

# Pathways

A U T U M N 2 0 0 7

## Nancy Nielsen, MD '76, PhD, Named AMA President-Elect

**IN LINE TO BECOME  
THE AMA'S SECOND  
WOMAN PRESIDENT**



Nielsen

NANCY H. NIELSEN, MD '76, PhD, senior associate dean for medical education in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, was named president-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA) on June 23.

Following a year-long term as president-elect, Nielsen will assume the office of AMA president in June 2008.

"The American Medical Association's commitment to leadership, excellence and integrity are the bedrock of its pursuit of practical solutions to the nation's health-care priorities," says Nielsen, who will be the second woman to hold the AMA's highest elected office. "It is a deep honor and privilege to be named president-elect of an organization that is committed to helping our profession and the patients we serve."

Since 2000, Nielsen has served four consecutive annual terms as speaker of the House of Delegates, the AMA policy-setting body, and three consecutive annual terms as vice-speaker. She has been an active contributor to AMA policy discussions and currently represents the AMA on several quality initiatives, including the National Quality Forum, the AMA-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement and the Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance.

A past member of the AMA's Council on Scientific Affairs, Nielsen helped develop AMA policy on prominent health issues, such as alcoholism among women, colorectal cancer screening and safety in dispensing prescriptions.

In addition to her work at UB and with the AMA, Nielsen was chief medical officer for

Independent Health, a health insurance company headquartered in Buffalo. She is also a member of the board of directors of the New York-based Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company, one of the largest medical liability carriers in the country.

A board-certified internist and a master of the American College of Physicians, Nielsen has long been active in health-care issues important to New York. She was a trustee of the State University of New York and a chief medical officer for the New York State Department of Health's Western Region. She has also served as an officer with the Medical Society of the State of New York, the New York State Society of Internal Medicine and the Erie County Medical Society.

—S. A. UNGER



## Cain Addresses World Congress on Heart Disease

MICHAEL E. CAIN, MD, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, was invited to deliver the keynote address (the Second H. J. C. Swan Memorial Lecture) at the 13th World Congress on Heart Disease—International Academy of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Sessions 2007, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 28–31.

Cain, who is recognized worldwide as an expert on cardiac electrophysiology, spoke on "How



Cain

Best to Identify Patients at Risk for Sudden Cardiac Death."

The World Congress on Heart Disease is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the latest research developments in cardiovascular medicine, primarily in the areas of molecular biology, coronary artery disease, heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias and cardiac surgery. Material presented at the Congress is selected from over 900 abstracts submitted from laboratories in 58 countries.

—S. A. UNGER

## Quattrin Appointed Interim Chair

TERESA QUATTRIN, MD, chief of the clinical services at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo (WCHOB) has been appointed interim chair of the Department of Pediatrics. In August, Frederick C. Morin III, MD, former Conger Goodyear Professor and chair of the department, left UB to assume the position of dean of the University of Vermont College of Medicine (see announcement on page 31).

Quattrin is professor of pediatrics and currently serves as chief of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology/Diabetes, director of the Pediatric Endocrinology Fellowship Program and director of the Diabetes Center at WCHOB.

"Dr. Quattrin is an outstanding clinician, educator and an internationally recognized physician-scientist and authority in the area of childhood diabetes," said Dean Michael E. Cain, MD, at the time he announced her appointment in August.

"The School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is extremely fortunate to have a person of Dr. Quattrin's stature and capabilities to assume this responsibility."

—S. A. UNGER



Quattrin

## Holmes Named NYS Family Physician of the Year

DAVID M. HOLMES, MD, clinical assistant professor of family medicine at UB, has been named Family Physician of the Year by the New York State Academy of Family Physicians. He received the award on June 9 in Albany during the academy's annual Congress of Delegates.

Holmes, who is also director of UB's family medicine clerkship and electives and associate vice chair for medical student education in the Department of Family Medicine, practices with Kaleida Health's Niagara Family Health

Center on the lower west side of Buffalo. He was selected by the Education Commission of the academy from among family physicians nominated by patients and colleagues.

"The Family Physician of the Year award is the highest honor bestowed by the New York State Academy of Family Physicians," says Vito Grasso, executive vice president of the academy. "It is presented to a physician who, in the judgment of the academy, has exem-



Holmes

plified the highest standards of patient care and advocacy. We are very pleased to recognize Dr. Holmes and are honored to have a physician with his obvious commitment to medicine and outstanding patient care among our membership."

Holmes was cited for numerous contributions to medicine, including cofounding of a free medical clinic at Cornerstone Manor, a homeless shelter for women and children in Buffalo.

Kathleen Szymanski, RN, who has volunteered with Holmes at the Cornerstone Manor, wrote: "Anyone who spends time with him walks away a better person for having been touched by his compassion and ability to motivate others to reach beyond themselves to a hurting community."

An article featuring Holmes' many contributions to health care in our region will be published in the winter 2008 issue of *Buffalo Physician*.

—S. A. UNGER

# Renowned Biomedical Engineer Joins UB

**Esther S. Takeuchi, PhD, pioneering developer of implantable devices**

By ELLEN GOLDBAUM



Takeuchi

**ESTHER S. TAKEUCHI, PhD, the renowned inventor of the tiny batteries that have helped make implantable cardiac pacemakers, defibrillators and other medical devices a life-saving reality for millions of patients, has accepted a faculty position in the UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, where she will serve as professor in the departments of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Electrical Engineering.**

**T**akeuchi, who is coming to UB from Greatbatch Inc., where she worked as chief scientist, is often cited as the woman awarded the most patents in the U.S.—134 at last count—most of which are related to her pioneering development of sophisticated power sources for implantable devices.

Named to the National Academy of Engineering in 2004, she is one of just 100 women elected to the organization, considered the highest distinction that an engineering professional can achieve. Only 4 percent of the academy's 2,300 active members are women.

"As one of our nation's most distinguished engineering scientists, Dr. Takeuchi has been a powerful force in demonstrating how research can transform people's lives," noted Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, UB provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, at the time her recruitment was announced in August.

"As a member of our UB faculty, she will have the opportunity to share her expertise and excitement for the field of engineering as she helps to prepare our next generation of scientists and inventors. I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Takeuchi to our University at Buffalo family."

Takeuchi, who began at UB on September 1, says she is eager to collaborate with

other scientists at the university to expand her research into areas including batteries for other medical devices, understanding the physiological benefits of electrical stimulation and even some homeland security applications, which require ever-smaller sources of power.

"This is a match made in heaven," she said at the time her hiring was announced. "I will be working with chemical engineers and bioengineers in the medical realm and with electrical engineers who provide the electronics for the devices."

Takeuchi's research at UB will be partly funded by UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

"As a faculty member affiliated with the UB Center of Excellence, Dr. Takeuchi brings not only her superb skills as a researcher, but also a unique perspective from her experience working at the

center of the booming biomedical device industry," says Bruce A. Holm, PhD, senior vice provost and executive director of the UB Center of Excellence. "She is precisely the type of faculty member that the UB Center of Excellence was organized to attract."

At Greatbatch, Inc, where she worked for 22 years, Takeuchi's development of the lithium/silver vanadium oxide battery was a major factor in bringing implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICDs) into production in the late 1980s. ICDs are used to shock the heart into a normal rhythm when it goes into fibrillation.

Twenty years later, with over 200,000 of these units being implanted each year, more than 90 percent of them are powered by the batteries that Takeuchi and her team developed and improved over the past two decades.

The lithium power sources developed by Takeuchi and her colleagues at Greatbatch have been utilized in pacemakers that also function as home health monitors and neurostimulators for diseases like epilepsy, Parkinson's and chronic pain. The batteries are being tested in emerging products for disorders of the brain, spinal cord, gastrointestinal system and others.

Takeuchi earned a doctorate in chemistry at the Ohio State University and completed postdoctoral work in electrochemistry at the University of North Carolina and UB. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in chemistry and history. **EP**

**The lithium power sources developed by Takeuchi and her colleagues at Greatbatch have been utilized in pacemakers that also function as home health monitors and neurostimulators for diseases like epilepsy, Parkinson's and chronic pain.**





# Yeh Named a Jefferson Science Fellow

**Will consult with U.S. State Department in his area of expertise**

BY LOIS BAKER AND S. A. UNGER

John Yeh, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics at the University at Buffalo and an internationally recognized reproductive endocrinologist, is one of eight individuals selected to be 2007-2008 Jefferson Science Fellows.

The Jefferson Science Fellows program was initiated by the U.S. Department of State in 2003 in an effort to establish a new model for engaging American science, technology and engineering academicians in the formulation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy. Yeh will be the first physician-scientist to serve as a Jefferson Fellow.

"I am gratified that the University at Buffalo, through Provost Satish Tripathi and David Dunn, vice president for health affairs, nominated me for this significant honor," says Yeh. "I hope to represent UB to the best of my abilities in Washington this next year."

The Jefferson Science Fellows program is administered by the National Academies (comprising the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council) and supported

through a public-private partnership involving universities, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation and the State Department.

Tenured academic scientists and engineers from U.S. colleges and universities are eligible for selection to be Fellows. Selectees serve one-year assignments working full time in the State Department or the U.S. Agency for International Development, providing up-to-date expertise on issues that routinely impact State Department policy decisions. They remain available as consultants after returning to their academic careers.

Yeh's areas of expertise are reproductive aging of the ovary, molecular biology of ovarian corpus luteum regression (the corpus luteum produces hormones that prepare the uterine lining for implantation by the fertilized egg) and biomarkers of damage that chemotherapy inflicts on ovaries.

He has authored or coauthored more than 200 journal articles, book chapters, letters, and conference proceedings. The UB Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics, with 36 residents, has one of the largest residency programs in the

United States, and has an active research agenda. Department faculty published 35 scientific manuscripts and conference proceedings in 2006.

Educated at Harvard University and the University of California-San Diego School of Medicine, Yeh completed his residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, after which he served a fellowship in fertility and reproductive endocrinology at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He joined the Harvard Medical School faculty in 1987.

Yeh taught and conducted research in reproductive endocrinology at the medical school before leaving in 1997 to become professor and vice chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Minnesota. He was appointed to his current position at UB in 2000.

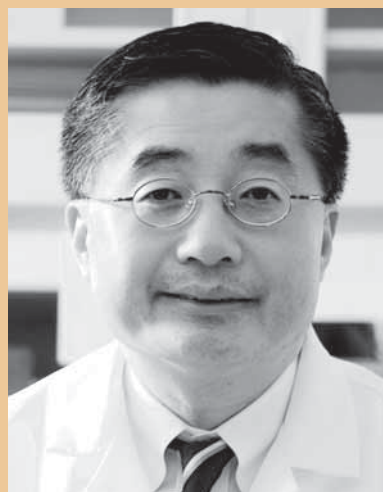
Yeh's group of Fellows includes two elected members of the National Academies—from the University of Colorado at Boulder and Dartmouth College—plus faculty from the University of Florida, Virginia Commonwealth University, Colorado State University, Cornell University and a second scientist from the Univer-

sity of Colorado at Boulder.

Following his Jefferson Fellowship year, Yeh will return to UB but will remain available to the State Department for short-term projects during the subsequent five years.

To learn more about John Yeh, and the UB Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics, visit *Buffalo Physician* online at <http://www.smbuffalo.edu/bp/>. Click on past issues, Spring 2007, and go to a story titled "Delivery of Care." **BP**

**Following his Jefferson Fellowship year, Yeh will return to UB but will remain available to the State Department for short-term projects during the subsequent five years.**



## Trevisan to Lead Nevada Health Sciences System

MAURIZIO TREVISAN, MD, founding dean of the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions, has been named vice chancellor and chief executive officer of the University of Nevada Health Sciences System, the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

He left UB in October to assume leadership of Nevada's health sciences system, which



Trevisan

includes 200 programs spread throughout the eight institutions within the NSHE, including schools of medicine, dental medicine, public health, allied health, health and human sciences, and nursing.

In his new role, Trevisan will be responsible for establishing the vision and providing the leadership to develop the strategy that will achieve the growth and quality objectives of the University of Nevada Health Sciences System. He also will be responsible for developing an efficient academic university system that improves health-care delivery and access to care; and promoting the development of multi-professional health and wellness research.

UB President John B. Simpson, PhD, called Trevisan "the consummate scholar-practitioner, equally gifted as a researcher, educator, physician and administrator."

"As the founding dean of the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions, he brought that wide-ranging perspective to bear in shaping the school into one of the most groundbreaking institutions of its kind, building a prevention-focused program whose proactive vision of health and wellness has had a far-reaching impact on the health-care community locally, as well as globally," Simpson said at the time Trevisan's appointment was announced in late August.

"His own pioneering research in epidemiology epitomized the scope of that impact, expanding the boundaries of knowledge in areas ranging from cardiology and diabetes to dental disease and women's health. While we will miss his contributions greatly, he has left the School of Public Health and Health Professions very well poised for continued growth and achievement. We wish him every success in his new leadership role in Nevada."

In September, Lynn T. Kozlowski, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Health Behavior, was named interim dean of the school. **BP**

—SUE WUETCHER

## Medical Educators Visit from the Royal College of London

**Initial effort to establish a Faculty Development Program**

Three medical educators from the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) of London visited the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in May in order to assist faculty and staff in laying the groundwork for a Faculty Development Program. The RCP designs and delivers faculty development programs for practicing physicians in England and conducts training in conjunction with medical schools in the country.

The team's visit was the second of two three-day workshops they have held at UB, with the first taking place in fall 2006. Since returning to England they have continued to collaborate on ongoing projects related to the work they began in Buffalo.

"The visit in May was the cornerstone for what we hope will be a more extensive faculty development initiative between the two groups," says Roseanne Berger, MD, senior associate dean for graduate medical education at UB, who planned and hosted the exchange in collaboration with Lori McMann, director of continuing medical education at UB.

More on this initiative will be reported on in future issues of *Buffalo Physician*.



PHOTO BY NANCY PARISI

**SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Professor Roger Barton, PhD, associate director of medical education at the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) of London and professor of clinical medicine and clinical subdean at the University of Newcastle; Roseanne Berger, MD, senior associate dean for graduate medical education and professor of family medicine at UB; Winnie Wade, director of education, RCP. **STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Elie Akl, MD, assistant professor of medicine at UB; David Parry, deputy director of education, RCP; and Lori McMann, director of continuing medical education at UB.



## Arbesman Wins Award for ALS Research



Arbesman

Sometimes you need a new theory to generate a new therapy or simply to understand disease in general. Such hypotheses are what really create leaps in our understanding of critical problems.

HARVEY ARBESMAN, MD, has won one of five monetary awards in an international competition that identifies best ideas for discovering biomarkers for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a fatal condition that for decades has stymied those searching for a treatment or cure.

Prize4Life, a nonprofit organization founded to accelerate research into ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease), announced the \$1 million prize competition last November.

The Biomarker Prize, as it is called, is divided into two tracks—*theoretical findings and real outcomes*—and will be apportioned among scientists who solve the most critical

scientific problems preventing the discovery of an effective ALS treatment.

Arbesman, who is a clinical assistant professor of dermatology in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and clinical associate professor of social and preventive medicine in the School of Public Health and Health Professions, took part in the first track, in which 45 entrants submitted theoretical papers describing how they would develop an ALS biomarker.

The five winners in the first track each received a \$15,000 cash prize. The remaining \$925,000 will be rewarded to the discoverer or discoverers of the first proven ALS biomarker. The competition will

conclude November 30, 2008.

Arbesman maintains an active dermatology practice and is founder and vice president of ArbesIdeas, a health-care related research and development company. One of the company's goals is to promote creative thinking in developing medical hypotheses.

"You need new hypotheses to account for different anomalies to existing theories," Arbesman notes. "Or sometimes you need a new theory to generate a new therapy or simply to understand disease in general. Such hypotheses are what really create leaps in our understanding of critical problems."

—LOIS BAKER

## Morin Named Dean at Vermont

FREDERICK C. MORIN III, MD, Conger Goodyear Professor and chair of pediatrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has been named dean of the University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine.



Morin

"Rick Morin is an accomplished researcher, physician, educator, scholar and administrator, and we are all extremely pleased to have such strong leadership for the College of Medicine," said UVM president Daniel Mark Fogel at the time of the announcement in July.

"He is passionately committed to our education, research and service missions and will be a key collaborator as we work toward establishing UVM as the nation's premier small public research university."

Morin served as interim vice president for health affairs and interim dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB from 2005 to 2006. He began in his new role at UVM in August.

—S. A. UNGER

## Wilson Bequest Benefits Medical Students

The School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is the beneficiary of a bequest from John H. Wilson, who earned his bachelor of arts degree in natural science and mathematics from UB in 1967.

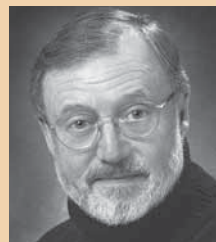
A native of Kenmore, New York, Wilson died on September 26, 2005. Through his bequest, he provided more than \$725,000 to endow the Hazel and John Wilson Scholarship Fund for students in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, as well as in the math and modern language departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. It is anticipated that in the first

year alone, the Hazel and John Wilson Scholarship Fund will provide 10 partial scholarships for students in medicine, math and modern languages.

The year before he graduated from UB, Wilson began working at Calspan in Cheektowaga, where he led a group responsible for numerical analysis and application. Calspan was founded as part of the Curtiss-Wright Airplane Division in Buffalo and now includes five operating units. Over the years, it has served as an incubator for numerous Western New York companies.

—CYNTHIA MACHAMER

## Lee Principal Organizer of New Journal



Lee

RICHARD LEE, MD, professor of medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, is the principal organizer of a new journal that is being published by the Royal Society of Medicine in London for the Societies of Obstetric Medicine around the world. The journal is titled *Obstetric Medicine: the Medicine of Pregnancy*, and its first issue was distributed in September at the Washington, DC, meeting of the International Society of Obstetric Medicine.

Lee, who recruited most of the members of the editorial board for the journal, including its three editors-in-chief, is serving a one- to two-year term as chair of the board.

According to a statement released by *Obstetric Medicine*, the aim of the journal is to "publish papers on all aspects of medicine affecting the pregnant woman, including conditions that pre-exist and arise de novo in pregnancy, and the long-term implications of pregnancies, including those complicated by

disease, for maternal health."

*Obstetric Medicine* is the official journal of the International Society of Obstetric Medicine, the MacDonald Obstetric Medicine Society, the North American Society of Obstetric Medicine, and the Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand.

—S. A. UNGER

## Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

M. JANE PARMINGTON, MD, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics, was presented with the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award at this year's White Coat Ceremony.

The award, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, is presented annually to a faculty member who best demonstrates the foundation's ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, and respect for the patient, their families, and health-care colleagues, as well as demonstrated clinical excellence.

One student who nominated her said: "Dr. Parmington is a pediatric attending at the Towne Gardens Clinic. She has spent many years of her medical career caring for some of the most underserved children of the East Side of Buffalo. She has seen all of her fellow doctors and staff come and go, has seen the clinic change locations multiple times, and has fought many attempts to

reduce or close the clinic. She has remained one of the few constants in this neighborhood. Every day I work for her I see a doctor who has earned the trust from this population of families and individuals who start with a deep distrust of the medical establishment.

"It is nothing less than inspirational to work with Dr. Parmington. I've seen, over and over again, the ease with which she forms bonds with the residents and students.

"Personally, Dr. Parmington has strongly influenced my decision to become a pediatrician. Her dedication to her students, residents, staff and, most of all, her patients, continues to motivate and inspire me to model my own career after her."

To read more about the White Coat Ceremony and the Class of 2010, turn to pages 23 and 46.

—S. A. UNGER



M. Jane Parmington, MD, receiving the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award from Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.





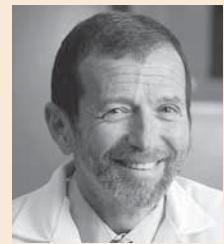
# 2007 FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS

## Dean's Award

The **Dean's Award** is given in special recognition of extraordinary service to the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. This year's recipient is Steven L. Dubovsky, MD, chair of the Department of Psychiatry. Prior to joining UB in this capacity in July of 2004, Dubovsky served as professor and vice chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the

University of Colorado.

In presenting the award at the annual Faculty Meeting on May 21, Dean Michael Cain stated: "Since his arrival, Steve has not only worked tirelessly to establish excellence in the Department of Psychiatry, but he has also



Dubovsky

provided leadership to the entire School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences community. He has been pivotal in organizing the medical school chairs to function as a group in order to provide leadership in accomplishing the mutual goals of the departments, school and hospitals. He has taken on the tough task of revising the promotions criteria for the school in his role as chair of the Standing Committee on Promotion Policy for the Faculty Council. Steve spearheaded the early initiatives to form a single university practice group and has now taken on the challenging task of chairing a sub-committee on the formation of UBMD. Additionally, Steve has given leadership to the UB 2020 initiative on Health and Wellness Across the Life Span.

"I am fortunate to have Steve as one of my valued chairs and look forward to working with him on all the future endeavors of the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences."

## 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 Christina Ehret, who has served as assistant to the chair of microbiology since 1973.

John Hay, PhD, chair of the department for the last fifteen years, says, "Tina is the face of the [microbiology] department. She knows everyone who has been associated with the department for the past 35 years, and they know her. She's the first person they visit when they come back. Tina keeps the institutional memory in her head and that's what makes the department a department, as opposed to a collection of faculty, staff and students."

Ehret was also commended for her overall service to the university and school. She has been a member of the President's Panel for Review of Search Procedures for over a decade, and she formed and has continuously worked on the beautification committee for the South Campus. In addition,



Ehret

during the school's last LCME accreditation visit, she served as a member of the Writing Committee for the Medical School Self-Study Report.

## Berkson Memorial Award

The Robert S. Berkson, MD, Award in the Art of Medicine is presented annually 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 special expertise in the "art of medicine" is meant to be perpetuated in this award.

The recipients of this year's award are Anthony Bartholomew, MD '88, and G. Jay Bishop, MD, both volunteer faculty members in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Bartholomew and Bishop established an internal medicine practice in Fredonia, New York, in 1993. Since that time, their practice has functioned as a Community Academic Practice Site, with internal medicine residents and medical students rotating through the office on a regular basis. (All internal medicine residents have a required one-month block rotation at this site.)

One such resident wrote the following about Bartholomew: "He is an outstanding teacher who has developed his practice to involve the community in which he lives. He truly symbolizes a community doctor and gives residents an opportunity to experience this practice of medicine. I can only encourage residents who are interested in rural medicine/primary care to take advantage of this excellent rotation."

Another resident wrote the following about Bishop: "This was probably my best rotation yet through our residency program. It restored my interest in internal medicine and most likely changed my career choice (not to specialize). I would recommend them very, very highly to anyone. The office has a great staff, friendly and helpful to all newcomers."

## Stockton Kimball Award

*The Stockton Kimball Award honors a faculty member for academic accomplishments and worldwide recognition as a researcher. Stockton Kimball, MD '29, was the dean of the UB 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.*



Laychock

The 2007 recipient of the Stockton Kimball Award is Suzanne G. Laychock, PhD, senior associate dean for research and biomedical education, and professor of pharmacology and toxicology.

Laychock received a bachelor of science degree and master of arts degree in biology from Brooklyn College and a doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology from the Medical College of Virginia. After completing her PhD, she was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) postdoctoral fellowship for study in pharmacology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

In 1978, Laychock was named assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the Medical College of Virginia, and several years later she was appointed associate professor of pharmacology.

While at the Medical College of Virginia, she was honored as Outstanding Faculty Member in the Department of Pharmacology (1983), and as the Outstanding Young Research Investigator of the American Diabetes Association Virginia Affiliate (1989). She also received the Virginia Commonwealth University alumni STAR Award (1990), and the Sandra Tate Russell Memorial Award for outstanding diabetes research.

In 1989, Laychock joined the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences as professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. In 2002, she was named senior associate dean for

research and biomedical education for the school. That same year, she received the UB Sustained Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scholarly Activity in the Exceptional Scholar Program.

Throughout her career, Laychock has focused her research on endocrinology and signal transduction, with an emphasis on insulin-secretory mechanisms and second-messenger systems. Her studies have been consistently funded for almost three decades, and she has published over 95 articles and book chapters. In addition, she has edited or served on the editorial board for numerous journals, including *Diabetes*, the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, and *Lipids*. She also has served as an NIH study section member and on multiple review panels.

On a national level, Laychock has chaired several committees for the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and has served on committees for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.

"Currently, Dr. Laychock is conducting groundbreaking work in the area of pancreatic islet beta-cell survival," says Mulchand Patel, PhD, who chaired the award committee. "Her research has characterized a novel pathway for bioactive sphingolipid mediation of beta-cell survival in the face of cellular stressors that lead to beta-cell failure and death in models of diabetes mellitus. Her continuing studies are focused

on improving beta-cell survival during transplant procedures of pancreatic islets for treatment of diabetes."

Besides outstanding scholarship, the Stockton Kimball awardee also must demonstrate significant service to UB. Since joining the university's faculty, Laychock has been a member of numerous committees, most notably the President's Advisory Council, team leader for the Curriculum Task Force for an Organ-Based Medical Curriculum, the Ad Hoc Appointment and Promotion Committee to Unqualified Rank, chair of the Graduate Education Policy Committee, co-director of the Institute for Research and Education on Women & Gender, and co-chair of the 2020 Aging and Chronic Disease Strategic Strength planning committee. She has taught pharmacology, endocrinology and cell biology to graduate, medical, dental and undergraduate students for the past 30 years and has trained numerous graduate students and postdoctoral fellows over her career.

"The spirit of the Stockton Kimball Award is captured by the altruistic dedication of faculty like Dr. Laychock, who pursue sustained excellence in research, teaching and service and contribute to raising the stature of UB as an academy of scholars with concern for the UB community," says Patel.



# In Memoriam

Elizabeth P. Olmsted Ross, MD '39, a nationally renowned champion for the blind and visually impaired, aviation pioneer, and generous donor to the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, died September 6, 2007, at Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital. She was 92.



“Elizabeth was one of the first people I met at UB,” recalls Michael Cain, MD, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. “We were introduced at the dinner honoring her as the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus of the medical school. It was immediately clear to me why she had been chosen for the award: Her achievements were remarkable, especially in light of the era in which she practiced medicine. Her philanthropy was also remarkable. Elizabeth has left a legacy that will have a marked effect on the research, teaching and clinical care of generations of physicians and scientists, and thousands will benefit from her generosity and foresight.”

James Reynolds, MD, chair of ophthalmology, states: “Elizabeth was a respected colleague, but she was also a steadfast confidante, mentor and friend. It was Elizabeth who urged us to think about locating the Ross Eye Institute downtown; she knew that a free-standing eye institute was clearly the wave of the future in Buffalo, a way we could bring all of our educational, research and clinical care activities under one roof. Elizabeth’s pioneering spirit and philanthropy will be felt for decades, and I am grateful that I was part of her ambition to create a better life for those who have eye diseases.”

“Elizabeth remained goal oriented and optimistic to the end of her life,” says Kathleen Wiater, associate dean and senior director for advancement and constituent relations at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. “Her final days were focused on the opening of the Ross Eye Institute, the initiative that defined her last years and her legacy to the medical school. She was remarkable in her ability to propel this project strategically, to motivate others to pay attention to it and to support it. Elizabeth’s civic responsibility, consummate professionalism, civility and gentility were important aspects of her citizenship, leadership and friendship. I shall miss her greatly.”

Olmsted Ross was one of four women in a class of 64 to receive her medical degree in 1939. While still in medical school, she began flying planes as a hobby, later becoming one of the first female pilots in Western New York. She served as a medical officer and flight instructor, obtaining the rank of lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol and serving as a member of The Ninety-Nines, the international organization of female pilots, during World War II.

As an intern, Olmsted Ross pursued a career in aviation medicine, which at the time was founded on eye tests. She enjoyed the training in ophthalmology and decided to pursue residency training in this field. The decision proved challenging, however, as women were not usually admitted to ophthalmology since the specialty fell under the surgical residencies, which were dominated by men. This changed with the start of World War II, when hospitals needed women to fill the vacancies created by male physicians drafted into war.

In a 2004 interview with *Buffalo Physician* in which she recounted her career, Olmsted Ross betrayed no bitterness about her struggle to enter medicine on equal footing with men, but she also spared no candor about the circumstances under which the barriers were eventually removed.

“Yes, it took a world war. Literally, it did!” she explained. “They were picking up all the guys who were in hospitals, and so they didn’t have enough house staff to cover their hospital commitments. Once that happened, I could have asked for practically anything.”

Olmsted Ross completed her residency training in Chicago at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary and in 1944 opened a private practice on Lafayette Street in Buffalo, becoming the first female ophthalmologist in the city. During this time, she also became the youngest person on record to be named diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology.

With her practice established, Olmsted Ross began a long career of patient care, advocacy and research, which included subcontracts with various local industries. She initiated safety goggle programs and industrial lighting standards at Curtiss Wright Corporation. While working to fit engineers at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory with protective eyewear, she listened to their concerns about working with a new technology called radar. She then spent the next three years investigating the ocular effects of radar exposure, with studies conducted at Tufts University, Griffiths Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral and aboard the RCA radar ship patrolling the East Coast.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Olmsted Ross established an accredited ophthalmology program at Deaconess Hospital, which involved the relocation of the Wettlaufer Clinic—the largest eye clinic in the city—to the hospital. She subsequently played a key role in establishing an ophthalmology residency program at Deaconess, an accomplishment she later identified as one of the high points of her career.

During this time Olmsted Ross also began to undertake public service projects that contributed to her legacy as a champion of the blind and visually impaired. Among the many projects she initiated were the establishment of a preschool vision screening clinic in the Buffalo public schools and the introduction of large-print books into area libraries.

Olmsted Ross had been associated with the Blind Association of Western New York since opening her practice. In 1999, she made a gift of \$1 million to the association to renovate its facility, which now bears her name: The Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, M.D. Center for the Visually Impaired. People from around the world come to the facility to receive services that include instruction in how to read and write braille, use a computer, develop vocational skills and acquire daily living and mobility skills.

In the fall of 2003, Olmsted Ross offered a \$3 million challenge grant to UB to establish the Ira G. Ross Eye Institute—the research and teaching affiliate of the center named in honor of her late husband—and upon its successful conclusion followed up with an additional \$1 million challenge grant. The institute, which opened in November, is an important element of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, a world-class facility located in downtown Buffalo. (A report on the opening of the institute will be published in the Winter issue of *Buffalo Physician*.)

The recipient of many awards for career accomplishments, Olmsted Ross was inducted into the Western New York Women’s Hall of Fame in 2002 and received UB’s prestigious Samuel P. Capen Award in 2005 for “meritorious contributions to the University at Buffalo.” In 2007, she was named Distinguished Medical Alumnae of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Among her many contributions to UB and the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Olmsted Ross served as a member of *Buffalo Physicians’* editorial board for almost two decades.

—S. A. UNGER

Gifts in memory of Elizabeth Olmsted Ross, MD '39, can be made in support of the Ross Eye Institute. Checks should be made payable to the University at Buffalo Foundation (specify “Ross Eye Institute” in the memo line). Please mail gifts to UBF, PO Box 1232, Buffalo, NY 14240.





# In Memoriam

## Felix Milgrom, MD

**Pioneering Immunologist, UB faculty member**

**Felix Milgrom, MD, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Microbiology at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, died unexpectedly on September 2, 2007, following a short illness.**

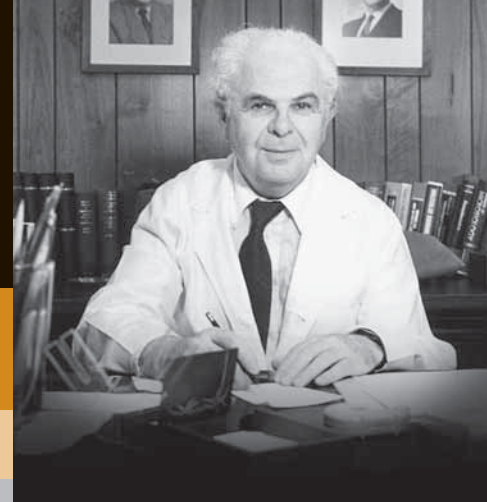
Milgrom was born in Poland on October 19, 1919, and obtained his medical degree from the University of Wroclaw, Poland, in 1946 on the basis of a dissertation devoted to serological mass examinations for syphilis. In 1951 he obtained the title of Privatdozent for his work on the structure of natural antibodies. From 1946 to 1954, he was a faculty member of the School of Medicine at Wroclaw where he closely collaborated with Ludwik Hirsztfeld, the renowned Polish microbiologist and mentor and father figure to Milgrom. In 1953–1954, Milgrom was professor of microbiology at the University of Wroclaw, and acting director of the Institute of Immunology and Experimental Medicine of the Polish Academy of Science (now the Ludwik Hirsztfeld Institute of Immunology). He was later named professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology in the Silesian University School of Medicine, Zabrze, Poland (1954–1957). After leaving Poland, he was associated with Pierre Grabar at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, in 1957.

In 1958, at the invitation of Ernest Witebsky, he joined the UB Department of Bacteriology and Immunology (now the Department of Microbiology and Immunology). Beginning as research associate, he rose to the rank of professor and was appointed chair of the department in 1967, succeeding Witebsky. He was one of the founding members of the Center for Immunology, now known as the Witebsky Center for Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology, and was acting director of this center in 1969–1970 and 1973–1974.

In 1981, Milgrom was named a SUNY Distinguished Professor for his long and fruitful career in teaching, research and administration. After 18 years of distinguished leadership, which included expansion of the number and diversity of specialties of the faculty, a greatly increased graduate program, and development of a broad base of basic science research in immunology and microbiology, Milgrom stepped down as chair of the department in 1985, citing Benjamin Franklin, who said that it is a promotion when a public servant becomes a private citizen. After leaving administration, Milgrom devoted the rest of his professional life to teaching and research. He was author or coauthor of over 400 publications and mentored nearly 100 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

Milgrom was one of the few scientists of his time who had a deep knowledge of the entire field of immunology. Much of his early research involved studies on natural antibodies. These studies showed that the combining site of an antibody may have more than one specificity. Also, before IgM antibodies were described, he was the first to show that an antibody molecule may have more than two combining sites.

Additional work on antibody molecules showed that new antigenic sites on the IgG molecule are revealed by interaction with antigen. This led to work demonstrating that sera from rheumatoid arthritis patients may contain antibodies directed against IgG. He obtained experimental evidence for this by showing that rabbits, immunized for a long period of time either with a foreign antigen or with



Dr. Milgrom, always true to his academic heritage, was fond of citing a poem which was given to him by his spiritual grandfather, Emil von Dungen:

*You wanted to look into the face of nature  
And for this you fought all your life.  
Still you did not pierce Nature's shield  
And everlasting nature defeated you  
And unfulfilled remain your longings.  
I know this well but still we keep fighting.*

their own denatured IgG, formed antibodies to IgG.

Milgrom also did extensive work in the area of organ transplantation. He was the first to demonstrate that certain renal homograft rejections are caused by antibodies in the recipient's circulation that react with the grafted tissue. In his work on heterophile antibodies, he was the first to propose and provide evidence that Paul-Bunnell antibodies are produced in response to a novel antigen arising in the course of infectious mononucleosis.

In addition, Milgrom made significant contributions in other areas of immunology, including blood groups, autoimmunity, tumor immunology and renal immunopathology.

Milgrom's accomplishments were recognized by the awarding of five honorary doctor of medicine degrees: by the University of Vienna, Austria, in 1976; by the University of Lund, Sweden, and the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in 1979; by the University of Bergen, Norway, in 1980; and by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark, in 1991. Among many other honors, he received the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize in 1987.

## Cheryl Kishbaugh

**Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education**



CHERYL KISHBAUGH, associate dean for Graduate Medical Education, died September 14 in Buffalo General Hospital. A 1977 graduate of Canisius College, Cheryl served UB for over 22 years. She began her career as a financial aid advisor and assistant director of student accounts. In 1991 she joined the School of Medicine's newly formed Office of Graduate Medical Education as its first director of resident affairs. She subsequently was appointed assistant and then associate dean.

Kishbaugh was held in high esteem by residents who turned to her for guidance. In recognition of this trust, she was selected as Resident Ombudsman, the first and only individual to hold this post.

In 2001 Kishbaugh was presented with the John P. Naughton Award in recognition of her significant contribution to the mission of the medical school and her "direct and forthright style, dependability, and dedication to residents."

## John C. Fisher, MD

**Pediatric pathologist, UB professor**

JOHN C. FISHER, MD, a pediatric pathologist and UB professor of pathology, died July 19, 2007, in Women & Children's Hospital. He had requested to spend his final days in the hospital where he devoted 36 years of work. He was 75.

Born and raised in Kildare County, Ireland, Fisher attended medical school at University College, Dublin. He moved to Montreal in 1970 to receive additional medical training. One year later, he came to Buffalo and began working in the pathology department at what was then Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

He was a member of the Society for Pediatric Pathology and the European-based Paediatric Pathology Society. He also served on the medical councils of Ireland and England.

"His motto was: 'Be kind and you'll always be happy. Treat everyone, no matter how low in service, with respect. They are all unique people,'" says his secretary of 37 years, Linda Hovey. "He was very respected by everyone at the hospital."

Fisher is survived by a brother, Dennis.