



2008 Medical Student Research Forum



FROM LEFT: Lisa Steketee-Weaver, Puneet Belani, Elizabeth Gruber and Justin Mazzillo

THE MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH FORUM poster presentation took place on January 31, 2008, in the atrium of the Biomedical Education Building, with students displaying the results of research projects they conducted at UB and other institutions. Each participant worked closely with a research mentor to complete his or her project, and a variety of funding agencies supported the students with stipends.

“The forum provides students with the opportunity to showcase their research and communicate and interpret their results to other students, as well as to faculty,” says Debra L. Stamm, assistant dean for student services in the Office of Medical Education. “We recognize the importance of research training in providing the best medical care to patients and in providing future physicians with a well-integrated educational experience.”

First Place

Lisa Steketee-Weaver, Class of 2009, “Comparison of Sedation Techniques for Screening Colonoscopy”

Second Place

Puneet Belani, Class of 2010, “White Coat Hypertension and End Organ Damage in Children”

Third Place (corecipients)

Justin Mazzillo, Class of 2010, “Degranulation of Eosinophils in the Bronchial Lumen of Asthmatic Patients”

Elizabeth Gruber, Class of 2010, “GX15-070 and Bortezomib Induce Up-Regulation of BH3 Single Domain Pro-Apoptotic Proteins Puma and Noxa and are Associated with Synergistic Anti-Tumor Activity in Rituximab-Resistant Cell Lines (RSCL and RRCL), and Primary Lymphoma Patient Specimens”

Save the Date *The School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences presents the . . .*

First Annual O.P. Jones Lecture

featuring keynote speaker Nancy H. Nielsen, MD '76, PhD, senior associate dean for medical education at UB, and president of the American Medical Association, followed by the Distinguished Medical Alumna Dinner 2008 honoring Dr. Nielsen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008 | ADAM'S MARK HOTEL | 120 CHURCH STREET | BUFFALO, NEW YORK

For more details about these events, contact Jennifer Lobaugh at (716) 829-2773 or jlobaugh@buffalo.edu.



Arts in Healthcare Program

Enhancing the healing environment for patients and caregivers

BY DAVID WEDEKINDT

THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT UB has been awarded a \$287,182 grant by the John R. Oishei Foundation to establish a program that will bring performing arts and artists into health-care settings to enhance the healing environment for patients and caregivers in Western New York.

The center's innovative Arts in Healthcare initiative is being established in collaboration with Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, a Kaleida Health facility.

The first program of its kind in Western New York, it will be modeled after a highly successful program at the University of Florida. Plans call for Arts in Healthcare to expand to additional health-care facilities in the region.

"Through many of our community-based grants, we have seen the remarkable influence of the arts in conveying information and helping to change behaviors," said Robert D. Gioia, president of the Oishei Foundation, at the time the grant was announced in December. "We are particularly interested in seeing the results of a formal, institutionally based program with the resources behind it brought by UB and the Kaleida System."

UB president John B. Simpson notes, "The arts contribute in vital ways to UB's impact on the world around us. The Arts in Healthcare program is a vivid example of the power of the public research university, working in tandem with our partner institutions across the region, to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the communities we serve."

Thomas Burrows, executive director of the Center for the Arts, says he was inspired by the University of Florida program. "When I was shown what the involvement and deep commitment of the very best professional artists working together with dedicated, enlightened professional caregivers could accomplish through their combined efforts to benefit patients, their families and hospital staff, I knew that the Center for the Arts could and should create a comprehensive program within this great research university for and with the larger community.

"We have been so fortunate to find such a willing and far-sighted partner in Women and Children's Hospital," he adds. "This program has been designed to grow, evolve and

to meet changing needs as they become apparent."

Cheryl Klass, president of Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, notes: "This innovative program will continue to enhance the healing environment we provide for women and children in our hospital. We are so pleased to partner with UB and bring this innovative program to life in Western New York."

Arts in Healthcare has been in the planning stages for the past year; the Center for the Arts has worked closely on its development with Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and Jill Sonke-Henderson, cofounder and co-director of the University of Florida's Center for the Arts in Healthcare Research and Education (CAHRE).

Burrows explains that the shared vision of the two organizations has brought the initiative to fruition quickly. Two pilot projects were completed last fall with classical guitarist

Robert Bluestone and the Hudson Vagabond Puppets (see photo, opposite). He says that this summer the Center for the Arts will host an intensive training program facilitated by the University of Florida's CAHRE program, where local invited visual artists, musicians, poets, dancers and storytellers will be trained to work with patients, families and staff in health-care settings as integral members of the health-care team.

Burrows explains that Arts in Healthcare is aligned with the strategic strengths in "Artistic Expression and Performing Arts"

and "Health and Wellness Across the Life Span" that have been identified in the UB 2020 strategic plan being implemented by UB with the goal of rising among the ranks of the nation's public research universities.

"The program will offer the benefits of multidisciplinary research and scholarship for the benefit of our community, while allowing the center to broaden its artistic and cultural reach in the region," he explains. "It will help to increase the national and international visibility of UB and Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo."

The arts have existed in health-care systems since the beginning of recorded history. Early in the 20th century, however, they were dropped from Western health care with the intention of making health-care facilities appear sleek, sanitary and more focused on technology. In the second half of the century, there was a resurgence of interest in bringing art back into health-care environments.

Burrows says studies have shown that integrating the arts into these settings helps to cultivate a healing environment, support the mental and emotional recovery of patients, communicate health and recovery information, and foster positive working

conditions for caregivers to improve satisfaction and retention.

He explains that visual, literary and performing arts are flourishing in hospitals, outpatient programs, hospices and nursing and retirement facilities throughout the world. The most comprehensive and well-integrated program is the one in Florida where Shands Hospital created an "artist-in-residence" program in 1991 for its pediatric oncology clinic. The program spread rapidly to other units and by 1997 there were 14 visual, literary and performance artists in the facility. The University of Florida Performing Arts (UFPA) and Shands Arts in Medicine formed a partnership to bring performing artists from UFPA's season into the health-care setting.

CAHRE provides a framework for interdisciplinary collaboration among University of Florida faculty and students, health-care providers, clinical artists, and the local and global communities. The program has been so successful that another initiative, AIM Together Florida, is being funded by the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs to expand the program into five additional Florida partnerships. **BP**



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—UB PRESIDENT

John B. Simpson



Hudson Vagabond Puppets, featuring Trixie Ticeratops



PHOTO BY GEORGE POTANOVIC JR.