

News about UB's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and its Alumni, Faculty, Students and Staff

### **Nielsen Heads Office of Medical** Education

Nancy Nielsen, MD '76, PhD, has been appointed senior

associate dean for

capacity since 2003.



medical education in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, a position she held on an interim

Nielsen

A clinical professor of med-Nielsen served as icine at UB. Nielsen is board certified in internal medicine president of Erie and a fellow of the American County Medical College of Physicians. Over the Society and Buffalo years, she has held numerous General Hospital's leadership positions with the American Medical Associamedical staff. tion and in June 2005, began as well as chief her third term as Speaker of medical officer for the AMA House of Delegates. the New York State She also serves on the board of directors of the National Qual-Department ity Forum and the National of Health's Patient Safety Foundation. Western Region. In addition to these national roles, Nielsen has been active in organized medicine and health care in New York State. She served as Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of New York, trustee of the State University of New York, and member of the board of directors of the New York State Society of Internal Medicine.

Nielsen served as president of Erie County Medical Society and Buffalo General Hospital's medical staff, as well as chief medical officer for the New York State Department of Health's Western Region.

She is a member of the board of directors of the Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company and currently serves as interim chief medical officer and associate medical director for quality at Independent Health.

Nielsen received her medical degree from UB and her doctorate in microbiology

from Catholic University of America.

-S.A. UNGER

### **Hicks Selected Senior Examiner**

Wesley Hicks, Jr, DDS, MD '84, professor of otolaryngology at UB and attending surgeon in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, has been selected to be a senior examiner of the American Board of Otolaryngology, the national



Hicks

credentialing body for physicians specializing in otolaryngology. Hicks was one of eight physi-

cians selected from a national field of 36 candidates and will serve a renewable fouryear term.

—DEBORAH PETTIBONE

### **NIAAA Grants Total** \$3.6 Million

Two UB researchers have received grants totaling more than \$3.6 million from the National Institute on Alcohol

> Abuse and Alcoholism

(NIAAA).

PhD, senior

research sci-

entist at UB's

Institute on

Addictions

(RIA), is

principal

investigator

on a study

being funded

Research

Kurt H. Dermen,





Biondell

by a \$2.4 million NIAAA grant that will focus on improving the understanding of women's alcohol use and risky sexual behavior, and the impact of alcohol treatment on women's HIV risk behaviors.

"Most people think, and there is evidence supporting this, that drinking can contribute to risky sexual behavior and increased risk for HIV infection," says Dermen. "Because we know women in alcohol treatment programs have a higher risk of HIV, we want to develop more efficient, targeted HIV prevention programs for them."

Working under a \$1.28 million NIAAA grant, Richard D. Blondell, MD, associate professor of family medicine, will lead a team developing

and testing a new program designed to improve abstinence rates after alcohol detoxification.

Blondell will conduct the pilot study with patients in the alcohol detoxification unit at the Erie County Medical Center. Researchers from RIA will help direct the project.

"About 50 percent of problem drinkers never get into treatment after detox, and half the people who do go through detox are drinking again after 30 days," says Blondell. "Detoxification costs approximately \$3,500 each time, so there are lots of reasons to look at how to improve on this."

For more information on either of these studies, visit the UB Office of News Services' web site at http://www.buffalo.edu/news/ and type in "Derman" or "Blondell" in the search engine.

-Lois Baker and KATHLEEN WEAVER

### **Yeh Named Outstanding Professor**

John Yeh, MD, professor and chair of the UB Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics, received the 2005 Outstanding Professor Award from The American College of Obste-



cologists (ACOG), District II/New York, which has

tricians

and Gyne-

### **Dunn Named to BNMC** Board



AVID DUNN, MD, PHD, vice president for health ciences at UB, has been elected a member of the board of directors for the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus BNMC). Other new members joining Dunn are Edward Walsh, Jr, chair of the board, Kaleida Health; James Kaskie, president and chief operating officer for Kaleida Health Donald Hess, chair of the board, Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute; and Kenneth Wilson, chair of the board, Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center. Each of the five new members replaces individuals from their respective organizations.

Board chair for BNMC is Thomas R. Beecher, Jr.

BNMC is a consortium of the region's premier institutes for health care, life-sciences research and medical education, including UB, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Kaleida Health, Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute, Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired, Buffalo Medical Group, and Buffalo Hearing and

In 2001, these institutions came together in partnership with the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, the Allentown neighborhood and the Fruit Belt neighborhood, to form BNMC, Inc. to cultivate a worldclass medical campus on 100-acres in downtown Buffalo.

Also located on BNMC is Buffalo Life Sciences Complex, a collaborative effort between UB, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute. The complex includes three new structures: UB's New York State Center of Exceller Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, and Roswell Park Cancer Institute's Center for Genetics and Pharmacology, both of which are scheduled to open in early 2006; and Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute's Structural Biology Research Center, which opened in May 2005. Together, the new structures add over 400,000 square feet of 

-S. A. UNGER

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over 3,800 active fellows and members. The recipient of this statewide award is selected by Junior Fellows of the College.

According to ACOG, the Professor of the Year is "an influential mentor . . . who inspires, instructs, develops and empowers the women's healthcare providers of tomorrow. The Professor of the Year has a vision for the future of the specialty. With a positive outlook, the selected candidate enjoys practicing the specialty and can easily pass that enthusiasm on to residents."

The ACOG is the nation's leading group of physicians board certified in the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology who are dedicated to advancing women's health through education, advocacy, practice and research. It is a private, voluntary, nonprofit organization with a national headquarters in Washington, DC.

-PATRICIA SZYMKOWIAK

### **Bullard Dunn Joins RPCI** and **UB**

Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) has appointed Kelli Bullard Dunn, MD, FACS, to the Gastrointestinal Service in the Department of Surgical Oncology and to the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. She also has been appointed associate professor, Department of Surgery, in the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Bullard Dunn comes to

Buffalo from the University of Minnesota, where she served in the departments of Surgery and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. She earned her medical degree at Harvard University, completed residency training at the University of California, San Francisco, and a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the University of Minnesota. She is certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. She holds a patent for a medical device that holds medical instrumentation.

Bullard Dunn's research interests focus on the growth and progression of colorectal carcinoma. Her clinical research involves patterns of recurrence in colorectal cancer and surgical complications of neoadjuvant therapy. Her basic science research investigates cell-matrix interactions in colorectal cancer cells.

Bullard Dunn is a member of the Society of University Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, Association for Academic Surgery, Association for Surgical Education, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, American Medical Association and the



Association of Women Surgeons. She has authored or coauthored more than

70 journal articles, abstracts and book chapters.

—DEBORAH PETTIBONE

#### **Lovell Named President of BGH**

Kaleida Health has named Robert M. Lovell, president of Buffalo General Hospital, a 511-bed acute care medical center located on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in downtown Buffalo and the largest teaching affiliate of the UB School of Medicine and



Prior to joining Kaleida, Lovell served as president and chief executive

Biomedical

Sciences.

officer at Caritas Health Services in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Bob Lovell is a strong leader with a proven record of achievement in hospital operations," said James R. Kaskie, president and chief operating officer of Kaleida Health, at the time of the appointment in September. "I am confident that he will strengthen Buffalo General Hospital's performance, quality, and outcomes. Continuing to improve Buffalo General is an important part of the momentum being created at Kaleida Health."

Kaskie added that as Lovell solidifies his position at Buffalo General Hospital and strengthens its operations team, he will assume

the role of chief operating officer of the health system, with direct oversight of the eight sites of care across Kaleida Health.

At Caritas, a two-hospital system and member of Catholic Health Initiatives. Lovell led a multimillion financial turnaround, established a metricsdriven management approach, enhanced physician relationships, improved customer service and implemented a new strategic plan.

Prior to working at Caritas, Lovell served as a director and senior vice president with Navigant Consulting.

A resident of upstate New York, Lovell also spent 10 years as the president and chief executive officer of Cortland Memorial Hospital in Cortland, New York.

Lovell has a master's degree in health care administration from George Washington University and is a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives.

-MICHAEL HUGHES

### **McMann Directs** Office of CME

Lori McMann has been named director of the UB Office of **Continuing Medical Education** 



McMann

this capacity, she works closely with faculty to promote and expand

(CME). In

access to quality, evidencebased education programs for physicians.

Prior to assuming this position, McMann served in the UB Office of Graduate Medical Education (GME) as program coordinator for the departments of Orthopaedic Surgery and Radiology, as well as education coordinator for GME.

Before joining the Office of GME, she served as human resource manager for University Orthopaedic Services, Inc., and in 2001 was given added responsibility as the residency program coordinator for the Department of

Orthopaedic Surgery under Lawrence Bone, MD, program director and chair of the department.

McMann holds a bachelor of science degree in sociology and a master of science degree in higher education from Buffalo State College.

She succeeds Barbara Mierzwa, who gained national recognition during her tenure as CME director and is now working as a development associate in the school's Office of Advancement.

-S. A. UNGER

### **Kuzdale Joins Research and Biomedical Education**

Amy Kuzdale has joined the Office of Research and Biomedical Education as an



Kuzdale

capacity, she is responsible for coordinating and implementing the

administra-

tive coordi-

nator. In this

operational activities associated with graduate biomedical education and the Medical Scientist Training Program.

This includes recruitment, orientation, admissions, graduate policy advisement, financial aid, commencement and dayto-day program management.

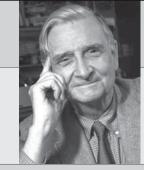
Prior to assuming her new position, Kuzdale worked in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at UB, where she was a staff assistant responsible for enrollment reports and statistics and for coordinating special projects for the director of admissions.

Prior to that, she worked in the UB School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmacy Practice, assisting fourthyear pharmacy students. Kuzdale received her

### E.O. Wilson to Speak

The First Annual Spring Clinical Day/Harrington Lecture

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006 11 A.M.-2 P.M. ADAM'S MARK HOTEL



THE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION has partnered with the

Harrington Lecture—the school's oldest and most prestigious lectureship to present the Spring Clinical Day/Harrington Lecture on Saturday, May 6, 2006, at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

The new program format, held in conjunction with reunion weekend, will feature one keynote speaker followed by lunch,

This year's speaker is Dr. Edward O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Research Professor. Emeritus, at Harvard University.

Wilson is one of the most respected scientists in the world today and is considered by many to be the father of the modern environmental movement. Hailed as the "new Darwin," he is a two-time recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and is listed by Time magazine as one of the "America's 25 Most Influential People."

Members of the Medical Alumni Association will be admitted to the Spring Clinical Day/Harrington Lecture free of charge. For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at (716) 829-2773.

-KIM VENTI

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bachelor of science degree in business administration with a concentration in human resource management from Empire State College. She succeeds Elizabeth (Liz) Hayden, who retired in July 2005.

-S.A. UNGER

### **Dee Named Associate Commercialization** Manager

Timothy P. Dee has been named associate commercialization manager for the University at Buffalo Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR). In this capacity, Dee will work with faculty to identify and protect intellectual property arising from their research programs and will be responsible for developing commercialization opportunities to transfer the technol-



ogy into the marketplace. He will oversee intellectual property and

commercialization opportuni ties in the chemical and life sciences.

Dee previously was a

biotechnology marketing assistant and project support specialist with STOR during the time he attended the UB School of Management MBA program. In those positions, he performed technical and market analyses, marketed UB inventions to industry and assisted in commercialization and licensing activities.

Prior to enrolling in the

UB MBA program, Dee was a chiropractic physician and fitness specialist at AdvantEdge Chiropractic and Wellness in North Carolina.

He earned a bachelor's degree in biology, summa cum laude, from Canisius College; doctor of chiropractic, cum laude, from New York Chiropractic College, and a master of business administration with distinction from the UB School of Management.

- LORRAINE O. STINEBISER

### **Draper Recognized** as "Rising Star"

David Draper, director of development in Office of Advancement at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, received the 2006 Rising Star Award presented by the Achievement Awards Committee for District II of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

The Achievement Awards recognize the contributions of members of the district, including campus leaders and



advancement professionals, as well as

volunteers.

Draper joined the Advancement Office in November 2003. He was the lead staff person for the successful Clinical Competency Center Capital Improvements Campaign and works with alumni and several academic departments to raise private philanthropic support for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

-S.A. UNGER

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### **Niescierenko Receives AMA Foundation Scholarship**



ICHELLE LYNN NIESCIERENKO, Class of 2006, is one of four medical students in the country to be awarded an American Medical **Association National Foundation Scholarship in** recognition of her academic excellence.

Created last year as a part of the AMA Foundation's ongoing effort to provide financial assistance to medical students, the scholarship provides each of the awardees \$10,000 to help defray school expenses. The award is highly competitive, with nearly 80 nominees nationwide in 2005.

A native of Rochester, NY, Niescierenko graduated from Ithaca College with a bachelor of arts degree in biology. Her goal is to pursue a career in pediatrics and to practice in an academic setting after completing her residency training. "I'd like to teach medical students, serve the community and continue to do clinical research," she says.

A decrease in federal funding and a limited number of new sources of scholarship assistance in recent years have caused higher out-of-pocket costs for future physicians. On average, medical students in the United States graduate more than \$100,000 in debt, according to the AMA. When the costs of residency training are added, debt can rise to \$120,000 or more.

"The situation is dire for many students, and it has a real impact on the quality of our health care as a nation," says AMA Foundation President Linda Ford, MD. "If costs are so high that colleges have a hard time interesting the most qualified students to become physicians, the medical profession's future is put in jeopardy."

The new National Scholarship was created in addition to the Foundation's extensive yearly distribution of financial assistance to medical students nationwide.

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### A Tribute to a Pioneer

By David Pendergast, EdD

### Leon Farhi, MD, former chair of the UB Department of Physiology

symposium in honor of Leon Farhi, MD, SUNY Distinguished Professor and past chair of the UB Department of Physiology, was held in Buffalo September 29 to October 1, 2005.

Farhi was internationally recognized for his research accomplishments in pulmonary physiology and for his leadership in the American Physiological Society, as well as at UB.

Although research was among his highest priorities, Farhi was also devoted to education. His lectures and papers were meticulously prepared and were as valued for their literary flair as for their scientific content.

The symposium—which was attended by over 110 invited faculty, colleagues, former students and interested scientists—had two goals. The first was to present cutting-edge science by leaders in the field of pulmonary medicine, and the second was to present important new research by his former students.

Toward the first goal, contemporary studies were presented that addressed potentially novel strategies for treating patients with cystic fibrosis. These included stud-

ies of transport-protein trafficking (M. Caplan, Yale University), CFTR channel function (K. Kirk, University of Alabama, Birmingham) and mucus clearance (R. Boucher, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).

Other presentations focused on the molecular and cellular aspects of the pathophysiology of asthma, chronic obstructive lung disease, and pulmonary hypertension (S. Weiss, Harvard Univer-

sity; J. Drazen, Harvard University and editor-in-chief of the New England Journal of Medicine; P. Barnes, National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College, London, UK; and M. Rabinovitch, Stanford University).

Toward the second goal, presentations were made by Farhi's former students, including D. Sheehan (UB), M. Hlastala (University of Washington) and J. Farber (Oklahoma), as well as his colleagues P. Cerretelli (Italy), J. Piiper (Germany), Y. Cassuto (Israel), E. Egan (UB), D. Linnarsson (Sweden), P.E. di Prampero (Italy, editor, European Journal of Applied Physiology) and U. Boutellier (Switzerland), S. Tamaya (Japan) and C. E. G. Lundgren (UB).

These presentations—all of which represented fields in which Farhi had pioneered, or in which he had made seminal contributions—focused on pulmonary gas exchange, effects of gravity on pulmonary circulation, distribution of ventilation and perfusion, gas exchange in the unsteady state, effects of dead space on gas exchange, assessment of gas exchange by multiple inert gases and environmental physiology.

The interactions of the current faculty at UB and the returning visitors generated much nostalgia and many reminiscences about the dynamic and productive period in the Department of Physiology during Farhi's tenure.

The symposium was also attended by graduate students, medical students and fellows, emphasizing Farhi's commitment and contributions to education.

In addition to the formal presentations, 25 faculty members, students and

The interactions of the current faculty at UB and the returning visitors generated much nostalgia and many reminiscences about the dynamic and productive period in the Department of Physiology during Farhi's tenure.

fellows from UB presented posters in an afternoon session that featured work currently being conducted by the faculty in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. The range of this research included computer modeling, receptor and channel function, protein modeling, biophysics of ion channels, arrhythmias, autonomic regulation, respiratory muscle function, vasoreactivity, angiogenesis and denervation in the myocardium.

In closing, a dinner was held in Farhi's honor and attended by many colleagues, friends and family members, including his wife, Haya; son, Eli Farhi, MD; daughter-in-law, Emily Friden, MD; daughter, Nitza Farhi-Ellis, MD; and son-in-law, Avery Ellis, MD; and his grandchildren. The dinner included very poignant and representative portrayals of Leon Farhi "the man" given by his daughter and by Charles Paganelli, PhD, past chair of the UB Department of Physiology.

The symposium clearly emphasized Farhi's giant intellect, his contributions to science, his concern for his colleagues, students and fellows, and his wonderfully dry sense of humor.

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## New Approaches to Cancer Therapeutics

NCI awards \$6.7 million for nanotechnology studies

NIVERSITY AT BUFFALO and Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) are two out of only 12 institutions in the nation that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has chosen to pioneer a new generation of cancer diagnostics and treatments based on nanotechnology.

The NCI, part of the National Institutes of Health, announced on October 17, 2005 the awarding of two technology platform grants totaling more than \$6.7 million over the next five years to researchers at the institutions.

The goal of the grants is to facilitate rapid clinical and basic research advances to generate products for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer for clinical trials or clinical use within the next five years.

Paras N. Prasad, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Professor and director of UB's Institute for Lasers, Photonics and Biophotonics, was awarded a \$3.46 million grant for research aimed at developing

nanotechnologies for earlier diagnosis and more effective treatment of pancreatic cancer. The work also will involve scientists at The Johns Hopkins University.

BY ELLEN GOLDBAUM

The second grant, for \$3.3 million, has been awarded to Allan Oseroff, MD, PhD, chair of the departments of dermatology at RPCI and the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. It will fund research by a team that will include Prasad and researchers at the University of Michigan, and will develop nanotechnology platforms for photodynamic therapy (PDT) to improve treatment for several cancers.

"This funding for our cancer research and treatment efforts is tremendously significant for UB and for our research partners, and will play a very meaningful role in advancing the fight against cancer," said UB President John B. Simpson, at the time of the announcement.

The award to Prasad is aimed at reducing deaths from pancreatic cancer, now the fourth most deadly cancer in the U.S., accounting for approximately 31, 000 cancer deaths each year, according to the NCI.

Principal investigators Paras N. Prasad, PhD, below, and Allan Oseroff, MD, PhD, right.

Fewer than five percent of patients with pancreatic cancer live for five years after being diagnosed. In addition, family members with two first-degree relatives with pancreatic cancer have an 18-fold greater risk of developing the disease than the general population, while those with three first-degree relatives with the cancer have a 57-fold greater risk, according to research from The Johns Hopkins University, UB's partner in the research.

"This award marks a critical juncture in the maturation of our nanoparticle research program," says Prasad. "It is extremely gratifying to see that these

technologies developed at UB are being applied to a disease where the need for earlier detection and more effective treatment is so pressing.

"We are very excited to be working with our Johns Hopkins' colleagues in this project designed to accelerate nanotechnology's move out of the laboratory and into the cancer clinic where its potential can be fully realized."

Prasad and his team will develop diagnostic and treatment methods for pancreatic cancer that capitalize on its demonstrated expertise in developing targeted hybrid ceramic-polymeric nanoparticles to better image pancreatic cancer in vivo and to deliver drugs more effectively to treat it.

The award is a partnership between Prasad's group at UB and groups at The Johns Hopkins University led by Anirban Maitra, MD, at the Sol Goldman Pancreatic Cancer Research Center and by Martin Pomper, MD, PhD, at the In Vivo Cellular and Molecular Imaging Center.

The grant to Oseroff capitalizes on his expertise in photodynamic therapy or PDT, a treatment that originated at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. PDT exploits the propensity of tumors to retain higher concentrations of photosensitive drugs than normal tissues. When exposed to laser light, these drugs generate toxic molecules that destroy the cancer cells.\*

Oseroff's research team will use tumorseeking photosensitizers to target delivery

of nanoparticles, facilitating both diagnosis and guided therapy in models of cancers of the breast, colon, prostate and lung.

"Roswell Park shares the National Cancer Institute's vision for the potential of nanotechnology to contribute to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer," says David C. Hohn, MD, president and chief executive officer at RPCI. "This NCI initiative offers our worldclass photodynamic therapy group the opportunity to collaborate with other academic institutions to make significant clinical advances."

The nanotechnology work at UB has received critical funding from the John R. Oishei Foundation. It also has received seed funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research at UB.

The nanomedicine program of the Institute for Lasers, Photonics and Biophotonics operates in collaboration with UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

Research at the institute also has been supported by special New York State funding sponsored by State Senator Mary Lou Rath. @D

\*For more information on PDT, visit Buffalo Physician's web site at www.smbs. buffalo.edu/bp. Click on "Past Issues," and go to the Autumn 2004 issue, featuring "Photodynamic Therapy, an Idea That's Taken on a Light of Its Own.'

### Scientific American's Top 50 Scientists

Paras N. Prasad, PhD, named to the 2005 list

aras N. Prasad, PhD, SUNY

nology from the past year."

Those included on the list are selected by members of Scientific

hope for the future," says John Rennie, viruses as vectors. This research,

tor of UB's Institute for Lasers,

Stachowiak, PhD, associate professor of pathology and anatom

sciences in the UB School of

Prasad holds the Samuel P.

biophotonics and 3-D microfabricatio

Thomas Szyperski, PhD, a UB

ments of biochemistry and structural biology in the UB School of Medicine named to the "Scientific American nuclear magnetic resonance was 2005 issue of Buffalo Physician.

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