

# HSC E-NEWS

Norman H. Edelman, M.D., Vice President, Health Sciences Center & Dean, School of Medicine

APRIL, 2005 - Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center

Oral health is an integral part of total health, and not an isolated element. Persons who are medically compromised or who have disabilities are at greater risk for oral diseases and, in turn, oral diseases further jeopardize their health and well being. Additionally, people with disabilities frequently have serious dental problems and have difficulty in accessing dental services. Based on the patient's condition, the dental care provider must manage the disabling condition and modify treatment as necessary in order to deliver quality dental care and preventive oral health protocols. For over twenty years, our School of Dental Medicine has been providing oral care to persons with special needs appropriate to their individual needs, training oral health providers who can deliver oral care, and empowering caregivers and individuals with special needs to effective daily self and assisted oral health activity.



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Because of the movement to reduce the numbers of this population living in institutions and develop community-based health care for people with special needs, in 1985, NY State developed the CMEDD Program (Consortium for Medical Education for the Developmentally Disabled). Stony Brook challenged CMEDD to include the training of dentists in the program and developed the first fellowship in developmental disabilities in New York State. Although the NYS CMEDD program formally ended in the early 90s, our program has continued with the aid of a contract with the Long Island Developmental Disabilities Service Organization and support from local municipalities.

Today the program generates approximately 2000 outpatient visits annually from over 800 patients. Its educational impact has been great. In the mid 90s, a survey demonstrated that the majority of our graduates are providing care for people with special needs in their practices or supervise care in educational settings. We continue to gain feedback from our graduates and directors of residency and graduate programs that our students are very well trained in special needs oral health care.

Currently, the Stony Brook DCDD program is administered through the Department of Children's Dentistry and Dental Medicine. The oral health concerns of the patient with special needs, like the pediatric patient, include issues of caregiver knowledge and attention to daily oral health.

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# Oral Health for Special Populations

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The DCDD program serves to have students know that the oral health and care of this population is predictable based upon risk assessment. Thus, the primary responsibility of dental professionals is to educate and train (coach) caregivers to be competent and effective oral health providers.

Although the formal didactic curriculum begins in year three, students may gain exposure to children with special needs in year two as part of their pediatric clinical caseload. As students progress through year three, their pediatric treatment and management challenges are greater. In their senior year, all students participate in a 13-week comprehensive care clinic specific to adults with special needs. It is not unusual that some children with extensive oral problems and management concerns require ambulatory general anesthesia in order to deliver care.

The postgraduate program includes a 12-month fellowship and rotations for general practice residents from Stony Brook University Hospital Residency, Northport Veterans Administration Hospital, and New York University Hospital of Queens. Patient care is provided through the clinic and the operating room. The didactic portion includes seminars and case presentations for case-based learning. All clinical departments of the School of Dental Medicine provide patient care support for the DCDD program. The DCCD faculty and staff include: Fred Ferguson, Debra Cinotti, Johnasina Cummings, Deborah Gazillo, David Plotsky, Beth Buono, Yonghuk Park, Patricia Jacobs, Marilyn Cangelosi, and Barbara Berentsen.

Our dental school has maintained a leadership position for regional outreach programs in the delivery of oral health care to special patients. Since we are a university-centered program that is academically based, we have created an ideal environment for linking clinical services with interdisciplinary training and the conduct of research in the area of oral health of persons with disabilities. Oral health care is not elective health care. Our dental school focuses on eliminating many barriers to oral health, increasing the number of dental professionals qualified and available to meet the need, and furthering the awareness of the importance of oral health to total health.

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# Long Island State Veterans Home Receives Award for Patient Safety

On Friday, March 11th, New York State Health Commissioner Antonia C. Novello, M.D., presented a \$200,000 grant award to the Long Island State Veterans Home. The award was the first ever presented by the Department of Health (DOH) to a skilled nursing facility and acknowledged the Veterans Home for excellence and advancement of quality assurance measures and effective clinical practices.

"New York State's patient safety initiatives underscore the Governor's commitment to maintaining the finest and most advanced healthcare system in the world," said Dr. Novello during her presentation. "Funding like this will help facilities like the Long Island State Veterans Home to advance programs aimed at maintaining and improving safety for its residents."

According to Fred Sganga, Executive Director of the Long Island State Veterans Home, "We are honored to have received this award from the DOH, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication our clinical staff puts forth each day to care for our nation's heroes. The funds we received today will be used to help us continue to be at the forefront of patient safety, and enable us to continue to raise our standards of care."

The Long Island State Veterans Home undertook an extensive review to accurately identify and address the root cause of resident falls. By reassessing the incident process, a committee established within the home was able to completely overhaul the incident reporting system. The successful falls prevention program that ensued, resulted in a significant reduction in the number of incidents involving resident falls within the home. This initiative resulted in the home winning the award.

The Department of Health's patient safety awards represent an important component of New York's comprehensive statewide patient safety initiative. This initiative identifies adverse incidents involving patients and promotes the development of additional quality assurance measures throughout healthcare facilities in New York. During the past five years, the State has dedicated more than \$7 million to support patient safety. In addition, the New York State Patient Safety Awards Program recognized healthcare facilities that have developed innovative patient safety measures. Facilities that receive this award are committed to working with the DOH to develop and promote ways to improve patient safety.

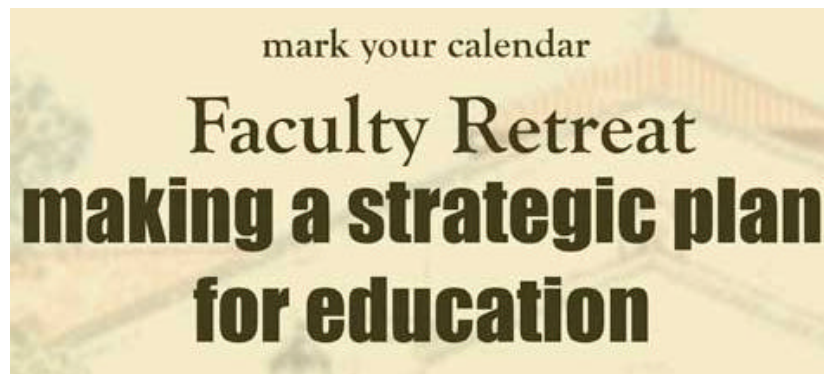
For more information about the Long Island State Veterans Home's patient safety award, please contact *Brian Gordon, Director of Public Relations at the Long Island State Veterans Home, at (631) 444-8615.*

# Third Annual Health Sciences Center Alumni Professional Development Series

This series, one that addresses the business side of having a private practice is now in its third year in partnership with the New York State Small Business Development Center. The focus is on the legal, financial, business, and marketing issues that need to be addressed in order to have a successful practice. This series is part of our commitment to be value-added to the careers of our alumni from the schools of Dental Medicine, Health Technology and Management, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Welfare.

The first session in the series is designed for health professionals who have not yet established a practice. It will be held on Wednesday, April 13, from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., in the Charles B. Wang building on Stony Brook University's West Campus. The second session, designed to address business issues associated with established practices, will be held on Wednesday, May 25, at the same time of day and location.

If you are unable to attend either of these sessions, or you live outside Suffolk County, there is a Small Business Development Center located near you. These offices are found in every state in the country. For basic consultations on the business aspects of having a successful practice, these services are free. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations in the Health Sciences Center at [alumniHSC@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:alumniHSC@notes.cc.sunysb.edu) if you would like to be directed to your nearest Small Business Development Center, or call us at (631) 444-2899. The Small Business Development Center staff view a private health or medical practice to be a small business. Their mission is to help make every small business a success.



On Friday, April 15, 2005 from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, a SOM Faculty Retreat is taking place at the Raphael Vineyard, Peconic Bay.

The retreat is a result of two forces. First, it grows out of work done for a recent LCME re-visit in December of 2004. The LCME visit went extraordinarily well and, though they want a written report on our continued process in curriculum management in 2006, we have been accredited until our next scheduled full visit in 2010-11. Second, the school's curriculum has not been comprehensively revised since 1989. Dean Edelman and a large number of faculty believe that a thorough review is needed. The retreat will be the first step in developing a Strategic Plan for Education.

All medical school faculty and others interested in planning the educational future of our school are invited. For further information, please access the following URL: [https://cbase.som.sunysb.edu/som/fac\\_retreat.cfm](https://cbase.som.sunysb.edu/som/fac_retreat.cfm) OR call Mrs. Pat Bley at 444-2098.

# STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA  
MU CHAPTER OF NEW YORK

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND  
THE ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER  
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

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GUEST SPEAKER

**Robert Alan Sandhaus, MD, PhD**

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AND DIRECTOR OF THE  
ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY PROGRAM  
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SETAUKET, NY 11733

COCKTAILS: 7:00 P.M. DINNER: 8:00 P.M.  
KINDLY RESPOND BY TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2005

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## TARIFFS:

HONOREES AND ONE GUEST	TARIFF GRATIS
RESIDENTS	\$30.00
ADDITIONAL GUESTS	\$30.00
FACULTY	\$35.00

(CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO SOM AGENCY ACCOUNT # 951160)

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Medical Staff Annual Meeting  
June 1, 2005  
Old Field Club  
More information to follow

### **April 11**

"Cultural Perspectives of HIV Aids on Long Island." Preventive Medicine Conference Rm 067, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Richard Murdocco, School of Social Welfare.

### **April 13**

"Novel Mechanisms in the Pathogenesis of Osteoarthritis." Randy Rosier, Professor & Chair, Orthopaedics, U. Rochester. For info call 631-632-2302 or [www.bme.sunysb.edu](http://www.bme.sunysb.edu).

### **May 11**

"Exploring the Basis of Plasticity in Neuromuscular Transmission." Gary Sieck, Professor & Chair. Physiology & Biomedical Engineering, Mayo Clinic. For info call 631-632-2302 or [www.bme.sunysb.edu](http://www.bme.sunysb.edu).

## Q& A

Good communication is two way. Therefore, if you would like to comment respond to topics, or have news to share: [HSC\\_VP@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:HSC_VP@notes.cc.sunysb.edu). Suggestions for future topics are always welcome, as well. Please feel free to email this publication to others who might be interested in what is happening at the Health Sciences Center.

The State University at Stony Brook is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. This publication is available in alternative format on request.