



AUTUMN 2005

Pathways

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

Faculty Receive Chancellor Awards

Six University at Buffalo faculty members received 2005 SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence, two of whom—Christopher Cohan, PhD, and Claes Lundgren, MD, PhD—are in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Christopher Cohan, PhD, associate professor of pathology and anatomical sciences, received the Chancellor's Award for Teaching, which honors individuals who have consistently demonstrated superb teaching at the undergraduate, graduate

or professional level.

Cohan received a bachelor of science degree in biology and mathematics from the State University of New York at Albany in 1974 and a PhD in anatomy from Case Western Reserve University in 1980. After completing his doctorate, he served a series of



Cohan

postdoctoral fellowships before joining UB as an assistant professor in 1986.

For two consecutive years (2003 and 2004), Cohan received the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Siegel Award for Teaching Excellence. In addition, he has received two commendations for teaching excellence from the Siegel Award Committee.

Claes Lundgren, MD, PhD, received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, which recognizes the work of those who engage actively in scholarly and

creative pursuit beyond their teaching responsibilities.

Lundgren, who is director of the UB Center for Research and Education in Special Environments, is an internationally known physiologist whose research focuses on diving physiology, advancing the understanding of respiratory mechanics related to breath-hold diving, breathing with diving equipment and the design and development of improved underwater breathing equipment. He holds more than 100 patents pertaining to human engineering (breathing gear for divers) and the pharmaceutical field (Nicorette gum). The present standard mixed-gas breathing apparatus of the Swedish, Finnish and Danish navies are based on patents held by Lundgren and other co-inventors.

Currently, Lundgren is working on creating artificial blood, which could help revolutionize trauma care



Lundgren

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(see "Lifeline in a Bottle," in the spring 2005 issue of *Buffalo Physician* at www.smb.suffalo.edu/bp).

In addition to the Chancellor's Award, Lundgren has received the Outstanding Inventor Award from The Research Foundation of the State University of New York, the UB Exceptional Scholar Award for Sustained Achievement and the Western New York Pioneer of Science Award from the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute.

—SUE WUETCHER

Yeh Named to Inaugural Leadership Class

In July 2005, Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, UB provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, announced the establishment of a UB Faculty in Leadership Program. Among the four faculty members he named to the "inaugural class" is John Yeh, MD, chair of the Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

In a university-wide memo

Goldinger Curriculum Leadership Award

Glenn Patterson Miller, Jr, MD '05, named first recipient



Pictured, left to right: Laura Goldinger Muscarella, Glenn Patterson Miller Jr, MD '05, Suzanne Goldinger, and James Goldinger

GLENN PATTERSON MILLER JR, MD '05, was named the first recipient of the Dr. James Goldinger Curriculum Leadership Award at this year's Honors Convocation, held on May 19. The award was instituted by senior students—the first to complete the new curriculum—in conjunction with the student governing board, Polity. It honors and memorializes Dr. Goldinger, who was a professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics from 1976 until his death from Hodgkin's Disease in October 2003, at the age of 59. Goldinger was a module leader in the new curriculum and a devoted teacher to a generation of medical, dental and graduate students.

The award, which will be given on an annual basis, recognizes a fourth-year student who has demonstrated an enthusiasm for teaching while in medical school and who has exhibited the potential to become a leader in medicine due to his or her dedication to teaching.

Each year, the entire student body will be eligible to nominate members of the senior class for the award, and the medical school's Graduation Committee will select the recipient.

A student who nominated Miller for the award, said, "I had the opportunity to work with [Glenn] during my medicine rotation and he was a phenomenal teacher. He took time every day to specifically teach and also to discuss patient matters. He has also been a great resource in matters regarding which classes to take, when to interview, and studying for the boards. He is always willing to answer questions and give guidance, and his patient-care skills are exemplary. He would stay late every night and come in on weekends to tend to his patients. He was always reading about their diseases and trying to come up with all possibilities to better their care. I was very fortunate to work with him, and think that he is an excellent candidate for this award."

Miller is currently in residency training in general surgery at Boston University Medical Center.

Goldinger's wife, Suzanne, his daughter, Laura Goldinger Muscarella, and his son, James Goldinger, pictured above with Miller, were present at the award ceremony. **BP**

—S. A. Unger



Yeh

at Buffalo faculty members have expressed interest in exploring the possibility of augmenting their research and scholarly activities with administrative responsibilities. In response to this articulated interest, the UB Faculty in Leadership Program was established. Throughout the course of this academic year, four faculty leaders will be paired with a senior administrative officer from UB's Office of the President and Office of the Provost. Each faculty member will be

describing the new program, Tripathi stated: "Over the years, many University

assigned projects introducing them to important and timely issues in higher education administration."

Other faculty named to the inaugural class are Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, professor of geography, College of Arts and Sciences; Rajan Batta, professor of industrial engineering, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; and Marilyn Morris, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Tripathi further stated: "It is my hope that the Faculty in Leadership Program will provide our UB faculty with a unique opportunity to learn about university administration and will enable them to determine whether they have an interest in pursuing

university administration in addition to their traditional faculty responsibilities. It is my further hope, that the Faculty in Leadership Program will become a University at Buffalo tradition launching many successful careers in university administration."

—S. A. UNGER

Kaskie Named CEO for Kaleida

The Kaleida Health Board of Directors unanimously appointed James R. Kaskie as the successor to William D. McGuire as chief executive officer of Kaleida Health.

Kaskie will assume his new role on January 1, 2006. In the interim, McGuire and Kaskie will work together on a planned transition to ensure a smooth change in leadership.

McGuire, who served as CEO for four years, is returning to retirement in San Antonio, Texas.

Kaskie joined Kaleida Health in the spring of 2004, after serving as the senior vice president for operations of



Kaskie

Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI). At CHI, one of the largest not-for-profit health care organizations in the United States, he oversaw a \$1.8 billion operation in a five-state area comprised of Arkansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Services included acute-care hospitals, a psychiatric hospital, a long-term acute-



FACULTY Awards

Dean's Award

care hospital, home health agencies, a community health services organization and two joint venture organizations.

"I am honored to have been chosen to lead Kaleida Health," says Kaskie. "In my time here, I have been impressed with the passion that the physicians, employees, and board members have for this family of health care companies."

Kaskie, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, received a master of health administration degree and a bachelor of arts degree in history from St. Louis University and a master of business administration degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

—MICHAEL HUGHES

Negative Emotions and Alcohol Abuse

Paul R. Stasiewicz, PhD, a researcher in University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions (RIA), has received a \$1,937,729 grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to study the role of negative emotions in alcohol use, abuse and relapse.

Forty percent of all drinking relapses among men and women in treatment



Stasiewicz

involve situations with negative or unpleasant emotions such as sadness,

anxiety or depression.

Currently, no well-developed, empirically tested treatments specifically address the impact of negative emotions on alcohol relapse.

"Drinking alcohol is often used by people as an attempt to regulate or manage unpleasant emotions," explains Stasiewicz.

In this study, he and his research team will develop and pilot test a clinical intervention to address the problem.

Stasiewicz is director of RIA's Clinical Research Center and a principal investigator whose work focuses on behavioral research, alcohol craving and reducing DWI

recidivism. He also is a research associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry in the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

To learn more about this five-year study, go to <http://www.buffalo.edu/news/> and search "Stasiewicz." **BP**

—KATHLEEN WEAVER

The Dean's Award is given in special recognition of extraordinary service to the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

This year's recipient of the Dean's Award is Lorie Leonard, MD '87, clinical associate professor of pediatrics, who practices at Amherst Pediatric Associates.

Leonard earned a bachelor of arts degree in English, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Rochester in 1972 and a medical degree, Alpha Omega Alpha, from UB in 1987. She completed her residency training in pediatrics at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo (WCHOB).

"Lorie has been a volunteer faculty member at UB since 1990 and has given outstanding service to the school," says Frederick C. Morin III, MD, interim dean for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. "She teaches in the Clinical Practice of Medicine course, where she is a seminar leader and pediatric lecturer. This means she takes a half day a week to come and teach. She also is a member of the Medical Admissions Committee, which is a huge time commitment."



Leonard

In addition, Leonard serves as a preceptor for the Primary Care Medical Student Summer Externship Program (1998–present), for the Junior Medical Student Outpatient Pediatric Clinical Clerkship (1990–present) and for the WCHOB Pediatric Resident Outpatient Continuity Clinic (1990–present). In 2004, she received the Dr. Louis A. and Ruth Siegel Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"I have often said that if my full-time faculty put in as much teaching and academic time as Lori does, I'd be thrilled," says Morin. "She really goes above and beyond with the effort she puts in."

Naughton Award

The Naughton Award, which recognizes a non-faculty individual who has made significant contributions to the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, was established in 2000 by John Naughton, MD, dean of the school from 1976 to 1996. Such an individual, the award states, is one who, day in and day out, in his or her own quiet way, makes our school, with its affiliated teaching hospitals, a stronger, healthier and happier place for the rest of us to learn, work, conduct research, provide patient care and teach."

This year's winner of the Naughton Award is James Mecca, who for the last 43 years has been responsible for the Instrument Shop that services the health sciences schools.

Stockton Kimball Award

John Canty, MD '79

The Stockton Kimball Award honors a faculty member for academic accomplishment and worldwide recognition as an investigator and researcher. Stockton Kimball, MD '29, was dean of the University at Buffalo School of Medicine from 1946 to 1958, and his contributions to the training of physicians in Buffalo spanned more than a quarter of a century.

The 2005 recipient of the Stockton Kimball Award is John Canty, MD '79, Albert and Elizabeth Rekate Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases.

Canty earned a bachelor of science degree in biomedical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a medical degree from UB. While a medical student, he won the Upjohn Research Award, the Buswell Student Research Award and the John Watson Award in Medicine. Following graduation, Canty completed his internship and residency training at the University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital.

In 1981 Canty returned to UB, where he became an instructor of medicine and a cardiology Fellow under Francis Klocke, MD '60. In 1982, he won the John C. Sable Memorial Heart Fund Award, and in 1983 he was named a Sinsheimer Scholar. That same year, he was appointed assistant professor of medicine at UB.

"An important contributing factor to John's success as a scientific investigator, I feel, is the protected time that he—with the help of his mentors, Dr. Klocke and Dr. James Nolan—built into his busy schedule early in his career," says Suzanne Laychock, PhD, senior associate dean for research at UB, who presented the Stockton Kimball Award to Canty on May 25.

Over the past two decades, Canty's research has been centered on coronary circulatory control and pathophysiology, according to Laychock.

"John's focus has been on understanding chronic hibernating myocardium, for which he has developed a unique porcine developmental model of the condition," she explains. "His interest in such models is to recapitulate the major sequelae of chronic coronary artery disease, including arrhythmic sudden death, heart failure and left-ventricular remodeling, and reversible myocardial dysfunction related to the development of stunned and hibernating myocardium."



Canty

"This affords a new vista to acquire novel insight into the cellular and molecular mechanisms of disease that may lead to the identification of candidate proteins and pathways that can ultimately be targeted for therapeutic intervention."

In 2002, Canty became founding director of the UB Center for Research in Cardiovascular Medicine, where today he continues to lead a multidisciplinary team of scientists.

"The center epitomizes the translational nature of John's research," notes Laychock. "It brings together UB's strengths in cardiovascular medicine, proteomics, nanomedicine and bioinformatics to promote multidisciplinary clinical and translational research directed at understanding the pathophysiological basis of chronic ischemic heart disease. Scientists affiliated with the center have expertise in a variety of areas, including translational cardiovascular medicine, cellular electrophysiology of the heart, molecular biology, positron emission tomography, gene expression and protein biochemistry."

Canty has published extensively and participated as an invited speaker at many national and international symposia. He has been consistently well funded by competitive research grants and serves on the editorial boards of four journals in his field. In addition, he has provided generous service to UB and to the national and state affiliate of the American Heart Association, among other organizations.

In 2003, Canty was elected to the prestigious Association of University Cardiologists. Members of the AUC are recognized as leaders in American cardiology whose efforts are actively shaping the course of research and training in cardiovascular disease in the United States. Also in 2003, he was awarded the Sustained Achievement Award in the UB Exceptional Scholars Program.

"John is an outstanding member of our translational research faculty who has consistently contributed to knowledge in his field," concludes Laychock. "He also is an active teacher at the basic science and clinical levels. John is most deserving of the Stockton Kimball Award recognition." **BP**

LOUIS A. AND RUTH SIEGEL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

THE LOUIS A. AND RUTH SIEGEL Awards for Excellence in Teaching are the foremost means for recognizing extraordinary teachers in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

A student award committee made up of representatives from each medical class reviews nominations provided by students and selects awardees in four categories. Considerations for this prestigious annual award include instructional skill, ability to stimulate thinking and develop understanding, demonstration of sensitivity toward the human condition and serving as a role model for students.

The 2005 Siegel Award recipients are:



Full-Time Teaching in the Basic Sciences
Cynthia Dlugos, PhD, pathology and anatomical sciences



Full-Time Teaching in the Clinical Sciences
Thomas Mahl, MD '84, medicine



Volunteer Physician
Robert Burns, MD, pediatrics

Resident Teaching
Paul Paily, MD, obstetrics and gynecology **BP**

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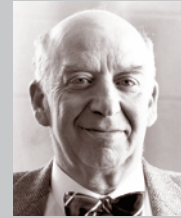
Symposium Honors Leon Farhi

scientists from Europe, Asia and the U.S. gathered in Buffalo September 29–October 1, 2005 for a symposium honoring the late Leon Farhi, MD, a pioneer in the field of pulmonary medicine, environmental physiology and bioengineering.

Farhi was a SUNY Distinguished Professor and chaired the Department of Physiology in the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biological Sciences for many years.

The symposium was held in the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, adjacent to UB's North (Amherst) Campus.

Farhi's research and leadership led the fields of pulmonary medicine, environmental physiology and bioengineering for more than 35 years. He pioneered the study of the distribution of respiratory gases and blood within the lungs and tissues and developed new approaches for measuring cardiac output and gas exchange. He worked with scientists from around the world, including young physicians who later became leaders in their fields. Farhi was a devoted teacher throughout his career and pioneered the use of computers and simulation programs in teaching.



Farhi

Working with colleagues at UB, he studied man's adaptation

to space during NASA space shuttle flights in the 1990s. That work led to establishment of the National Center of Excellence in Environmental Physiology at UB, which became the current Center for Research and Education in Special Environments (CRESE). CRESE contains the most advanced facilities in the world to simulate environmental stress.

Researchers from the following institutions served as symposium faculty: Harvard Medical School; Imperial College in London, England; Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden; Max Planck Institute of Experimental Medicine in Gottingen, Germany; National Institutes of Health; Stanford University; University of Alabama-Birmingham; University at Buffalo; University of Milan, Italy; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of Oklahoma; University of Udine, Italy; University of Washington; Yale University School of Medicine, and University of Zurich, Switzerland.

The symposium was supported by the departments of Physiology and Biophysics and Medicine, UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, CRESE, UB Rahn Lecture Series, ONY, Inc., Omni Quarter Technology, and Farhi's friends and family. **BP**

—LOIS BAKER



BY LOIS BAKER

Perpetuating Obesity

In utero "malprogramming" of appetite center

Findings by UB metabolic researchers are taken into account, the adage "You are what you eat" should be rephrased to include "and so are your children."

Long-term studies by the UB scientists have shown that rat pups raised artificially on a high-carbohydrate milk formula identical in calories to mother's milk developed changes in pancreatic islets, resulting in overproduction of insulin and obesity in adulthood.



"Patel speculates that in humans, it's possible such malprogramming could be interrupted if an obese/insulin resistant mother brought body weight and plasma insulin levels back to normal before becoming pregnant."

Progeny of these high-carbohydrate (HC) mothers raised naturally also develop the same maladjustments, they found.

In recent studies, the researchers now have shown that this metabolic "malprogramming" is permanent and occurs in utero, resulting in the next generation born to HC mothers carrying the HC phenotype. Rat fetuses had increased plasma insulin levels, increased mRNA levels of preproinsulin, a precursor of insulin, and increased insulin in the pancreas, without an increase in body weight, plasma glucose level or a change in islet structure.

They also found changes in the hypothalamus, the brain's center of appetite regulation, that result in appetite stimulation.

While these studies were done with rats, Mulchand Patel, PhD, UB distinguished professor of biochemistry and first author on the study, speculates that there is good reason to think the mechanism could be similar in humans.

"Obesity can be perpetuated via the

maternal intrauterine environment," says Patel, who reported the findings at the 2005 Experimental Biology meeting held in San Diego in early April.

"Our earlier studies looked at progeny in the post-weaning period, so we didn't know how early this malprogramming occurred. Now we know it occurs in utero. We predicted that this could be the case, and our present findings support this prediction."

Plasma levels of rat pups (2-HC) born to HC mothers returned to normal during the suckling period, results showed, but islets from 12-day-old suckling 2-HC rats showed a capacity for insulin oversecretion when maintained in culture medium containing high glucose levels. By the 28th day, approximately 4 days after weaning to rat chow, 2-HC rats once again had high insulin levels and showed a higher capacity for insulin secretion to a glucose stimulus. Even on rat chow, body weight began to increase around day 55, and 2-HC rats were obese by postnatal day 100.

Patel speculates that in humans, it's possible such malprogramming could be interrupted if an obese/insulin resistant mother brought body weight and plasma insulin levels back to normal before becoming pregnant.

Malathi Srinivasan, PhD, Suhad Shbeir-El Dika, Ravikumar Aalinkeel, PhD, Fei Song, PhD, Lioudmila Pliss, PhD, and Paul Mitrani from Patel's lab, along with Roberta Pentney, PhD, from the UB Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, contributed to the study, as well as Shanthie Damodaran, PhD, and Sherin Devaskar, MD, from the Department of Pediatrics at UCLA, and Brenda Strutt and David Hill PhD, from the Lawson Research Institute in London, Ontario. The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health. **BP**

Harrington Lecture... "The Academy on the Road"

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2006
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Speaker: Timothy F. Murphy, MD
UB Distinguished Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases

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