



NEWS ABOUT UB'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND ITS ALUMNI, FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF

# Pathways

S U M M E R 2 0 0 8

## Ellis Leads Medical School Curriculum

**Avery Ellis, MD '77, PhD '79, MBA,** associate professor of medicine and physiology, has been named



Ellis

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 in 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 Hospital. In October 1999, he received an MBA from Duke 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.

**BP** —S. A. UNGER

## Cain Coauthors Invited Editorial in *NEJM*

**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. **BP**

—S.A. UNGER



Cain

## 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."

**MICHAEL 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 GEWIRTH, 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 QUATTRIN, MD,** interim chair, Department of Pediatrics; chief, Division of Diabetes/Endocrinology, Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo

**JAMES REYNOLDS, MD '78,** professor and chair, Department of Ophthalmology; head of Ira G. Ross Eye Institute, University at Buffalo



## Rittenhouse-Olson Receives SUNY Chancellor's Award

**Kate Rittenhouse-Olson, PhD**, associate professor and director of the biotechnology program in the Department of Biotechnical and Clinical Laboratory Sciences, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award recognizes faculty who consistently demonstrate superb teaching

at the undergraduate, graduate or professional level.

Rittenhouse-Olson, who is certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathology as a specialist in immunology research, helped to found the undergraduate biotechnology program, earning a Dean's Award for her pivotal contributions during the planning and implementation stages. She is a distinguished scholar



Rittenhouse-Olson

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 FRYLING

## Reynolds Named Member of AOS

**James Reynolds, MD '78**, 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' thesis 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.

His research interests are in pediatric ophthalmology, and he is a recognized expert in retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a disease of the



Reynolds

developing retinal vasculature. He 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. **BP**

—S. A. UNGER

## Hospital Settlement Reached

UB plays key role in health-care agreement

By JOHN DELLA CONTRADA

**I**N A SCENE REMINISCENT OF A HOLLYWOOD COURTROOM 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 agree-

ment. "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 through a deliberate, physician-led, clinical planning process."

The agreement gives members of the state-appointed Western New York Healthcare System (WNYHS) board the authority to create an integrated health system that will enhance physician training and advance clinical research. The board includes representatives from UB, ECMC, Kaleida and the community.

The agreement also empowered a physician steering committee to recommend changes in clinical services and creation of new or expanded services. The physician committee is made up of 10 physician leaders from ECMC, Kaleida and UB.

Dunn and Curran credited the physicians with providing the leadership needed to reach the resolution. In an unusual move, the physicians assembled at UB all day on a Sunday, the day before the agreement was reached, for a meeting arranged by Curran to hammer out the deal and resolve litigation. Also in attendance at the mediation were ECMC CEO Michael Young; Kaleida CEO James Kaskie; Dunn; UB President John B. Simpson; Erie County Executive Chris Collins; Michael E. Cain, MD,

dean of the UB medical school; and members of the WNYHS board, including chair Robert Gioia.

"The group of 10 outstanding physicians spoke up and made it clear what they wanted," Dunn said. "It's not the bricks and mortar in the hospitals that create strong clinical programs; it's the physicians, nurses and other health-care professionals who do so."

Simpson and Dunn also played major roles in brokering the accord as members of the WNYHS board, appointed by a state commission on health-care facilities to create a health care system that includes UB, ECMC and Kaleida Health.

The move toward consolidation became tied up in litigation last year soon after the board's appointment in September. As the state-imposed June 30, 2008 deadline for hospital consolidation approached, the stalemate threatened receipt of a \$65 million state grant for the heart-vascular center. Moreover, it appeared the community would lose an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a world-class health system.

"We came to the brink. People held their views to the end. But the physicians of Western New York have spoken in a way that means everyone can now move forward," Dunn said.

Members of the physician steering committee are Yogesh Bakhai, MD, clinical associate profes-

sor of psychiatry; Lawrence Bone, MD, chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; Merrill Dayton, MD, chair of the Department of Surgery; Steven Dubovsky, MD, chair of the Department of Psychiatry; Evan Evans, clinical instructor of surgery; Kevin Gibbons, MD, vice chair of the Department of Neurosurgery; Katie Grimm, MD, president-elect of Kaleida Health's medical-dental staff; James Reidy, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology; Alan Saltzman, MD, chair of the Department of Medicine; and Stanley Schwartz, MD, director of the Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology, Department of Medicine. In addition to each member being a UB faculty member, except Grimm, all are affiliated with Kaleida or ECMC.

Resolution of the impasse received another big incentive earlier this month from prominent local business leader and UB alumnus Jeremy Jacobs, chair of the UB Council and chairman and CEO of Delaware North Companies (see article on page 22). Jacobs' \$10 million gift to UB, the largest in university history, will be used to retain and recruit world-class researchers, clinicians and physicians to UB and the Western New York health care community. The gift is dependent on the building of a heart-vascular center of excellence in Buffalo. **BP**

"UB will now see its programs flourish and grow at a variety of hospital sites. 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 through a deliberate, physician-led, clinical planning process."

—DAVID DUNN, MD, PhD, VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES



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.

# New Leadership for Hauptman-Woodward Institute

**Eaton E. Lattman, PhD, named CEO and executive director**

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 facility and faculty members have been added. George's Center for High-Throughput Crystallization is one of the nation's ten Protein Structure Initiative Centers, and of course there has been the initiation and growth of UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Structural Biology Department, which is housed at HWI and staffed by HWI scientists. Ed can now build on that foundation to accomplish 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 mechanisms of support, and a fine-grained 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.

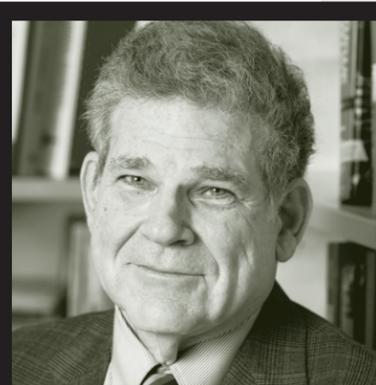
Lattman is the sixth CEO in HWI's 52-year history. He succeeds George DeTitta, PhD, who led the institute for the last nine years and stepped down to return full time to his HWI lab.

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 chemistry and physics in 1962 from Harvard College, and a doctorate in biophysics in 1969 from JHU. **BP**

—TARA ELLIS



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.

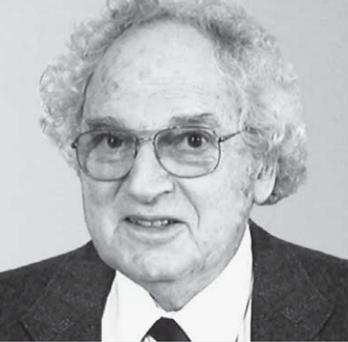
Leung received his medical degree from the University of Hong Kong and lived in Buffalo from 1984 to 1989 while completing a Buswell Fellowship. During that time he was also an attending physician in Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and an assistant research professor of pediatrics in the School 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 partnerships. 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 '80**, 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. Daines, MD, to a new board that will govern the combined Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health systems.



# Portrait of a Laureate

Television documentary profiles Herbert Hauptman, PhD

By  
GWEN  
MYSIAK

A NEW WNED PRODUCTION, *HERBERT HAUPTMAN: PORTRAIT OF A LAUREATE*, PROFILES THE LIFE AND CAREER OF THE 91-YEAR-OLD PRESIDENT OF BUFFALO'S HAUPTMAN-WOODWARD MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

THE THIRTY-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY, which premiered June 22, 2008, chronicles how Hauptman grew up in a working class family in Brooklyn, New York, and went on to be a world-renowned mathematician whose work changed the field of chemistry. His groundbreaking methods helped uncover the structures of molecules, a key step to understanding disease processes and designing drugs to combat them. With his research partner Jerome Karle, a physical chemist, Hauptman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1985.

In addition to leading the institute that now bears his name, Hauptman is Distinguished Professor of Structural Biology in the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

"I would like to think that this film shows that mathematics is a beautiful and powerful way to

solve problems which go far beyond the realm of what may be expected," says Hauptman. "My hope is that this will serve as an inspiration for the next generation of young scientists and mathematicians."

WNED president and CEO Donald K. Boswell states: "The film is a moving tribute to a remarkable man. Dr. Hauptman's work continues to have an enormous impact on medical research. His story offers an inspiring example of what one person can accomplish with persistence, dedication and a commitment to excellence."

Reflecting on the significance of Hauptman's professional contributions, as well as his love for music, family and the beauty of mathematics, WNED senior producer Paul Lamont, says, "It's a rare opportunity to be able to do a film about someone like

Dr. Hauptman—a man who you have to admire for his intelligence, but also for his thoughtfulness and logic.

"It's astounding to me to think that someone can spend nearly four decades working on a single problem as he did, with dedication, focus and the ability to balance his family life, with that passion and drive. I approached this film as a series of snapshots which, when looked at as a whole, reveal the picture of a man."

Major funding was provided by Independent Health, University at Buffalo Academic Health Center, University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and the James H. Cummings Foundation. Additional support was provided by The Baird Foundation, Peter C. Cornell Trust, Gelia Wells & Mohr, M&T Charitable Foundation, The John R. Oishei Foundation, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and members of WNED. **BP**

## Visiting Professorship in Diabetes

**Satish Kalhan, MD, pioneer of stable-isotope technique in diabetes research**

LAST YEAR, the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was awarded a nationally competitive grant from Pfizer Inc. to fund a Visiting Professorship in Diabetes for 2007–2008. The unrestricted funds made available through the program serve to facilitate in-depth, educationally focused visits by prominent medical experts to U.S. medical schools or hospitals.

The clinical researcher invited by UB to participate in this exchange was Satish Kalhan, MD, professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve

University School of Medicine and director of the Schwartz Center for Metabolism and Nutrition at Metro Health Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kalhan, whose laboratory is located in the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute, is an expert in whole-body metabolism who has pioneered a stable isotope technique in diabetes research and is one of the foremost experts in the application of the stable isotope approach in humans.

On April 23, 2008, Kalhan spoke at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences on the topic of "Methionine

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 adapted to a wide variety of research projects. Kalhan also met with graduate students and par-

ticipated 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 credentials that qualified him to host the visit. **BP**



From left: Visiting Professor Satish Kalhan, MD, Suzanne Laychock, 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.

## Rudin Named SUNY Distinguished Professor

**Stephen Rudin, PhD,** professor of radiology and director of the Division of



Rudin

Radiation Physics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has been named SUNY Distinguished Professor by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

The rank of distinguished professor recognizes individuals who have achieved national or international prominence and an established reputation in their fields of expertise. The highest faculty rank in the SUNY system, it is an order above full professorship and has three co-equal designa-

tions: distinguished professor, distinguished service professor and distinguished teaching professor.

"SUNY faculty who receive appointment to the distinguished ranks provide a glimpse of the broad service contributions and the career achievements being made on our campuses across New York State," said SUNY interim chancellor John B. Clark at the time the announcement was made in March.

Rudin is an expert in the field of medical physics. Co-director of the Imaging Division of the Toshiba Stroke Research Center, he is internationally recognized for his award-winning work on scanning beam radiography, region-of-interest fluoroscopy

and applications of new radiologic detectors. His work has major theoretical and clinical implications for medical physics, biomedical engineering and diagnostic radiology, as well as an immediate impact upon patient diagnosis and care, particularly in cases of heart and brain treatment.

Rudin is certified by the American Board of Health Physics and the American Board of Radiology. He is a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, serving as a member of the AAPM Board of Directors from 2002 to 2005 and as president of the group's upstate New York chapter from 1999 to 2000.

A UB faculty member since 1977 and director of the uni-

versity's medical physics program since 1980, he received an Exceptional Scholar Award for Sustained Achievement from UB in 2003. He has authored or coauthored more than 190 publications and is principal investigator of numerous funded projects, including some supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

A graduate of the University of Chicago, Rudin earned his doctorate in medical physics from the City University of New York. **BP**

—SUE WUETCHER

## Physicians Join University Orthopaedics

**Geoffrey Bernas, MD, and Michael Rauh, MD '99,** have joined the

division of University Sports Medicine. They currently are seeing patients at the University Orthopaedic Center, located at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center in Orchard Park, New York.

Christopher Mutty, MD, is now seeing patients at the Erie County Medical Center.

Bernas attended Canisius College and earned his medical

degree at the State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine in 2001. He completed his orthopaedic residency at UB and went on to complete a sports medicine and shoulder surgery fellowship at the University of Michigan, together with the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Herodicus Society 2008 North American Traveling Fellowship. Bernas has served as team physician for the University of Michigan and UB Division I Athletics, as well as with Erie Com-

munity College athletics.

Rauh graduated from St. Bonaventure University and received his medical degree from UB in 1999. He completed his orthopaedic residency at UB, and then served a sports Medicine Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. He has been an assistant team physician for the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Cleveland Indians and the 2007 Scouting Combine of the National Football League.

**Christopher E. Mutty, MD '02,** earned his undergraduate degree from the Rensselaer Polytechnic



Rauh

Institute and his medical degree from UB. After finishing his orthopaedic residency in 2006 at UB, he completed a trauma fellowship at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina that focused on the management and surgery of the poly-trauma patient. **BP**

—TIMOTHY R. PALASZEWSKI



Bernas



Mutty

# UB Faculty Entrepreneur Award

BY ELLEN GOLDBAUM

**Holm and Egan recognized for development of lung surfactant drug**

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.

"The purpose of the award is to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit among faculty and students at UB," says Robert J. Genco, DDS, PhD, UB vice provost and director of the Office of Science, Technology and Economic Outreach (STOR). "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 first 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, physiology and biophysics; and co-inventor Bruce Holm, PhD, executive director of UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences and UB professor of pediatrics, gynecology-obstetrics and pharmacology. The award was presented on June 6, 2008, at the UB Business Partners Day.

Egan and Holm formed ONY, Inc. 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 still is based today. The company was formed to commercialize InfaSurf (calfactant), a lung surfactant Egan and Holm developed to prevent respiratory distress in premature babies, a condition that can be fatal.

InfaSurf was approved by the Food and Drug Administration and has been on the market since 1999. More than 250,000 premature babies throughout the U.S. have received InfaSurf to assist their breathing in the first critical hours after birth. Some of them owe their very survival to this product developed by UB researchers.

"This product is a good example of the fruits of the discovery of two UB faculty members who have made major contributions to society by becoming entrepreneurs," says Genco. "This discovery could very well have sat on a shelf somewhere as a scientific publication or a patent. It took a special, extraordinary effort on the parts of doctors Egan and Holm to develop the commercial process and do the proper studies required for FDA approval, which are quite onerous. But they persevered; they went out and raised the funds they needed to perform those studies."

Egan and Holm, according to Genco, are scholar-entrepreneurs who possess a gift for recognizing the potential for a product that could be developed from their research. They also are superior teachers, he says.

"They have not rested on their first success. They have developed an adult version of surfactant that has great promise for treating asthma," adds Genco.

That product, now in Phase III clinical trials, could be a significant advance for people who suffer from acute and dangerous episodes of respiratory failure.

"We had the fortune of having multiple forms of expertise represented on the 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 medicine is an integral part of the business of health care in a community."

Egan added that the synergy between the scientific team based at UB and ONY's

pharmaceutical partner, Forest Laboratories, also contributed to the company's success.

As for the perseverance required to pursue commercialization, Egan said that neither he nor Holm ever wavered in the belief that InfaSurf should be widely available.

"We knew that our basic science demonstrated that the lung surfactant replacement product we developed had important features that were missing from similar products developed by others," he says. "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 were Goran Enhornig, PhD, MD, UB professor emeritus of gynecology and obstetrics; Melinda Stanfield, MD, formerly UB professor of pediatrics; Fred Possmayer, PhD, a biochemist at the University of Western Ontario; and Robert H. Notter, MD, professor of pediatrics at the University of Rochester. **BP**

PHOTO BY NANCY PARISI



**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

**Anatomy professor and expert on aging**

**H**AROLD 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 gerontology 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 Neuroanatomy 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 Multidisciplinary 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 Appointments, 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 Alumnus 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 Amherst Senior Citizens Center gave him its Brotherhood Award in 1980.

He was a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at Kommune Hospitalet 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 Ameri-

can Association of Anatomists, a past president and fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, a fellow of the American Geriatrics Society and a past president of the Buffalo Neuropsychiatric Society and the Roswell Park Medical Club.

He was an ad hoc adviser 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 Pertz Brody, died in 2000. Surviving are two sons, David A. and Evan B. **BP**

