



Focus

MARCH 2002

UHB Wins High Marks for Quality Care



This poster exhibit was one of the ways hospital staff prepared for the JACHO survey.

After months of preparation for a site review by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JACHO), it all came down to four days of intense scrutiny. Did we shine? You bet we did. Professionalism and teamwork earned us a preliminary score of 93. When the final results of the accreditation survey are issued, we expect the approval rating will be even higher.

After the preliminary score was announced on January 31, hospital staff who had gathered in the cafeteria to await the verdict broke into loud cheers and a celebratory electric slide let loose with Jeannette Marrero, UHB's interim executive director, taking the lead.

Smiling broadly, President John LaRosa told the jubilant crowd, "Preparing

for this reminded me of a sports analogy—we're on the second yard line with two outs and one basket behind—but seriously, I can't tell you how proud I am. This achievement demonstrates that in a hospital with an aging physical plant, what matters most is its people."

Acknowledging the leadership of Dr. John A. Fallon, senior vice president for clinical affairs, and the team he charged with preparing for the review, President La Rosa recalled, "When I started out in administration, I got one really good piece of advice: Never be afraid to hire the best people. That is reflected in what we have just accomplished."

Dr. Fallon thanked UHB members for their dedication and teamwork. "We passed this test with flying colors, but

what makes me proudest is the quality of care we deliver," he said. "Everyone did their share and then some, but there is one person I especially need to thank, and that's Jeannette Marrero."

With characteristic economy of style, she replied, "First thing: We worked long, hard hours and succeeded. Second thing: We still have work to do—and that starts Monday! But right now, I want to dance."

Here are brief comments by just a few of the many staff members who helped UHB shine:

Sara Marshall, RN: "Our job was to be invisible, to be part of a seamless web, making sure everything was under control, not just for the JCAHO site visit but all the time. That's what University Hospital is about—quality care."

David Lissauer, director of respiratory care: "We concentrated on safety issues. It was a continuous process of interdisciplinary collaboration. And it's ongoing."



UHB Interim Executive Director Jeannette Marrero, (l.) joins members of her administrative team in a toast to celebrate the hospital's great performance in the JACHO survey.

(continued on next page)

UHB Wins High Marks (continued)



Dr. John A. Fallon, senior v.p. for clinical affairs, and Ivan Lisnitzer, senior v.p. for administration, give the hospital's successful team effort a big thumbs-up.

Sandy Harper, social worker: "We had team meetings and met with site surveyors to explain how we develop patient care plans. Nursing was incredibly helpful. They developed a new database and an interdisciplinary work sheet for us to follow on documentation."

Nick Galeota, director of pharmacy services: "The survey team was very impressed by our robotic pharmacy and other features we have instituted to ensure safe medication use. But, I didn't do a thing. My staff did it all." [Pharmacy staff: "No! You were our leader, Nick. We did it because you did!"]

Marcia Warner, RN, assistant director of nursing, neonatal ICU: "My staff has been working for the last two years, everyone from housekeeping to the attending physicians, to get ready for this. I'm a worrier, and I worried about this constantly, until the surveyors reached our floor. Then I said a prayer, took a deep breath, and became calm. And we did great."

Accreditation by the Joint Commission, which accredits more than 18,000 healthcare organizations and programs nationwide, is recognized as a symbol of quality. Our high rating shows those beyond our institution what a wonderful resource the people of Brooklyn have in University Hospital. ■

Congratulations

Hilary Baldwin, MD, associate professor of dermatology, has been elected to membership in the American Dermatological Association, which limits its membership to 200 of the more than 8,000 practitioners in this country.

Fazel A. Khan, Class of 2004, was awarded this year's Chandler McCuskey Brooks Award for outstanding performance in the basic sciences. The award includes a citation, a check, and a biography of Dr. Chandler McCuskey Brooks, who served as chair of the Department of Physiology for 22 years.

Ivan Lisnitzer, senior vice president for administration, is being honored by the Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush for his contributions to Downstate, the borough's only academic medical center.

Frank Lucente, MD, has been reappointed to the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Education, and was elected eastern section vice president of the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otolological Society. Dr. Lucente recently completed a one-year term as president of the Society of University Otolaryngologist-Head and Neck Surgeons and organized the annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Yair Safriel, MD, clinical assistant instructor of radiology, was awarded a \$20,000 grant by the American College of Radiology and the Radiological Society of North America to participate in medical imaging clinical trials. Only two such grants are awarded annually. He has also been invited to attend the annual meeting of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, with a grant from Amersham Health.

Alan Shalita, MD, distinguished teaching professor and chair of dermatology, has been elected president of the American Dermatological Association, the oldest national organization of its kind in America.

Miriam Vincent, MD, chair of family practice, was honored by the Aesclepius Medical Society for her contributions to community health. AMS is an organization of physicians and health workers serving immigrant and other medically underserved populations.

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH AWARDS

Dr. Suzanne Mirra, chair of pathology, invites proposals for one-year pilot projects to investigate Alzheimer's Disease. Nonrenewable awards of up to \$20,000 each are available, provided through Dr. Mirra's five-year NIA Leadership Award.

**Deadline for submissions:
April 12, 2002.**

For more information, contact Linda McGuire: 270-2744.



Student-Faculty Show 2002: A scene from this year's production.

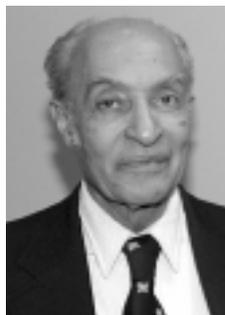
ALONG CLARKSON AVENUE

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

Thanks to Denise Spencer and other members of the Black History Month Committee, this year's cultural celebration was again a rewarding experience. During the Opening Day Ceremony, we heard two keynote speakers. Alton Burton, a Tuskegee airman and civil engineer, described his role in the construction of the World Trade Center. The second speaker, Dr. Theresa Marks, from the Board of Education, discussed the breakdown of the nuclear family as one factor in the disappointing performance of many black schoolchildren today.

In her welcoming remarks on Opening Day, Jeannette Marrero, UHB's interim executive director, told the audience, "Not all black people look the same. Some look like me. I'd like to acknowledge my black roots through my mother. I am familiar with the black struggle through the struggles she went through."

Later in the program, she offered special words of praise for Hendrina Goeloe-Alston, director of personnel administration. "I am so pleased that the Black History Month Committee chose someone as persevering, intelligent, and full of goodness as Hendrina to receive this year's Pioneer Recognition Award." Describing her contribution to the JACHO survey preparations, she said, "Hendrina commanded her troops (because we were really in battle for a good rating). I'm known as a Mack truck—and I acknowledge that I can be pretty tough. But while a truck might stop before hitting you, Hendrina is more like a train that just keeps going."



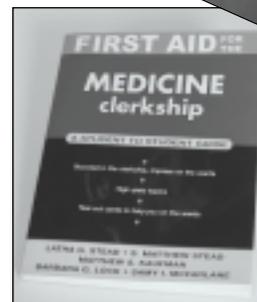
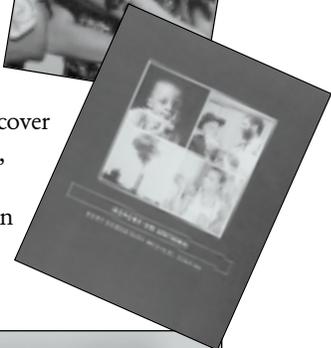
Top photo: Hendrina Goeloe-Alston, director of personnel administration, is visibly moved by the beautiful gifts and tributes by her friends and colleagues. At left: Alton Burton, who helped build New York, was keynote speaker.

BOOKMARKS

Downstate has a proud history of service to the community. To help Brooklyn residents, neighborhood groups, local legislators and others become more familiar with the programs Downstate offers, we have published a directory of services. *Community First* describes nearly 70 health and education programs, including science enrichment courses for young people, disease prevention and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, flu and influenza shots for seniors, as well as a number of collaborative projects with other community organizations. Copies of the brochure are available from the Office of Institutional Advancement, 270-1176.

That's our own Alba Valentine, executive assistant to Jeannette Marrero, looking gorgeous and fit on the cover of the *Report on Asthma*, the latest in a series of health reports issued by Downstate. An exercise enthusiast, Alba has been able to control her asthma by working out. But chronic asthma can sideline athletes and cause children to lose days from school. The report describes some of the leading causes, why asthma is on the rise in Brooklyn, and what we can do to prevent it.

Together with four of his students—Barbara Lock, Matthew Kaufman, and Latha and Matthew Stead—Dr. Samy I. McFarlane, assistant professor of medicine and radiology, has written a guide to help prepare students for their medicine clerkship. *First Aid for the Medicine Clerkship* discussed high-yield topics for the shelf exams and USMLE Step 2 licensing exam. It also includes information on useful websites, extracurricular opportunities, and scholarships. Dr. McFarlane, who directs the third-year clerkship in internal medicine, and his co-authors have won praise from students and faculty alike for their helpful advice.



STUDENTS ACE LICENSING EXAM

According to the latest statistics from the National Boards, Downstate students who took the Step 1 U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) in 2000 had a 96 percent pass rate, compared to a national average of 92. This is a marked improvement over the results in 1992, when our students had a 81 percent pass rate, compared to a national average of 89.

Dr. Eugene Feigelson, dean of the College of Medicine, credits the improvement to a new policy that requires students to pass the examination after their second year of med school, before they can continue their studies. He believes the latest statistics are significant for another reason: The students who took the exam in 2000 were the first to complete the new curriculum, which emphasizes mastering the basic sciences through case-based learning. "Usually, when a new curriculum is introduced, scores drop. Ours climbed," he says.

More vigorous admissions review is another factor in our students' success. "Realizing that medicine takes an extraordinary level of commitment, the admissions committee started looking beyond MCAT scores and GPAs to get a broad measure of the applicants," explains Dr. Lorraine Terracina, dean of students.

Along with rising scores, Downstate continues to attract an extremely diverse student body. For the second consecutive year, we enrolled more African-American entering students than any medical school in the state.

DOWNSTATE PRODUCES THIRD INTEL FINALIST

Tahir Ahmed gave up his summer vacation for the chance to work in the lab of Dr. Elizabeth Kornecki, associate professor of anatomy and cell biology. That sacrifice paid off when the 17-year-old Midwood High School student learned that he is among the 40 finalists in this year's Intel Science Talent Search (formerly known as the Westinghouse Science Competition).

This is the third time that a student working in Dr. Kornecki's lab has been a finalist in the national science competition. The previous two finished in the top 10, and several other Midwood students who studied with Dr. Kornecki were semi-finalists.

For his Intel project, Mr. Ahmed studied the role of an adhesive molecule in blood cells. Explaining that he became interested in the subject after his grandfather suffered a fatal heart attack, he says he hopes that further research will lead to the discovery of new agents that can treat and prevent heart attacks and stroke.

Ann Nicastri, his science advisor at Midwood, credits Dr. Kornecki for creating the kind of learning environment that brings out the best in young students. "Her multifaceted approach exposes kids to all manner of knowledge," she says. "Studying with Dr. Kornecki is like playing music with a maestro."



Intel finalist Tahir Ahmed is congratulated by his mentor, Dr. Elizabeth Kornecki (center) and other members of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology: Drs. Anna Babinska (l.), M.A.Q. Siddiqui, the department chair, and Mahmood Hussain (r.).

ACUPUNCTURE FOR PHYSICIANS

Under the direction of Dr. Jo Ann Bradley, vice president of academic affairs and director of Continuing Medical Education, Downstate has introduced a course in medical acupuncture for physicians that is only the second such school-based CME program in the state.

Open to licensed physicians, dentists, and residents, the course teaches classical theory of Chinese medicine as the basis for modern medical acupuncture. Practical training focuses on pain management and identifies common clinical conditions suitable for the complementary use of acupuncture. Dr. Tsai Chao, clinical assistant professor and director of residency training in orthopedics and rehabilitation medicine, is course director as well as one of the teaching faculty. For further information, call Edeline Milton, ext. 2422.

THE PLAY'S THE THING

When Dr. Sanford Herman, clinical assistant professor of psychiatry, heard of a new play about a man struggling with Tourette's syndrome, he realized it would be the perfect vehicle to educate faculty and residents about an unusual affliction. Those who went to see *Syndrome* last month were not disappointed. Since the actor in this one-man play has Tourette's in real life, the performance was unusually compelling. The event, third in a series sponsored by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, was an enjoyable and instructive experience.



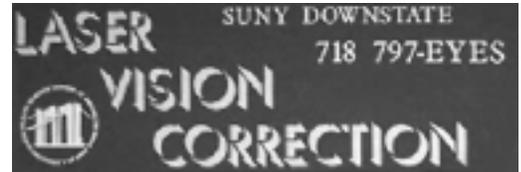
Downstate members and invited guests join the actor and playwright in a post-performance discussion of *Syndrome*.

Best Docs

In the January issue of *New York* magazine, featuring "New York's Top 100 Minimally Invasive Surgeons," two Downstate physicians are listed as tops in their field. Dr. Richard Golub, a perennial choice, specializes in colon and rectal cancer surgery. Dr. George S. Ferzl, who has been on the "Best Doctors" list four years running, performs laparoscopic procedures to help those who are more than 100 pounds overweight. By restricting the capacity of the stomach, he forces patients to modify their eating habits.

Seeing Is Believing

In January, Downstate's new Laser Vision Correction Center opened in downtown Brooklyn offering something critical: vigorous screening. "We believe that the most important criterion for getting excellent outcomes is to closely screen potential candidates," says Dr. Douglas R. Lazzaro, medical director of the center and associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at Downstate.



Dr. Lazzaro explains that people with certain medical conditions and pregnant or nursing women may not be good candidates for LASIK surgery, which is performed to reduce or eliminate the need for eyeglasses or contact lenses. "As the first university-based center for refractive surgery in Brooklyn, we follow a stricter set of standards than most," he says, "selecting only those patients who truly will benefit from the treatment."

In Her Own Write

Russell Simmons, chairman of Rush Communications, is known as "the king" of the hip-hop industry. In addition to promoting rap music, he has sponsored Def Comedy Jam and turned a new generation of young people on to verse through Def Poetry Slam. Recently, Mr. Simmons visited the Child Life Playroom at UHB to see a special fan, 14-year-old Jasmine Staton. Though tired out by all the excitement, she proudly recited two of her own poems. As you can see from the poems reprinted here, Jasmine is a powerful poet in her own "write."



It's no fun being hospitalized but a visit from hip-hop celebrity Russell Simmons helps cheer up this young patient.

Somehow Someway Someday by Jasmine Staton, aka "Gentle"

*Somehow someday
The world will change
Somehow someday
People will unite
Somehow someday
The world will be free
Somehow someday
We'll be free for all eternity
Somehow someday
We will breathe a non-polluted air
Somehow someday
Disease will be cured
Somehow someday someday*

Discharged Day

*Discharged day
What does that mean, "Free"
Discharged day
No more I.V.s
Discharged day
No more maybe tomorrow
No more can't go home
Discharged day
No more hospital food—"hooray"
On discharge day
On discharge day
Discharged day*

New Appointments

Gregory R. Brevetti, MD, has joined the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery as assistant professor of surgery. A graduate of Downstate, Class of 1993, he trained in general surgery at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and completed his cardiothoracic training at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Brevetti's interests include complex aortic and mitral valve pathology, adult congenital heart disease, and pulmonary surgery. A native of Brooklyn, he says he returned in order to serve a population that suffers in record numbers from cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases.

Ivan F. Rubel, MD, has joined the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation as assistant professor and has been appointed director of orthopedic surgery at Kings County Hospital Center. Born in Argentina, he earned his medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires. A specialist in traumatology and post-traumatic reconstruction, Dr. Rubel's clinical and research interests also include acute fractures, pelvic surgery, and osteomyelitis.

Claude B. Scott, MD, PhD, has been appointed assistant professor of orthopedic surgery. A native of Jamaica, Dr. Scott received both his medical degree and doctorate in anatomy and cell biology from Downstate. After doing his residency here in orthopedic surgery, he completed a fellowship in pediatric orthopedic surgery at the world-renowned A. I. Dupont Hospital for Children in Delaware.

Microsurgical Research Foundation Establishes Richard C. Troutman Chair in Ophthalmology

With \$1.5 million in donations and pledges, Downstate has established the Richard C. Troutman, MD, Distinguished Chair in Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Microsurgery Endowment Fund. A world-renowned expert in corneal and refractive surgery, Dr. Troutman, who is now professor emeritus at Downstate, served as head of ophthalmology from 1955 to 1983.

The Microsurgical Research Foundation (MRF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of ophthalmic microsurgery, contributed \$1 million toward the establishment of the chair. Dr. Troutman, himself, contributed \$100,000 and pledged an additional \$400,000 in matching funds.

"The chair and endowment in Dr. Troutman's name represent joint recognition by the Microsurgical Research Foundation and the State University of New York of Dr. Troutman's contributions to the practice of ophthalmology and microsurgery and to medical education," says President John C. LaRosa. "Dr. Troutman's foresight and ingenuity in adapting the microscope for surgery of the eye transformed his field. Equally important, he has inspired generations of ophthalmology students and fellows who now stand in the forefront of corneal and refractive surgery."

The first beneficiary of the endowment will be Kevin C. Greenidge, MD, MPH, professor and chair of ophthalmology at Downstate since 1996. An authority on glaucoma, Dr. Greenidge says, "We are honored by this generous contribution. It will be immensely helpful in advancing our research and clinical agendas."

Dr. Troutman was a pioneer in ophthalmology in the 1950s, when he



Richard C. Troutman, MD



Kevin C. Greenidge, MD, MPH

developed two surgical microscopes designed specifically for surgery of the anterior segment of the eye. In 1962, he introduced the first zoom magnification surgical microscope, which later became the instrument of choice for microsurgery in many specialties besides ophthalmology. He also developed finer instruments, needles and suture materials that microsurgery made necessary, as well as innovative surgical techniques for corneal and cataract surgery that microscopic magnification made possible.

In 1967 Dr. Troutman performed the first surgeries in the United States for correction of corneal astigmatism after penetrating keratoplasty. A decade later, he performed the first lamellar refractive surgeries in the nation. His contributions have earned him many lectureships and awards, including the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

"Having been responsible for the establishment and progressive development of ophthalmology at Downstate for 27 years, I am enthusiastic about the future of Downstate under its president, John LaRosa, and of ophthalmology under Dr. Greenidge," says Dr. Troutman. "I hope that this gift will stimulate many others, especially from among our alumni and past and present academic community, to contribute to the medical center that has provided so many excellent physicians to our community and country."

Focus

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