



“Dr. Nielsen continues to bring the strength of her enlightened voice to our nation’s most pressing challenges concerning health care.”

—SATISH K. TRIPATHI, PROVOST

Nielsen Elected to Institute of Medicine

BY LOIS BAKER

NANCY H. NIELSEN, MD '76, PHD, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND A CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, HAS BEEN ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE (IOM) OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

IOM MEMBERSHIP IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE HIGHEST HONORS IN THE FIELDS OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE.

ELECTION TO THE IOM BY THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS BASED ON PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND DEMONSTRATED INTEREST, CONCERN AND INVOLVEMENT WITH PROBLEMS AND CRITICAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC.

“We, as a university community, heartily congratulate Dr. Nielsen upon her recognition by the Institute of Medicine as an unparalleled leader in the fields of health and medicine,” said Provost Satish K. Tripathi, at the time the election was announced in October. “Dr. Nielsen continues to bring the strength of her enlightened voice to our nation’s most pressing challenges concerning health care. As a national leader, she has been absolutely indefatigable in her efforts, and

her election as a member of the IOM is a true validation of her inspired work.

“Election to the IOM is a rare honor and, for those at the top of their field, membership reflects the height of professional achievement and commitment to service. The IOM’s mission is to serve as an adviser to the nation by addressing the most pressing questions related to health and health care. As a member, Dr. Nielsen will apply her expertise to the work of the IOM on behalf of the nation’s

health. We are proud of her achievement and of the contributions we know she will continue to make.”

Nielsen, who says she is “honored and humbled” by election to the IOM, is past president of the American Medical Association. In that role, she has been an outspoken advocate for the uninsured and has lectured widely and carried her message to the public on radio and television programs.

Nielsen currently is a member of the IOM’s Roundtable on Evidence-Based Medicine and on the Consumer Empowerment Committee of America’s Health Information Community.

Other UB faculty members elected to the IOM include Robert J. Genco, DDS, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the School of Dental Medicine and vice provost and director of UB’s Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach (STOR); and UB emeriti faculty members J. Warren Perry, PhD, and Gerhard Levy, PharmD. **BP**

Esther Takeuchi Receives National Medal of Technology

Most coveted technology award in the United States

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA announced on September 17 that Esther S. Takeuchi, PhD, Greatbatch Professor in Power Sources Research in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the highest honor awarded in the United States for technological achievement.

Takeuchi, a UB faculty member since 2007, received the medal from Obama at a White House ceremony held October 7.

BY ELLEN GOLDBAUM

and faculty. As a biomedical engineer whose career has flourished both in the private sector and in the academy, she also demonstrates

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is administered for the White House by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. It recognizes individuals or companies for outstanding contributions to the promotion of technology for the improvement of the economic, environmental or social well-being of the United States.

In a statement, Obama described the medal’s four awardees—of whom Takeuchi is the only woman—as embodying “the very best of American ingenuity and inspiring a new generation of thinkers and innovators. Their extraordinary achievements strengthen our nation every day, not just intellectually and technologically but also economically, by helping create new industries and opportunities that others before them could never have imagined.”

UB president John B. Simpson noted that the medal is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an American inventor by the president of the United States.

“Professor Takeuchi’s work on power sources for biomedical devices has made possible technologies that have truly meant the difference between life and death for people around the world,” Simpson said at the time the award was announced.

“And while her scientific contributions alone exceed the criteria for this award, it also is true that her presence as a faculty member at UB has, and will continue to, deeply enrich the experience of students

the absolutely critical connection that exists now between UB and industry. I heartily congratulate her on this well-deserved award.” Simpson said.

Takeuchi was previously chief scientist at Greatbatch Inc., where she worked for 22 years. Her development of the lithium/silver vanadium oxide battery while at Greatbatch was a major factor in bringing implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICDs) into production in the late 1980s. ICDs shock the heart into a normal rhythm when it goes into fibrillation.

Twenty years later, with more than 200,000 of these units being implanted every year, the majority of them are powered by the batteries developed and improved by Takeuchi and her team.

She often is cited as the woman awarded the most patents in the U.S.—more than 140 at last count, most of them related to her pioneering development of sophisticated power sources for implantable devices, now a booming multibillion-dollar business. Named to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering in 2004, she is one of just 104 women elected to the organization, considered the highest distinction that an engineering professional can achieve. Less than five percent of the academy’s 2,400 active members are women.

Takeuchi was hired at UB as a professor in the UB departments of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Electrical Engineering in the School of Engineering

and Applied Sciences, and the Department of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences; she also will be taking on additional responsibilities in UB’s new initiative in biomedical engineering, a cross-disciplinary effort between UB engineering and the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

At UB, Takeuchi now is applying some of the same principles involved in her signature inventions—the tiny batteries that helped make implantable cardiac defibrillators and other medical devices a life-saving reality—to power source issues key to developing electric vehicles and alternative energy storage devices.

Currently, as part of the UB initiative in biomedical engineering, Takeuchi and her colleagues also are working with researchers at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to explore how new concepts for medical devices they developed could be powered. **BP**



Esther Takeuchi, PhD, developed a battery that helped make it possible to bring implantable cardiac defibrillators into production in the late 1980s.

By JOHN DELLA CONTRADA

Treat and Track

\$7 million informatics grant targets kidney disease in WNY

UBMD, the University at Buffalo's 450-member physician practice plan, has received a \$7 million grant from the New York State Department of Health HEAL NY initiative to implement a novel electronic records system to track and manage treatment of chronic kidney disease in real time, with the goal of reducing the number of patients in Western New York who develop end-stage kidney disease (ESRD).



The project will be supported by additional major investments from CTG, the Buffalo-based global information-technology company, and UBMD. The total \$28.9 million investment will create a software system that enables uniform sharing of electronic patient records across the UBMD practice, and which will identify in patients the health markers found in kidney disease and diabetes.

The project is expected to create approximately 115 new high-paying jobs in computer programming and data analysis in Buffalo at CTG and UBMD.

The principal investigator on the project is David L. Dunn, MD, PhD, UB's vice president for health sciences. Russell W. Bessette, MD '76, DDS '69, associate vice president for health sciences and director of health information technology in the UB Academic Health Center, serves as co-investigator. Both are collaborating closely with Bruce A. Holm, PhD, UB senior vice provost and executive director of UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

Dunn notes that support for the project was provided by Buffalo mayor Byron Brown, assembly member Crystal Peoples, senator William Stachowski, senator Antoine Thompson and congressman

Brian Higgins, and referenced the foresight of New York State health commissioner Richard F. Daines, MD, and deputy commissioner for Health IT Rachel Block in initiating this important statewide program.

"We expect these software tools will improve the health status of Western New Yorkers and yield significant savings in health care," Dunn says. "With the shape of health-care reform being hotly debated at the national level, Western New York continues to be on the forefront of innovative transformation, representing an ideal test bed for novel ideas and new systems for preventing and monitoring disease that effectively engage patients and providers in 21st century 'eHealth.'"

The project, Holm notes, is an example of the type of successful collaboration envisioned between UB researchers, industry partners and government leaders when UB's Center of Excellence opened in 2006.

"This collaboration between UB, CTG and our elected officials will help transform health care in our region and generate the type of jobs and spin-off projects that will fuel continued growth of our region's life sciences industry and attract additional investments to our community," Holm says.

Mayor Brown described the announcement as another important development in the continuing evolution of Buffalo's medical campus and "the promise it holds for employment opportunities and health-care advances for residents in our city and region.

"In my 2009 State of the City address, I said that I planned on making Buffalo a national center for electronic medical records and health informatics; today's exciting announcement is fulfillment of that pledge," Brown says. "I thank the University at Buffalo, the New York State Department of Health, UB's Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences, CTG and the members of our state legislative delegation who have worked so diligently and collaboratively to bring this important health-care development to the city's Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus."

CTG chairman and chief executive officer James R. Boldt said CTG's involvement in the project is advancing the company's expansion into the health-care market and the health-care informatics industry. A team of CTG software engineers is based in UB's Center of Excellence and has been working on the project with UB researchers and computer scientists.

"CTG could have headquartered its health-care informatics practice anywhere, but we chose to base it in Buffalo because only here in Western New York have we seen the

kind of collaboration between universities, government officials and public companies that is required to make a project like this one work," Boldt says.

In three years, development of this new system for early management of kidney disease is estimated to generate \$154 million a year in savings in Medicare costs in New York State. More than 1,400 people in Western New York suffer from end-stage kidney disease requiring expensive and time-consuming dialysis treatment, as well as kidney transplantation. Kidney disease and diabetes disproportionately affect minority populations.

The prototype of the novel kidney-disease-tracking

software, developed by Bessette in collaboration with UB researchers and computer scientists and CTG software engineers, has been pretested for feasibility by following 1,300 patient records for 13 months.

Studies have shown that 40 percent of patients with type 1 diabetes will develop ESRD within 25 years, but when these patients have good glyce-

mic control, only nine percent will develop the disease. "Because of the important role preventive medicine can play in minimizing the effects of chronic kidney disease, and due to the significant cost of renal disease and its impact on minority populations, we expect these software tools will improve the health status of Western New Yorkers and yield significant savings in health care," says Bessette.

The software allows physicians to record blood values for all elements that relate to kidney function, which will be displayed in a sunburst-like display, with 16 "rays" denoting each element of the blood sample analysis important to kidney health extending from a green center circle.

also see this ultimately as a patient tool. Putting the health information in a color-coded system lets the patients see if they are OK or not in each area.

"ESRD was chosen for this study because it is a chronic disease with major budgetary impact, and because much data involving care of these patients already is available and is transmitted electronically," he continues.

"In addition, the information has broad application across many other medical conditions. By correlating blood chemistry values to illness complexity, our system recognizes that ESRD patients routinely face other complicating conditions, such hyper-

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—DAVID DUNN, MD, PhD

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The program analyzes each element and consolidates them into one score. If all the elements are normal, the green center remains intact. If elements of the blood analysis are abnormal, those elements display in a contrasting red color extending from the center.

"This is an important tool for the physician to treat and track outcomes of the treatment," says Bessette. "But we

tension, anemia, osteomalacia and heart failure."

ESRD patients have medical costs on average of \$65,000 per year to New York State or commercial medical insurers before they become eligible for Medicare. "Using our system offers an opportunity to reduce this expenditure dramatically," Bessette notes. **BP**

iSciWNY Program Established

Will help grow life sciences workforce in Buffalo

By ELLEN GOLDBAUM

On October 7, 2009, UB introduced iSciWNY, a comprehensive life sciences workforce development program dedicated to preparing all Western New Yorkers, not just scientists, for new positions in Buffalo Niagara's growing life sciences industry.

UB's iSciWNY will use workshops, training programs, an interactive website and a Career Pathways kit to demystify the life sciences industry for Western New Yorkers and prepare them for employment in this sector, whether they're high school students looking for their first job or established professionals looking for a new challenge.

In announcing the new program, UB provost and executive vice president for academic affairs Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, said the region already has achieved significant growth in the life sciences and is poised for additional expansion.

"In 2006, the University at Buffalo opened the New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences translational research facility in downtown Buffalo to

jumpstart Buffalo's emerging life sciences economy," noted Tripathi. "Today, Western New York is home to more than 120 life sciences companies. This sector is becoming more and more vibrant, as UB and our partner institutions leverage UB research and faculty resources to spin off new companies, help existing firms grow and attract new companies to the region.

"As the industry grows, so do the jobs," he continued. "UB's iSciWNY is the public's pathway to better preparation for those positions."

Supported by generous donations from the Bank of America and the Life Technologies Foundation, in combination with grants from the New York State Department of Labor, iSciWNY is available to residents of the counties of



The iSciWNY slogan, 'Stay here, go far' means that thanks to our growing life sciences industry, Western New Yorkers can stay here and find successful careers in many more fields than the typical laboratory position pictured by most people.

—MARNIE LAVIGNE, PhD

Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua through the Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Investment Board Inc. and to the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming through the Genesee County Economic Development Center.

The program, which is available at no charge to Western New York organizations and individuals, has two emphases: (1) education and awareness to inform people about what opportunities are available in life sciences, and (2) training to help prepare people for those opportunities.

According to Marnie LaVigne, PhD, director of business development in UB's Center of Excellence and codeveloper of iSciWNY, many Western New Yorkers are unaware of the extraordinary diversity of the

region's life sciences industry, an industry that includes companies that develop and test powerful new drugs, create innovative medical devices and develop new computational tools needed to advance new research.

"The iSciWNY slogan, 'Stay here, go far' means that thanks to our growing life sciences industry, Western New Yorkers can stay here and find successful careers in many more fields than the typical laboratory position pictured by most people," LaVigne says. "It is incredibly rewarding to be involved in a career with great opportunities at all levels—in technical and nontechnical jobs that offer professional advancement—while helping people live better, healthier lives because of innovative life science products and services."

Those opportunities are already here and are growing in number, according to Thomas P. Stewart, PhD, president and chief clinical officer at Gaymar Industries Inc., an international medical products manufacturing and engineering company in Orchard Park, New York. Gaymar expects to see moderate growth in employment opportunities over the next two years, with more significant growth taking off after that.

"We have openings right now," says Stewart, "but sometimes we have difficulty filling them because people may not have the right set of skills. That's fixable through iSciWNY. For example, in some of our technician, engineering, manufacturing and assembly

positions, it would be advantageous if candidates had some regulatory training, like the six-week regulatory program available through iSciWNY. It gives them a leg up on the competition."

A key feature of iSciWNY is its focus on changing public perceptions about life sciences, says Casey DeBruyn, training development supervisor at Grand Island's Life Technologies, a subsidiary of the Fortune 500 global biotech company Invitrogen Inc.

"When you mention life sciences, people automatically think of someone wearing safety glasses and a lab coat and possibly having earned a PhD," adds DeBruyn, who is also an advisor and trained instructor for iSciWNY and related programs. "Scientists are part of the industry, of course, but so are thousands of other positions in business development, human resources, marketing, law, manufacturing and many others. Here at Life Technologies, we've had people with high school diplomas, associate's and bachelor's degrees working for 30 years in good, sustainable careers.

"iSciWNY is valuable because it provides resources both to students and adults, whether they're considering a career change or they've been displaced from a job," he adds. "It enables workers to start building the fundamental skills sets they will need to be competitive in the market."

iSciWNY's emphasis on the community distinguishes it from other worker training programs, notes Sherryl

Weems, EdD, codeveloper of iSciWNY and director of UB's Educational Opportunity Center, which administers many of the iSciWNY training sessions.

"Community organizations like Hispanics United are thrilled that they can show young people how they can stay in Buffalo and achieve something important," says Weems. "And unlike a lot of workforce programs out there, this one doesn't see the pipeline as starting with the college student or graduate. iSciWNY starts in the community, and it targets everybody, from high school students to adults who are currently employed or in the market for a new job."

iSciWNY, Weems notes, was tailor-made to this region with major input by the Western New York life sciences companies and institutions that are hiring, along with educators, career counselors and others vital to spreading the message.

iSciWNY educates, raises awareness and trains people through:

- A rich, interactive website at www.isciwny.com that helps individuals discover what life sciences can offer them
- An informative, eight-minute video available at www.isciwny.com featuring stories from Western New Yorkers currently employed in the life sciences industry
- 2,500 Career Ladder Kits, now being distributed to each middle and high school in the eight-county Western New York region, as well as to job-training centers and community organizations

Two-hour introductory "train the trainer" workshops presented by project personnel and partner organizations so that iSciWNY "ambassadors" can then train others in using the program

Two-hour introductory workshops starting in UB's Educational Opportunity Center and expanding into the community, where trained iSciWNY ambassadors will introduce the program to students, career changers, displaced workers and others who want to better understand and access opportunities in life sciences

Five-week work-readiness certificate programs in life sciences, offered by UB's Educational Opportunity Center

So far, more than 100 individuals have completed the two-hour training programs. The five-week work-readiness certificate program debuted in the fall.

According to its developers in UB's Center of Excellence and the Educational Opportunity Center, iSciWNY is unique nationally because of the way it addresses workforce development needs.

"iSciWNY creates a pipeline approach," explains LaVigne. "It links all the organizations that need to be involved to develop a skilled workforce—whether through advising, educating, training or employment—with the community at large."

Other regions statewide and across the U.S. have expressed interest in using iSciWNY as a model, LaVigne notes.

For more information, visit www.isciwny.com.



Kaleida Leadership Appointments Announced

KALEIDA HEALTH SYSTEM has announced that Don Boyd has been promoted to senior vice president of business development, Tammy Owen has been named president of Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital and Anthony Zito has been appointed president of DeGraff Memorial Hospital.

“These personnel changes bode very well for Kaleida Health,” said James R. Kaskie, president and chief executive officer of Kaleida Health, at the time they were announced. “They will help us continue to focus on our strategic drivers: campus consolidation and rationalization, physician alignment, workforce development and business operations.”



Boyd

Boyd had been the president at Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital and a vice president for Kaleida Health since August 2006. In his site president role, he helped lead the hospital's growth, particularly in such vascular service lines as cardiac, stroke and vascular surgery, including the integration efforts for the Global Vascular Institute (GVI).

In his new role, Boyd is the lead executive for Kaleida Health's numerous growth initiatives, including the development of the GVI; integration of Buffalo



Owen

General and Millard Fillmore Gates Circle hospitals; help with the implementation of the professional steering committee recommendations for Great Lakes Health, Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health; and coordination of physician alignment and other business development opportunities throughout Western New York.

Owen had been the president of DeGraff Memorial Hospital since December 2006 and helped lead the hospital through the Berger Commission process.



Zito

In her new role, Owen leads Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital's day-to-day operations and plays an active role in integrating the hospital's programs and services into the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Zito formerly served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Prior to this, he was the vice president and CFO for the Millard Fillmore Hospital System and the vice president for managed care at Kaleida Health. **BP**

—MICHAEL HUGHES

Vladutiu Serves as President of SIMD

GEORGIRENE D. VLADUTIU, PHD, professor of pediatrics, neurology and pathology and anatomical sciences, and director of the Robert Guthrie Biochemical Genetics Laboratory at Buffalo General Hospital, has begun serving a two-year term as president of the Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders (SIMD). The SIMD represents physicians, scientists, nutritionists and nurse practitioners worldwide who care for patients with metabolic disorders or who conduct research on etiologies, treatment and diagnostic testing for inborn errors of metabolism. The SIMD hosted the 11th International Congress of Inborn Errors of Metabolism (ICIEM) in San Diego in August 2009, which was attended by 1,300 people. The meeting was the first ICIEM hosted in the U.S. since 1992.

Establishes Endowment

In 2009, Vladutiu established an endowment in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in honor of her husband, Adrian O. Vladutiu, MD, PhD. The gift supports an annual award for excellence in pathology to be given to a resident “who most exemplifies the curiosity and love of medicine, while striving for excellence in combining laboratory medicine with clinical medicine, as demonstrated by Dr. Vladutiu's 40-year career.”

Adrian O. Vladutiu is professor emeritus of pathology and anatomical sciences, microbiology and medicine at UB. In 1974 he established the

Immunopathology Laboratory at Buffalo General Hospital (BGH) and served as director of laboratories at BGH from 1982 to 2001. For many years he collaborated with physician colleagues in a number of departments to study unusual diagnostic dilemmas. One of his discoveries was the fifth case of IgE multiple myeloma. He also contributed to the discovery of a novel mutation in the TBG gene that causes a complete deficiency of thyroxine-binding globulin.

The first recipient of the Adrian O. Vladutiu Award for Excellence is Jianlan Sun, MD, PhD, who completed her residency in pathology at UB in 2009.

—S. A. UNGER

Besette Named AVP for Health Sciences

RUSSELL W. BESSETTE, MD '76, DDS '69, a former executive director of the New York State Agency for Science Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR), has been named associate vice president for health sciences and director of health information technology at UB.

The appointment, made by David L. Dunn, MD, PhD, UB vice president for health sciences, was effective October 1, 2009.

“I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Besette to his new position in the UB Academic Health Center,” Dunn



Besette

said at the time the appointment was announced. “His vast experience in the delivery and measuring the quality of health care will be of enormous benefit to us here at UB and in the region.

“I have asked him to focus on the implementation of all aspects of eHealth, particularly the development of novel approaches to the prediction, management and tracking outcomes of a variety of diseases that take a heavy toll on our community.”

Besette previously served as special advisor to Dunn and to Bruce A. Holm, PhD, senior vice provost and executive director of UB's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

In his new position, Besette will continue his close collaboration with Holm and colleagues at the Center of Excellence, in conjunction with expanded duties within UB's Academic Health Center.

Besette has been instrumental in organizing a series of critical eHealth initiatives that are under way at UB and spearheaded a grant submission to the New York State Department of Health's HEAL NY initiative that resulted in a \$7 million award to UBMD (see article on page 26).

Besette joined the UB faculty in 1989 as a clinical professor of surgery. Trained in general and plastic and reconstructive surgery, he has published both peer-reviewed articles and surgical textbook chapters focused in the area of reconstruction of the human temporomandibular joint.

He has served in a number of public positions, including chair of the New York State Public Health Council, which oversaw the state's transition to quality measures in health care; negotiated reimbursement and state-wide hospital mergers; and, as executive director of NYSTAR, he directed the investment of \$1.6 billion to establish the statewide Centers of Excellence Program that ultimately stimulated \$12.8 billion in investment and economic development through university and private business partnerships.

Besette also has served as a science advisor to the U.S. undersecretary for Homeland Security following 9/11, and currently is a member of the New York State Hospital Review and Planning Council and the NYSTAR Board of Directors. **BP**

—CHRISTINE VIDAL

Russo Named Head of Infectious Diseases

THOMAS A. RUSSO, MD, professor of medicine and assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, has been named chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Russo came to UB in 1994 from the National Institutes of Health, where he served as a senior staff fellow and head of the bacterial pathogenesis unit at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious



Russo

Diseases. In 2005 he was named one of UB's “Top 100 principal investigators” in recognition of his receipt of ongoing federal awards for his research.

Russo is internationally known for his work with certain strains of E. coli that cause a variety of infections outside of the intestine and that result in significant morbidity worldwide due to pneumonia, bloodstream infections, meningitis and urinary tract infections.

“Tom has been instrumental in bringing recognition to the importance of these infections,” says Timothy F. Murphy, MD, senior associate

dean for clinical and translational research. “His work has elucidated molecular mechanisms of pathogenesis, and he has identified and characterized novel vaccine antigens as part of an effort to develop vaccines for preventing extraintestinal E. coli infections.”

In recent years, Russo has expanded his research to include the bacterium *Acinetobacter*, which was best known for causing health-care associated infections until U.S.

Afghanistan began developing infections that resulted from an extremely drug-resistant strain.

Russo earned his medical degree from McGill University and completed his residency in medicine at New England Deaconess Hospital. Following residency, he served a fellowship in infectious diseases at Tufts University.

He is a member of the UB Witebsky Center for Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunology and a member of the Pathogens and Biodefense core research group in UB's New York State Center for Bioinformatics and Life Sciences. **BP**

—S. A. UNGER

Exceptional Scholar/Teaching Innovation Awards

THREE FACULTY MEMBERS in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences received Exceptional Scholar/Teaching Innovation Awards this past year.

Richard Bankert, VMD, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunology; and Sanjay Sethi, MD, professor of medicine received Sustained Achievement Awards. Sarah-Jeanne Salvy, PhD, assistant professor of pediatrics,



Bankert

received the Young Investigator Achievement Award. Bankert's distinguished research career has focused on immunity and immunotherapy of human cancer. Renowned for developing mouse models of immunodeficiency, he holds two grants from the National Cancer Institute and one from the John R. Oishei Foundation for his work in conducting a clinical trial of a cancer vaccine strategy. Bankert is also mentor to more than a dozen PhD and MD/PhD students, as well as 35 postdoctoral fellows.



Sethi

Sethi, appointed research assistant professor at UB in 1993, is chief of the division of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine at the Veterans Affairs Western New York Healthcare System. He is a highly valued investigator, mentor and faculty member whose research in the field of pulmonary disease—



Salvy

especially chronic obstructive pulmonary disease—has resulted in 86 papers and book chapters and invitations to speak at national and international venues. A co-investigator on a grant from the Healthy Living Foundation, Salvy holds adjunct appointments at UB in psychology and exercise and nutrition science. Her research interests are in the area of peer influence on eating behavior and obesity. Since coming to UB, she has won two major grants from the National Institutes of Health. **BP**

—SUZANNE LAYCHOCK

Human Subjects Research Accreditation

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO has earned full accreditation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP), a highly prestigious national organization that assures the ethics of research on human subjects.

The distinction, which took effect on September 10, puts UB into an elite cadre of universities that includes Duke, Harvard, Stanford, Penn State and the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

“With this accreditation, UB has achieved the ‘gold seal of approval’ for our Human Research Protection Program and the institutional review boards [IRBs] involved in the review of all of the university’s 1,700 research protocols,” said Jorge V. José, Dr Sci, UB vice president for research, at the time of the announcement. “It means that an objective third party has evaluated UB’s program and said that it exceeds federal regulations and meets best-practices criteria.”

According to AAHRPP, accreditation indicates that an institution has provided tangible evidence of its commitment to scientifically and ethically sound research and continuous improvement in policies, procedures and practices concerning human research subjects.

In attaining the nation’s highest level of accreditation for human research, UB makes itself more attractive to research funding organiza-

tions, from federal agencies to the private sector, José said.

“By attracting more funding and through the higher profile that accreditation provides, UB will be better able to reach its goals of generating a thriving, knowledge-based economy in Buffalo and Western New York,” he explained.

Research expenditures across the disciplines at UB increased by nearly 7.7 percent to a record \$348.2 million in the 2008 fiscal year, according to the National Science Foundation.

While AAHRPP accreditation is entirely voluntary, it is becoming increasingly desirable; so far, at least one major pharmaceutical corporation requires that its subcontractors be accredited and other companies are likely to follow. Federal funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, also are said to be considering the possibility of making AAHRPP accreditation a prerequisite for receiving grants. **BP**

—ELLEN GOLDBAUM

CORRECTION

In the article titled “In the Nick of Time” in the summer 2009 issue, we incorrectly identified Dr. McCormack, chief of emergency medicine at Buffalo General Hospital. His first name is Robert.

—S. A. UNGER, EDITOR

Glick Named Dean of Dental School

MICHAEL GLICK, DMD, professor of oral medicine and associate dean for oral and medical sciences at the School of Osteopathic Medicine at A. T. Still University (ATSU) in Arizona, and editor of the



Glick

Journal of the American Dental Association, has been named dean of the UB School of Dental Medicine.

David Dunn, MD, PhD, vice president for health sciences at UB, announced Glick’s appointment in October, noting that he had emerged early on in the national search as the front-runner among a very strong pool of candidates.

“It rapidly became clear that Dr. Glick’s administrative acumen, stellar research and clinical background, as well as his national and international experience and reputation, made him a superb fit for the position within the UB Academic Health Center,” Dunn said.

“I am very pleased that he accepted our offer to become the new dean of the UB School of Dental Medicine and to lead the school into a new era of academic productivity, training the next generation of dental practitioners, professors and investigators.”

Glick, who began in his new role on December 1, 2009, succeeds Richard Buchanan, DDS, who last year announced plans to step down as dean after seven years in the post to devote more time to national issues in dental education.

“In Michael Glick, UB welcomes a scholar and practitioner of exceptional experience and academic distinction,” said President John B. Simpson. “The School of Dental Medicine has long been a distinguished center for teaching, research, clinical care and outreach to the public. Under Dr. Glick’s leadership, we fully expect that the school not only will continue to thrive, but also will help us pursue our eventual goal of

a world-class health campus downtown.”

Glick said he was drawn to the UB dental school because UB’s Academic Health Center—comprising the schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical

“The School of Dental Medicine has long been a distinguished center for teaching, research, clinical care and outreach to the public. Under Dr. Glick’s leadership, we fully expect that the school not only will continue to thrive, but also will help us pursue our eventual goal of a world-class health campus downtown.”

—PRESIDENT JOHN B. SIMPSON

Sciences, and Public Health and Health Professions—offers an environment that is conducive to research, education and inter-unit collaboration.

“One way of approaching dentistry is to look into the mouth of the patient and note the effects of systemic illness on his oral health,” says Glick, who pointed out that in 2006, 64 percent of all adults in the U.S. visited dentists, while only 39 percent saw a physician.

“Or, we could take advantage of this opportunity and

act as health-care professionals whose approach is proactive and screen for hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes.”

Glick was born in Sweden and received degrees in dental medicine at Hebrew University Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, Jerusalem,

Israel, and Temple University in Philadelphia. He has held academic appointments in oral medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, New Jersey Dental School and, most recently, at A. T. Still University.

Glick is a fellow in the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists, and is a member of the faculty in dental surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **BP**

—SARA SALDI

Glenn Joins Health Sciences Development

MARY GLENN has been named a director of development for health sciences. In this new position, she is responsible for identifying, cultivating and securing major gifts for UB’s five health sciences schools in support of the university’s goals for short- and long-term private support. Glenn joined UB in 1998, initially serving as a staff member in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences’ Office of Development and Alumni Affairs.

In 2002, she left the medical school to work with the central development office, responsible for providing support to development officers in areas of prospect research, annual giving, donor relations and stewardship and development communications.

“Mary’s experience, coupled with her extensive knowledge of our development services area, make her uniquely qualified for this position,” said Marsha Henderson, vice

president for external affairs, at the time she announced the appointment.

“I am very excited to return to health sciences as a development officer and have the opportunity to be a part of the ambitious and important goals that lie ahead,” says Glenn.

Glenn reports to Barbara Hole, associate vice president for development for the health sciences. Her office is in BEB 35 on the South Campus, and she can be contacted at (716) 829-5708 or at glenn@buffalo.edu. **BP**

—S. A. Unger



Glenn