In Memoriam

Irwin A. Ginsberg, MD '44, died on November 5, 2006. Widely recognized as one of Buffalo’s finest ear surgeons, Ginsberg was also a respected basic scientist and inventor. In 2000, a device he designed for ear wax removal, called The Earigator, was launched as a successful commercial product.

A native of Buffalo, Ginsberg graduated from the UB Medical School in 1944 at age 22, having completed an accelerated program due to physician shortages during World War II. He interned at Buffalo General Hospital, after which he served in the navy for several years. Upon discharge from the service, he moved to New York City to pursue studies in surgical pathology and research at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. He completed his residency in surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in 1948 and the following year returned to Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center to begin a residency in otolaryngology, training under Edmund Fowler, MD, whom he considered to be his foremost mentor. He then spent 18 months abroad and completed a fellowship at Guys Hospital in London, where he trained with Robert J. Cann and Sir Victor Negus, as well as with other surgeons of repute in Switzerland, Sweden, and the United States.

Center to begin a residency in otolaryngology, training under Edmund

Fowler, MD, whom he considered to be his foremost mentor. He then

spent 18 months abroad and completed a fellowship at Guys Hospital

in London, where he trained with Robert J. Cann and Sir Victor

Negus, as well as with other surgeons of repute in Switzerland, Sweden,

Scotland and Denmark.

Once his training was completed, Ginsberg returned to Buffalo to practice, eventually building his own office complex at 857 Delaware, which today remains one of two locations for the Buffalo Otolaryngology Group, which he founded.

Over the years, Ginsberg gave generously of his time to the UB Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, and in the early 1990s he helped to develop the first comprehensive cochlear implant program in Buffalo. In the late 1990s, he founded an Ear Research Laboratory that in many respects served as a precursor to present-day laboratories at the university that focus on basic-science inquiries into hearing and deafness. A hugely extraverted man with a flair for energetic joke telling, Ginsberg was also known for his warm bedside manner. In a 2000 interview with Buffalo Physician, he said that children who are deaf and hard of hearing are in special need of support and encouragement. “You have to support them all, support them like mad!” he said.

Over the years, Ginsberg amassed a world-class collection of antique cars, which he loved working on and driving in his spare time. He reluctantly sold the collection in the mid-1990s.

Ginsberg, whose wife, Sylvia R. Ginsberg, died in 1998, is survived by his companion, Lisa Betterendorf Cream, and his children: Elin (Louis Laflit) Yost, Susan (Edward V.) Regan of New York City, and Dr. Harold M. (Dr. Katherine Tal) Ginsberg of Westport, CT; sister Ruth (late Julian) Goldstein, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. — S. A. Unger

Shane G. Ferguson, MD '95, died on September 15, 2006, of cancer. He passed away at home surrounded by his family. He was 37.

Born in Niagara Falls, NY, and a graduate of LaSalle Senior High School, Ferguson went on to earn his bachelor’s degree with summa cum laude honors in biological sciences at UB. He then attended medical school at UB, where he again graduated with honors. As a medical student, Ferguson was involved in early studies with surfactant technology and earned research honors for a study he conducted in 1992.

Following graduation from medical school, Ferguson completed his residency in pediatrics at Women and Children’s Hospital, where he was the recipient of the Frederick B. Wilkes Award of Excellence in Pediatrics. More recently, he received the Compeer Volunteer of the Year Award for assisting troubled and disadvantaged youth.

Ferguson began practicing in the Buffalo area in 1998. He also served as medical director for Sister’s Hospital School Health Program and as school physician for the Hamburg Central School District. In addition, he spent time assisting children at the Child Advocacy Center of Buffalo. In December 2004, due to his illness, Ferguson discontinued his private practice at Town and Village Pediatrics of Amherst.

Survivors include his wife, Gail H. Ferguson, MD ’93; two daughters, Madeline and Rebecca; a son, Tobey; and two brothers, Shane Ferguson, MD ’95, his twin, and Michael Ferguson, MD ’93; and his parents, John and Marilyn.

Daniel C. DeSimone, Class of 2010

Charles O. Bauer, MD, and Mary A. Bauer Scholar

Goal: $1.25 Million

Help UB Medicine reach its goal and enroll the best and brightest students with your gift to the Practice Giving campaign.

To make a gift simply complete and return the giving envelope included in this issue, or make your gift online by visiting www.practicegiving.org.

Learn more about how to include UB in your will and the benefits of deferred gifts for the Medical Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund by contacting the Office of Advancement at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at 716-829-2773 or Toll Free 1-877-826-3246.

S. A. Unger

John G. Robinson, MD '45, died on October 9, 2006.

William R. Berrett, MD '58, died on August 31, 2006.

— S. A. Unger