

NEWS ABOUT UB'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND ITS ALUMNI, FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF

SUMMER 2005

# Pathways

## David Sherris Named Chair

David A. Sherris, MD, has been appointed chair of the Department of Otolaryngology in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, effective April 18, 2005. He previously served as interim chair of the department since August 2003 and will continue in his role as chief of service, Department of Otolaryngology at Kaleida Health Systems. Sherris received a bachelor of arts degree in biochemistry from Middlebury College in Vermont in 1984. He attended medical school at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, NY, where he also completed residency training in otolaryngology.



Sherris

Sherris then moved to the University of Washington in Seattle, where he completed a fellowship in facial plastic surgery while also serving as clinical instructor. In 1994, he joined the faculty at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, where he

served as assistant professor and then as associate professor at the Mayo Medical School. After nine years at the Mayo Clinic, Sherris joined the faculty at UB as assistant professor and interim chair of the Department of Otolaryngology.

His current research interests include chronic rhinosinusitis, wound healing, and the cosmetic and medical use of botulinum toxin. His clinical practice is focused on rhinology and facial plastic surgery.

—S. A. UNGER

## Freudenheim and Pelham Recognized by SUNY

Three UB faculty members were among the 52 SUNY faculty members recognized for their research and scholarship by the SUNY Research Foundation, two of whom are affiliated with health sciences at UB: Jo L. Freudenheim, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor and interim chair, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (SPM),



Freudenheim

and William E. Pelham Jr., PhD, UB Distinguished Professor in the departments of Psychology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry, and director of the Center for Children and Families.

The Research and Scholarship Award is presented to SUNY faculty members "who are recognized leaders in the humanities, arts, social sciences, sciences, medicine and engineering," according to a SUNY press release. "Their dedication and hard work advance humanity, enhance New York State's economy and ensure the State University of New York is recognized throughout the world as a home to research and scholarship."

Jo Freudenheim joined the UB faculty in 1988 after serving as a postdoctoral fellow in SPM from 1987-88. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of diet in relation to cancer risk, with a



Pelham

particular focus on breast cancer. She also is examining residential history as an indicator of environmental exposures to elucidate a possible role of those exposures in breast cancer epidemiology.

Her work has received major funding from the National Institute of Health and the National Cancer Institute, and has been published in numerous scholarly journals.

Freudenheim serves as chair of the Epidemiology of Cancer Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health.

She earned a bachelor's degree in human nutrition from the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, master's degrees in nutritional sciences and epidemiology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a doctorate in nutritional sciences, statistics, also from Wisconsin.

William Pelham Jr. is one of the leading researchers in attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in the U.S. He joined the UB faculty in 1996 after serving for 10 years on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, where he directed the Attention Deficit Disorder Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

In addition to directing UB's ADHD program, he conducts a highly successful behavior-modification summer program

at the university for children with ADHD, which has been named by the American Psychological Association (APA) as a Model Program in Service Delivery in Child and Family in Mental Health.

Over the years, Pelham has studied many aspects of ADHD, including the nature of cognitive deficit; peer relationships; diagnosis; pharmacological, psychosocial and combined treatments; motivation and persistence; family factors, such as parental alcohol problems; service delivery; and outcome.

He is a principal investigator on the National Institute of Mental Health Multi-Site Treatment Study for ADHD, a clinical trial investigating effective treatments for ADHD, and currently holds 10 other grants from NIMH, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and several pharmaceutical companies.

Pelham currently is on the Council of Representatives for the APA and directs the Biennial Niagara Conference on Evidence-Based Treatments for Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

He received a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a doctorate in clinical psychology from Stony Brook University.

—SUE WUETCHER

## Olmsted Ross, MD '39, Receives Capen Award

UB Alumni Association's highest honor



Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Ross, MD '39, DSc '03, is this year's recipient of the Samuel P. Capen Award, the University at Buffalo Alumni Association's highest honor.

The award was presented to Olmsted Ross on April 15, 2005 at the Alumni Association's Celebration of Excellence Award ceremony, held at the Four Points Sheraton in Cheektowaga.

Olmsted Ross has championed issues related to the blind and visually impaired for six decades. The first female ophthalmologist in Western New York, she has been involved with the former Blind Association of Western New York, now known as the Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, M.D., Center for the Visually Impaired, since she began practicing medicine. A generous philanthropist, Olmsted Ross established the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Ira G. Ross and Elizabeth P. Olmsted Ross, M.D. Chair in Ophthalmology. In 2003, UB received a \$3 million challenge grant from her to establish a center of excellence devoted to vision research, education and clinical care that will be called the Ira G. Ross Eye Institute in honor of Olmsted Ross's late husband. The institute will consist of two sites: a free-standing complex at 1176 Main Street next to the Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, M.D., Center for the Visually Impaired, within the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC), and research facilities on UB's South (Main Street) Campus.

—BARBARA BYERS

## Award Instituted in Honor of Sarkin

The University at Buffalo Alumni Association has instituted a new award, The Richard T. Sarkin Award for Outstanding Teaching, in honor of the late Richard T. Sarkin, MD, EdM '98, and named him the first honoree.



Sarkin

An accomplished pediatrician, Sarkin was renowned for his teaching expertise and was a member of a small cadre of educators who championed and legitimized teaching skills curricula in medical schools across the country. Sarkin believed that effective teaching and evaluation are not only key to



learning, but also lead to high-quality patient care and patient satisfaction. He was a three-time recipient of the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Louise A. and Ruth Siegel Award, which recognizes medical school faculty members for excellence in teaching, and was honored in 1998 with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Sarkin died in a plane crash in October 2004 while traveling to a conference on humanism in medicine.

—BARBARA BYERS

### Balistreri Named Distinguished Alumnus

William F. Balistreri, MD '70, professor of medicine and director of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at the University of Cincinnati, is one of five alumni to receive the Distinguished Alumni designation from the UB Alumni Association this year. Individuals receive this honor in recognition of exceptional



Balistreri

career accomplishments, community or university service, or research and scholarly activity.

Considered to be one of the leading pediatric hepatologists in the world, Balistreri is medical director for liver transplantation at Cincinnati's Children's Hospital Medical Center and has served as the president of the leading professional societies in hepatology. Balistreri has achieved excellence in

medical/scientific leadership, clinical skills and scientific research and has been named among the best doctors in America.

—BARBARA BYERS

### Sethi and Murphy Co-Author NEJM Editorial

Sanjay Sethi, MD, associate professor of medicine, and Timothy Murphy, MD, UB Distinguished Professor of medicine, co-



Sethi

authored an editorial in the April 28, 2005 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* on the subject of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

In the editorial, they discuss a study published in the same issue by Ann Falsey, MD, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, who examined whether the problem of RSV is of sufficient magnitude among older people to warrant the development of a vaccine. In the prospective study, the authors estimate that RSV infection could account for approximately 177,525 hospital admissions annually and 14,000 deaths, findings that corroborate estimates from other studies.

"Prior to this study, RSV was suspected in adults, but the magnitude of the problem was not known," says Murphy. "This study is important because it used rigorous methods to establish more precisely and more reliably the importance of RSV as a cause of infection in adults."

The paper's authors hope that the results of their research will provide pharmaceutical companies with the information they need to move forward with vaccine trails with adults.

—S. A. UNGER

### Morelli and Foster Named CMOs at Kaleida Health

Daniel J. Morelli, MD '74, has been named chief medical officer of Buffalo General Hospital, and James M.T. Foster, MD, has been named chief medical officer at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.



Morelli

A 25-year veteran of Kaleida Health, Morelli is the chief of service for family practice and was most recently the chief medical officer at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital. He also served as the interim chief medical officer for Kaleida Health from January until April 2005. A long-time faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine at UB, Morelli is currently a professor of clinical family medicine. He continues to supervise residents in the program and to teach medical students.

Foster is Kaleida Health's clinical chief of service for anesthesia, clinical associate professor of anesthesiology at UB, and attending anesthesiologist at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

He earned his medical degree at the London Hospital Medical College, University of London, England, is a Fellow of The Royal College of

Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Anesthesia and is board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology. In June 2005, he received an

MBA degree from Canisius College.

Foster also serves as president of the board of CGF Anesthesiology Associates, a member of the Medical Executive Committee for

Kaleida Health, and as a member of the Kaleida Health Operating Room Committee.

—MICHAEL HUGHES

### Ambres Appointed to UB Council

Cynthia A. Ambres, MD, has been appointed to the University at Buffalo Council by Governor George E. Pataki.

Ambres is president of Lifetime Health Medical Group, a 13-center medical group in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. She also is president and founder of her own firm, Ambres Health Care Consulting.

She formerly was executive vice president of Kaleida Health, overseeing medical



Foster

affairs, new program development, and physician contracting. She also has served as senior vice president and chief medical officer at Blue Cross Blue

Shield of Western New York and senior manager of the Health Care Consulting Group

at Ernst & Young LLP, New York.

The UB Council serves as the primary oversight and advisory board to UB and its president and senior officers. It consists of 10 members, nine of whom are appointed to seven-year terms by the governor of New York State, and one student member who is elected to an annual term by the university's students.

The council reviews all major plans and activities of the university in the areas of academics, student life, finances, buildings and grounds, as well as makes

recommendations and regulations for the benefit of the university in matters of community and alumni relations.

Ambres serves on numerous community, editorial and advisory boards, including the board of directors of the Buffalo Arts Studio and the board of advisors of FEI Corporation, a women's health-care company.

She received her bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and is a graduate of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She also received a master's degree in health policy and management from New York University.

—CHRISTINE VIDAL



Ambres

## BERKSON MEMORIAL AWARD

*The Robert S. Berkson, MD, Memorial Award in the Art of Medicine is presented annually to a member of the volunteer faculty to honor the values and ideals epitomized by Dr. Berkson, who was an esteemed family physician in Buffalo. Patient care was his forte; competence, compassion, patience and dedication to teaching were his virtues. His expertise in the "art of medicine" is perpetuated in this award.*

### Frederick M. Occhino, MD

This year's Berkson Memorial Award was presented to Frederick M. Occhino, MD, clinical assistant professor of family medicine in the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

"For over 30 years, Dr. Occhino has consistently dedicated his time and energy to teaching diagnostic skills to first- and second-year students," says John Bodkin II, MD '76, emeritus member of the Medical Alumni Association. "He also is a preceptor for fourth-year students who want to learn about how a rural family physician practices. He has a farm and he has students come to the house for dinner and invites them to work with the animals if they are interested.

"We always have lots of students who want to be taught by Dr. Occhino," adds Bodkin, "and, to my knowledge, he has never turned down anyone."

A native of Buffalo, NY, Occhino completed his undergraduate education at John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH, after which he attended Chicago Osteopathic Medical School. Following graduation, he remained in Chicago for a fellowship in pathology. However, realizing that his forte

was in family medicine, Occhino returned to Cleveland and completed his training at Brentwood Hospital. After experiencing small town medicine in Chagrin Falls, OH, he relocated to Western New York and settled in North Collins.

"There, all the parameters of family medicine were practiced," recalls Occhino. "I delivered babies, performed surgery at Tricounty Hospital and served as medical director of the Cattaraugus Medical Clinic and as acting school physician for the Lake Shore School District."

In addition, he traveled back and forth to Nicaragua, where he did medical missionary work.

Eventually Occhino moved his practice to Hamburg and South Buffalo Mercy Hospital, where he practices with his son, Christopher, who graduated from UB's medical school in 1997.

"During this 33-year period," says Occhino, "I've enjoyed the comradeship of medical students, serving as their preceptor."

—S. A. UNGER





### Vienne Elected Medical Society President

Richard P. Vienne Jr., DO, clinical associate professor of medicine at UB and regional associate medical director at Univera Healthcare, has been elected the new president of the Medical Society of the County of Erie, succeeding Kenneth H. Eckhart Jr., MD '68.



Vienne

A native of Buffalo, Vienne received his OD degree from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, MO. He then completed his osteopathic internship in Harrisburgh, PA, and his residency at the University at Buffalo.

Vienne is a fellow of the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a diplomate of the national Board of Medical

Examiners. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Medical Society of the State of New York, and the WNY Society of Osteopathic Medicine.

Vienne has served as the Medical Society of the County of Erie's secretary-treasurer, vice president and president elect. He is currently a delegate from Erie County to the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

—CHRISTINE NADOLNY

### Fowler Named STOR Commercialization Manager

Michael L. Fowler, PhD '91, has been named bioinformatics and health sciences commercialization manager for the University at Buffalo Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR).

In this capacity, he 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 technology into the marketplace. He also will oversee intellectual property and commercialization opportunities for UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, in addition to UB's health-sciences fields.

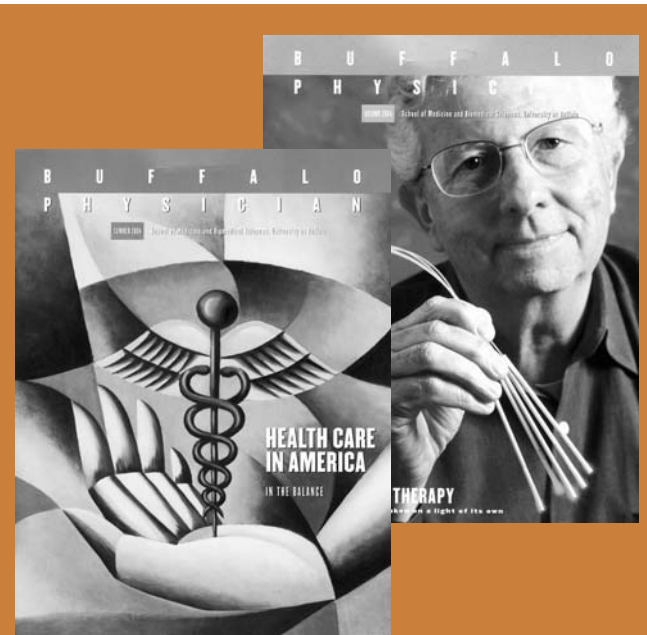
Fowler comes to UB with more than 21 years of research and industry experience. Most recently he worked as a product manager in the Cell Culture Division of Invitrogen Corporation, where he was responsible for providing marketing and product support for new product lines. He previously was a life-sciences marketing manager for Schleicher & Schuell Bioscience in NH. Prior to his



Fowler

work in industry, he was a research assistant professor at the University of Rochester and a postdoctoral fellow for the University of Michigan and Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Research. Fowler earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from Cornell University and a doctorate in cell and molecular biology from UB's Roswell Park Cancer Institute Graduate Division.

—LORRAINE STINEBISER



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# The Expanding Role of Pharmacists

BY  
PATRICIA  
DEGAN

## Partners in hospice and palliative care

THE ROLE OF THE PHARMACIST is increasingly important in hospice and palliative care due to the complexities involved in the therapeutic use of medications, as well as in their distribution and cost management.

To address the lack of formal training in palliative care, Niagara Hospice has collaborated with the University at Buffalo's School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to provide a postdoctoral pharmacist residency. This joint venture is placing both institutions at the forefront of research and instruction in hospice and palliative care. Niagara Hospice provides the residency to a pharmacist, who also conducts research and assists as a preceptor to UB pharmacy students during clinical rotations at the Town of Lockport hospice facility.

"This program is one of the first of its kind in the United States and on the cutting edge of advancements in improved pain management and symptom control," says Robert Wahler, UB clinical assistant professor of pharmacy. "It is a progressive program that attempts to meet hospice needs on the horizon, before they occur."

Today, many hospices nationwide are hiring clinical pharmacists, Wahler adds.

"We're hoping this becomes a model that will be replicated nationally," says John Lomeo, president and chief executive officer of Niagara Hospice. "The inclusion of a resident pharmacist in the patient's care plan will be a tremendous resource to both the clinical caregivers and the patient. This clinical exposure to hospice and palliative care will afford the resident invaluable experience in pain manage-

ment and end-of-life health care services."

The pharmacy resident is responsible for management of patient medication regimens in a cost-effective and efficient manner, as well as for coordinating the administration of medications to assure there are no contradictions or negative interactions between medications.

"I will take the knowledge I have gained about pain management with me wherever I go next," says Matt LaPoint, Niagara Hospice pharmacy resident for 2004-2005. "Until you actually use it, you never truly learn it, and you can only get so much from reading books. You need to get out and actually work on cases."

LaPoint credits his experience in hospice care with teaching him the necessity of staying open to others' ideas. "What I like most about hospice is the team atmosphere, where everyone brings something unique to the table. Many times something will be said that you didn't think of before. It's always good to have a number of different opinions on things." In an effort to help pharmacy students learn about the expanding role of the pharmacist in a hospice setting, the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Niagara Hospice have also established an internship program.

The Doctor of Pharmacy Professional Experience program, as it is called, was presented by Wahler and Catherine Mulawka Borden, vice president of Hospice Services, at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's 5th Clinical Team Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, in March 2004. Their presentation, "Hospice Affiliation with



a Doctor of Pharmacy Profession Experience Program," focused on presenting the internship program to medical professionals from across the country. Together, they explained how doctor of pharmacy candidates, under the guidance of hospice nurses and a clinical pharmacist, gained unique knowledge from the hospice interdisciplinary team experience.

Niagara Hospice also partners with the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences as a clinical rotation site for third- and fourth-year medical students enrolled in a four-week elective course titled "Faith, Medicine and End-of-Life Care." The rotation is an ongoing effort to help educate new physicians in end-of-life and palliative care outside the immediate medical realm. **BP**