Anthony Auerbach, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has received a $4.63 million Jacob Javits Award in the Neurosciences. The seven-year grant is the second such award for Auerbach, who received his first, for $2.7 million, in 2000. The Jacob Javits Award in the Neurosciences is given to distinguished investigators who have a record of substantial contributions on the cutting edge of some field of neurological science and who can be expected to be highly productive for a conditional seven-year period, according to the award announcement.

Auerbach has conducted highly regarded research in cell communication and synapses for 18 years. His work centers on investigating the molecular processes involved in protein activity in the nervous system and on how synaptic receptors are activated by their transmitters.

During the initial award period, Auerbach showed that changes in shape that occur in a receptor during activity are not smooth transitions from one form to another, but more jagged wave-like patterns of activity brought about by as many as 20 moving parts.

He now will study how the subunits that form the receptor work together and how the protein limits its receptiveness to signaling mechanisms.

Javits Award recipients are selected from a pool of competing applicants during a grant's cycle. Applicants are nominated by either the National Institute for Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS) staff, or by members of the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council. The council must approve each recommendation, with the final selection made by the NINDS director.

Lois Baker

Marzo and Bisson Join Sports Medicine

John M. Marzo, MD, and Leslie J. Bisson, MD, have joined the faculty of University Sports Medicine in the Department of Orthopaedics.

Marzo received his medical degree from the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse, and in 1986 he completed a master's degree in anatomy and a basic science fellowship at UB. He then completed orthopaedic residency training at UB in 1990, after which he served a fellowship at the American Sports Medicine Institute in Birmingham, Alabama, with James Andrews, MD, and William Clancy, MD.

Bisson has worked as a team orthopaedic surgeon for both the Buffalo Sabres and the Buffalo Bills, and in 1995 was named medical director of the Buffalo Bills.

Marzo has worked as a team physician for the World University Games, the Pan-Am Games, the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, Marist College and Buffalo State College.

His specialties include sports medicine and arthroscopy, with subspecialty interest in shoulder surgery. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, he will teach anatomy and direct the Arthroscopy Lab for the UB Department of Orthopaedics.

Leslie Bisson graduated from The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1991 and completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery Cornell University Medical Center in New York City in 1996. He then served a fellowship at the American Sports Medicine Institute in Birmingham, Alabama, with James Andrews, MD, and William Clancy, MD.

Bisson has been the medical director and a team orthopaedic surgeon for the Buffalo Sabres since 1997, as well as the team orthopaedist for Buffalo State College and orthopaedic consultant and team physician for the Buffalo Bills since 2002. Positions he continues to hold.

Bisson specializes in sports medicine and general orthopaedic surgery, with interests in injuries of the knee, shoulder and elbow.

Lois Baker

—Timothy Palaszewski

Pathways

Winter 2007
Cardiology Leader Joins UB and Kaleida

William E. Boden, MD, has been appointed professor of medicine and public health at UB, medical director of cardiovascular services at Kaleida Health, and chief of cardiology at Buffalo General and Millard Fillmore Hospitals.

Prior to coming to Buffalo, Boden served for six years as professor of medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and chief of cardiology at the Henry Low Heart Center at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. A native of Western New York, Boden is an accomplished physician leader and clinician who has played significant leadership roles in directing multiple clinical research trials, nationally and internationally. He was study chair of a multicenter clinical research study (COURAGE Trial) funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Canadian government that concluded in 2006 and involved over 2,280 angina patients randomized to coronary angioplasty and stenting versus aggressive medical therapy.

Currently he is study cochair of an NIH-funded study (AIM-HIGH Trial) under way in 62 U.S. and Canadian centers that is comparing two drug treatment strategies—aggressive medical therapy versus coronary angioplasty and stenting versus aggressive medical therapy.

Position he held subsequent to that include: assistant professor of medicine at Brown University School of Medicine (1979–1986), associate professor of medicine at Wayne State University (1986–1989), professor of medicine at Boston University School of Medicine (1989–1996), and professor of medicine and associate chair of the Department of Medicine at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse (1996–2000).

Boden is the recipient of numerous awards in clinical and teaching excellence including being named one of the Best Doctors in America 2005–2006 and selection in 2004 as one of the top cardiologists in physicians in Connecticut by both the Connecticut Magazine and Hartford Magazine. He is medically certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and in the subspecialty of cardiovascular disease.

“The study, which was published in the August 2006 issue of Clinical Therapeutics, is the only one to date to prove the benefit of administering a low-dose of a clot-busting drug before transferring heart attack patients from smaller, community hospitals to larger medical centers, where they can receive a balloon angioplasty to open a blocked artery and restore optimum blood flow to and from the heart.

“We feel that the results of this study potentially represent an important, life-saving advance in the treatment of heart attack patients, particularly for those who present to community hospitals without emergency angioplasty services,” says Boden. “Although angioplasty has been shown to be the preferred treatment method for heart attack patients, the benefits of this procedure can be diluted when there are long delays in triaging patients into the catheterization laboratory. By administering early clot-busting drugs that may open an occluded heart attack artery and restore normal blood flow to the heart while the patient is being transferred to an angioplasty center, the negative impact of these delays can be minimized.”

Boden earned his bachelor of science degree from LeMoyne College in Syracuse in 1970 and his medical degree from the State University at New York Upstate Medical Center in 1974. He completed residency training in 1977 at Boston University Medical Center, where he served as chief resident and teaching associate at University Hospital in Boston. From 1977 to 1979 he was a clinical fellow in cardiology at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston.

Positions he held subsequent to that include: assistant professor of medicine at Brown University School of Medicine (1979–1986), associate professor of medicine at Wayne State University (1986–1989), professor of medicine at Boston University School of Medicine (1989–1996), and professor of medicine and associate chair of the Department of Medicine at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse (1996–2000).

Boden is the recipient of numerous awards in clinical and teaching excellence including being named one of the Best Doctors in America 2005–2006 and selection in 2004 as one of the top cardiologists in physicians in Connecticut by both the Connecticut Magazine and Hartford Magazine. He is medically certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and in the subspecialty of cardiovascular disease.

“Researchers who collaborated with Boden on the study published in the August 2006 issue of Clinical Therapeutics include Craig Coleman, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, University of Connecticut; C. Michael White, associate professor of pharmacy practice; Raymond G. McKay, director of interventional cardiology research at Hartford Hospital; and Jeffrey Mather, senior analyst with Hartford Hospital’s Department of Research Administration.”

Lynn T. Kozlowski, PhD, formerly professor and head of biobehavioral health in the College of Health and Human Development at Pennsylvania State University, assumed the post in September. Maurizio Trevisan, MD, dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions, says Kozlowski’s hiring represents a major advance toward full accreditation for the public health school.

“An international leader in smoking cessation, he grew his former department at Penn State into one of the best in the country,” Trevisan says. “He will be a major asset to the university and the school, and we’re very excited to have him join our faculty.

“I look forward to working with Lynn as he develops the Department of Health Behavior here at UB, which will play a major role in our becoming a fully accredited school of public health.”

Kozlowski’s primary interest is smoking and health. He has published more than 100 papers in the field, and research in that area will be a major component of the new UB department.

“Given the experts already at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo will be one of the strongest places in North America for tobacco research and the study of public policy issues on tobacco use,” Kozlowski says.

The UB Department of Health Behavior will offer curricula leading to MPH, MS and PhD degrees. “In five years, we plan to be one of the top graduate programs in health behavior in the U.S.,” he adds.

A graduate of Wesleyan University, Kozlowski holds two master’s degrees and a doctorate, the latter conferred in 1975 from Columbia University. While at Columbia, he held a two-year National Science Foundation trainingship and a two-year New York State Herbert Lehman Fellowship.

He also spent a year at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine on a National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse postdoctoral trainingship.

Prior to his tenure at Penn State, Kozlowski taught at the University of Toronto for 10 years and was on the staff of the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto for 11 years. He was head of the foundation’s Biobehavioral Research on Tobacco Use unit when he joined Penn State’s biobehavioral health faculty in 1990. He was named head of the department in 1993.

Currently, Kozlowski is recruiting faculty in the areas of physical activity/nutrition and health communication, and expects to recruit additional faculty next year.

Gary A. Giovino, PhD, former director of the Tobacco Control Research Program at Roswell Park and an associate professor in UB’s Roswell Park Division, already has joined the new department as a full professor.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Giovino holds a master’s degree in natural sciences epidemiology and a doctorate in experimental pathology epidemiology, both from UB.

Before joining Roswell Park, he spent 11 years as an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Office on Smoking and Health, serving as chief of the office’s Epidemiology Branch for seven of those years. He also has held positions at the University of Rochester and the New York State Department of Health in Buffalo.

“Given the experts already at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo will be one of the strongest places in North America for tobacco research and the study of public policy issues on tobacco use,” Kozlowski says.

Giovino joins faculty

School of Public Health Establishes New Department Kozlowski to serve as chair, Giovino joins faculty

Pathways

Winter 2007

Buffalo Physician

Winter 2007

Buffalo Physician

24

25

Winter 2007

Buffalo Physician

Winter 2007

Buffalo Physician

24
Two scientists, both with well-established research programs and active entrepreneurial backgrounds, have been recruited to UB’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences with $1.2 million in Faculty Development awards from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR).

The NYSTAR funds provided UB with $700,000 to recruit Chaudhary and to support his efforts to design and build a high-performance computing platform to enable both high-end medical computing and computer-assisted surgery. UB also was awarded $503,200 to hire Egilmez and to support his efforts to develop vaccines that will reactivate the human body’s immune system to specifically recognize and target surface antigens in cancer cells.

“The NYSTAR awards were two of nine that NYSTAR awarded recently to assist institutions of higher education in New York State to recruit and retain world-class scientists, helping to ensure the continued long-term growth of the state’s high-technology industries,” said Michael J. Relyea, executive director of NYSTAR.

The grants were two of nine that NYSTAR awarded recently to assist institutions of higher education in New York State to recruit and retain world-class scientists, helping to ensure the continued long-term growth of the state’s high-technology industries.

Chaudhary also is known for his pioneering work in parallel and distributed computing, image processing, security and scientific computing. His research is funded by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Army Research Labs, Cray Research Inc., IBM and Ford Motor Company. He serves on the technical advisory boards of several private companies.

Valipin Egilmez, PhD ‘86, has been recruited from the University of Louisville and its James Graham Brown Cancer Center to the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The grants were two of nine that NYSTAR awarded recently to assist institutions of higher education in New York State to recruit and retain world-class scientists, helping to ensure the continued long-term growth of the state’s high-technology industries.
Research Targets Viruses  
By Ellen Goldbaum

$8.3 million contract to develop new class of antiviral drugs

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s award was announced recently at the University at Buffalo’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences by Tom McMahon, CUBRC president, and chief executive officer; Bruce Holm, PhD, UB senior vice provost and executive director of the Center of Excellence; and U.S. Representative Thomas Reynolds. The work involves research at CUBRC, the UB Center of Excellence, and Prosetta Corporation, a biotechnology company based in San Francisco. The aim is to develop novel drugs for viral hemorrhagic fevers of vital importance to biodefense that ultimately will combat all types of viruses.

“CUBRC–UB–Prosetta team was in direct competition with many of the finest academic research institutions and commercial biotechnology companies in the world and clearly demonstrated it is not only on the playing field, but is playing to win,” says Holm. “I don’t think there is any better validation of the strategy we’ve been methodically pursuing over the past five years to build a life sciences prominence in Western New York than this.”

Christopher Davis, MD, PhD, chief scientist, chief medical officer and director of medical biotechnology for CUBRC, will serve as the program director. “Working in close collaboration with Prosetta Corporation, the CUBRC–UB Team will be able to harness a radically new approach to antiviral drug development that is based on a breakthrough in understanding the life cycle of viruses in an effort to deliver safe, effective, and biodefense arena, with a background in drug research. “A key element of our proposal showcases the talents of UB experts, specifically Professors J. Iain Hay and Troy Wood from UB’s Microbiology and Chemistry Departments, respectively. “This program should not be construed as exotic research having little impact on the lives of the general population—nothing could be further from the truth,” continues Davis. “The revolutionary aspect of our proposal is indeed the promise to expeditiously develop new antiviral drugs against any viral target, be it a human pathogen, animal pathogen or plant disease.”

Iain Hay, PhD, Grant T. Fisher Chair and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at UB, is taking a lead role in the study. "This program should not be construed as exotic research having little impact on the lives of the general population—nothing could be further from the truth," continues Davis. "The revolutionary aspect of our proposal is indeed the promise to expeditiously develop new antiviral drugs against any viral target, be it a human pathogen, animal pathogen or plant disease."
Chaudhary continued from page 27

“After going to Silicon Valley, I’m thinking more as an entrepreneur,” says Chaudhary. “I try to look toward a goal: to impact the community and the life of people.”

Last year, Chaudhary established his own start-up technology company, Micass L.L.C., to support and market his computer-assisted neurosurgery software. Its development continues with other projects in the pipeline, among them making brain scans accessible via PDA to enable neurosurgeons to pre-plan operations remotely.

Chaudhary has spoken to investors in the Midwest about his business and plans soon to start seeking venture capital in Buffalo and Western New York.

To read a full-length version of this profile and learn more about Vipin Chaudhary’s research projects and goals, visit the Reporter, UB’s faculty and staff newspaper, online at www.buffalo.edu/reporter/ and search “Chaudhary.”

In Memoriam

Mecca S. Cranley, PhD Dean of School of Nursing

MECCA S. CRANEY, PhD, dean of the School of Nursing since 1991, died November 20, 2006, in the hospice unit at Sister’s Hospital in Buffalo, surrounded by her family.

The cause was multiple myeloma, cancer of the bone marrow. She was 67.

Cranley was the university’s senior dean when she stepped down from her position in November due to her illness.

Speaking for the university, President John B. Simpson, PhD, said the UB community was deeply saddened by Cranley’s passing.

“She was a lovely person and extraordinary leader, and she will be sorely missed, both as a friend and colleague. Her passing is a tremendous loss for our academic community, but she has left a legacy of excellence, innovation, and vision that will have an enduring impact on UB’s nursing school and the university at large. She has made a lasting difference in the lives of so many individuals here at UB and in our larger communities, and for that we are deeply grateful.”

A native of Guthrie, Oklahoma, Cranley graduated from St. Mary’s College in Indiana and earned master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin. She held nurse instructor positions at hospitals in South Bend, Indiana, and in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma City, before joining the faculty at the University of Wisconsin in 1972.

She was professor and associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing when she was recruited by UB.

During Cranley’s 15 years as dean, the nursing school increased its enrollment through several innovative new academic degree and certificate programs and aggressively pursued research dollars. The school jumped from 75th to 43rd among U.S. nursing schools in National Institutes of Health funding during her tenure.

Highly respected in her field, Cranley was a member of the board of governors of the Healthcare Trustees of New York State, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the governance of New York’s nonprofit and public healthcare facilities. She was active in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, where she chaired task forces and authored the position papers on violence as a public health problem and on the place of the American with Disabilities Act in nursing education.

Cranley authored many articles and book chapters on issues related to maternal and child health, her specialty, and was a vocal advocate for the nursing profession. A member of the Commission on Nursing Education, she served on several committees and was an on-site evaluator of university-based nursing programs.

Cranley was survived by her husband, Edward, and their seven children: Martha Cranley (Larry Mecca), Philip (Gabriel), and Peter Cranley, and 1S grandchildren. —Louis Baker

YOU DESERVE ACCURATE MEDICAL REPORTS.
YOU DESERVE A REASONABLE PRICE.
YOU DESERVE TIMELY TURNAROUND.
CAT TRANSCRIPTION
CONTACT US TODAY TO START RECEIVING THE SERVICE YOU DESERVE.
(716) 297-4754
www.catrans.org
catrans@adelphia.net

We can meet all your home care needs!

• Skilled Nursing & Rehab
• Combined IV Nursing & Pharmacy
• Dedicated Pediatric/Maternity Team
• Comprehensive Respiratory Care
• Private Duty Nursing and Aides
• Long Term Home Health
• Adult Day Care
• Breast Pumps & Lactation Supplies
• Lifeline Personal Response System
— And much more!!

Visit www.vna-wny.org
Special Respiratory Line: (716) 630-8340

Celebrating 120 years of caring
Visiting Nursing Association of WNY, Inc.
2100 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville
(716) 630-8000

Buffalo Physician Online
You can now read Buffalo Physician online. Just go to www.ubmail.buffalo.edu/bp
Back issues, starting with Autumn 2004, are also available.