research as part of the hospital’s involvement with Buffalo Medical Center as a Model Spinal Cord Injury Center. Rosenblum is board-certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, as well as the sub-specialty of spinal cord injury medicine. He is a regional expert in the rehabilitative treatment of neurological disorders, serves as a trustee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Greater Connecticut Chapter and has authored a number of articles about rehabilitative options available to people with MS. After earning his medical degree at UB, Rosenblum completed an internship in internal medicine at Millard Fillmore Hospital in Buffalo and trained in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Columbus Presbyterian Medical Center. He is a member of the Connecticut Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the American College of Physician Executives. He also is an assistant clinical professor in orthopedics and rehabilitation at Yale University School of Medicine.

2000s
Roger Walcott, MD ’02, and Karen (Weiss) Walcott, MD ’02, recently returned to Buffalo. Karen writes: ‘Roger completed his general surgery training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and his vascular surgery fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital. He has joined the Vascular and Endovascular Center of VNY with partners Joseph and Paul Anan. I completed my ophthalmology training at Boston University Medical Center and practiced in Boston prior to moving to Washington D.C. We have two daughters, Evelyn, age 2, and Maggie, who turned one in November. We are excited to be back in town and would love to hear from any classmates.” Email address is roger-walcott@hotmail.com.

Ken Snyder, MD/PhD ’04, is in his fifth year of residency in neurosurgery at UB and a 2009 recipient of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award (see page 51). Snyder completed an endovascular neurosurgery fellowship within his residency and has received a Toshiba imaging research fellowship. He will spend six months at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona, working with Robert F. Spetzler, MD, FACS, director of the institute, to expand his open surgical techniques for vascular disease. He will then return to UB to complete his endovascular training. Snyder’s research interests include the use of CT perfusion in treatment of stroke. He plans to specialize in neurosurgical treatment of vascular disease and stroke.

In Memoriam


Angelo Lapi, MD ’37, born on October 12, 1913, died on January 7, 2009.


Carl J. ImPELLITII, MD ’46, born on November 25, 1920, died on September 9, 2009.

William L. Marsh, MD ’46, born on November 5, 1920, died on May 23, 2009.

George H. Mix, MD ’47, born on March 27, 1924, died on March 10, 2009.

Richard S. Metzger, PhD ’57, born on February 2, 1930, died on April 15, 2009.

William P. Nagle, MD ’61, born on November 19, 1929, died on May 19, 2009.
Jeremy Kalamarides
Obstetrics and Gynecology
“Dr. Kalamarides was gentle, kind and respectful with all of his patients. He took the extra time to explain procedures in simple terms and to soothe the most difficult patients. He is a doctor that I would send my family and friends to, and is the type of doctor and teacher that I hope to one day become.”

Meliton Silva, MD ’06
Surgery
“Dr. Silva has an easy, open manner and a great sense of humor that immediately puts his patients at ease. He is also one of the best teachers I have had this year. He taught me everything from correct suturing techniques to how to use the phones for clinic dictation. Not only did he make my surgery rotation comfortable, he made sure learning about surgery was fun.”

Kristen Poppenberg, MD ’05
Medicine Pediatrics
“Throughout my time on the floor, Dr. Poppenberg was consistently available to teach and answer any questions I had. She also was dedicated to educating the parents about the illness their child had. She made every case a learning experience for both me and the patient’s family. If I can become half the physician-teacher that she is I would consider that a great accomplishment.”

Ken Snyder, MD/PhD ’04
Neurosurgery
“Dr. Snyder exemplifies what a senior resident should be: Amidst the chaos of rounding on 30–40 patients in the morning, and the hectic OR schedule, he would always find time to emphasize teaching points to me. He is a big believer of giving the students as much responsibility as he can, and letting them learn from diving in with proper guidance.”

Pedro Argoti
Obstetrics and Gynecology
“I would be hard pressed to find another resident who possessed the knowledge and compassion of Dr. Argoti. He is the doctor that I would like to work with if I had a practice: someone who is eager to learn and teach and who puts others ahead of himself. Dr. Argoti truly made going to work at 4:30 a.m. pleasurable. I looked forward to seeing him because I knew that he was there to help anyone and everyone he saw that day.”

Rahul Singh, MD
Surgery
“Dr. Singh is a fourth-year general surgery resident, and as such has every excuse to be stressed out, but instead he gave so much of his energy each day to making sure that medical students learned as much as possible. He did this without any desire to push us into the field of surgery, but rather to help us gain skills and knowledge that would aid us in becoming complete physicians, regardless of the field we choose.”

Six University at Buffalo residents were presented with the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award at the seventh annual Student Clinician’s Ceremony held on July 12, 2009, at Roswell Park Cancer Institute’s Noble Lecture Hall. The ceremony, sponsored by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences’ Professional Conduct Committee, was designed by the Gold Foundation to provide guidance, information and support to medical students as they transition to their clerkship years. Invited faculty speakers share insights, address collective fears and expectations and encourage the students to reflect upon their experiences in medicine. They also call upon the students to revisit the oath taken during the White Coat Ceremony as a means to underscore the challenges and imperatives they will encounter in providing care to patients that is both highly skilled and humanistic.

This year’s keynote address was delivered by Gregory Chen, MD, assistant professor of surgery, the 2008-2009 recipient of the Humanism in Medicine Award. Additional remarks were made by Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Nancy Nielsen, MD ’76, PhD, senior associate dean for medical education; and Charles Severin, MD ’77, PhD, interim associate dean for medical education.

This year’s Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented by Eric Arnone, Class of 2010. Recipients were chosen from among 23 residents who were nominated by third-year students based upon their having exhibited strong teaching skills and serving as role models for compassionate, relationship-centered care. Final selection was made by members of the Professional Conduct Committee.

At right are the award recipients, along with excerpts from comments made by about them by nominating students.

—S. A. Unger
A Balanced Depiction

MEDICAL STUDENT'S PAINTINGS PUBLISHED BY ACADEMIC MEDICINE

The Vitruvian Man, an iconic symbol of medical science, is a recurring theme in the education of Sujata Sofat, a member of the Class of 2009, who began her surgical residency at Georgetown University in July. In August, Sofat’s painting “Vitruvian Man” graced the cover of Academic Medicine, the journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges. A second painting of hers, titled “Heart,” was selected for the cover of the November issue.

Academic Medicine began accepting submissions for original cover art in 2008, according to Mary Beth DeVilbiss, the journal’s senior staff editor. “We’ve featured pieces inspired by patient encounters, clinical research, global health rotations, classroom interactions, anatomy lab experiences, and lifetime careers in academic medicine,” she explains. “All perspectives are welcome.”

Sofat’s submissions were chosen because they were visually provocative, but they were also accompanied by thoughtful explanations of the connection between her art and her studies, DeVilbiss says. “One of the most important components for cover art submissions is the artwork’s connection to the artist’s academic medicine experience.”

Sofat has been a painter and a potter since childhood. She originally painted Vitruvian Man—as depicted in a popular pen-and-ink drawing attributed to Leonardo da Vinci—for a wall in UB’s Office of Medical Education at the urging of Nancy Nelson, MD ’76, PhD, senior associate dean for medical education.

“This painting was inspired by my desire to construct a creative and unique gift that simultaneously serves as an appropriate symbolization of gratitude and honor for an institution dedicated to the cultivation of well-rounded physicians,” Sofat wrote in the essay that accompanied her submission to Academic Medicine.

“A mentor once said that we in health care are striving to ‘balance the scientist in each of us with the artist that’s begging to be expressed—and then to bring healing to others,’” she further wrote. “My abstract visualization united with my compassionate doctoring merge in this re-creation to accomplish my objective of depicting the balance between the art in medicine with the medicine in art. This may have been the logical pick to represent my school and occupation, but its ability to intrigue each individual differently makes it a perfect fit. I hope my endeavor exists not only as a lasting adornment but as an aid to passersby in seeing, in their own way, the possibilities the ‘Vitruvian Man’ can illuminate within...”

Heart painting in honor of her father, Suresh Sofat, MD, a cardiologist with Lockport Medical Group. At the time, she aspired to follow in his footsteps and someday take over his practice; however, after she began medical school and entered the operating room, she had a change of heart.

“For me, surgery has that quality of being an art form,” she says. “Your mind is clear and you’re not thinking about anything but what your fingers and your hands are doing.”

For Sofat, the art of medicine is all about “compassionate doctoring,” a practice she first learned from her father, who is also a primary care physician. “He’s one of those people who truly believes that listening and communicating are the foundations of medicine,” she says. “The most important quality in a physician is compassion, over technical skill or anything else. You have to be someone who people feel comfortable talking to, and you have to be interested in your patients’ lives.”

Just as her medical background influences her art, Sofat’s art informs her philosophy of medicine. “You can’t look at a patient as a stereotypical person,” she says. “It might make your job a lot easier, but you have to realize that everyone is unique.”

Sujata Sofat, MD ’09