Sherris’ current research interests include chronic rhinosinusitis, wound healing, and the cosmetic and medical use of botulinum toxin.

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 of the Department of Otolaryngology; 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 1984 after serving as a postdoctoral fellow in NIMH from 1977-88. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of diet in relation to cancer risk, with a particular focus on breast cancer. She also is examining residential history as an indicator of environmental exposures to elucidate 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 19 other grants from NIMH, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 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.

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 ’89, and named him the first honoree.

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

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 anesthesia 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. Tremendously effective in her role as anesthesiologist at Hamot Medical Center, she successfully balanced patient care with volunteerism, teaching and research.

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

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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 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

The Expanding Role of Pharmacists

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.

“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,” 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.

“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.

—Christine Nadolny

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