Ellis Leads Medical School Curriculum

Avery Ellis, MD ’77, PhD ’79, MBA, associate professor of medicine and physiology, has been named senior associate dean for medical curriculum in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. In this capacity he is responsible for coordinating and implementing all activities pertaining to the medical school’s curriculum, including its development, educational research, outcome evaluation and the enhancement of teaching effectiveness.

Prior to beginning his new role on April 17, 2008, Ellis served as chief of staff at the VA Western New York Healthcare System and director of the Cardiology Fellowship Program at UB.

“Dr. Ellis has an illustrious career as a professor of medicine within our school,” said Dean Michael E. Cain at the time he made the announcement. “He is highly regarded by students and faculty for his abilities as a teacher, clinician and scholar, and he carries with him a strong academic and administrative background. We are excited about the potential that he will bring to this post and look forward to working with him.”

Ellis received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and his medical degree from UB, where he also received a PhD in physiology. He completed his medical residency and cardiology fellowship at Stanford University.

Ellis is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and of the American Heart Association, and is a member of the American Society of Echocardiography and the New York State Cardiology Society.

His office is located in the Office of Medical Education, on the first floor of the Biomedical Education Building.

Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the School of Medical and Biomedical Sciences and an internationally recognized cardiac electrophysiologist, coauthored an invited editorial in the June 19, 2008 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine on a heart study that was published in the same issue.

The study, whose lead author was Denis Roy, MD, chair of medicine at the University of Montreal, Canada, examined how to best treat patients who have both heart failure and the irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation, a potentially fatal combination.

It reported on results from a trial that enrolled 1,400 people in seven countries in which all participants were affected by both heart conditions.

Half received treatment aimed at restoring and maintaining the heart’s normal rhythm. This involved delivering a shock and prescribing potent antiarrhythmic drugs.

The other half received treatment aimed at just reducing the rate of the heart’s major pumping chambers that left the upper chambers in fibrillation. This involved use of less potent drugs, such as beta blockers.

Over an average follow-up period of a little more than three years, the death rate from cardiovascular causes was nearly equal between the two groups—27 percent in the rhythm-control group and 25 percent in the rate-control group.

Given these findings, Roy concluded that rate control should be the primary approach since antiarrhythmic drugs have many side effects. In the editorial, which Cain co-authored with Anne B. Curtis, MD, professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Cardiology at the University of South Florida, the authors emphasized that the rhythm-control treatment need not be abandoned.

“One of the points we made is that we don’t yet know if the concept of restoring a normal (sinus) heart rhythm is wrong, or whether the failure to prove that nature’s rhythm is better is because of suboptimal drugs that are only modestly effective and have serious side effects,” Cain says. —S.A. Unger

Cain Coauthors Invited Editorial in NEJM

BUFFALO HEALTHCARE LEADERS

Business First’s Healthcare 50 List

Congratulations to the following administrators, faculty, staff and alumni of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences who were named by Buffalo Business First to its “Healthcare 50 List” for 2008, recognizing their role as “health-care community leaders.”

Micheal E. Cain, MD, dean, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

John M. Canty Jr., MD ’79, chief, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

David Dunn, MD, PhD, vice president for health sciences

Daniel Gevirth, PhD, senior research scientist, Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute; associate professor, UB Department of Structural Biology

Kevin Gibbons, MD, program director and vice chair, UB Department of Neurosurgery

Michael Landi, MD ’94, neurosurgeon; president of Brain and Spine Medical Services

Teresa Quatrini, MD, interim chair, Department of Pediatrics; chief, Division of Diabetes/Endocrinology, Women’s and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo

James Reynolds, MD ’78, professor and chair, Department of Ophthalmology, head of Iris G. Ross Eye Institute, University at Buffalo
Kate Rittenhouse-Olson Receives SUNY Chancellor’s Award

Rittenhouse-Olson is known for her work on carbohydrate antigens, which are foreign substances that produce antibodies when introduced in a living organism and which have important implications for the treatment of cancer and infectious disease. Rittenhouse-Olson is the recipient of the Teaching Award from the Class of 2006 in the Biotechnology Program and a Certificate of Excellence award from the Class of 2005. – Kevin Pavlik

Hospital Settlement Reached

UB plays key role in health-care agreement

By John DellaContrada

In a scene reminiscent of a television legal thriller, the contentious debate over how to create a new, UB-aligned health-care system in Western New York came to a dramatic close on June 23, 2008, when state Supreme Court Judge John Curran announced an agreement between Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health. About 100 health-care professionals, administrators, lawyers and reporters gathered in state Supreme Court in Buffalo to hear Curran’s announcement. The agreement, which resolved a yearlong impasse on how to begin consolidation of ECMC and Kaleida services, paves the way for creation of centers of medical excellence, including the construction a new heart-vascular center on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

With the agreement—which was approved by the state health commissioner on June 28—UB’s five health science schools, including the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, will be able to better conduct its mission of research, teaching and clinical care, according to David Dunn, MD, PhD, UB vice president for health sciences. “UB will now see its programs flourish and grow at a variety of hospital sites,” Dunn said at a news conference announcing the historic agreement. “The events today will allow us to build a vibrant, multi-hospital campus health-care system for Western New York in which clinical services are consolidated at one site or another...to . . . the Society continues to represent special recognition of personal achievement.” Criteria for membership include professional accomplishments and acceptance of a thesis. Reynolds was titled “Malpractice and the Quality of Care in Retinopathy of Prematurity.” Reynolds completed medical school and residency training at UB, after which he completed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh in 1983. He has been professor and chair of UB’s Department of Ophthalmology since 1997.

Reynolds Named Member of AOS

James Reynolds, MD ’76, professor and chair of the UB Department of Ophthalmology and director of the University’s Ira G. Ross Eye Institute, has been named a member of the American Ophthalmological Society (AOS). The society was established in 1864 and its members have played a major role in the evolution of ophthalmology in the United States. According to the AOS website: “Admission to . . . the Society continues to represent special recognition of personal achievement.” Criteria for membership include professional accomplishments and acceptance of a thesis. Reynolds was titled “Malpractice and the Quality of Care in Retinopathy of Prematurity.” Reynolds completed medical school and residency training at UB, after which he completed a fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh in 1983. He has been professor and chair of UB’s Department of Ophthalmology since 1997.

Reynolds has participated in several multi-center clinical trials in ROP as both center principal investigator and project director. Reynolds is the author of many peer-reviewed articles, and his NIH funding has been nearly continuous during his tenure at UB.

Hollywood courtroom thriller, Pathways

FOR HEALTH SCIENCES; AND ROBERT GIOIA, CHAIR OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BOARD.

FROM LEFT, IN FOREGROUND: CHRIS COLLINS, ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE; DAVID DUNN, MD, PHD, UB VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES; AND ROBERT GIOIA, CHAIR OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BOARD.

HOLLYWOOD COURTROOM THRILLER, Pathways
Eaton E. Lattman, PhD, former dean of research and graduate education in the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), has been appointed chief executive officer and executive director of the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI).

Lattman, who began in his new role on July 1, 2008, also formerly served as department chair of biophysics in both the JHU School of Medicine and the School of Arts and Sciences. HWI chairman Donald A. Hess and HWI President and Nobel Laureate Herbert A. Hauptman, PhD, jointly announced the appointment on March 27.

“We are confident that we are on the brink of an exciting new chapter in HWI’s story and that Ed is the best possible choice to lead us to the next phase of growth,” Hess said at the event. “During the past decade under Dr. George DeTitta’s leadership, a strong foundation has been built. HWI is in a new faculty and fully staffed. HWI scientists are now building on that foundation to continue the next steps of growth for HWI, which of course will continue to work hand-in-hand with the rest of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Center institutions.”

“I have known Ed Lattman for more than 30 years,” Hauptman said. “He is not only an acclaimed scientist and leader, but also a great thinker with a reputation among his peers and students as a hands-on mentor and involved colleague. We have every expectation that Ed will bring a fresh approach to the institute’s future growth.”

“The opportunity to lead Hauptman-Woodward excites me because its research profile and direction so closely match my own experience and training,” said Lattman, who is a published author in the field of crystallography. “The post represents a return to my scientific roots. The most important task of the CEO is to help the talented HWI faculty find new research directions and new methods of support, and a new-trained understanding of what they do greatly enables this process.”

Also speaking at the press conference were Donald “Skip” Trump, MD, CEO and president of Roswell Park Cancer Institute; Satish Tripathi, PhD, provost of the University at Buffalo; David Dunn, MD, PhD, UB’s vice president for health sciences; and Bill Joyce, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus board chair.

Lattman will oversee all of the institute’s business and administration and help its 24 PhD-level faculty members find research support and build on existing collaborations locally, nationally and internationally.

Lattman is the sixth CEO in HWI’s 52-year history. He succeeds George DeTitta, PhD, who led the institute for the last nine years and stepped down to return full time to his HWI lab.

With the exception of postdoctoral work in the 1970s, Lattman spent his academic career at JHU, beginning as a graduate student in biophysics and rising through the ranks to the deanship. En route he served as professor of biophysics both in the schools of Medicine and Arts and Sciences. He also served as chair of the department from which he earned his PhD degree. He was instrumental in establishing the Hopkins Institute for Biophysical Research, a unit that has served as a focal point for the dramatic growth of biophysics across JHU. He played a groundbreaking role in the department’s history by hiring the first women faculty members and by serving as the principal investigator on the Molecular Biophysics NIH Training Grant awarded to JHU.

Lattman was editor-in-chief of the journal Proteins for more than 15 years, leading it to a distinguished position in the field. He has served, and continues to serve, on many NIH committees. Notably, he was a member of the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council, and of the NIGMS Advisory Committee on the Protein Structure Initiative. With Patrick Loll, he is a coauthor of the forthcoming book Protein Crystallography: A Concise Guide.

Lattman earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and physics in 1962 from Harvard College, and a doctorate in biophysics in 1969 from JHU.


Lattman

 Alumni Honored
Distinguished careers, personal achievements and service

The UB Alumni Association honored 19 individuals with achievement awards at a gala event held April 5, 2008, in the Adam’s Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo.

The awards are presented each spring to alumni and friends of UB for bringing distinction to themselves and the university through outstanding professional and personal achievement, loyal service to UB and exemplary service to their communities.

Among those presented awards were the following individuals affiliated with the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences:

JOHN M. CANTY JR, MD ’79, received a Distinguished Alumni Award, which is presented to recipients in recognition of exceptional career accomplishments, community or university service, or research and scholarly activity.

Canty is director of UB’s Center for Research in Cardiovascular Medicine, chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, professor of physiology and biophysics and vice chair for research in the Department of Medicine. His research has led to novel approaches to repair diseased heart muscle and grow new blood vessels, as well as ways to better identify patients at risk of developing sudden cardiac arrest.

In addition, Canty heads the cardiovascular stem cell biology research group in UB’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, serves on several UB 2020 committees and is a member of the newly integrated UBMD faculty practice plan.

YING-KIT LEUNG, MD, of Hong Kong, China, received the Walter P. Cooke Award, which is presented to non-alumni who have made notable and meritorious contributions to the University at Buffalo.

Leung received his medical degree from the University of Hong Kong and spent two decades from 1984 to 1999 while completing a Buswell Fellowship. During that time he was also an attending physician in Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo and an assistant research professor of pediatrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Leung was instrumental in creating a UB alumni chapter in Hong Kong and serves as its honorary president, hosting receptions for alumni, students and administrators. He also hosted President John B. Simpson and other UB administrators during a visit in 2005 and accompanied the university’s leadership to China in 2003 for the signing of medical school partnership agreements. In May 2004, Leung was appointed honorary clinical professor of pediatrics by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in recognition of his service to UB’s international programs. He also serves on the school’s Dean’s Advisory Council.

IRENE S. SNOW, MD ’60, medical director of Buffalo Medical Group, PC, and a clinical assistant professor in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, received the Community Leadership Medal.

Snow is a former president of the Erie County Medical Society and a member of the American College of Physicians, Erie County Medical Society, American Medical Association and the American College of Physician Executives. In September 2007, she was appointed by New York State Health Commissioner Richard F. Oxnes, MD, to a new board that will govern the combined Erie County Medical Center and Kanawaha Health systems.

JOHN M. CANTY JR, MD ’79

YING-KIT LEUNG, MD, of Hong Kong, China

IRENE S. SNOW, MD ’60
Metabolism, Insulin Resistance and Fatty Liver Disease.” During the well-attended lecture, he demonstrated the stable-isotope methodology, which provides important information on human metabolism and can be readily applied to a wide variety of research projects. Kalhan also met with graduate students and participated in UB clinical grand rounds and residency seminars during his three-day visit.

Representatives from Pfizer Inc. presented framed certificates to Kalhan in recognition of his selection as a Pfizer Visiting Professor and to Mulchand Patel, PhD, for his outstanding contributions that qualified him to host the visit.

From left: Visiting Professor Satish Kalhan, MD, Suzanne Lawchock, PhD, senior associate dean for biomedical research and education; and Mulchand Patel, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and associate dean for biomedical research and education.
The University at Buffalo has created an annual UB Faculty Entrepreneur Award to recognize faculty who demonstrate the vision and perseverance to translate their discoveries and inventions into products that save lives, relieve suffering or otherwise improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

“Discoveries and inventions by UB academics have the potential to benefit millions of people,” says Robert J. Genco, DDS, PhD, UB vice provost and director of the Office of Science, Technology and Economic Outreach (OSTE). “Our UB 2020 mission is designed to impact not only academics at UB but the community and society in general and, especially, the regional economy.”

The UB Faculty Entrepreneur Award was presented to School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences faculty Edmund Egan, MD, president and chief executive officer of ONY Inc., and UB professor of pediatrics, gynecology and pharmacology. The award was presented on June 6, 2008, at the UB Business Partners Day.

Egan and Holm formed ONY in 1985 based on the work of academic scientists from UB, the University of Rochester and the University of Western Ontario. ONY was the first tenant in UB’s Technology Incubator in Amherst, where the company is headquartered today.

“Other scientists involved in the development of Infasurf were Goran Enhorning, PhD, MD, UB professor emeritus of gynecology and obstetrics; Melinda Cho, PhD, the SUNY professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology; Fred Possmayer, PhD, a biochemist at the University of Rochester; and Robert H. Norton, MD, professor of pediatrics at the University of Rochester,” adds Genco.

Infasurf was approved by the Food and Drug Administration and has been on the market since 1999. More than 250,000 premature babies have been treated with Infasurf, which is used to prevent respiratory distress in premature babies and newborns who need respiratory support in the first critical hours after birth. Since its introduction, Infasurf has saved more than 50,000 babies from similar products developed by others, he says.

“We realized in the late 1970s that surfactant replacement therapy in babies was a viable business opportunity. Our team of scientists who developed Infasurf, including individuals with world-class basic science expertise,” Egan says. “Our team also featured individuals with clinical research expertise and individuals who had business expertise, insofar as academic science expertise,” Egan says. “Our team have not rested on our first success.

They have developed an adult version of surfactant that has great promise for treating asthma,” adds Genco.

As for the perseverance required to pursue the proper studies required for FDA approval, “I considered it important that patients have access to a product that the science said was optimal.”

Other scientists involved in the development of Infasurf won Goran Enhorning, PhD, MD, UB professor emeritus of gynecology and obstetrics; Melinda Cho, PhD, the SUNY professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology; Fred Possmayer, PhD, a biochemist at the University of Rochester; and Robert H. Norton, MD, professor of pediatrics at the University of Rochester.

Bruce Holm, PhD, left, and Edmund Egan, MD, recipients of the first UB Faculty Entrepreneur Award, at the headquarters for ONY Inc. in the UB Technology Incubator.

## Harold Brody, MD ’61, PhD

Harold Brody, MD ’61, PhD, a professor of anatomy in the School of Medicine for more than 40 years and a leader in faculty affairs, died June 13, 2008, in Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, Amherst. He was 85.

Brody joined the faculty of the medical school in 1954 as an assistant professor. In 1959, he was promoted to associate professor and in 1963, to full professor. He served as chair of the Department of Anatomical Sciences from 1971 to 1992. Following his retirement in 1995, he served as a Distinguished Teaching Professor emeritus of anatomy and cell biology.

Brody’s research in neuroscience and gerrontology is credited with fostering a better understanding of the normal and pathological aging processes of the human brain.

In 1994, he founded UB’s Museum of Neuropsychiatry in the department of anatomy and cell biology—the only museum in the country devoted exclusively to the brain—and served as its curator.

At UB, he also was associate director of the Project for Medical Education from 1956 to 1960, acting assistant dean for student affairs from 1967 to 1969, associate dean for student affairs from 1969 to 1970, director of the Multidisципinary Center for the Study of Aging from 1977 to 1980 and a longtime member of the editorial board of Buffalo Physician.

From 1963 to 1970, Brody served on the UB Faculty Senate executive committee and the SUNY Faculty Senate in Albany, where he also served two terms on its Executive Committee. He also served on numerous UB committees, including the Clifford Furnas Scholarship-Athletic Fellowship Committee, the Distinguished Service Professor Selection Committee and, from 1970 to 1973, the President’s Advisory Board for Faculty Appointment, Promotion and Tenure. He was cochair of the UB Medical School’s sesquicentennial planning committee.

Brody received the UB Medical School’s Dean’s Award in 1999 and a UB Distinguished Medical Alumni Award in 1995. The medical school yearbook was dedicated to him in 1984, and he was commended by the Class of 1993 for outstanding teaching. The Gerontological Society of America presented him with a research award in 1978, and the Ameriter Senior Citizens Center gave him its Brotherhood Award in 1980.

He was a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at Kommmute Hospital in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1963 and several times returned as a distinguished visiting professor at the hospital and the University of Copenhagen. He also was a visiting professor at numerous colleges and hospitals in the U.S. and Canada.

Brody was a member of the American Association of Anatomists, a past president and fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, a fellow of the Ameri-can Geriatrics Society and a past president of the Buffalo Neuropsychiatry Society and the Roswell Park Medical Club.

He was an ad hoc advisor to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. Locally, he was a member of numerous advisory committees on aging.

He published extensively on topics related to aging and the brain and served on many editorial boards and as a consultant for professional journals and publishers.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Brody attended Long Island University for two years, then enlisted in the Army during World War II. His passion for medicine was ignited when he was sent as a medic to England and assigned to a special program to assist in surgery. Returning from service, he earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Western Reserve University, a doctorate in anatomy from the University of Minnesota and his medical degree with honors from UB in 1961.

Before coming to Buffalo, he was an instructor at the University of Minnesota and an assistant professor at the University of North Dakota.

His wife of 49 years, Anne Petz Brody, died in 2000. Surviving are two sons, David A. and Evan B.