

HSC E-NEWS

DECEMBER 2003

†† STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ††

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

With the holidays upon us, we always pause to reflect on what will come. This year has been one of tremendous change and accomplishment for all of us. Our progress over the past year creates in me a sense of optimism about the promise for teaching, research, patient care, and community service at Stony Brook. The season engenders hope in our hearts in the possibility of peace and the celebration of the power of community in our lives. It is the time that our thoughts turn to our families and those close to our hearts. It is when we count the blessings of friends, family, and tenets of our faith which support us. Many of us get (one or two) three-day holiday weekends and will have family get-togethers or spend time with our friends. Some people will travel a great distance to be with those they love as we celebrate the holidays. Unfortunately, not everyone will be able to be with loved ones this holiday season, and my good wishes and prayers go out to them, especially our men and women serving in our military.



Norman H. Edelman, M.D.

From our humble beginnings, key words used to describe our institution have included a strong sense of community. Throughout the past year, we have continued to live up to that description of a community of individuals that enjoy working and being together. Although as in any community daily interactions may be good, bad, or indifferent. When situations mandate, we lay our differences aside and pull together as a team. It was evidenced this past year by the blackout of 2003 that tested us in a unique way. We not only survived that challenge but will come out better for it. The latest evidence is the excellent review University Hospital received by its accrediting body.

The men and women of the Health Sciences Center truly enjoy working together in fulfilling our responsibility to society as healthcare professionals making the world better day by day, person by person. In the coming year, remember to place great importance on teamwork because we are much more effective when we work together. Remember to remain committed to your spirit of service. I continue to be empowered by a community that is working toward fulfilling an idealistic vision.

***Wishing you a great holiday season...
and a Happy New Year
May this year be inspiring for all of us!***

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**STONY
BROOK**
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

CAMPUS ROAD NAME CHANGES

TO: THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Please take note that as of November 1, 2003, the following campus road names have changed:

ON WEST CAMPUS:

Former Name	New Name
SAC Drive	Campus Drive
North/South Loop Rd	Circle Road
Center Drive	John S. Toll Road
Kelly Loop	Kelly Drive
Forest Drive	Marburger Drive
Infirmery Road	Stadium Road
Tabler Loop	Tabler Road
Roosevelt Loop	West Drive

ON EAST CAMPUS:

Former Name	New Name
East Loop Road	Health Sciences Drive

Updated maps reflecting the road name changes are available at Kinkos, on campus, and online at www.stonybrook.edu/sb/map. Please update any directions given out by your office. You can contact Michael Klein, Director of Transportation and Parking Services, for more information at 2-9184.

PSYCHIATRIST HONORED FOR WORK IN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



Laura J. Fochtmann, M.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stony Brook University's School of Medicine, was honored with a Special Recognition Award by the New York State Psychiatric Association. The award was presented for her legislative advocacy on the issue of electroconvulsive therapy.

The awards ceremony took place on October 25 at a meeting of the New York State Psychiatric Association at the Marriott Hotel at LaGuardia Airport.

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is a valuable treatment indicated in some patients with serious psychiatric illnesses such as severe depression, catatonia, and other mood disorders. "Proposed state legislation would have had a substantial influence and could have decreased a patient's ability to access ECT in a timely fashion by requiring, among other criteria, additional consultations and mandatory waiting times," Said Dr. Fochtmann.

Dr. Fochtmann provided the New York State Psychiatric Association a detailed analysis of the proposed legislation and the implications for patients. She also met with state legislators to discuss aspects of ECT practice. Governor George Pataki vetoed the proposed legislation earlier this year.

"Stony Brook has a long and distinguished history of both science and advocacy for this often misunderstood but invaluable treatment modality," said Mark Sedler, M.D., Chair of Stony Brook's Department of Psychiatry. "As Director of our ECT service at Stony Brook, she has continued to provide state-of-the-art care to our patients. The recognition of her exemplary efforts in this area is well deserved."

STONY BROOK AWARDED GRANT TO ESTABLISH DRUG DISCOVERY AND BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM IN MADAGASCAR

A \$356,000 planning grant from the International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG), a consortium led by the National Institutes of Health, will capitalize on Stony Brook's expertise in drug discovery and its leadership in tropical environment conservation in Madagascar.

The University's effort is a joint project between the Departments of Anthropology and Chemistry and is being led by Patricia Wright, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and Executive Director of the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments (ICTE), which is based at Stony Brook, and Iwao Ojima, Distinguished Professor and Chair of Chemistry and Director of Stony Brook's Institute of Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery. The program will focus on drug discovery through the study of tropical plants in Madagascar.

The program is designed to provide economic benefits and contribute to biodiversity conservation in the bio-rich moist forests surrounding Ranomafana National Park in southeastern Madagascar. The Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments (ICTE) will build on its 17 years experience in Madagascar to negotiate agreements with Malagasy officials and local traditional leaders, obtain permits and assist with the logistics of working in Madagascar. The ICTE manages a research station in Ranomafana that will be used as the local base of operation and also supply some chemical laboratory space.

Dr. Wright is an internationally-acclaimed anthropologist. She and her colleagues discovered a new species of lemur, the golden bamboo lemur (*haplemur aureus*). This discovery led to the establishment of Ranomafana National Park in 1991, a 43,500 hectare reserve and Madagascar's third national park. Since 1987, Ranomafana National Park has been the site of an integrated conservation and development project which is focused on the protection and conservation of local flora and fauna as well as rural development, education, and promotion of health services in the park's peripheral zone.

Dr. Patricia Wright was featured as one of the seven outstanding scientists of our time in the critically acclaimed 2001 film documentary *Me and Isaac Newton*.

Dr. Ojima, a world-renowned chemist, has been the recipient of a Faculty Development Program award from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR) supporting his research toward the development of anti-cancer and other drugs. The Institute of Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery at the University focuses on understanding the molecular basis of diseases, therapeutic targets, drug actions and drug resistance. Professor Ojima's primary research, long supported by the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, centers on the design, synthesis, and structure-activity relationship of biologically active compounds of medicinal interest.

Madagascar is one of the poorest nations in the world. Infant mortality in Madagascar is over 12 times greater than in the United States and mortality for children under five years of age is over 20 times greater. At least one-third of Malagasy children are severely underweight and fully half are stunted. Schistosomiasis, tuberculosis, and leprosy, as well as occasional outbreaks of bubonic plague and cholera, are serious health care problems. Initial drug discovery activities of the Drug Discovery and Biodiversity Program will focus on a traditional cough remedy and plants that appear to contain anti-malarial ingredients.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

HEALTH, TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

A Tenth Annual Distinguished Alumni lecture was celebrated on Friday, October 17.



SOCIAL WELFARE

A Fourth Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon was held Friday, October 24 at the Health Sciences Center Galleria. Pictured are from left, Mrs. Englebright, Steven Englebright and Patricia Eddington.



Kudos

Dania Delacampa, Director, of HSC Student Services, announced three appointments in the Office of Student Affairs; **Paul Ray, Senior Admissions Manager, Jacqueline Anderson, Student Services Counselor, and Cindy Smith, Associate Director.**

Emilia Entcheva, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, has received American Heart Association funding.

Evren Azeloglu, a second year **Biomedical Engineering** student, working with **Glenn Gaudette, Assistant Professor,** has been awarded first place in New York's first Bioengineering Conference. The title of his work was: "*Effects of endocardial infarction on epicardial deformation: a model study.*"

Patrick Calabria has been named **University Media Relations Officer,** effective immediately. He will be the chief officer responsible for the media relations and related communications efforts for the entire University.

Clinton Rubin, Professor and Chair of Biomedical Engineering, in collaboration with **Stefan Judex, Assistant Professor,** and **Yi-Xian Qin, Assistant Professor,** had their report entitled, "*A Low Intensity Countermeasure to Prohibit Osteoporosis in Astronauts During Long-Term Spaceflight*" officially entered the design and development phase as a "prospective flight experiment" for the International Space Station.

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



March 18

NRMP Match Day SOM Class of 2004, Galleria 12:00-2:00 p.m.

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 6

MD with Recognition Poster Session
Class of 2004, Charles Wang Ctr,
1:00-3:00 p.m.

May 14

Cody Comedy Show

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