



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

# Pathways

W I N T E R 2 0 0 5

## Fuhrman Receives National Award

Bradley P. Fuhrman, MD, professor of pediatrics and anesthesiology at UB, and chief of Pediatric Critical Care



Fuhrman

at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, received the Distinguished Career Award at the American Academy of Pediatrics

National Conference and Exhibition in San Francisco.

The annual award recognizes career achievements that have made a significant impact in the field of critical care, as well as clinical care education and research.

Fuhrman received the award in recognition of his contributions to the practice of pediatric critical care, the education of critical care physicians and critical care research.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and

well-being of the nation's infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

—JOHN MOSCATO

## Hopkins Delivers Drake Lecture

L. Nelson (Nick) Hopkins, MD, professor and chair of neurosurgery and professor of radiology at UB, was invited to deliver the Charles G. Drake Lectureship at the 2004 Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), cerebrovascular section, held in San Francisco on October 18.

Drake lecturers "are selected for his or her surgical leadership, teaching ability and innovative work for patients afflicted with neurovascular disease," according to the CNS.

Hopkins, who also serves as chief of neurosurgery at Kaleida Health, lectured on "Endovascular Neurosurgery: Reflections on Our Specialty and Thoughts about Its Future."

—S. A. UNGER



Hopkins

## Michalek Named Fellow of AACE

Arthur M. Michalek, PhD, chair of the Department of Educational Affairs at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) and dean of the Roswell Park Graduate Division, University at Buffalo, was named a Fellow of the American Association for Cancer Education (AACE) upon completing his term as president of the organization. Michalek also will serve as chair of the AACE Presidential Advisory Committee.



Michalek

With a membership of approximately 400, the AACE fosters individuals throughout the world who, either due to professional obligations or personal interest, are involved in cancer education. The association provides a forum for health-related professionals concerned with the study and improvement of cancer education. The organization's efforts involve developing and evaluating new educational strategies and methods including the examination of

**FUHRMAN RECEIVED THE AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRACTICE OF PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE, THE EDUCATION OF CRITICAL CARE PHYSICIANS AND CRITICAL CARE RESEARCH.**

# Schünemann Edits Antithrombotic Guidelines

**Holger Schünemann, MD, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Medicine, served as a senior editor for the new antithrombotic guidelines from the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP). The guidelines have been in existence for almost 20 years and are revised every three years. They include the work of some of the world's leading researchers in areas related to thrombotic diseases, including myocardial infarction, stroke and venous thrombosis, and are regarded as the reference standard in many parts of the world. The guidelines introduce novel therapies for the prevention and treatment of thrombotic disorders ranging across most medical specialties. They also update previously issued recommendations and emphasize the overall need for stronger implementation of the guidelines in the clinical setting.

The 500-plus recommendations from the Seventh ACCP Conference on Antithrombotic and Thrombolytic Therapy were developed by a nationwide panel of 87 physicians and were published in a September 2004 supplement to *CHEST*.

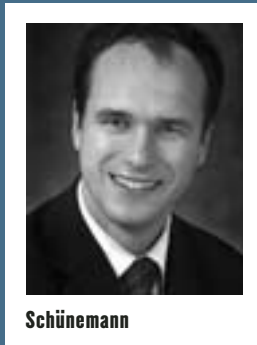
Schünemann, who co-chaired the conference, assisted in the development of the previous set of guidelines (the 6th Edition) and has

expertise in the research methodology used to develop the guidelines.

In the supplement published in *CHEST*, panel members explain that a defining feature of the new guidelines is the novel approach they used to develop the evidence-based recommendations. In addition, they dedicate an entire chapter to guideline application, and within the guidelines themselves, they comment on inconsistencies in their application and the resulting adverse effects.

"There is room for improvement in implementation of the ACCP guidelines," says Schünemann. "The new recommendations offer health-care professionals ways of implementing the guidelines in clinical practice that may improve patient-care outcomes in the process."

In recent months, Schünemann has been invited to speak at national and international meetings of cardiologists and thrombosis experts in Italy, France, Poland and Seattle.



Schünemann

A copy of the guidelines from the Seventh ACCP Conference on Antithrombotic and Thrombolytic Therapy can be ordered by calling (800) 343-2227 or by accessing them online at [www.chestjournal.org](http://www.chestjournal.org).

—S. A. UNGER

objectives, courses and evaluation instruments; expanding public education; fostering international cooperative efforts in cancer education; and furthering education in cancer prevention.

—DEBORAH PETTIBONE

## Cropp Named CEO of Independent Health

Following a national search, the board of directors for Independent Health unanimously elected Michael Cropp, MD, the company's new president and CEO on

September 24, 2004. Cropp succeeds Frank Colantuono, who announced his retirement in May 2004.

Cropp joined Independent Health in 1996 and most recently served as its executive vice president and chief medical officer.

According to Barry N. Winnick, DDS, chair of the board of directors, Cropp offers Independent Health the best of both worlds.



Cropp

"He knows this company and the health-care industry inside and out. He is highly respected throughout the organization and within the local provider community and will build on Independent Health's strengths and partnerships for future success."

Cropp is a board-certified family physician and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Physician Executives. He previously worked as associate medical director and family physician for two other

managed care organizations, Harvard Community Health Plan in Massachusetts and Health Care Plan in Buffalo. More recently, he served as associate medical director for HealthPartners in Minneapolis (1993–1995).

Prior to joining Independent Health in 1996, he served as medical director and Gates Circle chief operating officer for the Millard Fillmore Health System.

Cropp earned his bachelor of arts degree and medical degree from Brown University and an MBA degree from UB.



### Lawrence and Nancy Golden Lecture

The Fourth Annual Lawrence and Nancy Golden Lecture in Mind-Body Medicine at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was held on September 21.

The guest lecturer was Danielle Ofri, MD, PhD, editor-in-chief and co-founder of the *Bellevue Literary Review*, the first literary magazine published from a medical center. Ofri's writings have been published extensively in literary and medical journals, newspapers, popular magazines, radio, as well as several anthologies. She is assistant professor of medicine at New York University School of Medicine and an attending physician at Bellevue Hospital, where she is director of the Anticoagulation Clinic. Her UB lecture was titled "Singular Intimacies: Literature as a Bridge between Doctor and Patient."

Pictured, *left to right*, Catherine Golden, Mrs. Nancy Golden, Danielle Ofri, MD, PhD, and Pam Golden. **BP**

—KIM VENTI



### Terplan Lecture

The fifth annual Kornel L. Terplan, M.D. Lecture in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences was held on September 13. This year's guest lecturer was Thomas Sodeman, MD, president-elect of the College of American Pathologists and chair for laboratory medicine, North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, who spoke on "Gazing into the Crystal Ball; Drivers for Change."

The Terplan Lecture was established by the Terplan family in memory of Kornel L. Terplan, MD, who served as chair of the UB Department of Pathology from 1933 to 1960.

Pictured, *left to right*, are Martin Terplan, MD '55, Thomas Sodeman, MD, and Francisco Velazquez, MD, chair, Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences. **BP**

—KIM VENTI



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# International Symposium Honors Genco

**SUNY Distinguished Professor and Pioneering Dental Researcher**

**S**cientists from the United States, Europe, South America, Asia and Australia convened in Buffalo on September 10–12, 2004 to discuss the latest research on the relationship between periodontal disease and many chronic systemic diseases in a symposium honoring Robert J. Genco, DDS, PhD, an international leader in the field of dental research.

Genco formerly served as chair of the Department of Oral Biology at the UB School of Dental Medicine for 25 years. Currently, he is head of the UB Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR) and interim vice president for research at UB. In addition, he continues his own research.

“Contemporary Periodontology: Host-Pathogen Relationships in Health and Disease” was the theme of the meeting, held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.

Highlighting the symposium was a presentation by Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD, director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). Tabak, who received a doctorate in oral biology from UB in 1981, discussed the role of the NIDCR in advancing oral-biology research and directions that research may take in the future.

Commenting on Genco’s accomplishments, Tabak said: “The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research has funded Bob Genco’s work for about four decades. During that time, he has made important contributions in a number of areas, notably the integration of basic and clinical periodontal research, the immunology of periodontal diseases, and the association between periodontal disease and systemic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.”

Genco and his colleagues were among the first to report a connection between gum disease and heart disease and stroke and led studies relating infection to diabetes mellitus and obesity.

Currently he is principal investigator on a \$7.3 million grant from the NIDCR to do preliminary studies and conduct a pilot clinical trial on the impact of periodontal disease treatment on prevention of second heart attacks. He is editor of the *Journal of Periodontology* and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science.

D. Walter Cohen, DDS, dean emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine chancellor emeritus of the MCP Hahnemann University of Health Sciences was the

keynote speaker at a dinner on September 11 that honored Genco.

“Bob’s career has been so outstanding,” said Cohen. “He represents the ideal role model for a dental scientist and researcher, bringing together clinical practice and the basic sciences. We need more Bob Gencos.”

Richard Buchanan, DMD, dean of the UB dental school, and Hiroo Kaneda, chair and CEO of Sunstar, which supported the symposium, presented opening remarks at the dinner.



**Left to right: Robert J. Genco, DDS, PhD, Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD '81, director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, and Richard Buchanan, DMD, dean of the UB dental school.**

Sessions on September 10 covered the pathogenesis of periodontal disease and periodontal disease risk factors, as well as systemic effects of periodontitis on diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Sessions on September 11 were devoted to the association of periodontal disease and conditions affecting women, specifically osteoporosis and preterm birth, and to the contribution of periodontal disease to respiratory diseases and chronic inflammation.

—LOIS BAKER



## Structural Biology Projects Funded

Three young investigators at the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI)—who also serve as assistant professors in UB’s Department of Structural Biology—have received funding totaling over \$3.6 million to conduct three different research projects, as follow:

**Hongliang Xu, PhD '98**, is a co-principal investigator with **Nikolas V. Sahinidis, PhD**, from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, on a five-year National Institutes of Health grant totaling over \$2 million. The project, titled “Novel Algorithms for Crystallographic Computing,” focuses on

developing a systematic methodology for resolving the phase problem in crystallographic computing. This work promises to lay the foundation for a new generation of crystallographic computing systems that will reveal the structure of millions of substances that are important in the understanding of

life, materials science and drug design. At HWI, Xu is collaborating with **Herbert Hauptman, PhD**, president of the institute and Nobel Laureate, and **Charles Weeks, PhD**, senior research scientist at HWI.



**Xu**

Xu began his research career at HWI in 1997 and received his PhD in numerical analysis from UB in 1998.

**Andrew Gulick, PhD**, received a five-year National Institutes of Health grant award totaling \$1.4 million for his

project titled “Structure of Peptide Synthetases and Related Enzymes.” In recent years, infectious diseases have become more difficult to treat due to antibiotic resistance. **Gulick** is attempting to determine the structures of bacterial proteins involved in antibiotic synthesis. His research will focus



**Gulick**

on the structure and function of certain enzymes that synthesize antibiotics, perhaps allowing the engineering of

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these proteins for the production of a new generation of drugs. Working with Gulick on this project are HWI research associates Jill Carney and David Nicolai and graduate student Albert Reger.

Gulick came to HWI in 2001 after working as an assistant scientist in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he received his PhD in Experimental Oncology and Biochemistry.

**Michael Malkowski, PhD**, received a three-year, \$225,000 Arthritis Investigator Award from the Arthritis Foundation for his project titled "Novel Oxygenations of Arachidonic Acid by Cyclooxygenase."



**Malkowski**

Current medications for arthritis provide relief from the painful symptoms but can have adverse gastrointestinal side effects. Malkowski's research will provide insight into how non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) affect the inflammatory process and may lead to development of new medications to treat rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and other inflammatory disease with fewer side effects. Working with him on this project are HWI research associate Tracy Lloyd, graduate student Danielle Campanaro, and research apprentice Adam Krol.

Malkowski joined the staff of HWI in 2001 after completing an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at Michigan State University. He received his PhD in Biochemistry from Wayne State University in Detroit. **BP**

—TAVA SHANCHUK

## Western New York Pioneers of Science

Western New York has a history of nurturing some of the world's leading scientific talent and is committed to advancing science through the creation of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and the Buffalo Life Sciences Complex.

In 2002, the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute created the Western New York Pioneers of Science Educational Conference and Awards Banquet. The biennial event focuses attention on individuals with a connection to the region who have made outstanding contributions to science, as well as having achieved national and international prominence through their discoveries.

On November 3, 2004 nine individuals were honored at the event, three of whom are faculty in the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences:

**Edmund Egan, MD, and Bruce Holm, PhD**, developed the commercial surfactant-replacement therapy Infasurf-Neonatal, which received drug approval from the FDA in 1997. This therapy helped to reduce the mortality rate of prematurely newborn infants from 90 percent in the 1960s to approximately 5 percent in 2003. Egan and Holm are co-founders of ONY, Inc., the company that owns and manufactures Infasurf drugs for the treatment of neonatal respiratory distress syndrome, acute respiratory distress syndrome in adults, and meconium aspiration syndrome; and PneumaPartners, LLC, a company that specializes in treatments for acute respiratory failure in adult and pediatric populations. They also hold patents for Infasurf-Adult and a method for rapid purification of surfactant proteins.



**Egan**



**Holm**

Egan serves as professor of physiology and pediatrics at UB and is president and chief executive office of ONY, Inc. located in Amherst, NY.

Holm is senior vice provost at UB, executive director of the New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, and professor of pediatrics, pharmacology & toxicology, and obstetrics & gynecology at UB.

**Claes E.G. Lundgren, MD, PhD**, 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.



**Lundgren**

Currently, Lundgren is working on creating artificial blood, which could help revolutionize trauma care. He has received the Niagara Frontier Inventor of the Year Award in Science, the Stover-Link Award and the Albert R. Behnke Award from the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, and Outstanding Inventor of the Year Award from the Research Foundation of the University at Buffalo.

Lundgren serves as professor of physiology and biophysics and director of the Center for Research and Education in Special Environments at UB. **BP**

—TAVA SHANCHUK



# Human Research Program Accredited

VA Western New York Healthcare System

**O**n October 26, 2004, the Veteran Affairs (VA) Western New York Healthcare System received a three-year accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for its Human Research Participant Protection Program. This recognition by the NCQA certifies that VA scientists and staff are committed to conducting research that

meets the highest ethical standards.

The NCQA's evaluation encompassed all aspects of the research program that involves human participants, including the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the committee charged with evaluating and approving specific studies. In evaluating the IRB, the NCQA reviewed how the board considers potential risks versus the

benefits of research proposals, as well as the methods used to obtain informed consent from research participants.

At the conclusion of the review, the NCQA inspectors noted that the IRB "is very strong, with knowledgeable individuals interested in ensuring the protection of human subjects."

"This accreditation recognizes the com-



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**Left to right: Stephen Spaulding, MD, associate chief of staff for research and development at the VA; Jeffrey Mador, MD, chair of the Research and Development Committee; Alan Lockwood, MD, chair of the Institutional Review Board; and Michael Finegan, director of the Buffalo VA Medical Center.**



mitment of the VA to serving the public interest,” says Michael Finegan, director of the VA Medical Center. “It is a mark of the excellence of VA researchers and their dedication to the protection of individual research participants.”

—EVANGELINE CONLEY

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# In Memoriam

WINTER 2005

## Richard T. Sarkin, MD, EdM

### Associate professor of clinical pediatrics

**R**ICHARD SARKIN, MD, associate professor of clinical pediatrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, died on October 19, 2004 when the commuter plane he was aboard crashed in Kirksville, Missouri. He was 54.

Considered by many to be one of the finest teachers in the medical school, Sarkin was on his way to a humanism in medicine conference at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine when the accident occurred.

In addition to being a UB faculty member since 1981, Sarkin was an attending physician at the Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, where he directed the General Pediatrics Newborn Nursery Service and saw patients at Hodge Pediatrics.

As coordinator of the pediatric clerkship at UB, Sarkin touched the lives of countless medical students over the years

and is credited with influencing many of them to practice pediatrics. He was passionately interested in medical education and recently completed a two-year term as president of the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics.

Sarkin was an internationally renowned expert on ways to



## *Remembered by his friends, colleagues and students*

When I first mentioned my interest in starting a teaching group, Roseanne Berger [senior associate dean for graduate medical education] immediately referred me to Dr. Sarkin. Without his contribution and guidance, the inception of the EDUCATE Initiative—a program designed to teach residents how to teach—would not have been possible.

While I knew him only for a brief period, we shared a passion for education and teaching. He influenced my life in such a positive way that I truly feel the loss of what the future may have held. He leaves behind a legacy that we have an obligation to continue. Together, I look forward to carrying on this teaching group in his memory, and recognizing him as our inspiration.

**DAVID LEE PIERCE, MD**

*Second-Year Resident, Emergency Medicine  
UB Medical-Dental Education Program*

In his lectures and workshops Rich drew energy from a large audience and, unlike many speakers, injected energy back into the crowd. He carried on a conversation that was peppered with humor, gestures and well-timed breaks when people could talk with each other and re-set their attention span. His delivery always looked spontaneous but was rehearsed like a play. Once he proudly described a plenary session he ran at a national meeting on a rather dry subject, HIPAA regulations. It was a debate. By the end of the session he had the ballroom full of pediatricians in suits on their feet singing H-I-P-A to the tune of YMCA. Picture that!

**ROSEANNE BERGER, MD**

*Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education  
UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences*

improve the teaching skills of faculty and residents, as well as on ways to improve how physicians communicate with patients. From 1992 to 1997 he coordinated the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Teaching Effectiveness Program and was on the advisory board of the university's Center for Teaching and Learning Resources, where he frequently conducted lectures and workshops.

In 1998, Sarkin received a State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and in 1993 and 2000 received the medical school's Louis A. and Ruth Siegel Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"Rich embodied all the traits needed to be a great physician and a great medical educator—knowledge, ability, passion and compassion," says Margaret Paroski, MD '80, interim dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. "We will miss his talent, his willingness to mentor his colleagues and his terrific sense of humor."

Frederick Morin, III, MD, chair of pediatrics at UB, says: "Rich was very skilled at engaging the learner, and he could do that at the bedside or in an audience with 100 people.

"He was a much-sought-after speaker, and I know his passion and enthusiasm for teaching pediatrics have inspired many of us in Buffalo and around the nation."

Sarkin earned a bachelor of arts degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1972 and worked as an elementary and middle school science teacher for two years before earning a medical degree at New York Medical College in 1977. Following medical school, he completed pediatric residency training at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, where he served as chief resident (1980–1981). In 1998, he earned a master's in education from the University at Buffalo.

Sarkin is survived by his wife, Marcia, and their two children Alex, 16, and Jessica, a freshman in college. **BP**

**It is hard to comprehend that Richard is gone. I miss him greatly but recognize that he left an amazing legacy of faculty, residents and students who were inspired by his example and who now passionately give their best to educating the next generation of competent, compassionate and humanistic physicians. He was literally and figuratively a giant in medical education—a national treasure.**

**DAVID M. IRBY, PHD**

*Vice Dean for Education  
University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine*

**In addition to his concern for improving teaching in medical fields, Rich Sarkin was one of the founding fathers of UB's Center for Teaching and Learning Resources, which has the mission of improving teaching campus-wide. Always eager to learn as well as to teach, he was a regular participant in and hugely popular presenter of programs to help faculty expand their repertoires of teaching. As Rich demonstrated, teaching and learning—teachers and learners—are bound together in a reciprocal and interactive exchange.**

**RONALD GENTILE, PHD**

*SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus  
Educational Psychology, UB Graduate School of Education*

**Dr. Sarkin was a great teacher. His loss to the medical school is insurmountable. Richard taught in the first-year medical student course the Clinical Practice of Medicine since its inception in 1995. He served as a small group leader and as lecture faculty on the topics "The Science of Listening" and "The Pediatric Interview." His lectures were a guarantee of success—always fun, funny and insightful. There was never a distracted or sleeping student, no matter the lecture size.**

**ANDREA MANYON, MD '83**

*Clinical Associate Professor  
Vice Chair for Residency Education  
Department of Family Medicine*

The above comments are excerpted from longer statements, the full text of which can be read at <http://www.smbs.buffalo/bp/sarkin>. Also posted on this site is an excerpt from an article published in the spring 1997 issue of *Buffalo Physician*, titled "Teaching on the Fly," which featured Dr. Sarkin.