

HSC

E-NEWS

MAY 2002

★ STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ★

INFO-BYTES

Norman H. Edelman, M.D., Vice President, HSC & Dean, School of Medicine

Spring is a season of renewal and birth. The blossoming flowers and budding trees also herald the emergence of a new class of full-fledged professionals, the graduates of Stony Brook Health Sciences Center. The convocation ceremonies held at the end of the month were a celebration. Our graduates express joy and perhaps relief that the arduous process of a health science education, or at least this phase of it, has finally come to an end. They take pride in knowing that they have finished a course of study at one of the most distinguished academic health science centers. Graduation gives students a chance to participate in an assembly of the people with whom they have shared a life-altering experience, and allows family and friends to look briefly at their lives--to see what their classmates are like; to celebrate what they have accomplished; and to get some sense of the work they have chosen. Finally, it gives us a public forum for awarding honors to worthy people, our outstanding students, their teachers, and other who have made contributions to the learning process.



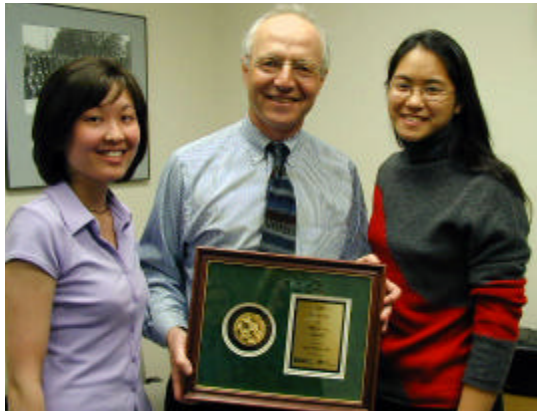
Norman H. Edelman, MD

The forthcoming ceremonies also give us a chance to remind ourselves that we have accomplished our core mission in exemplary fashion. We have a sense of institutional pride in a job well done. We have provided society with a new cadre of professionals whose talents and skills will enable people to lead fuller and longer lives. This is one of the great rewards of pursuing an academic career.

Your participation in an academic environment distinguishes you from your practitioner peers in that you not only administer care, but you are immersed in scholarship and serve as key role models. I thank you all for giving your valuable time and effort with dedication and expertise. It certainly has been worth the effort.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**STONY
BROOK**
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



Penny Chun (L), 3rd year medical student and Helen Hsieh (R), currently in the Ph.D. portion of the MSTP, present Dr. Jack Fuhrer, Associate Dean for Admissions and Associate Professor of Medicine with a plaque honoring him as a 2001 National Finalist for the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award. Highlights from Dr. Fuhrer's nomination include: In naming Dr. Fuhrer as the Stony Brook University, School of Medicine award nominee, students noted "Dr. Fuhrer is the epitome of humanistic medicine. He is an exemplary clinician, who is both kind and caring in his approach to his fellow human beings, whether they be patients or professionals."

AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER NOW OPEN

The Ambulatory Surgery Center is now open. The spacious, state-of-the-art facility is designed to create a comfortable, stress-free outpatient surgery experience for both adult and pediatric patients. The Center has six operating rooms and two minor procedure rooms - all with the latest equipment and monitors. Consistent with the latest concepts in ambulatory surgery, the recovery area is divided into two stages. The first-stage room serves as a conventional recovery area and is set up for those patients requiring more frequent observation. But many patients go directly to a second-stage room where they can be fed, enjoy their families, and relax before going home - thanks to new short-acting anesthetics, combined with minimally invasive surgical techniques, that are allowing more and more patients safely to bypass the conventional recovery process with minimal, if any, pain or nausea.

The Center's planners paid particular attention to the needs of children and their families. There are pediatric play areas with specially designed furniture for children, as part of our effort to make their experience as pleasant as possible. Easy accessibility for both patients and surgeons is a high priority of the Center. Parking is easy, plentiful, and free of charge.

The Center also houses the preoperative testing area for inpatient surgery. This area allows patients to have their inpatient preoperative lab tests, EKGs, chest x-rays, and history/physicals all done in one easy visit.

For more information, please visit the Ambulatory Surgery Center's website at www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/amb

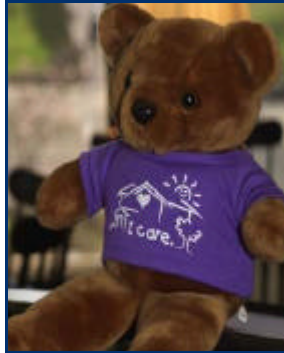
SEMINAR AT SEA

As members of the public treated themselves to a scrumptious array of food, the P.T. Barnum departed Port Jefferson on the evening of April 11th for a Seminar at Sea, entitled *Conquering Cancer in the 21st Century*. The event marked the conclusion of a 14-week series of articles on cancer published by The Times Beacon Record Newspapers in conjunction with the Long Island Cancer Center (LICC) at Stony Brook University.

Dr. Helene Benveniste, a professor of anesthesiology at SBU and a research scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, discussed the medical advances in imaging technologies and the impact for the treatment of human disease.

Dr. Richard McCombie, a professor from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory spoke about the genomic revolution, and Dr. Jack Kovach, director of the LICC, spoke about breast cancer as a model for modern medicine.

It was noted that 50 years ago people only whispered the dreaded word of cancer. Now cancer is discussed much more freely, and the more people talk, the better, according to Kovach. "The future of medicine is not only going to depend on incredible new technologies... To be successful in the future, medicine is going to have to establish a relationship in the community."



A reception was held at the University Club to introduce the winning Habitat family to the area coordinators. The winner is Donald Henderson and his wife Shameka Harris and their two children, Kaitlin and Donald. In an interesting turn of fate, Donald is a Long Island State Veterans Home employee who works as a storeroom clerk. Therefore, our campus community has helped one of its own.

The Health Sciences Center and all its components raised over \$21,000 towards the overall goal. Campus wide we exceeded the original \$40,000 goal and raised a total of nearly \$55,000. The School of Health Technology and Management won three awards for its extra-ordinary success in the habitat campaign. The enthusiasm and energy that the faculty, students, and staff exhibited certainly merited these distinctions. They were awarded the Golden Hammer Award for total amount of funds-raised. The School had the highest percentage over target of all campaign participants. And, it was also honored for the most creative fund-raising idea (shared with FSA) and for achieving 100 per cent participation by faculty, staff and students.

CODY CENTER FOR AUTISM

HOLDS 2ND ANNUAL AUTISM SPECTRUM CONFERENCE

The Matt and Debra Cody Center for Autism and Development Disabilities at Stony Brook University-the leading regional center for research and treatment-will mark National Autism Awareness Month with a conference addressing a wide range of important topics related to developmental disorders. The announcement was made today by Dr. John Pomeroy, Director of the Cody Center and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Stony Brook.

The 2nd Annual Cody Center Conference for Pediatricians and Primary Care Professionals-"Clinical and Biological Issues in the Autism Spectrum Disorder"-featuring nationally renowned experts and educators, takes place Friday, May 10, at the Student Activities Center from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. Speakers will present the most recent advances in diagnosis, associated medical and neurological factors, and management of typical clinical problems, as well as information on the development of the services and the resources of the Cody Center.

"This conference will provide valuable knowledge and tools for those in the healthcare field, and also for parents and family members," Pomeroy said. "Providing this information to the community is one of the missions of the Cody Center-acting not only as a research and treatment center, but also as an educational resource for the entire region."

In addition to Pomeroy, speakers will include Roberto Tuchman, M.D., Director of the Dan Marino Center at Miami Children's Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Miami; V. Mark Durand Ph.D., Director of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and Professor of Psychology at the University of Albany; Joel D. Bregman M.D., Medical Director of the Center for Autism and Associates Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut; and Philip W. Davidson Ph.D., Director of the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the University of Rochester.

For additional information, please contact the Cody Center at (631) 632-3127.

News from the Schools

LONG ISLAND STATE VETERANS HOME

The LISVH has been selected to be a recipient of a research grant aimed at improving the lives of residents with Alzheimer's Disease. Fourteen nursing homes throughout the State of New York will be sharing \$3.1 million dedicated to identify new interventions that improve the overall health and quality of life of those impacted by Alzheimer's and similar diseases. The LISVH was the only home selected in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Third year medical student Ellen Hoffman has been awarded a 2002 Alpha Omega Alpha Student Research Fellowship. This prestigious award is a first for one of our students. Ms. Hoffman will be working with Dr. Gail Mandel. Ellen's research will focus on the roll of repression in neuro tumorigenesis.

Dr. Peter J. Halperin and Dr. Latha Chandran have been named the winners of the 2002 Aesculapius Award for contributions to medical education. The award is presented annually by the School of Medicine in the Health Sciences Center at Stony Brook University and is the most prestigious award that is bestowed by the School. Winners also receive \$10,000 each, which is directed to their academic programs.

Dr. Halperin, an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, was honored for his many contributions to student and resident training. He constructed a new two-week course "Psychiatry in Medicine," and also directs the Psychiatry clerkship and serves as Director of Medical Student Education. A member of the faculty since 1998. Dr. Chandran, as Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was cited for her overall excellence as an educator as well as for her string of seven consecutive "Excellence in Teaching" awards in General Pediatrics. She maintains direct student and resident contact on the Pediatric wards and nurseries through her lectures and also serves on the Resident Education Committee and the School of Medicine Curriculum Committee. A member of the faculty since 1992.

Dorothy Lane, M.D., Professor and Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education, was named Distinguished Service Professor by the State University of New York. Dr. Lane was one of only 22 faculty statewide recognized by SUNY and only one of two here at Stony Brook, joining Dr. Fred Kerber in Chemistry, who was named Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Irvin B. Krukenkamp, M.D., chief of cardiothoracic Surgery has been appointed Director of the Heart Center, which is organized to centralize the treatment and care of patients with heart disease. A surgical team headed by Dr. Krukenkamp and Adam Saltman, MD, performed the life-saving operation on Salvatore Tomasi, a 69 year old man from Blue Point. Five separate and distinct procedures were performed during one operation - the first time in the world such a surgery had been performed.

Latha Chandran, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, received the award for Medicine/Education by the Town of Brookhaven 16th Annual In Recognition of Women Awards on March 21st. Dr. Chandran has long been a staunch advocate for the children of Brookhaven Township. Her compassion as a physician has touched the lives of many children. Her abilities as a teacher and leader have helped even more through the programs she has developed and fostered.

Arnold Katz, MD, and Brian O'Hea, MD, of the Department of Surgery, have been cited as a "doctor of excellence" in the latest edition (2001) of the Castle Connolly Guide, *Top Doctors: New York Metro Area*.

Jack Fuhrer, MD, Associate Dean of Admissions for the School of Medicine, was a national finalist for the 2001 AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award.

Joseph Fetcho, Ph.D., Dept. of Neurobiology & Behavior, has been awarded the Jacob Javits Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the NIH. This award is given to those making a substantial contribution in some field of neurological science.

Richard Fine, MD, Chair, Department of Pediatrics, has been elected by the Council of the International Pediatric Transplant Assoc. (IPTA) to fill the unexpired 4 year term as Secretary-Treasurer; was elected Vice President and Treasurer of the North American Pediatric Renal Transplant Cooperative Study (NAPRTCS), which is a voluntary registry of 140 centers in North America that contribute data on over 20,000 patients with chronic renal insufficiency, those undergoing dialysis and following renal transplantation and cooperates in the performance of clinical trials sponsored by the NIH and the Pharmaceutical Industry; and was also elected to a 2 year term as Secretary Treasurer of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), which is the premier Transplantation Society in North America.

RETIREMENT

Fabio Giron, M.D., Ph.D., Dept. of Surgery, has retired after 24 years of distinguished service. Highly respected by his peers, Dr. Giron distinguished himself as one of the "Doctors of Excellence" featured in past editions and the latest edition (2001) of the Castle Connolly Guide, *Top Doctors: New York Metro Area*. His genius, his humanity, and his humor will be missed, but long remembered by those who worked with him, as well as by those whom he taught the art of surgery.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

- ★ May 16
 - SOM Convocation
 - Staller Center
 - 10 am
 - Doctoral Hooding
 - Staller Center
 - 2 pm
- ★ May 17
 - School of Nursing Convocation
 - Staller Center
 - 8:30 am

 - University Graduation
 - Sports Complex
 - 11 am

 - School of Social Work Convocation
 - Staller Center
 - 3:30 pm

 - School of Dental Medicine Convocation
 - SAC Auditorium
 - 4:30 pm
- ★ September 9
 - Research Classic
 - Port Jefferson Country Club
 - For information call 444-2899
- ★ September 26
 - Long Island State Veterans Home Golf Classic
 - LI National Golf Club
 - For information call 444-VETS

Q & A

Good communication is two way. Therefore, if you would like to comment, respond to any topics, or have news to share, please do so at 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.