

HSC E-NEWS

NOVEMBER 2003

†† STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ††

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

In America, Thanksgiving Day is an occasion to offer thanks, and a time for family gatherings, and holiday meals. The family might gather early in the morning to watch a parade complete with bands and floating balloons, and then end the day with football. But, it is more than just that. George Washington made Thanksgiving his first national proclamation, and it is one that we continue to renew each year. Thanksgiving is meant as a day for us to appreciate our independence, peace, and plenty. It serves to make us reflect on the hardships the early settlers faced to insure a land where they had freedom of choice and inalienable rights. It also reminds us that while we enjoy our freedom, others elsewhere still face oppression and tyranny. American troops face danger each day to uphold our beliefs in human dignity, as well as our ideals of equality and justice.



Norman H. Edelman, M.D.

Here at the Stony Brook Health Sciences Center, as a community, we have a collective duty to provide hope and caring to people who are beset with illness. As researchers, we continue to seek the cure or the prevention to eliminate suffering and to improve the quality of life. As clinicians, we deliver expert care based on cutting-edge science and a deep respect for our clients as individuals. We offer hope to those in despair. We are warriors for human dignity and access to care.

Each of us has a reason to be proud of our role in creating our great institution and reason to appreciate the efforts of others who work with us in unison each day. On Thanksgiving and on everyday let us remember to join together and reaffirm our love of family, neighbor, and professional community.

Wishing you my best for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Regards,
Norman H. Edelman, MD

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**STONY
BROOK**
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

U. S. GOVERNMENT AWARDS \$4.1 MILLION GRANT TO STONY BROOK

Stony Brook University has been awarded a U.S. government grant of \$4,131,274 to develop academic programs in environmental health and archaeology to strengthen the capacity of Iraqi universities. The effort will include professors, researchers, and physicians from Stony Brook's College of Arts and Sciences, School of Medicine, Marine Science Research Center, and the University Libraries.

The one-year award made possible by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in support of the Coalition Provisional Authority's overall reconstruction efforts in Iraq is designed to provide tools for Iraqi universities to develop modern academic programs and curricula in the two areas. Stony Brook will partner with Baghdad University, Al Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, Mosul University, and Basrah University. Elizabeth Stone, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, and Wajdy Hailoo, M.D., Professor of Preventive Medicine, will lead the project.

"Stony Brook will use its wealth of resources and intellectual capital to assist Iraqis in restabilizing and reinvigorating their universities, research and training," said Shirley Strum Kenny, President of Stony Brook University. "This is an extraordinary opportunity for the University to share globally our expertise and experience, and to make a difference in the quality of life among Iraqi citizens."

The grant will allow Stony Brook University to develop and modernize archaeological research, leveraging the long-standing research programs of Dr. Stone. She has been working on expeditions to Iraq since the 1970s and was one of only five Americans given permits to do archeological work in Iraq prior to the first Gulf War and the only American archaeologist to have made two trips to Iraq this past summer. Dr. Stone traveled to Iraq in May with the National Geographic Society Magazine, where she surveyed damage to archaeological sites, and again in July, bringing nearly \$250,000 of equipment to the Iraq Museum in a trip sponsored by the Andrew Mellon Foundation and the State Department. The October issue of the National Geographic features the story on Iraq.

The borders of modern Iraq coincide largely with what is arguably the most important part of the world for archaeologists. Key elements of the understanding of human evolution as well as critical information on the transformation from hunting to agriculture are contained in the region. Even more significant is Mesopotamia's role as the site of the world's first civilization, accompanied by the first cities, writing, law, and even the first large-scale democratic institutions.

Dr. Stone will lead workshops to train Iraqi faculty and develop new teaching and research facilities in archeology at the University of Baghdad and Mosul University. Renowned scholars, drawn from Columbia, Oxford (England), and Boston University, will participate in the workshops. Stony Brook's University Library will create a new digital library of materials related to the Mesopotamian culture. The library will allow Iraqi scholars to access materials lost at the end of the war.

continued

Grant Award

continued

Iraq also faces acute and chronic environmental health problems, including contamination of the water supply and soil. The decline in environmental conditions has been accompanied by severely inadequate resources and a lack of medical professionals trained in environmental health. These conditions have contributed to an increase in mortality and morbidity from malnourishment, infectious diseases, and many other conditions associated with a failing public health system. In the post-Gulf War period, infant mortality rose to 103/1000 due to the severe health deterioration in the 1990s. Under-five mortality rates in Iraq are now among the worst in the world. According to the UNICEF, Iraq ranks 126th out of 174 on the U.N. Human Development Index; it ranked 50th out of 130 in 1990.

To enable Iraqis to address these issues, the Stony Brook consortium will establish three training and research centers in environmental health in Iraq, provide training in Iraq, as well as train 10 Iraqi faculty members at Stony Brook. Stony Brook will install three environmental analysis laboratories in Iraq, enabling Iraqi faculty and students to assess environmental problems and assist in the rebuilding of their country.

The effort will be headed by Dr. Hailoo, an environmental health expert with an international reputation. Dr. Hailoo is Professor of Preventive Medicine in the School of Medicine and Division Head of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at Stony Brook University Hospital. He has successfully directed many state and federal programs in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Stony Brook faculty associated with its Center for Environmental Molecular Science and Long Island Ground Water Institute will participate in the effort.

Stony Brook Professor Testifies on Regulation of Dietary Supplements

At a Senate Commerce Committee hearing on Tuesday, Dr. Arthur Grollman, Distinguished Professor, Pharmacological Sciences and Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook, testified on the regulation (or rather, the lack thereof) of dietary supplements. Dr. Grollman testified, "The medical community has been slow to respond to the public health issues and educational problems resulting from the weakened regulation of dietary supplements. However, the numerous reports of adverse effects and deaths associated with botanical health products, the easy distribution and widespread sale of adulterated products, and a marked increase in misleading promotional claims via the Internet demand prompt action to protect the public health." He concluded, "Congress should stand up for the public health, recognize the critical need for new regulatory safeguards, and ensure additional government funding to carry them out. It is time that the public health interest superseded that of the botanical industry." Dr. Grollman's prepared testimony is available at:

>http://commerce.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=976&wit_id=2749.

Other prepared testimony delivered at the hearing is available at

><http://commerce.senate.gov/hearings/witnesslist.cfm?id=976>.

TARGETED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM FOR 2003 GRANT AWARDEES

The office of Scientific Affairs announces 2003 grant awardees.

Biocomputing & Medicine Award

Steven Skiena, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science
"Spotted Microarray Design / Analysis for Human Platelet Disorders"

Joav M. Prives, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacological Sciences
"Rho GTPase-Mediated Cytoskeletal Dynamics in Oncogenesis and Metastasis of Breast Cancer"

Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Awards

Jian Cao, M.D.

Research Assistant Professor
Department of Medicine
"Targeting Functional Domain of Membrane Type-1 Matrix Metalloproteinase"

Xiang-Dong Ren, M.D., Ph.D.

Research Assistant Professor
Department of Dermatology
"Regulation of Myosin Light Chain Phosphorylation in Ras-transformed Cells"

Catacosinos Cancer Scholar Award

Bruce Futcher, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology
"Protective Cell Cycle Arrest as an Enhancer of Chemotherapy"

Shinya Shibutani, Ph.D.

Research Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacological Sciences
"Balkan Endemic Nephropathy and Urothelial Cancer"

Robert Haltiwanger, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology
"Thrombospondin-1 Glycosylation and Angiogenesis"

Small Research Equipment Award

William Van Nostrand, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Medicine
"In Vivo Thrombosis Model"

LIGEC THIRD YEAR BREAKFAST KICK-OFF

On September 24th, the Long Island Geriatric Education Center (LIGEC) hosted a kick-off breakfast to welcome over 30 new participants to its Associates Program. In addition to Stony Brook faculty, Year 3 program enrollees include skilled nursing facility medical directors, nursing directors, other departmental directors, physician assistants, dentists, occupational therapists and social workers from LI nursing homes, hospitals, assisted-living facilities and other geriatric healthcare facilities.

Associates will receive 40 hours of training in new educational techniques, the interdisciplinary core curriculum, and discipline-specific geriatric courses. They will earn a certificate and continuing medical education/continuing professional education credits upon completion of the program.

For information on enrolling in the Associate Program or for general information about LIGEC programs, contact *Barbara Chandler at 444-8288* or *Catherine Jannace at 444-8279*, or visit the LIGEC website at www.hsc.stonybrook.edu/ligec.



SAVE THE DATE LIGEC SPONSORED PROGRAMS

DEMENTIA UPDATE (12/3)
MALE HEALTH (1/21)
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (2/25)
TRANSITIONS OF CARE - PATIENT SAFETY AND QA (3/24)
BEST PRACTICE IN THE NURSING HOME (3/31)
EXERCISE IN THE ELDERLY (4/28)
BEST PRACTICE FOR NP'S IN ADULT/GERO PRACTICE (6/2004)

Please call 444-8279 for further information about these programs

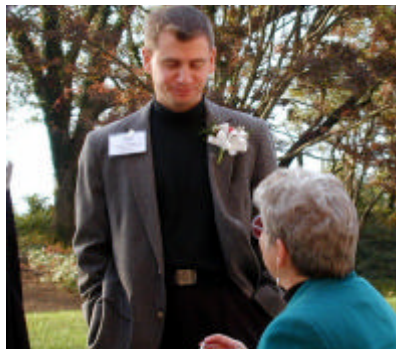
HSC ALUMNI RECEPTION

The Canal House in the suburb of Pittsford, New York, entertained an all HSC Alumni Reception.. Both School of Medicine and School of Health Technology and Management were represented. From left are Stephen E. Lyons, PA '76 (SHTM), Angela Lieurance, AVP for Advancement for Hospital and Health Sciences Center, Bill Dethlefs, Asst Director for Alumni Relations Health Sciences Center, Cynthia Rand, MD '99, Gloria Baciewicz, MD '78, Eugene Schneider, MD '79, and Demetrius Moutsiakis, MD '97.



NEW FACULTY RECEPTION

New faculty and staff of the University and Health Sciences Center enjoying a wonderful evening at Sunwood.



David Krause: Kudos at home and abroad

This month, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) will recognize David Krause with the 2003 Joseph T. Gregory Award for outstanding service to the welfare of the organization. But his activities in the paleontology community also have a global impact.

Krause's first fossil forays were at home on his family's ranch in southeastern Alberta, Canada. "There's not so much free time on a ranch," Krause says. But as a boy, he managed to find some to search for fossils. Not until his first digs as a student at the University of Alberta did Krause truly realize the extent of his obsession. Searching for fossils "instantly clicked with me," the 53-year-old researcher says. "I still find the excitement of discovering new fossils unparalleled."

Despite his preference for mammals, Krause tends to make finds that change the dinosaur landscape. His colleagues have named more than half a dozen new species after him (he's lost track of the number he has named himself). However, Krause is perhaps better known for inspiring the name of meat-eating dinosaur *Mantelodon knopfleri*, after his favorite guitarist, Mark Knopfler, whose music often accompanies his digs.

Fieldwork remains of paramount importance to Krause, who, for most of his career, has taught and conducted research in paleontology at Stony Brook University in New York. Krause also has research responsibilities at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, and he teaches human gross anatomy in Stony Brook University's School of Medicine.

"Dave is an excellent teacher," says Kristi Curry Rogers, one of his former graduate students, who is now curator of paleontology at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. Curry Rogers was co-author on a paper published with Krause in the Apr. 3 *Nature*, documenting cannibalism among dinosaurs for the first time (*Geotimes*, June 2003). She had chosen him to serve on her doctoral thesis

committee and spent several semesters as his teaching assistant. Krause, she says, is "the kind of teacher who doesn't think that he knows everything — and thinks there's always more to learn."

Knowing how much is unknown led Krause to testify before the U.S. Congress while president of SVP regarding the necessity of protecting fossils in the public domain. "A number of fossil dealers had put forward legislation that would open public lands to commercial exploitation of fossils," he says, referring to the now-defunct Fossil Preservation Act of 1996. "Fossils should remain in the public domain," Krause says, "not sold to the highest bidder," nor lost to research in the depths of a private collection.

Krause has taken the idea that fossils belong to the public to his field sites in Madagascar. He started working there in 1993, soon after the country opened to Western researchers. "In places like Madagascar, so much is paleontologically and geologically virgin territory," Krause says. And the rocks there have proven to be the home of several taxa of vertebrate animals that Krause says "almost defy the limits of the imagination," pushing the bounds of anatomical variation and testing plate tectonic history of the supercontinent Gondwana.

The field agreements he has negotiated with Madagascar's government allow Krause and his coworkers to take fossils from the island nation, carefully bundled and encased in plaster jackets, for preparation and study in the United States. Once the fossils are prepared, half must be returned to Madagascar for display. The rest will go to the Chicago Field Museum for further study and viewing by non-scientists.

Many of the fossils that Krause's teams collect have already been seen by a very important group of non-scientists: When Krause first worked there, Malagasy children gathered around his field sites every day of the week. He learned that the local Malagasy people had no school, and that no one in the community could read or write. He immediately raised \$500 from his field crew — enough to purchase the services of a teacher for one year.

Two years later, Krause had established the Madagascar Ankiy Fund ("Ankiy" is the Malagasy word for "children").



David Krause of Stony Brook University gets familiar with a fossil vertebrate specimen from the Late Cretaceous of Madagascar.

Photo by John Goff, Nature Magazine/Steve Bradbury

Proceeds from the foundation have supported construction of a school house in Berivotra. Plans for healthcare facilities and several more schools in other villages are in the works. Krause recruited the services of medical staff from Stony Brook University, including dentists, to come into the field with him to run temporary health clinics.

"We were always on the lookout for ways to repay the villagers for their many kindnesses," Krause says, which ranged from permission to work on their lands to field assistance.

"He didn't just plunder the place of its fossils; he showed a real concern for the people there," says Hans Sues, current president of SVP and paleontologist at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pa. Sues adds that Krause will be receiving SVP's service award for his terms as editor of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* and president of the SVP, as well as his innovative fundraising and dynamism promoting the society's work.

Krause's ability to take action, Sues says, has made him "a catalyst for positive changes" in SVP, as well as in the world.

Naomi Lubick

Kudos

Lilly Mujica-Parodi of **Biomedical Engineering/Psychiatry**, has received a \$250,000 grant from the Office of Naval Research, entitled: *“Variability between Individuals with Respect to Cognitive and Physiological Resilience to Stress.”*

Clinton Rubin, Professor, of **Biomedical Engineering**, as well as your undergraduate student, Patrice Thorpe, receiving a MARC fellowship, as well, as the Rahsaan Jackson Memorial Scholarship.

Dan Laieta, PGY-3 Resident, who finished the NYC Marathon on November 2 in four hours and seventeen minutes.

Richrd Clark, Professor, of the **Center for Tissue Engineering** for mentoring two Siemens Awards Semifinalist high school students in his lab. They are: *“Development of Porous Hyaluronan Scaffolds for Wound Healing Applications,”* Ezra Katz, Eric Mansfield, and Mesivta Ateres Yaakov; and *“Enhancing Wound Healing and Tissue Engineering by Controlling the Elastic Properties of Cells Seeded on Modified Hyaluronic Acid (HA) Hydrogel Scaffolds,”* Helen Kyd and Sagar Mehta.

Ki H. Chon, Associate Professor, and **Irene C. Solomon, Research Assistant Professor**, of **Physiology and Biophysics** respectively, mentored two Siemens semifinalists: Samuel John and Alexander Slade, in a study entitled: *“Gap Junctions and GABA-ergic interactions in inspiratory phase fast oscillatory rhythms.”*

Kristi M. Egnor, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, joined our faculty. Dr. Egnor received her MD from SUNY Syracuse and comes to us from Winthrop University Hospital where she completed her residency training with a particular interest in operative laparoscopy.

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.

Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



November 20

2003 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, Carlyle on the Green, 6:30 pm
For info call 1-877-SEAWOLF

November 20

Little Miracles Fashion Show (to benefit the Sunrise Fund) info 631-444-2899

December 18

HSC Holiday Party 3:00-5:00 pm in the Gallery, HSC Level 3

April 14

SOM Career Day 2004 4:00-8:00 p.m
Galleria (tbd)

2004

Alumni Professional Development Seminar Series:

April 21 - First Session
May 5 - Second Session
May 26 - Third Session

May 14

Cody Comedy Show

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