



Focus

JANUARY 2003

Students Give MPH Program Thumbs Up

The Master of Public Health Program, which opened its doors last June, is now recruiting its second class of students. Though still in its infancy, the program has an enrollment of 30 and receives high marks from students and faculty alike for the breadth and quality of its offerings.

What sets Downstate's MPH Program apart from the rest is its emphasis on urban and immigrant health and its partnership with city agencies and community organizations that take the same approach. As part of the Practicum component, students gain experience in healthcare facilities and community-based programs.

Another strong suit is the MPH Program's dynamic faculty, drawn from Downstate members and other professionals across New York City. Dr. John Fallon, senior vice president for clinical affairs, for example, teaches an evening course in "Health Systems

Management." Dr. Alvin Berk, assistant vice president for management systems, makes "Community Organization" come alive by inviting such notables as Brooklyn Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham to speak to his class.

For this coming year, a new course on "Sex, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity" will be team-taught by Dr. Judith LaRosa, professor of preventive medicine and community health, and Dr. Ruth Browne, executive director of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health. Other new offerings include "Introduction to Research," led by Dr. Judith Hey-Hadavi, director of regulatory affairs at Pfizer Inc.; "New and Emerging Threats," with emphasis on infectious diseases and bioterrorism, taught by Dr. Larry Lutwick and his wife, Suzanne Lutwick, MPH, RN; and a course led by Dr. Francesca Gany, director of the New York City Task Force on Immigrant Health.



Dr. John Fallon, senior vice president for clinical affairs, enjoys teaching his class, "Health Systems Management."

Heading this impressive roster is Dr. Pascal James Imperato, MPH Program director, distinguished service professor, and chairman of preventive medicine and community health. A former commissioner of health of New York City, he is a recognized leader in global health. Dr. Imperato has brought his considerable skills to the MPH Program and fashioned it into a unique learning experience. "Our MPH Program strives to engage faculty and students in population-based health and to integrate these efforts into clinical preventive services for all individuals," he explains.

Students who enter the program can pursue an MPH degree alone or in combination with an MD or other degree. And they don't have to be medical professionals to enroll. Heidi Christensen, a database and research manager who has worked at Downstate for nearly 10 years,



Faculty, administrators, and other Downstate members welcome the first class of MPH students in June.

(continued on last page)

ALONG CLARKSON AVENUE

GALA CELEBRATES ENDOWED CHAIR IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

Former mayor David N. Dinkins was keynote speaker at an elegant, black-tie dinner held in October to celebrate the investiture of Dr. Kevin C. Greenidge as the first Richard C. Troutman, MD, Distinguished Chair of Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Microsurgery. The event also honored Dr. Richard C. Troutman. Known for designing the first zoom-magnification ophthalmic surgical microscope and developing many of the techniques used in corneal and cataract surgery, he headed the Division of Ophthalmology at Downstate from 1955 to 1983.

Dr. Greenidge, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, was the logical choice for the distinguished chair. An expert in glaucoma, he has done much to advance research and treatments for this and other debilitating eye diseases.

The Troutman Distinguished Chair in Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Microsurgery Endowment Fund is supported by a \$1 million gift from the Microsurgical Research Foundation. Dr. Troutman has pledged to give an additional half-million dollar matching gift and has already contributed \$100,000 toward this goal. The endowment will support faculty in corneal and refractive surgery (the special interests of Dr. Troutman) and pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus (the subspecialties of Dr. Troutman's spouse, Suzanne Veronneau-Troutman, MD).

In recognition of his generosity to Downstate Medical Center, Dr. Troutman received the Distinguished Philanthropist Award at the gala.



President John LaRosa presents the Distinguished Philanthropist Award to Dr. Richard C. Troutman.



Dr. Kevin C. Greenidge, the first holder of the Richard C. Troutman Distinguished Chair, receives congratulations from his friend, the Honorable David N. Dinkins.

HEALERS AND BELIEVERS

A prestigious panel of physicians, scientists, and rabbis gathered on campus on November 17 at the International Conference on Judaism and Contemporary Medicine. Jointly sponsored by SUNY Downstate and the National Institute of Judaism and Medicine (NIJM), the conference attracted a broad range of medical experts, including several of our own faculty: Michael Akerman, MD, director of adult asthma at Downstate and executive director of NIJM; JoAnn Bradley, EdD, vice president for academic affairs, and Kathleen Powderly, PhD, interim director of the Division of Humanities in Medicine.

At a time when terrorism and the danger of biological warfare are threatening the world's security, the conference and its exploration of medical ethics could not have been more timely. The discussions, ranging from triage and body identification following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center to the ethics of stem cell research and animal experimentation, were well-received by the overflow audience.



Dr. Michael Akerman (right) joins Dr. Edward Reichman, from Albert Einstein College of Medicine (far left), and Dr. Yizhak Kupfer, from Maimonides Medical Center (second from left), in presenting Dr. Fred Rosner, an authority on Maimonides and Talmudic medicine (at center, standing next to his wife), a menorah symbolizing the light his scholarship has brought to the world.

BIRCWH AWARD

Downstate is about to embark on a campus-wide initiative to encourage interdisciplinary research in women's health. The new training program, Women's Health-Related Research: From Molecules to Therapy, is made possible by a major grant from the National Institutes of Health under its program Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH). The grant also promotes research into sex and gender differences in health and disease. Downstate's BIRCWH grant is the only one awarded in the State of New York.

The goal of the program is to facilitate clinical and basic research in areas critically relevant to women's health through the training of young investigators who will, hopefully, continue this pursuit throughout their careers. Junior researchers will be paired with one or more senior investigators working in various targeted areas relevant to women's health. They will be drawn from seven basic science and clinical departments at Downstate, as well as from the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health and Kings County Hospital Center.

SGS HOLDS STUDENT RECEPTION

In November, the School of Graduate Studies welcomed two new students who have just enrolled and 12 others who entered in the fall. This year's class is again extremely diverse, including students from seven foreign countries—China, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Colombia, Armenia, Ethiopia, and India. Three students are MD/PhD candidates, and 11 others (8 of whom are women) are pursuing their PhD degree. Real progress also is being made toward achieving the goal of enrolling more U.S. citizens and permanent residents. They represent more than 35 percent of the class this year.



Dean Susan Schwartz-Giblin and some of the members of the SGS faculty welcome this year's graduate student class.



A student takes a moment to read the inscriptions on panels of the AIDS quilt that were displayed in the Atrium in observance of World AIDS Day.

photo op



At the 2nd Annual Rachel Fruchter Memorial Lecture, Dr. Fruchter's daughter (left) presents a check for \$55,000, on her family's behalf, to the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health. Accepting the check is the Institute's executive director, Dr. Ruth Browne, assisted by its associate chair of human resources, Dr. Paul Smith, and Downstate President John LaRosa.

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New Appointments

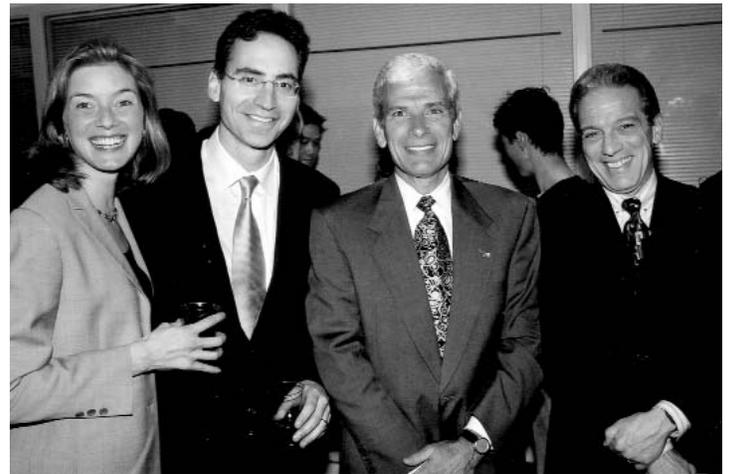
Two top physicians have joined our medical center's cardiac care team. Jonathan D. Marmur, MD, has been named associate professor of medicine and director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Interventional Cardiology Program. Robert C. Lowery, Jr., MD, has been named clinical professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Dr. Marmur comes to us from Mount Sinai Medical Center, where he was assistant professor of medicine in the Cardiology Division. A graduate of Laval University, he trained in internal medicine at McGill University. He is an expert in all forms of interventional cardiology, including angioplasty with the new coated stents that promise to be a major advance in cardiac care. Dr. Alan Feit, who ran the interventional cardiology program for many years, will continue at Downstate as director of cardiac cath lab education.

Dr. Lowery, who was formerly on the faculty of Howard University and senior attending surgeon at Washington Hospital Center, completed his surgical and cardiothoracic residency at SUNY Downstate. In addition to his surgical skills, Dr. Lowery has research interests in several important areas, including arterial thrombosis and the basic science of gene therapy, which holds promise for more effective treatments of heart disease.



Dr. Robert C. Lowery, Jr., is SUNY Downstate's new chief of cardiothoracic surgery.



President John LaRosa and Dr. John Fallon, senior vice president for clinical affairs, welcome Dr. Jonathan D. Marmur and his wife to Downstate. Dr. Marmur is the new director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Interventional Cardiology Program.

Dr. Rotman Receives Prestigious Award

Dr. Marvin Rotman, MD, professor and chair of radiation oncology, is the recipient of the 2002 Gold Medal Award of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO), the world's largest society of radiation oncologists and scientists. The Gold Medal is the highest honor ASTRO bestows.

Dr. Rotman is a leader in developing cancer treatments that combine chemotherapy and radiation therapy. He is also an authority on the treatment of gynecologic cancers. He developed an ophthalmic applicator to treat intraocular melanoma that is now used worldwide.

Dr. Rotman has held senior offices and board positions at major professional societies in his field and has been active in the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) and numerous other medical research projects. He has held high office locally (New York Roentgen Society, Radiotherapy Section Chairman and President, New York Cancer Society) and nationally (President of the American Radium Society, Executive Committee Member-At-Large of ASTRO, Second Vice President of the RSNA, and President of The Society of Chairmen of Academic Radiation Oncology Departments) and has served on the Radiation Oncology Residency Review Committee.



Dr. Marvin Rotman receives the 2002 Gold Medal during ASTRO's Annual Meeting in October.

Steiner Library Memorializes Great Man in Pediatrics



The late Dr. Morris Steiner

Baseball great Carl Erskine joined family members and friends in October to celebrate the dedication of the Pediatric Department's new Morris Steiner, MD, Memorial Library. Mr. Erskine, who pitched for both the Brooklyn and the L.A. Dodgers, recalled the days when Dr. Steiner was the pediatrician of choice for most of the team's children. Center fielder Duke Snider, another old family friend, couldn't make it to the dedication but sent his best wishes.

Dr. Steiner, who passed away in 1996, formally retired from Downstate in 1974 but continued to be a major force in the department. A leader in pediatric pulmonology, especially in the areas of children's TB and asthma, he helped create a model chronic disease ward for children at Kings County Medical Center, complete with public education and play facilities.



Dodgers hurler Carl Erskine and former New York City Council member Una Clark (at right), join pediatrics professor Phillip Steiner, MD, and his sister Deborah Steiner, MD (center), Dr. Stanley Fisher, chair of pediatrics (to their right), President John LaRosa, and Madu Rao, MD, vice chair of pediatrics (far left), at a tribute following the dedication of the Morris Steiner Library.

UHB Wins Accreditation from CAP

Winning accreditation from the College of American Pathologists (CAP) means more than just getting a passing grade. It is an acknowledgement of exceptional service. CAP is recognized as being equal to or even stricter than the federal government's own inspection program. The team who came in September to inspect our hospital lab facilities, equipment, safety, and management practices were pleased with what they saw. Congratulations to the hospital laboratory staff for being such consummate professionals.

Downstate Captures the Bronze

In a close race for first place in the College Bowl sponsored by Brooklyn/Staten Island Blood Services, Kingsborough Community College beat out Downstate by a narrow margin. Our year-long blood collection campaign yielded 474 units of blood, only five less than the winner, and we came away with the Bronze Award.

Despite this success, we will have to redouble our efforts in the coming year to reverse a downward trend in participation since 9/11. Of the four blood drives held on campus in 2001/02, the first yielded 213 units of blood, while the last resulted in 93. This isn't bad, but it's not sufficient for the city's needs. So the next time UHB announces a blood drive, please roll up your sleeve and become a donor.



Downstate members proudly display the Bronze Medal our campus won for coming in second in the blood drive College Bowl.

A Day at the Spa

Three hospital staff members who won the raffle at the UHB Employees Day Picnic can look forward to receiving a full body massage or wrap at a luxurious spa. The lucky winners are Audie Hill, N.S. 24, who has been working here since 1968, Elverta Campbell, N.S. 81, and William Crandall, a cleaner in environmental services. (Mr. Crandall, who is more into sandwich wraps than body wraps, picked out a nice gift for his wife instead.)

State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, whose son was born at Downstate, is led on a tour of the hospital's new labor and delivery suite following the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. The modern, fully equipped birthing rooms offer families all the comforts of home within the safety of the hospital.



Irving Gikosky, better known as Mr. G, the WB11 weatherman, joins organ recipients and members of the UHB transplant team during the National Kidney Foundation's Donor Awareness Walk in Central Park.



Hospital administrators join Perioperative Services in celebrating Perioperative Nurse Week in November. The staff held an open house to familiarize campus members with the OR's special equipment, facilities, and services.



Santa visits the Child Life Playroom, bringing Christmas cheer to this young patient. In the photo at right, Laurel Whitaker, director of the Child Life Program, accepts toys donated by the family of Cynthia Young in memory of their late sister.

Make Way for Big MAC

Big MAC is coming and it's guaranteed to be healthy. We're talking about Downstate's new Mobile Asthma Center, which will be rolling down Brooklyn streets bringing health education and asthma treatment to the community.

In November, elected officials and friends of Downstate, along with the many dedicated physicians, nurses, and staff who made this dream a reality, celebrated the inauguration of the asthma van. Invited guests included Robert Lipinsky, assistant to the Brooklyn Borough President, and former New York City Council members Una Clark and Ken Fisher.

Mr. Fisher, who initiated the project and was instrumental in securing funding, said, "This van is going to make a tremendous difference in the lives of children with asthma, and everyone in Brooklyn will be able to breathe easier."

Dr. Michael Akerman, who co-directs the Asthma Center of Excellence, along with Dr. Madu Rao, promised to "bring services to the doorsteps of those who are too ill to come to us—and not just children but elderly residents with obstructive lung disease."

As Big MAC's ceremonial ribbon was about to be cut, President John LaRosa stated, "I'm proud to provide this kind of service to the people of Brooklyn. From now on, whenever I see the van in our community, I'm going to burst a few buttons of my coat."



Dean of Medicine Dr. Eugene Feigelson, UHB Interim Director Jeannette Marrero, Dr. Michael Akerman, and President John LaRosa are all smiles as Dr. Madu Rao prepares to cut the ceremonial ribbon.



Former City Council member Ken Fisher, a staunch advocate for children's health, praises Downstate for making great strides in improving community health.



To create the beautiful van art, Frank Fasano, graphics supervisor for Biomedical Communications, used photos of everyday campus and community life. Here, Elba Valentin, executive assistant to Ms. Marrero, strikes a pose next to a queen-size image of herself working out.

MPH Program *(continued)*

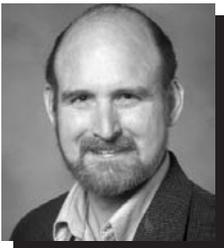
says, "One of the great things about the program is that it's open to non-healthcare providers as well as clinicians. Having classmates who are medical students, practicing physicians, clinicians from other fields, as well as nonclinicians, brings a richness and diversity to the classroom."

Plans are moving forward to establish a School of Public Health in 2005. An

external advisory committee, whose members include the leading deans of schools of public health across the nation, will be visiting campus soon to assist with this work.

For more information on the MPH Program and its course offerings, visit the web site at www.downstate.edu/mphprogram.

Congratulations



John Chapin, PhD, professor of physiology and pharmacology, received an Award for Excellence from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for his work on a revolutionary project to extract neural codes from the brain in order to understand and utilize sensory and motor processes. He envisions that this research will one day enable people with spinal cord injuries to mentally control the use of robotic limbs.

James E. Cottrell, MD, professor and chair of anesthesiology, was installed as president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists at its annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, on October 16.

Willem J. Kolff, MD, adjunct professor of medicine and inventor of the kidney dialysis machine, received the prestigious Lasker Award, which some call the American version of the Nobel Prize. He shares the \$50,000 prize with Belding H. Scribner, professor of medicine at the University of Washington. In announcing the award, the Lasker Foundation credited the two scientists with having "changed kidney failure from a fatal to a treatable disease."



Willem J. Kolff, MD, winner of the 2002 Lasker Award, demonstrates his latest invention, a portable artificial lung.

M. A. Q. Siddiqui, PhD, professor and chair of anatomy and cell biology, was elected a Fellow of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2002

JANUARY

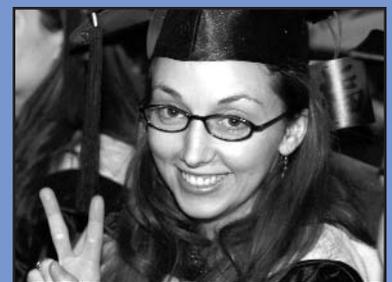
UHB Wins High Marks in JCAHO Survey



MAY - Celebrating Nurses Week



JUNE - Commencement



SEPTEMBER - Breaking ground for the Advanced Biotechnology Incubator



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