



SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

# Focus

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2003



## Bringing the Classroom to the Community

Community service has long been a hallmark of student life at Downstate and an important part of students' professional development. But equally valuable are the ways community outreach has benefited Brooklyn residents.

Full story on page 2



## UHB Joins 911 Network

In a development that has a great impact on the health of Brooklynites, New York City has designated University Hospital of Brooklyn a 911 receiving hospital. UHB's Emergency Services Department, which offers adult, pediatric, and fast-track emergency services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, is now an EMS ambulance designation.

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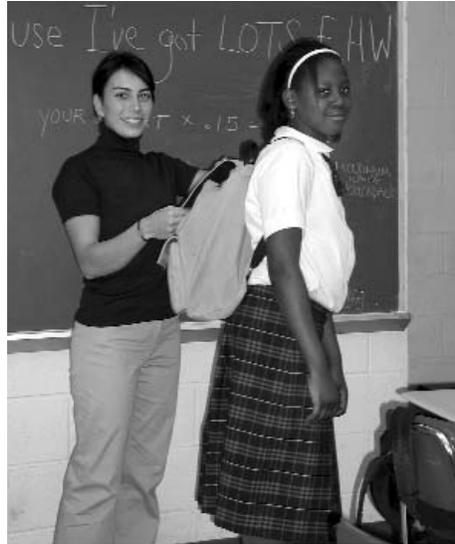
## Bringing the Classroom to the Community

*(continued from front page)*

“I believe we have a mission to keep our communities stable by helping residents develop their fullest potential through better health,” says Michael Harrell, Downstate’s public service coordinator. Mr. Harrell is adept at going into the community and meeting with school principals, heads of social service agencies, faith-based organizations, and neighborhood groups to find greater opportunities for student involvement.

“Our students are good teachers, fresh and eager to communicate their classroom knowledge to others,” he says, “but I also see them as ambassadors for social good and positive cultural exchange.”

The Community Service Program, which Mr. Harrell has steadily built over the last two years, is an integral part of Downstate’s academic strategic plan to enhance student’s educational experience through involvement in community outreach. Administered by the Office of Institutional Advancement, the program recognizes the importance of community partnerships that build mutual respect and have an impact on people’s lives.



*Nina Lopez, who is pursuing a master's in occupational therapy, shows a sixth-grader the proper way to carry a back pack.*

Second-year medical student Jennifer Carreiro, who is head of Students for Social Responsibility, believes that the program is helping to prepare her and other students to become better doctors by fostering social awareness. “I feel that it establishes a commitment to the community that will carry over to our future practice in the way we behave toward our patients,” she says. ■



*Michael Harrell, Downstate’s public service coordinator, has no trouble signing up students for community service projects.*

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

To date, the Community Service Program has partnered with more than 15 community-based agencies and formed links to as many more. Owing to the number and variety of student activities, it is impossible to describe them all or to include the names of the many student organizations and members involved. Here are the program’s major goals and examples of recent projects.

- **Familiarize students with the work of local agencies**—Students complement the work of many local agencies and help make up for the shortages in available resources. By volunteering to help **Habitat for Humanity** build homes, for example, students demonstrated their concern for borough residents and aided the effort to revitalize Brooklyn.
- **Provide other needed social services**—Dorm Council and other student organizations organized holiday food, toy, and clothing drives, and collected school supplies for public school children.
- **Help hard-to-reach populations gain better access to health services and information**—Members of Students for Social Responsibility visited shelters for homeless men and women and those for victims of domestic violence, offering advice on nutrition and child health. Other students provided health education for misdemeanor offenders who are doing community service as an alternative to prison. In partnership with the **STAR Program** at Downstate, students provided health education for people at risk for HIV/AIDS. And by working with the **Church Avenue Merchants Block Association (CAMBA)**, they were able to reach some of Brooklyn’s newest immigrants.
- **Give students outreach experience**—As part of their practicum/community partnership requirement, OT students taught sixth graders at **Middle School #2** on Parkside Avenue the proper way to carry backpacks so as not to hurt themselves. Midwifery education students also gained experience by giving presentations on sexually transmitted infections to residents of the **Brooklyn Job Corps**, a youth job-training program.
- **Facilitate student projects**—Students who participated in last year’s **Pfizer Mini Medical School Program** gave community presentations on diabetes, eating disorders, and other health problems; the Urology Club helped spread prostate cancer awareness by visiting **Black Veterans for Social Justice** and **Urban Strategies**.
- **Serve as role models for young people**—“What’s in a Doctor’s Bag?” and an afterschool nutrition program at a local middle school are examples of some of the ways medical students are working with young people to interest them in science and health. In an effort to reach older students, members of **Doctors Against Murder (DAM)** have visited local high schools to teach teens the dangers of personal violence.

## UHB Joins 911 Network

*(continued from front page)*

"We are proud to be a member of the 911 ambulance network," says G. Richard Bruno, MD, director of the Emergency Services Department. "We are one of the country's largest trainers of emergency medicine specialists and enjoy a superb reputation in providing emergency services," he adds. No other emergency department in Brooklyn has such a high percentage of physicians trained in emergency medicine. All of our emergency medicine physicians are either board-certified or board-eligible.

University Hospital is one of only two hospitals in Brooklyn to provide emergency primary angioplasty to victims of heart attack. A recent study concluded



*Our Emergency Services Department has the most highly trained emergency medicine physicians in Brooklyn.*

that persons suffering a heart attack do much better if taken directly to a hospital that can perform emergency angioplasty on site, as can be done here at Downstate. We also offer cardiothoracic surgery and rehabilitation services.

To meet the demands of greater patient volume, the Emergency Room has been expanded to 12,000 square feet, up from the original 2,000-square foot facility built in 1998 to house the Acute Care Receiving Center, which specialized in treating patients with chest pains or asthma.

"Our annual patient census has grown from 1,000 visits the first year to 40,000 annually," says Robin Pino, RN, senior associate administrator of Emergency Services Department. "We are gratified by this outpouring of support from the communities we serve, and we look forward to providing life-saving services through the 911 network." ■

## Dr. Robert Jacobs Named Chief Medical Officer

Robert P. Jacobs, MD, MBA, has been named chief medical officer for SUNY Downstate Medical Center and its University Hospital of Brooklyn. In this leadership position, Dr. Jacobs will provide oversight for all facets of clinical care and clinical business management, including initiatives to enhance overall efficiency and quality of care. He brings to Downstate significant expertise in provider contracting, network development, and implementing new business ventures.

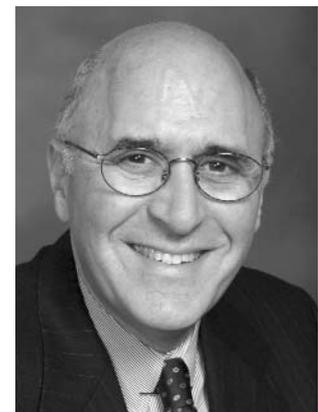
Immediately prior to joining Downstate, Dr. Jacobs served as vice president for clinical affairs at NYU Medical Center (NYUMC) and chief executive officer of University MSO, a management services organization created by NYUMC and University Physicians Network (UPN) to manage the collaborative and business relationships between the medical center and its physicians. Dr. Jacobs oversaw physician management services for some 800 physicians, including 20 managed care contracts and 18 delegated credentialing contracts. He was key to the success of University MSO's risk transfer contracting

initiative and the transitioning of University MSO to a business model that emphasized performance based and global case rate contracting and increasing NYUMC's competitiveness in the marketplace.

Dr. Jacobs' broad-based background in health care management also includes service as regional medical director for New York for Oxford Health Plans (1995-1998), medical director at the Jack D. Weiler Hospital of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (1991-1995) and vice president for medical affairs at Jeanes Hospital, a 230-bed community hospital in Philadelphia (1985-1991).

His academic career includes two years at the National Institutes of Health, conducting basic research on immunologic control mechanisms, as well as an Arthritis Foundation postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins. From 1976 to 1984, Dr. Jacobs served on the faculty of George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he was director of the Division of Rheumatology.

Dr. Jacobs was awarded his MD from the NYU School of Medicine in 1968 and



*Robert P. Jacobs, MD, MBA*

his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1991. He completed his postgraduate training at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and is board certified in internal medicine and rheumatology.

As a leader in both academic medicine and the private health-care sector, Dr. Jacobs brings a wealth of experience to his current position at Downstate. "The reality is that medicine is a business that must balance its clinical and financial responsibilities," he said. "The challenge is to achieve the highest quality of care while ensuring that the practice of medicine is both successful and compassionate."

## ALONG CLARKSON AVENUE

### PROTECTING CAMPUS SAFETY

Since 9/11, heightened security has been evident at Downstate, most noticeably at each of the main entrances. Less visible, perhaps, but equally effective, are many other measures that the University Police and Public Safety Department has taken to protect patients and staff, both on and off campus.

Older-style video cameras and recording devices have been replaced by modern digital equipment that produces far better quality. Everyone is now required to wear an ID card with an embedded microchip that allows only authorized personnel to enter certain areas, such as doctors' lounges, hospital locker rooms, roofs and stairwells, and other places late at night.

Realistic safety drills are another way to reinforce guidelines and train personnel. On January 17, for example, UHB ordered a drill to test Code Pink, the name given to procedures that would be activated if someone attempted to abduct an infant. All main campus entrances and exits were immediately locked down and the drill was carried out without a hitch.

Equally reassuring is the University Police's policy regarding full disclosure. When incidents do occur, they are widely publicized through internal memos and by postings on the department's online Crime Log at [www.downstate.edu/police/default.html](http://www.downstate.edu/police/default.html). As the record shows, there is little serious crime on campus; most reported incidents involve petty thefts and verbal disputes. The same holds true of the community at large.

"Many of the best neighborhoods in New York don't have a crime rate as low as ours," says Thomas F. Dugan, chief of University Police. "This is a neighborhood of good, decent, hard-working people. Of course, incidents happen, but in every instance arrests have been made and the criminal activity has stopped. Our investigators are very good at their jobs."

One employee who knows this from personal experience is Socorro Duprey, director of the Student Counseling Service. When she was the victim of an off-hours subway mugging, Dr. Duprey turned to University Police for assistance. "I am thankful to the campus police for their excellent response and attention during the crisis," she says. "I also received lots of much needed support from members of the administration."

University Police enjoys a close working relationship with the 71st police precinct, which covers Crown Heights up to Clarkson Avenue, and the 67th precinct, covering Flatbush. Following a recent series of subway incidents, two of our officers were stationed at the Parkside Avenue station from 6-10 a.m. and at night outside the Winthrop Street entrance. At the same time, transit authorities increased their undercover surveillance and made arrests.

Another important safeguard is Downstate's Personal Safety Committee. Created in 1986 by a directive from the Chancellor's Office to all SUNY campuses, the committee is comprised of faculty and staff who monitor safety activities and policies on campus and make recommendations for further improvements.

Chief Dugan assures campus members that there is no cause to worry about personal safety, but he does offer this general advice: "Exercise reasonable levels of caution. Be aware of your surroundings. And don't place yourself in situations where you can easily be victimized. If you ever feel you need protection, call us and we'll come get you."

Public Safety operates perimeter patrols and offers escort services to campus members. In case of emergency, use the red phones and panic alarms located throughout campus. You can also reach the Public Safety Office any time, day or night, from any phone by dialing 718-270-2626.

*Brooklyn's finest join members of our University Police at a public safety forum sponsored by Student Council. Shown (left to right): University Police Chief Thomas Dugan, 67th Precinct Commander Robert Boyce, 71st Precinct Commander Peter Tuffy, University Police Deputy Chiefs Vincent Cardozo and Godfrey Brobbey, and 67th Precinct Captain Ralph Monteforte.*



## DOWNSTATE WELCOMES NEW HEAD OF NEUROSURGERY



Stephen T. Onesti, MD

In a move that will strengthen and expand our services for the comprehensive treatment of neurosurgical patients, Stephen T. Onesti, MD, has been named professor and chair of neurosurgery. Dr. Onesti's appointment to this key position has been greeted with great enthusiasm.

An expert in spinal surgery, Dr. Onesti comes to us from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he was associate professor of clinical neurosurgery and director of residency training, as well as director of the Neurosurgical Spine Service at Montefiore Medical Center. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Onesti completed his neurosurgical training at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. His clinical research interests include minimally invasive spinal surgical techniques and surgery for cervical degenerative disk disease.

Dr. Onesti will be introducing new services not available elsewhere in Brooklyn. A multidisciplinary

Spine Center will bring together neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, rehabilitation medicine, neurology, and pain management to provide single point of entry for patients. In collaboration with the Department of Neurology, Dr. Onesti will also help complete the development of the Clinical Neuroscience Center at UHB, providing surgical support for both the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit and the Stroke Unit.

President John LaRosa and New York City Councilmember Kendall B. Stewart were on hand to welcome Dr. Onesti.



Local legislators and community leaders joined faculty and staff in a recent celebration to welcome Dr. Stephen T. Onesti, the new chair of neurosurgery. SUNY Downstate-UHB Community Advisory Committee Member Nelson A. King is shown here with (l. to r.) Jackie Lennon, director of marketing, Maria Mendez, senior associate administrator of ancillary services, and Jeannette Marrero, then interim executive director.



## ARTHUR ASHE WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD

Tennis legend, social activist, and humanitarian Arthur Ashe once said, "Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." On December 3, 1992, two months before his death, he established the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health (AAIUH), headquartered here at Downstate, with one powerful aim in mind: to improve the healthcare and education of urban communities.

Ten years later, the Institute is fulfilling that dream. AAIUH is today a leader in developing culturally competent health education programs that address racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in healthcare. By working with neighborhood organizations, schools, libraries, and small businesses throughout Brooklyn and beyond, it is encouraging residents to have a role in protecting their own health.

Arthur Ashe was equally committed to academic excellence. Each year the Institute sponsors lectures, professional conferences, and, in partnership with Downstate, provides science enrichment programs for high school and elementary school students.

"As we celebrate ten years of service and advocacy, we look forward to expanding our reach and replicating our model programs nationally," says AAIUH Executive Director Ruth Browne.

Elaine Jones, Esq., president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, was keynote speaker at the AAIUH 10th Anniversary Lecture.



Shown giving the thumbs-up during the ringing of the closing bell at the NY Stock Exchange on December 3, 2002—the 10th anniversary of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health—are (from l. to r.) board members John P. Margaritis, president/CEO of Firebrand Financial Group, and Dennis A. Suskind, retired partner, Goldman, Sachs & Co.; Dick Grasso, chairman and CEO, NYSE; Dr. Edgar Mandeville, chairman of the board of the Arthur Ashe Institute; board member Kenneth I. Chenault, chairman and CEO, American Express Company; Ruth C. Browne, the Institute's executive director; and board member Dr. Paul Smith, senior minister, First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn.

## GROWING OUR OWN

Dr. Constance Hill, clinical professor of anesthesiology and associate dean of minority affairs, has been awarded a Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) grant in excess of \$1 million by the Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant will be used to support the Early Medical Education (EME) Program as well as new programs that prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds for careers in science and medicine.

Started six years ago, the EME program invites undergraduates from participating schools—which now include seven CUNY colleges plus St. John’s, St. Joseph’s and Fordham Universities, and SUNY Stony Brook—to spend their summers at Downstate learning anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, and cell biology. Qualifying students can apply to the College of Medicine for admission through early decision. To date, 18 EME students have enrolled at Downstate, and three are graduating this year.

Students are normally accepted into the EME program during their sophomore year of college. This summer, a new program is being introduced for undergraduates. Exploring Health Careers will provide instruction and familiarize college freshmen with careers in medicine, allied health, and research. Students will rotate through health career modules, meeting members of the Colleges of Medicine and Health Related Professions and the School of Graduate Studies.

“In addition to expanding our undergraduate offerings, the grant allows us to offer more science enrichment programs for high school students,” says Dr. Hill. Before they enter tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade, students from Clara Barton and Nazareth High Schools are invited to our campus during the summer to prepare for the science courses they will be taking during the school year and to learn study skills. Along with other initiatives, such as the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) begun in 1989, these science enrichment programs provide a continuum for young people, first attracting them to science and then giving them the tools to succeed.



These high school students are getting a head start by participating in science enrichment programs at Downstate.

## MIDWIFERY WELCOMES NEW CHAIR

Ronnie Lichtman, PhD, MS, CNM, has been appointed associate professor and chair of midwifery education in the College of Health Related Professions. Dr. Lichtman has a long history of service and demonstrated commitment to the midwifery profession. She has taught and directed the midwifery education programs at Columbia University and SUNY Stony Brook, and has worked clinically at North Central Bronx Hospital, Harlem Hospital Center, Columbia University Student Health Service, New York Maternal-Infant Care/Family Planning Projects, and Planned Parenthood. Dr. Lichtman also maintains a private practice devoted to well-woman gynecology.



Ronnie Lichtman, PhD

Dr. Lichtman has a strong track record of accomplishments. In addition to serving on numerous professional committees, she is a popular lecturer and has published extensively, including the award-winning textbook *Gynecology: Well-woman Care*.

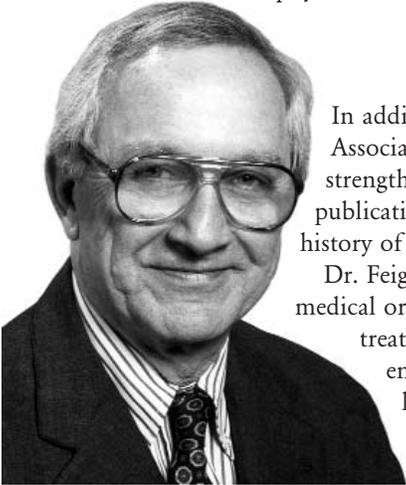
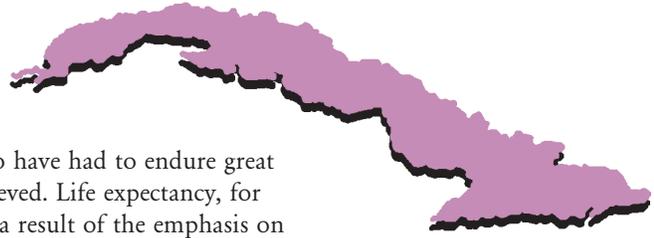


President John LaRosa congratulates Dr. Gerald W. Deas, associate professor of preventive medicine and director of health education communications, who was honored by the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus of the New York City Council during its Black History Month Celebration for his contributions to the community, city, and state.

## OUR MAN IN HAVANA

Recently back from Cuba, where he led a medical delegation, Dean of Medicine Eugene B. Feigelson reports that the trip was both an enjoyable and eye-opening experience. Expressing great admiration for the Cuban people, who have had to endure great hardships and deprivation, he notes that many important gains have been achieved. Life expectancy, for example, has risen from 55 years under the former regime to 75 years today as a result of the emphasis on preventive medicine. No one is homeless, healthcare is free, and the literacy rate is nearly 100 percent.

Dr. Feigelson also points out that whereas there were 6,000 physicians before the revolution, there are now 70,000, many of whom are sent to countries in Africa and Latin America. And despite the serious shortage of drugs, medical supplies, and equipment, he says, "I was impressed with the quality of medical care and medical education in Cuba. It's ironic, however, that physicians earn less than the bellhops in the hotels that cater to tourists."



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In addition to serving as dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Feigelson is currently president of the Associated Medical Schools of New York. A consortium of 14 medical schools, AMS aims to strengthen medical care, education, and research in New York. In January, it came out with a new publication, *AMS Quarterly*. This first issue has an introduction by Dr. Feigelson describing the 35-year history of AMS and the important role it has played in academic medicine.

Dr. Feigelson highlights some of the organization's most significant achievements. AMS was the first medical organization to formally declare that attending physicians and residents have an obligation to treat AIDS patients. It developed the most comprehensive programs in the country to increase the enrollment of disadvantaged and underrepresented minorities in medical school. Through its lobbying efforts, AMS helped convince New York legislators to invest heavily in biomedical research, including major funding for the Advanced Biotechnology Incubator at Downstate.

Dr. Feigelson has been personally involved in many of these activities, meeting with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and other members of Congress, and traveling to Albany with Dr. Raymond Damadian, inventor of the MRI, to gain additional funding for health, medical education, and research. In the coming months, when the New York Health Care Reform Act comes up for renewal, he is likely to be up in Albany again, representing the medical school deans.

## COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN BROOKLYN

Downstate physicians are helping to foster borough-wide cooperation in the fight against infectious diseases. Two of our faculty members are playing a leading role in the Brooklyn Infectious Diseases Society. Kenneth Bromberg, MD, professor of pediatrics and president of the Society, together with Michael Augenbraun, MD, associate professor of epidemiology and the Society's treasurer, recently invited Dr. David Shlaes, executive vice president for research and development at Idenix Pharmaceuticals and an expert in bacterial antibiotic resistance, to be keynote speaker at the annual meeting in January.

The audience of over 70 Brooklyn physicians, microbiologists, and other specialists in infectious diseases included the Society's past president, Dr. Charles Hyman, assistant professor of medicine at Downstate. "The Society plans to continue holding these meeting annually to help combat the spread of infectious disease in Brooklyn," says Dr. Bromberg.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, the Chinese Students and Scholars Association invited Changxue Yu, a member of the Chinese consulate in New York, to offer opening remarks at the annual New Year's Dinner, held in the Student Center on February 7. Mr. Changxue is in charge of New York State education affairs for Chinese students.

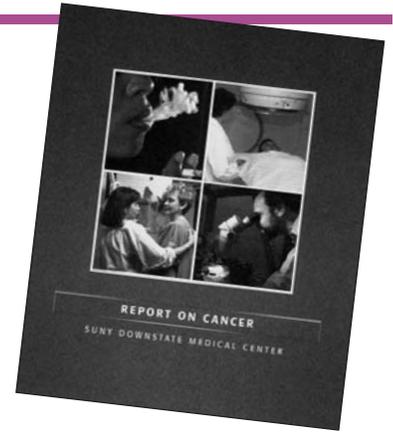
On behalf of everyone at Downstate, best wishes for a healthy and happy Year of the Ram.

## THANK YOU

We owe a load of thanks to Jim Parise, Reginald Powell, and the FM&D staff for keeping our campus sidewalks and entranceways safely cleared of snow and ice. With some piles of snow reaching four feet or more in height, it was truly a Herculean task. If there's more bad weather on the way, let it snow, let it snow...but somewhere else, not here.

## BOOKMARKS

*Report on Cancer*, the sixth in a series of health reports published by SUNY Downstate Medical Center, describes the destructive path that cancer has cut through our communities and why there is ongoing cause for concern. It focuses on five major forms of the disease—lung, cervical, breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer—and examines how age, sex, and race are risk factors for certain populations. Intended as a call to action, it emphasizes the importance of early screening, diagnosis, and treatment to reduce the high rate of cancer deaths in our borough. To receive a copy of the report, call 718-270-1176.



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It's not often that an encyclopedia on electrical engineering devotes an entire chapter on clinical engineering. Even more unusual is the fact that John Wiley's 24-volume *Encyclopedia of Electrical and Electronics Engineering* contains photographs of the staff of Downstate's Scientific and Medical Instrumentation Center (SMIC) engaged in engineering tasks. This is because **Ira Soller, director of SMIC**, wrote the chapter on clinical engineering, which describes the history of clinical engineering and the activities that go on in a full-service department such as the one at Downstate. As one reviewer commented, "This chapter should be required reading for anyone considering clinical engineering as a career choice. It would also serve as a great model for existing departments."



## A Biotech Incubator Grows in Brooklyn

Girders going up at the site of Downstate's Advanced Biotechnology Incubator facility. The first phase of construction should be complete by the end of June, the second by the end of December 2003.

## OVER THE TOP

SEFA

Thanks to the generous support of our campus members, Downstate raised more than \$154,550 for the State Employees Federated Appeal—more commonly known as SEFA. Nearly 900 donors contributed. The amount we raised represents an increase of more than \$6,000 compared to last year, and \$4,000 more than our stated goal of \$150,000. By giving to SEFA and the charities it supports, we demonstrate Downstate's continued commitment to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

## Student-Faculty Show 2003

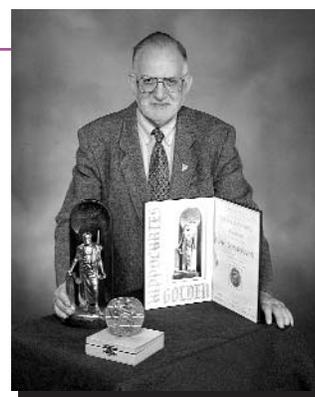


It was silly, it was irreverent, it had that certain medical student humor—in short it was everything you could want in a Student-Faculty Show.

## Congratulations

**Burton M. Altura, PhD**, professor of physiology and pharmacology and professor of medicine, is the first scientist to be awarded the Golden Hippocrates Award, Israel's highest honor for lifetime achievement in basic medical research and teaching. For more than 30 years, Dr. Altura, together with his wife, Dr. Bella Altura, has engaged in pioneering research to better understand the role of magnesium and how it is regulated in the body. Dr. Altura believes that the use of magnesium can prevent cardiovascular disease and allied illnesses such as stroke, eclampsia, and even migraine headaches. The Alturas' discovery that the female hormones estrogen and progesterone regulate magnesium may also have important implications for treating women's disorders.

**Andrew Merola, MD**, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery, received the John H. Moe Award for best basic science poster at the 37th annual meeting of the Scoliosis Research Society. Dr. Merola's presentation was entitled "Attenuation of Ciliary Neurotrophic Factor in Acute Spinal Cord Injury Treated with Intravenous Methylprednisolone."



*Dr. Burton Altura displays the Golden Hippocrates medallion, statuette, and certificate he was awarded by Israel in recognition of his contributions to medical science.*

## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Thanks go to Denise Spencer and other members of the Black History Month Committee, including Keith Garrett, Alexia Jones, Eudelle Marshall, Bobbie Nemley, Judy Silva, Russell Smith, Joyce Wilson, and Gartrell Wright, for presenting an exciting schedule of events during Black History Month.

The first was a Health Fair in the UHB outpatient clinic area, organized in cooperation with the Center for Community Health Promotion and Wellness. Other events included a Cultural Festival at the Student Center, featuring community gospel choirs, high school groups, musicians, dancers, poetry, and art, plus an exhibit on the history of the Civil Rights Movement. And for small fry, there was a Children's Arts and Crafts Festival.

This year's Pioneer Awards went to Dr. Luther Clark for cardiology, Dr. Kevin Greenidge for ophthalmology, and to committee members Russell Smith, Chandradat Johnnie, and Caroll Duncanson for their continued support. A fond farewell tribute was held for UHB interim executive director, Jeannette Marrero, who has always been a strong supporter of the committee and its activities.



*Judy Silva does the honors as Dr. Luther Clark, chief of cardiology, receives a Pioneer Award for his outstanding service to Downstate and the communities it serves.*



*These youngsters are having fun making African-style paper masks at the Children's Arts and Crafts Festival.*



*Dr. Robert Karp, professor of pediatrics, answers a young woman's questions during the Black History Month Health Fair held at University Hospital.*

## Diabetes Control: Know Your A1C

Do you have, or do you know someone with diabetes? If so, you may want to check out SUNY Downstate's Diabetes Club. Its meetings, held monthly, focus on topics of interest to anyone concerned about the disease. Recent meetings have highlighted "Eating for the Holidays" and "Exercise and Diabetes."

In November—Diabetes Awareness Month—the focus was on A1C testing, a simple blood test that measures blood glucose levels over a three-month period. Those who came out to the club's overflow meeting received free testing, courtesy of Aventis Pharmaceuticals, as well as advice on diet and exercise.

"Everyone should know their numbers," counsels Mary Ann Banerji, MD, associate professor of medicine, who heads the Endocrine and Metabolic Outpatient Clinic. "A1C levels should be less than 7 percent. Fasting blood glucose levels should be between 80 and 120, and two hours after a meal, not more than 140. Your LDL—the bad cholesterol—should be less than 100."

Diabetes is a significant health problem. One out of every nine individuals in the community served by Downstate and its University Hospital of Brooklyn is estimated to have the disease. However, because symptoms can vary—and some people have no symptoms at all—many individuals who have diabetes are unaware of it.

Guests who came to help raise awareness at the November meeting included New York City Council Members Yvette Clarke and Kendall Stewart, who has had diabetes for 20 years and has made it a personal mission to educate his constituents in Brooklyn. NY State Assemblyman Clarence Norman, Jr., was also on hand to announce the formation of the Brooklyn Diabetes Task Force, a joint education effort by Brooklyn hospitals to combat diabetes.

"There are so many health factors we can't control, that it's important to share the information that diabetes is controllable," said Ms. Clark. "We have to make sure that people in our community know how to take control of their health care."

The Diabetes Club is a joint effort between UHB's Center for Community Health and Wellness (CCHW), Nursing Services, and the Division of Endocrinology in the Department of Medicine. Meetings are staffed by CCHW's nurse educators Maria Yomtov and Betty Jung, as well as by certified diabetes educators Linda Cohen, RN, and Sondra Hirsch, RN. To join the club or find out about meeting topics, call 718-270-2020.



(L to r): "Aim. Believe. Achieve": New York City Council members Kendall Stewart and Yvette Clarke, Dr. Mary Ann Banerji, and New York State Assemblyman Clarence Norman, Jr., came to Downstate's Diabetes Club to promote this slogan for diabetes awareness.



A community member is being tested, using A1C to see if her diabetes is under control.

## New Assistant V.P. and Chief Nursing Officer

Carolynn M. Goetze, PhD, MA, RN, has been appointed assistant vice president and chief nursing officer, responsible for managing nursing services and nursing education at University Hospital. A seasoned educator and administrative leader, she is known as a team builder and motivator.

Dr. Goetze comes to us directly from managing her own consulting firm, Inspiratrix, Inc., which specializes in developing strategies and implementing operational systems for healthcare organizations. Previously, she successfully led nursing for over 13 years at Our Lady of Mercy Health Care System in the Bronx. As senior vice president for patient care and chief operating officer, she managed all clinical and support services within a multi-hospital system, and spearheaded major initiatives in length-of-stay reductions and medical records management.

Dr. Goetze also served as vice president for patient care services at Saint Francis Hospital, a cardiac specialty hospital in New Rochelle, where she managed infection control, surgical services, and international care services for children needing open-heart surgery. A registered nurse, she holds an MA in nursing administration from NYU and a PhD from Adelphi University. Dr. Goetze is on the faculty of the College of New Rochelle and will hold a joint faculty appointment in Downstate's College of Nursing.



### FIND A PHYSICIAN

Patients and referring physicians can now find a Downstate doctor that suits their needs by going to [www.downstate.edu](http://www.downstate.edu) and clicking on Find a Physician. Sponsored by University Physicians of Brooklyn, this physician referral database can be searched by specialty or by participating physician's name.

*It's never been easier to find the care you need at Downstate.*

## New Appointments

**Adeola Dabiri, MPA, MBA, MS**, our new director of regulatory affairs, comes to us from the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation's Generation Plus Healthcare Network, Department of Pharmacy and Regulatory Affairs. Ms. Dabiri will be responsible for coordinating internal as well as external surveys and all regulatory issues. She has a master's in public administration from Columbia University, a master's in business administration from Long Island University, and a master's in pharmacology from the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Nigeria.



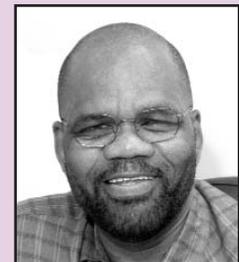
**Jacqueline Lennon, MS**, UHB's new director of marketing, has over 15 years' experience in healthcare marketing and community development. In collaboration with other departments and programs, Ms. Lennon will be responsible for organizing direct marketing campaigns and public relations activities for the hospital, as well as evaluating trends and parameters for hospital usage, community needs, and physician preferences. She will also serve as liaison to the Community Advisory Committee. Ms. Lennon received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Baruch College and her master's in health and human services from Fordham University.



**Lauris Richards, MS, RN, RHIA**, senior associate administrator of the newly formed Division of Patient Access, will be responsible for overseeing admitting, case management, discharge planning, social services, patient relations, volunteer services, and chaplain services. Ms. Richards earned her bachelor's in health information management from Downstate. She also has a master's in health care administration from Long Island University and certifications in risk management and quality management.



**Lambert Robinson, RHIA**, has been appointed director of health information management for University Hospital. He has more than 24 years' experience in this field, including eight years in the corporate offices of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, where he facilitated health information management and JCAHO preparation at eleven acute care and long-term care facilities. Mr. Robinson earned his BS in health care administration from St. Joseph's College and is a registered health information technician.



**True Samms, MS, RN**, has been appointed director of risk management. She will be responsible for coordinating the submission of incident reports to the New York Patient Occurrence Reporting and Tracking System, root cause analysis, staff education in risk management issues, management of claims and malpractice issues, and acting as liaison to the hospital's legal counsel and the Attorney General's Office. Ms. Samms received her MS in psychiatric nursing from Rutgers University and has certification in pediatric nursing, nurse midwifery, and risk management.



## Breast Health Partnership

Downstate has joined the Brooklyn Breast Health Partnership (BHP), which is part of the N.Y.S. Healthy Women Partnership Program. This program allows us to offer low-income, underinsured, or uninsured women free screenings for breast and cervical cancer. In addition to screening services, BHP provides diagnostic and case management services and assists women diagnosed with cancer in obtaining prompt, comprehensive treatment. For further information, contact Maria Yomtov at the Center for Community Health Promotion and Wellness, 718-270-2020.

## New Degree Offerings

### Accelerated BS in Nursing

In addition to the need to prepare more nurses to ease the current nursing shortage, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that a million new registered nurses will be needed by the year 2010. Nursing schools nationwide are exploring creative ways to increase student enrollment and reach out to new student populations.

Responding to this challenge, the College of Nursing has developed a 15-month accelerated baccalaureate degree program in nursing that is designed for students who already have a bachelor's degree in another discipline. Scheduled to begin in June, this program will enroll 30 students in its first class. Upon graduation, these students will be eligible for paid internships at University Hospital of Brooklyn. To date, the Office of Admissions has received over 80 inquiries for this program, which has generated a great deal of interest, both on campus and in the wider community.



Dr. Daisy Cruz-Richman, (right) interim dean of the College of Nursing, and Dr. Nellie Bailey, (second from right) associate dean for undergraduate programs, distribute materials at an information session for the accelerated BS program in nursing.

### MS in Medical Informatics

Starting in September, the College of Health Related Professions will offer a master's program in medical informatics (MI) for full- or part-time study. MI deals with the storage, retrieval, and communication of electronic health information, including clinical and patient data as well as medical imaging, used in biomedicine, education, administration, and research.

The new program will have two major study tracks: one in medical informatics and the other in medical imaging informatics, for those with an imaging background. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of a wide range of students—from nurses to computer network administrators—with diverse career goals. "The program will focus on educating the future information professionals, who will plan and implement biomedical systems," says Dr. Isaac Topor, the program director.

Dr. Topor believes that the implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) this April will increase the demand for MI professionals. This federal law, applies to privacy and security of patient information, and establishes standards for electronic transmission of protected health information. Our graduates will be needed to work with privacy officers to protect patient information and ensure that health providers are compliant with HIPAA regulations.



Faculty, administrators, and College of Medicine Alumni Association officers congratulate medical students who were awarded Joshua H. Weiner, MD, International Health Fellowships. Supported by the Alumni Fund, the fellowships defray the travel costs of students who will spend several weeks abroad participating in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health's elective, "Healthcare in Developing Countries."

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