



CLASSNOTES

FALL / WINTER 2009 - 10

1950s

S. H. Moore, MD '55, writes: "Sometimes in teaching medical students, it helps to hear the wisdom of those who have gone before, especially in regard to true emergencies, where instantaneous decisions are vital. Such an emergency happened to me soon after starting my practice of internal medicine.

"I hospitalized 'Rose' with severe hepatitis and each morning reviewed with her the results of her daily blood tests. One morning, Rose said, 'Dr. Moore, I have to go home today.' I said, 'Rose, it's much too early to consider discharge. Whatever you need to do, I will take care of it.' Then Rose said, 'Dr. Moore, I need to feed my boa a live mouse today.' I instantaneously replied, 'Rose, you are going home today,' and she did, and I never made that mistake again."

1980s

Rubens Pamies, MD '86, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska



Medical Center (UNMC), has been named by the

National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to their nine-member executive committee of the governing board.

Pamies, who also serves as dean for graduate studies and professor of internal medicine at UNMC, has been involved with NBME activities since 1999.

In addition to his executive committee post, he serves on the Interdisciplinary Review Committee for the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

Recently, Pamies also was selected to represent the NBME on its finance committee for a three-year term.

David S. Rosenblum, MD '87.

has been appointed medical director of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Gaylord Hospital, a not-for-profit, long-term acute care hospital in Wallingford, Connecticut, that specializes in the care and treatment of people with complex medical and rehabilita-



tion needs, outpatient services and sleep medicine.

Rosenblum, who was recently named one of Connecticut's top doctors by *Connecticut Magazine*, currently serves as medical director of spinal cord injury

research as part of the hospital's involvement with Boston Medical Center as a Model Spinal Cord Injury Center.

Rosenblum is board-certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, as well as the subspecialty 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 (MS) 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 Columbia 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

What's Up Doc?

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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 WNY with partners Joseph and Paul Anain. 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 excit-

ed 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 Excellence in Teaching 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. **BP**

PHOTO CORRECTION

In the summer 2009 issue of Buffalo Physician, we transposed the photographs of Dana P. Launer, MD '73, vice president of medical affairs at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, California; and Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, '84, MPH, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

We apologize to Drs. Launer and Rosenfeld for the error.

—S. A. UNGER, EDITOR



Launer



Rosenfeld

In Memoriam

DANIEL D. PESCHIO, MD '35, born on January 2, 1910, died on June 22, 2009.

ANGELO LAPI, MD '37, born on October 12, 1913, died on January 7, 2009.

EUGENE J. HANAVAN JR., MD '41, born on November 16, 1917, died on July 7, 2009.

CARL J. IMPELLITIER, 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 21, 2009.

GEORGE H. MIX, MD '47, born on March 27, 1914, died on March 16, 2009.

RICHARD S. METZGAR, PHD '57, born on February 2, 1930, died on April 15, 2009.

WILLARD F. NAGLE, MD '61, born on November 19, 1929, died on May 19, 2009.

HAROLD C. DOMRES JR., MD '62, born on December 18, 1937, died on March 2, 2009.

On June 17, 2009 the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was notified of the death of **KEVIN J. STANLEY, MD '00**, born on April 21, 1974.

RESIDENTS HONORED

2009 Student Clinicians Ceremony

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 Hohn 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 Cherr, 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 '97, 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



PHOTO BY NANCY PARISI

BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Pedro Argoti, Meliton Silva, Rahul Singh. Seated, Jeremy Kalamarides.

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. In the two weeks I was lucky enough to work with him, 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."

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."

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 put 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." **BP**

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A Balanced Depiction

BY
PATRICK
KLINCK

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 lifelong 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 Nielsen, 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 edification 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 them."

Sofat originally created her stylized but anatomically detailed "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 some day 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." **BP**

Sujata Sofat, MD '09

