



# 2005 Distinguished Medical Alumnus

**Robert A. Milch, MD '68**

**R**obert A. Milch, MD '68, surgeon and medical director of the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care in Buffalo, is the recipient of the University at Buffalo's 2005 Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award.

Milch is internationally recognized for his contributions to the field of palliative care, having served in numerous capacities, including consultant to the government of Hungary and national hospices of Croatia and Slovenia in their efforts to establish national hospice programs. In 1989, he received the British Embassy Ambassador's Award for Contributions to the International Hospice Movement, and in 1995 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Children's Hospice International.

After earning a bachelor of arts degree in English (1964) and medical degree (1968) from the University at Buffalo, Milch completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the Buffalo General Hospital. He then served for two years as a surgeon at the United States Naval Hospital in Quantico, Virginia.

In 1975, Milch began working in the private practice of general, oncologic and vascular surgery at the Buffalo Medical Group. In 1978, he became the first medical director of Hospice Buffalo, a volunteer position he held until 1984. Since 1980 he has been the director of the Palliative Care Unit of the Buffalo General Hospital, and in 1997 became the director of the Palliative Care Consultation Service of the Kaleida Health System. In 1993 he left private practice to become the medical director of the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care in Buffalo.


Milch has been on faculty at the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences since 1975. Currently, he is a clinical professor of surgery and adjunct associate clinical professor of family medicine. Over the years, he has taught numerous courses on topics of palliative care medicine, including "Advances in Cancer Management for

the Surgeon" (Harvard Medical School), and "Palliative Care for Surgeons" at clinical congresses of the American College of Surgeons. He is certified to teach the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/American Medical Association course, "Education for Physicians in End-of-Life Care," and is on the faculty of the National Residency Education Project for Improving End-of-Life Care (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Medical College of Wisconsin). He is on the editorial boards of *The American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care*, and the End-of-Life Physician Education Resource Center.

Milch has published and presented widely on the subjects of pain and symptom management, medical communication, ethics, and palliative care. He holds numerous teaching awards and other citations, including the *Iris* Yearbook dedication in 1981, the

Chandra Outstanding Clinical Teacher Award from the Department of Surgery (1989 and 1991), the Robert S. Berkson Memorial Award for volunteer faculty excellence in teaching (1997), the Western New York Citizen of the Year citation from *The Buffalo News* in 1994 and 2000, and the Community Service Medal of the University at Buffalo (2003).

A Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Milch serves on the Palliative Care Consensus Guidelines Panel of the National Cancer Centers Network, represents the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine on the Commission on Cancer, and was a founding officer of the New York State Cancer and AIDS Pain Initiative.

Milch is co-chair of the Surgical Palliative Care Workgroup of the American College of Surgeons, chair of the Board of Mercy Flight, and serves on the board of directors of the Kaleida Health System. He is a member of several professional societies, including the New York State Hospice Association, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. 

In 1989, Milch received the British Embassy Ambassador's Award for Contributions to the International Hospice Movement, and in 1995 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Children's Hospice International.



Left to right: Interim Dean Fredrick C. Morin III, MD, Distinguished Alumnus Robert Milch, MD '68, and UB President John Simpson, PhD.

# Honors Convocation

Recognizing Medical Students' Achievements

The Annual Honors Convocation recognizing academic excellence among first- and second-year students at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was held in Butler Auditorium October 15, 2005.

The following is a list of award recipients and a description of the awards received.

## Departmental Awards

The departments of the school have established awards to recognize meritorious performance as well as outstanding achievement in other curriculum-related activities.

## Pathology and Anatomical Sciences

**Ajay N. Panchal, '08**, received the James A. Gibson, Wayne J. Atwell and Oliver P. Jones Award, which is given by the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences to the student with the highest combined average in the anatomical sciences. The award is named in honor of past chairs of the Department of Anatomy.



**David A. Liebner, '07**, received the Kornel Terplan Award, given by the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences to the student with the highest average in pathology. The award honors Dr. Kornel Terplan, past chair of the department.



## Biochemistry

**Arsalan Q. Shabbir, '08**, received the Edward L. Curvish Award, established by the Department of Biochemistry to recognize the student with the highest average in biochemistry.



## Microbiology/Immunology

**Michael C. Zang, '07**, received the Ernest Witebsky Award, which is given to the students achieving the highest grade in microbiology and immunology. Dr. Witebsky was the founding chair of the Department of Microbiology.



**Rebecca G. Taxier, '07**, received the Marek Zaleski Award, presented by the Department of Microbiology to the student who best combines Dr. Zaleski's high standards of academic achievement with outstanding service to the community. The third-year class chooses the recipient.



## Physiology and Biophysics

**David A. Liebner, '07**, received the Donald W. Rennie Physiology Award, which is given to the students with the highest average in physiology. Dr. Rennie was a former vice president for research at UB and chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

## Primary Care Achievement

**Amy L. Garner '08**, received the Evan Calkins Primary Care Achievement Award, which is given to one outstanding student in the Primary Care Summer Externship Program. Dr. Calkins is a former chair of the Department of Medicine.



## McGraw-Hill Book Awards

**Ajay N. Panchal, '08**, and **Arsalan Q. Shabbir, '08**, both pictured above, received the McGraw-Hill Book Awards, which is given to the two highest-ranking students in the first-year curriculum. **BP**

## Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

Alpha Omega Alpha is a national organization dedicated to supporting academic excellence and perpetuating excellence in the medical profession. It is the only national medical honor society in the world and inductees are selected on the basis of scholarship and integrity.

### Class of 2006 Inductees to Alpha Omega Alpha are:

DANIELLE E. BENDER  
MARY CATHERINE BEROWSKI  
STEPHANIE E. CHIN  
CHRISTOPHER A. D'ANGELIS  
THOMAS MARTIN FORSBERG  
KATHERINE JENNIFER FRACHETTI  
PAMELA JEAN FRANKS  
MICHAEL C. HAWRYSCHUK  
KEITH CHARLES KAPLAN  
ARASH Y. KERMANSHAHI  
JANET CHRISTINA KING  
DEBRA LYNN LUCZKIEWICZ  
MOLLY ELIZABETH MOORE  
DANIELLE LYNN MORGANTI  
BRIAN EDWARD NEUBAUER  
JORDAN MARC RUSH  
JACOB M. TALLMAN  
GEORGE M. WATSON

### Class of 2006 Students Inducted as Juniors

SARAH NICOLE AMINOFF  
JOSETTE M. BIANCHI  
ANDREW JAMES BRENYO  
BRIAN H. EICHNER  
KATHERINE E. MELZER

### Faculty

ALSO INDUCTED WAS CHRISTOPHER COHAN, PHD, PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY AND ANATOMICAL SCIENCES.

## Dean's Letters of Commendation Years 1, 2 and 3

Dean's Letters of Commendation are awarded to students in years one and two who achieve 75 percent of available honors points in each year. Two honors points are earned for each credit hour of honors performance while one point is earned per credit for high satisfactory. In year three, students who earn at least four honors and two high-satisfactory grades are honored. Students earning letters of commendation for their work in academic year 2004-05 are:

### Year One

JENNA LYN ARNDT  
SAMIR MOHAMMED BAIG  
MEGAN K. BARNHART  
ADAM R. BROD  
ANTHONY JOHN CERMINARA  
LAUREN M. DUNFORD  
KATHERINE JOY DUNHAM  
JENNIFER HELEN GABORSKI  
FAHAD S. HASSAN  
GEOFFREY C. HILL  
MIRIAM IMNADZE  
ELIE G. JARROUGE  
PRAVEEN KADIMCHERLA  
MOHAMMED FARAZ KHAN  
VICTORIA A. LILLING  
ANDREW W. MARINO  
JAROD STEPHEN MASCI  
BENJAMIN P. MCGREEVY  
CHARLES MILCHTEIM  
FRANCIS JAMES O'CONNELL  
AJAY NARHARI PANCHAL  
JENNIFER LYNN PUGH  
REBECCA LYNN RYSZKIEWICZ  
CHRISTOPHER KEVIN SCHOTT  
ARSALAN Q. SHABBIR  
MONICA ERIN SHUKLA  
DANIEL A. SLEVE  
HILARY ANNE SOUTHERLAND  
PAUL W. TAGLIENTI  
YELIZAVETA VAYNSHTEYN  
LORI MARIE WITTMAN  
STEFANIE S. WU  
GUANHUA XU  
JUSTIN MARK ZBRZEZNY  
MATTHEW DAVID ZIMMERMAN

### Year Two

KRISTEN ELIZABETH AMANN  
GWEN MARIE BERNACKI  
CHRISTOPHER V. DESIMONE  
LANDIS A. FISHER  
ELLEN C. FITZGERALD  
BENJAMIN C. GILLEN  
AMANDA ROSE GORMAN  
AARTI GUPTA  
GERALD RAJISH JEYAPALAN  
DAE Y. KIM  
RUSSELL M. LAFRANCE  
GARETH MARK LEMA  
ROBIN T. LI  
DAVID A. LIEBNER  
BETHANY M. LIPA  
LESLEY C. LOSS  
JOEL DAVID MACK  
HELEN MARIE MAHLER  
JOHN A. MALONEY  
EMILY A. MCCOURT  
NADIA A. MCFARLANE  
NA-YON NAM  
MICHAEL F. PARSONS  
MICHAEL FRANK PETROZIELLO  
ANNOP PRABHU  
PETER C. REVENAUGH  
BABAK ROOBINI  
JULIANNE MARIE SANTAROSA  
STEPHEN JAMES SCULL  
ERIC J. SIGLER  
PATRICK D. SOLAN  
CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON TJOA  
VY THAO T. TRAN  
THOMAS W. TRIMARCO  
ADRIENNE VARGO  
RYAN DAVID WILKINS  
JEFFREY P. YAEGER  
AFSHIN ZADFAR  
MICHAEL C. ZANG

### Year Three

SARAH NICOLE AMINOFF  
DANIELLE E. BENDER  
JOSETTE M. BIANCHI  
ANDREW JAMES BRENYO  
STEPHANIE E. CHIN  
CHRISTOPHER A. D'ANGELIS  
JEREMIAH J. DEPUE  
BRIAN H. EICHNER  
KATHERINE JENNIFER FRACHETTI  
PAMELA JEAN FRANKS  
MICHAEL C. HAWRYSCHUK  
KEITH CHARLES KAPLAN  
ARASH Y. KERMANSHAHI  
JANET CHRISTINA KING  
DEBRA LYNN LUCZKIEWICZ  
KATHERINE E. MELZER  
RON MITZNER  
JOSHUA MOSKOVITZ  
BRIAN EDWARD NEUBAUER  
MICHELLE L. NIESCIERENKO  
JENNIE G. ONO  
DAVID A. PAINE  
TARA M. PETROSKI  
TROY A. PITTMAN  
JORDAN MARC RUSH  
NICOLE ELAINE SCOURAS  
KIMBERLY A. TRUAX  
GEORGE M. WATSON