosensory hearing loss, electrical stimulation of cochleovestibular system and mechanisms of tinnitus production. Published textbook, *Tinnitus: Diagnosis and Treatment*, over 200 articles and book chapters.

Sam Seifter, PhD
Very popular outstanding lecturer
by Julian L. Seifter, MD

M.A.Q. Siddiqui, PhD, 2007H
Journey to the heart of molecular cardiology
by Jason Lazar, MD
Chairman of Cell Biology, Downstate since 1987. Promoted to Distinguished Professor. Molecular cardiology leader. Under his leadership department flourished with increased research funding and many new post-docs. Maintained active research program and administrative responsibilities, elucidating molecular pathogenesis of myocardial hypertrophy. Highly productive investigator. Published over 150 papers and several book chapters and review articles. Frequent presenter at conferences. Many trained under his mentoring have taken prestigious leadership roles. Expanded administrative responsibilities with Department realignments.
**Emanuel Silverstein, MD 1954, PhD**
*Non-specific ACE elevation in sarcoidosis*
by Daniel D. Silverstein, MD 2000

Chairman of Biophysics at Downstate. Research focus on rennin-angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) in serum and lymph nodes and angiotensin II in epithelioid and giant cells. Showed that serum ACE levels correlated with disease activity and were reduced by glucorticoids. Discovered increased ACE levels in a large number of metabolic, endocrine and renal conditions.

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**Leslie H. Sobin, MD 1959**
*Bard of Pathology. Wrote Tales of the Ampulla of Vater*
by Constantine Axiotis, MD, 2008H


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**Alexander J. C. Skene, MD 1863**
*A hero’s bust in Grand Army Plaza*
by Kathleen Powderly, PhD

Union surgeon during Civil War, created Ambulance Corps, now almost universal. At end of war returned to LICH for the rest of his career. Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, dean, and president. First president of Alumni Association. Officer of many local and national professional societies. Excellent diagnostician. Paraurethral Skene’s glands named for him. Authored over 100 articles, five textbooks, and one novel. Talented sculptor.

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**Mahendra Somasundarum, MD**
*Data 1st, formulation 2nd, laboratory and imaging studies 3rd*
by Paul Maccabee, MD


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**Ralph Snyderman, MD 1965**
*Advocate for medical education and excellence in teaching*
by Josef Michl, MD

*Reading light from dark*
by Jay W. MacMoran, MD

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barnet M. Sultzer, PhD</td>
<td>Mechanism of LPS activation and host responses</td>
<td>Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Downstate, 1964-1994. Developed a test tube hemagglutination inhibition assay to test for pregnancy. Was the standard test for ten years. Major work: lipopolysaccharide (LPS) endotoxin and its effects. Extensively investigated the genetics of host responsiveness to bacterial endotoxin. Served on several editorial boards and published about 100 articles.</td>
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<td>Richard A. Taylor, MD 1903</td>
<td>Compassionate physician, superb clinician</td>
<td>Orphan in St. Kitts, West Indies. Adopted by German physician who taught him classics and medicine. Emigrated to US Midwest, then to LICM. Strong background in anatomy and microbiology. Tutored many classmates. Prizes for chemistry, physiology, and obstetrics. Helped many youths who aspired to become physicians. Beloved by patients, respected by colleagues, and admired by neighbors.</td>
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Frederick Tilney, MD 1903
Pioneer American neurologist
by Yaacov Anziska, MD 2000


Richard C. Troutman, MD, 2002H
Trained many in microsurgery
By Norman Medow, MD 1966

Professor emeritus and former chairman of Ophthalmology at Downstate, since 1955. Focused on disorders of eye’s anterior segment. Oversaw development of eye microscopes and microsurgery, sutures and needles. Many firsts: anterior chamber intraocular lens implant, corrected astigmatism, Brought new techniques to Downstate in 1965. Authored or co-authored over 150 publications and nine books including Microsurgery of the Eye. Member and president of many societies. Many lectures, awards and honors.

Mario Vassalle, MD
There are no problems, only solutions
by Macello Rota, PhD

Trained in cardiac electrophysiology with Brian Hoffman at Downstate, 1960–1962. After two years in Bern returned to Physiology at Downstate and rose rapidly to professor in 1971. Intracellular electrolyte measurements and whole-cell patch-clamps to elucidate mechanisms of normal and abnormal heart beats. Outstanding teacher. Scientific contributions include almost 400 papers, abstracts and reviews, and 4 books. Literary works include poems, aphorisms, and philosophical essays in English and Italian.

Eleanor Z. Wallace, MD 1951
EBM will find the best available answers

Professor of Medicine until 1985. Endocrinologist with expertise in reproductive endocrinology. Chief of Medicine at Brooklyn VA and in later years chief of general internal medicine at Long Island Jewish. Other academic appointments: SUNY Stony Brook, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and CUNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. Popular teacher and student mentor. Strong advocate for evidence-based medicine (EBM). Active in professional societies.

Richard C. Troutman, MD, 2002H
Trained many in microsurgery
By Norman Medow, MD 1966

Professor emeritus and former chairman of Ophthalmology at Downstate, since 1955. Focused on disorders of eye’s anterior segment. Oversaw development of eye microscopes and microsurgery, sutures and needles. Many firsts: anterior chamber intraocular lens implant, corrected astigmatism, Brought new techniques to Downstate in 1965. Authored or co-authored over 150 publications and nine books including Microsurgery of the Eye. Member and president of many societies. Many lectures, awards and honors.

Mario Vassalle, MD
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R. Janet Watson, MD  
At outset of molecular biology and molecular medicine  
by Ronald F. Reider, MD  

Hematologist, Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics, Downstate. Interest in anemia. Saw many cases of sickle cell anemia in African-Americans. Noted that sickle cells were rare in blood of newborns who later developed sickle cell disease. Appearance of sickle cells coincided with change-over from fetal to adult form of hemoglobin. Publication in 1948 helped establish that an abnormal adult hemoglobin was responsible for this genetic disorder.

Max Harry Weil, MD 1952, PhD  
Helped save the lives of critically ill patients worldwide  

A father of critical care medicine. Leader in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. Pioneered first modern intensive care unit in early 1960s. Within ten years almost every hospital in America had such facilities. Original research on sepsis and septic and circulatory shock. Chief of cardiology at City of Hope Medical Center. President, Institute of Critical Care Medicine. Frequent speaker at international symposia. Coauthor of several texts and over 1,100 other publications. Many honors.

William Alanson White, MD 1891  
In the patient’s best interest  
by Michael Berzofsky, PhD  

Neurologist, teacher, and hospital administrator had a major role in modern psychiatry and acceptance of Freud’s theories. Superintendent of Government Hospital for the Insane in Washington, DC, later called Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital. Reorganized for improved patient care, introduced psychoanalysis therapy for mental disorders. Over 300 publications and 17 books including his co-authored texts: *Modern Treatment of Nervous and Mental Diseases* (1913) and *Diseases of the Nervous System* (1915). Many honors.

Donald E. Wilson, MD  
Respects and celebrates cultural diversity  
by Eugene W. Straus, MD 1967  

Professor and chairman of Medicine at Downstate, 1980-1991. Professor and dean, U. of Maryland School of Medicine, 1991-2006 where he expanded research and funding. Improved faculty and student minority representation. Made contributions on prostaglandins in gastrointestinal mucosal protection, blood flow, and the mechanism of stress induced damage. Also many insightful reviews. Active nationally on health policy. Many honors. Many professional associations, and IOM of the National Academy of Sciences.

Sidney J. Winawer, MD 1956  
Contributed to prevention of colorectal cancer  

Director of Integrative Medicine Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Former chief of gastroenterology for 20 years. Principle investigator in NIH National Polyp Study. Raised public awareness of need for early colonic cancer detection. Over 250 scientific papers and several books; he has written a memoir *Healing Lessons* about his wife’s struggle with metastatic gastric cancer. Numerous honors and awards.

Henryk M. Wisniewski, MD, PhD  
Leader in Alzheimer’s research  
by Piotr Kozlowski, MD  

Director of New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities, 1976-1999. Neuropathologist, authored or co-authored over 700 scientific publications on a variety of subjects including: neuropathology of aging and dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, neuronal degeneration, demyelinating diseases, Down syndrome, blood-brain barrier, neurotoxicology and neurodegeneration. Many classic publications.
Evelyn M. Witkin, PhD
Created field of DNA mutagenesis and DNA repair
by Miriam Feuerman, PhD
Geneticist, Department of Medicine, Downstate, 1955-1971, Biological responses to DNA damage. Following work at Cold Spring Harbor, investigated how mutations occur in DNA and how they may be corrected. Professor, Douglass College, Rutgers, understanding cellular response to UV. Continued to study the SOS response to UV radiation in bacteria until her retirement in 1991. Many awards. Elected to National Academy of Sciences in 1977. National Medal of Science in 2002.

Robert K.S. Wong, PhD
Extended understanding of hippocampal circuitry
by Hillary B. Michelson, PhD
Professor and chairman of Department of Pharmacology since 1990 and of combined Physiology and Pharmacology in 1998. Promoted to Distinguished Professor. Research focused on mechanisms underlying generation of seizures. Inhibitory action of GABA may have a role in memory formation. His laboratory has had uninterrupted NIH funding for thirty years. Authored 100 publications and book chapters. Demonstrates that basic research provides the most thorough understanding of diseases and their treatment.

Herman A. Witkin, PhD
Cognition and personality
by Steven Friedman, PhD
Professor, director of Research Training, Department of Psychiatry, Downstate 1951-1971. Studied the interface between cognition and personality. Programmatic research on cognitive styles and individual, group, and sex differences. Published Personality Through Perception: An Experimental and Clinical Study (1954) and his widely quoted Psychological Differentiation: Studies of Development (1962). Went to Educational Testing Service to study the educational implications of cognitive style. Many awards and honors.

Arthur H. Wolintz, MD 1962
Inspiring and caring teacher
by Douglas Lazzaro, MD 1990
This FOLIO is proudly published by the Alumni Association of the College of Medicine. We have included abstracts of the monographs about alumni and faculty honorees published in *Downstate at 150: A Celebration of Achievement* in observation of the sesquicentennial of the State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine. We include herein the essay titles about these luminaries, their portraits and their authors.

The genesis of the collegiate story began 15 decades ago as the Long Island College Hospital, America’s first teaching hospital, with its successor the Long Island College of Medicine, culminating in the merge into the State University of New York in 1950 as the Downstate Medical Center. For 150 years, this school has continued to attract outstanding students and faculty and provided medical education and health care to this community and research and scholarship concerning important issues about health, disease, and treatment. Downstate has trained many thousands of physicians. Many of the physicians practicing throughout this area were educated and trained by our faculty.

The shape and configuration of this publishing project has evolved through its several iterations. The focus has however remained unchanged throughout: the prodigious achievements of so very many of the alumni and faculty of Downstate. Many have gone on to distinctive and even extraordinary careers locally and throughout the nation in research, teaching and patient care, and have brought great distinction to this school. There was, of course, some difficulty paring the selection to these 150. The monographs were written by eminent colleagues, an impressive group of authors who are scholars and prominent luminaries recruited because they were appropriate to the honorees.

We are proud to present these abstracts of the monographs that recount the accomplishments of Downstate luminaries who have made significant contributions to science and to the health and well-being of this community, state, and nation.