

HSC E-NEWS

JUNE-JULY 2004

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

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

I share my convocation address with all of you because its message pervades all health care professions. Dr. Edmund Pellegrino is a role model for all.

This is a very special convocation for the School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. It is the 30th Anniversary of our first graduating class. We are no longer an upstart school, but a strong and maturing institution which has taken its place among the very best medical schools in the United States. Today we can count 172 Stony Brook School of Medicine graduates who are members of our faculty. This is also a special day because our speaker and Medal of Honor awardee is the first Vice President of the Health Sciences Center and Dean of the School of Medicine... the architect of



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what we have accomplished. I believe that the defining aspect of the career of this great educator and scholar is his seeking and embracing change. Dr. Pellegrino is a man who is always ahead of the curve, never accepting the status quo, but always seeking to improve education and health care through bold and visionary means.

With this in mind, I would like to chat with you briefly about change. It is an essential element of our lives and it is the most constant aspect of the rhythm of life. As you graduates sit before me, you are experiencing a time of change. A University like ours is continually undergoing change. There is no other way to grow. For example, here at this academic medical center, we are poised for major changes. Over the next few years we will spend many millions of dollars developing the critical centers of excellence that distinguish the great academic health centers from the good ones.

With regard to individuals, people respond differently to change. Some shy away from it, some try to prevent it, some embrace it. I suggest to you that you embrace change rather than fear it. Use change to grow personally and professionally to serve your patients and to serve society.

It won't be easy as physicians are a conservative lot. They tend to like the status quo and generally oppose change. The only more conservative professional group I know is university professors. Put these together and you begin to understand the challenge of being a medical school dean.

Let me give you some examples of what I mean when I say physicians are slow to embrace change. There is ample evidence to show that we are slow to incorporate new scientific findings into our practice. We tend to do what we've been taught in training, and what others around us do.

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

CONVOCAATION ADDRESS

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To me, it is a bit of an embarrassment that we call Evidence-Based Medicine a new approach as everything we do should be based upon available evidence. Another example, in the 1960's, physicians through their professional organizations opposed Medicare and the subsequent Medicaid. When it eventually came to pass, not only did it provide a critical safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, a safety net which no one now wants to compromise, it also made some physicians wealthy. Nevertheless, physicians were opposed to that change. Physicians have long opposed a national health care system. Decades ago when Presidents such as Harry Truman and Richard Nixon suggested such ideas, the opposition from our societies was very strong. What is the result? We have the most expensive, but not the best, system in the world. It is a system which you will quickly learn makes the lives of physicians and their patients very difficult. To bring about a single payor system in the current political climate will be extremely difficult, however I suggest to you that you consider the issues carefully, not oppose it because it represents the unknown - this is change. Of course, not all change is good. For example, opening our health care system to the for-profit sector has added cost and confusion, but no value that I can find.

So, despite the fact that change can be both good and bad, I encourage you to look positively at it. Welcome each new phase in the rhythm of your lives; continually seek to refresh your professional lives. And yes, occasionally, contrary to the common wisdom, accept change simply for the sake of change. It is one of the spices of life. If you are fortunate, your lives may approach the richness and productivity of Dr. Pellegrino's. Thank you and congratulations.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MOLECULAR CARCINOGENESIS

As new technology increasingly allows cancer researchers to focus on the smallest changes taking place in cancer cells, the importance of interdisciplinary research has become increasingly clear. To highlight recent advances in understanding the origins of cancer cells and molecular changes as potential treatment targets, the Department of Pharmacological Sciences brought together an internationally renowned group of scientists in a special symposium on molecular carcinogenesis. To commemorate the birthday of its Founding Chairman, Arthur P. Grollman, MD, and the 30th anniversary of the Department, Pharmacological Sciences, a day-long symposium on June 14 brought together the cutting-edge work of structural biologists, biophysicists, biochemists, pharmacologists, and biologists who discussed the genesis of cancer. Speakers who addressed basic research and translational breakthroughs included: Profs. Kenneth Breslauer (New Jersey College of Medicine & Dentistry), Irving Goldberg (Harvard Medical School), Stephen Harrison (Harvard Medical School), Jan Hoeijmakers (Erasmus University, The Netherlands), Susan Band Horwitz (Albert Einstein College of Medicine), Lawrence Loeb (University of Washington), and I. Bernard Weinstein (Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons) in addition to Arthur Grollman (SUNY-SB). The symposium, which was introduced by President Shirley Strum Kenny and Dr. Norman Edelman, was open to all interested faculty and students.

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES AWARDS FOR EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

On May 4, 2004, the White House announced Richard Z. Lin, Assistant Professor of Hematology, the nation's highest honor for professionals at the outset of their independent research careers. Dr. Lin is one of fifty-seven researchers honored in a ceremony presided over by Dr. John H. Marburger III, Science Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, established in 1996, honors the most promising beginning researchers in the nation within their fields. Eight federal departments and agencies annually nominate scientists and engineers at the start of their careers whose work shows the greatest promise to benefit the nominating agency's mission. Participating agencies award these beginning scientists and engineers up to five years of funding to further their research in support of critical government missions.

Richard Lin was one of two Veteran Administration awardees for 2004. Dr. Lin's research deals with the cellular regulation pathways that influence the development of cancer - basic science that has direct relevance to our mission.

It is a terrific honor and well deserved. Thanks for bringing credit and recognition to the VA, VISN 3, Northport and to our affiliate - SUNY at Stony Brook.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ALUMNI DAY

AND REUNION WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2004



WITH APPRECIATION

The School of Nursing is about to begin a new phase. As of August 29th, Dr. Lenora McClean, the Dean of the School of Nursing will formally step down after 31 years at the University, 23 of them as Dean while a new dean, Dr. Mary Nies will be assuming the leadership of the School. I'd like to talk about where the School was when Lenora first arrived and the generations of students who went through the past three decades, from the 1970s up to the present. If you looked at a snapshot taken when Dr. McClean first came to Stony Brook in 1973, the nursing program consisted only of an upper division two year baccalaureate program with an enrollment just over 175 students. Nearly all of the class was female and attended part-time since most already held nursing jobs.

One of Dr. McClean's goals was to create a master's degree program. By 1975, the masters program was conceived and began to accept students. The goal was to produce nurse practitioners and specialists. As market demands changed, the School adapted by adding new tracks or specialties and discontinuing others.

Thirty years later the School has a robust academic program that includes distance learning. Not only does it have an upper level baccalaureate program, upper level students can earn a B.S. in an accelerated one year program. A combined BS/MS degree or a RN to baccalaureate program is also available. Additionally, the master's degree offers seven specialty tracks and is complemented by master's completion programs as well as post-Master's certificates. There are over 724 students enrolled and close to 12% are male. Using distance learning technology, classes are now offered internationally. The graduate Nursing program is one of the largest graduate programs at Stony Brook.

Dr. McClean also strengthened the relationship between University Hospital and the school. Nursing students forge mentor relationships with clinical nurses at the hospital during a clinical experience. The outcome of this bonding has been mutually beneficial. Initially the hospital recruited about 2-4 graduating nurses from a B.S.N. class, today about 20% of each class joins Stony Brook's ranks. This provides the hospital with a valued and skilled workforce.

Appropriately, Dr. McClean's friends and colleagues have honored her in perpetuity by committing to establish an Endowed Chair for Nursing Research. Each holder of the Chair will bring honor and prestige to Dr. McClean's legacy. My sincerest appreciation goes to Dean McClean for her vision, tireless effort, and commitment to build excellence. She will continue as part-time faculty focusing on the distance learning program.

Dr. McClean, it is the end of an important era in your life. Please know of the great esteem we hold you in and of our gratitude for your brilliant career at Stony Brook.



NEW DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mary A. Nies, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAHB, as the Dean and Professor, School of Nursing at the State University of New York at Stony Brook Health Sciences Center. She also holds a joint appointment as Professor in the School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine, Division of Community and Behavioral Health. She comes to us from her position as Professor, College of Nursing, Professor Community Medicine, School of Medicine, and Co-Director, Center for Urban African American Health at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Her distinguished career exemplifies a strong commitment to nursing education, practice, and research that has provided her with an understanding of the requirements of fulfilling the multiple missions of our institution. She will grow the academic enterprise by establishing a research program in nursing that will lead to a doctoral degree. She will also supervise graduate students and post-doctoral students whose research areas are related to health promotion, disease prevention, women's health, and community intervention.



Dr. Nies earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, received a master's degree in nursing from Loyola University at Chicago, and a PhD in nursing science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her postdoctoral work was in the area of health promotion and community health at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Dr. Nies is a Fellow in the American Academy of Health Behavior, a society of distinguished researchers and scholars in the area of health behavior, health education and health promotion. She also is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the profession's highest honor.

At Wayne State University, Dr. Nies has served in progressive administrative roles in the College of Nursing as Assistant Dean of Family, Community, and Mental Health, Director of the Center for Health Research, Director of the Doctoral and Postdoctoral Program and Associate Dean for Research. She currently is Co-Principal Investigator of the Center for Urban African American Health funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and a Fellow in the Helene Fuld/American Association of Colleges of Nursing Academic Leadership Program. Prior to joining Wayne State University, Dr. Nies was a faculty member at the University of Tennessee at Memphis College of Nursing and the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, International, nursing honor society. Dr. Nies received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Loyola University School of Nursing in 2002 and the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Achievement from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing in 2003.

Dr. Nies has published extensively in the area of her research focus, including physical activity for minority and non-minority women, health promotion for vulnerable populations, and community interventions. She is a highly sought after lecturer. Her national leadership roles include that of study section member for the National Institutes of Health. In addition, she is co-editor of the textbook Community Health Nursing: Promoting the Health of Populations that received the American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award in 1994.

Please join me in welcoming her to campus. Although she will arrive on campus early September, she can be contacted through the School of Nursing, Dean's office at 631-444-3549.

HSC CONVOICATIONS 2004

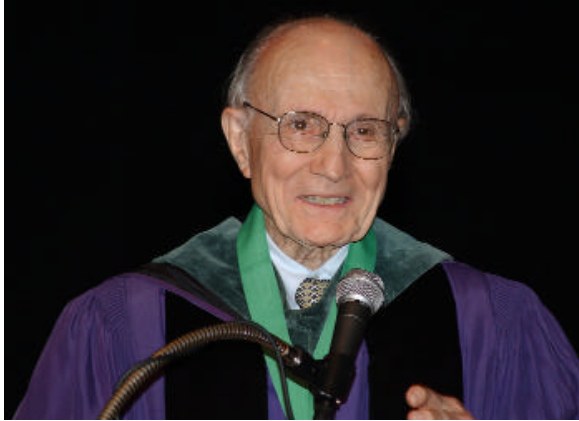


*School of Medicine
Class of 2004*



HSC CONVOICATIONS 2004

continued



Kudos

Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Weiliam Chen, Principal Investigator, Molly Frame, Assistant Professor and Yingtian Pan, Principal Investigator of Biomedical Engineering, have been notified that their NIH proposal, "*Wound Repair by Stimulation of Specific Tissue Ingrowth*," will be awarded with a five year cost projected to be \$1.84M.

Mark Henry, Professor and Chair of Emergency Medicine, has been selected to receive the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. He will be honored at the University Convocation in the fall and the awards will be presented at a formal ceremony immediately thereafter.

Kappa Gamma Chapter, one of the most active in the society, has been selected as the STTI Region 14 2004 Pinnacle Award recipient of the Chapter Web Site Award. This entry is an excellent reflection of the nursing profession and will be honored at the Chapter Leader Academy in Indiana on November 6, 2004.

July 20

Bone Marrow Unit Opening

Info call 444-2899.

July 24

SHTM-Physical Therapists Alumni

Reunion-30th Anniversary

Info call 444-2251.

July 28

Summer Health Series-East End

Info call 444-2899.

Cancer/Imaging Pavilion Ground-breaking. Info call **444-2899**.

August 11

Summer Health Series East End

Info call 444-2899.

August 23

SOM White Coat Ceremony and lunch-

HSC terrace at noon. Info call 444-2899.

September 10-11

SOM Alumni Day & Reunion Weekend

For info - 444-2899

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. 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.

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