

HSC

E-NEWS

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

DECEMBER 2004 -- STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Dear HSC family,

How quickly another year has passed. Since early December and throughout the remaining days of the month, Health Sciences Center family members of all faiths have and will gather with families, friends, and neighbors in joyous celebrations, traditions, and customs of the season that inspire immense joy, intense faith, and provide hope and promise for the future. Hopefully, many of us will be able to have a long holiday weekend and will have family get-togethers or spend time with our friends.



Norman H. Edelman, M.D.

This season engenders hope in our hearts in the possibility of peace and the celebration of the power of community in our lives. It is when we count the blessings of friends, family, and tenets of our faith that support us. During the holiday time, remember each student, patient, colleague, and person you have met over the past year and how just meeting them has touched your life. Resolve to enter the New Year energized and prepared to have a positive impact on all who cross your path. Working in health care is not just a job, it is a way of life, and that statement sums up your dedication to your profession and to Stony Brook.

Please take time to give thanks for the many blessings in your lives. May the joy of the holidays renew our commitment to working together for a future of accomplishment and service.

*Wishing you a joyous holiday season
filled with happiness and peace
throughout the New Year
May this year be inspiring for us all!*

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**STONY
BROOK**
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PUBLIC HEALTH INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM



On Thursday, October 14, under the auspices of the Vice President's HealthCare Forum series, the new Graduate Program in Public Health held its Inaugural Symposium. The Inaugural Symposium provided a forum for leading experts in the field to discuss the likelihood that the United States can achieve universal health coverage, and thereby end the devastating effects of our current system on the health and well-being of all Americans. Dr. Norman H. Edelman, Vice President of the Health Sciences Center and Dean of the School of Medicine, welcomed attendees to the event. Raymond Goldsteen, Director of the Graduate Program in Public Health, thanked the participants and the audience for joining to celebrate the start of the new program at the Health Sciences Center. One of the major goals of the Public Health Program is to serve the community and to help improve the health of all Long Islanders. Thus, Dr. Goldsteen expressed particular satisfaction that people from all facets of the community - local government, hospitals, the university medical community,

and the business community - were in attendance. As he noted, all parties have to come to the table to bring about solutions to the health problems faced on Long Island and nationwide.

The Inaugural Symposium theme was "Universal Health Coverage: Can It Be Achieved?" There are many ways that we can improve health in our community, and it is very clear that access to medical care - while not sufficient - is necessary. People who cannot obtain regular, appropriate medical care fare worse than those who can, particularly if there is a chronic condition such as asthma or diabetes. However, from long experience dating back to the early 20th century, we have seen how political and social factors in the United States have prevented us from offering every American access to medical care. In fact, if we reread newspaper accounts and policy reports from the first half of the twentieth century, such as the medical commission report of the 1930s, we would find that many of the arguments for and against offering universal access to medical care were the same then, as now.



Continued on page 3

PUBLIC HEALTH INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM

Continued from page 2

Four national experts addressed the audience of about 200 people. The Keynote Speaker was Paul Ginsburg, President of the Center for Studying Health System Change, who spoke on "Paths to Universal Coverage" in which he discussed the issues and obstacles surrounding the provision of universal health coverage. Mark Schlesinger, Associate Professor at the Yale University School of Medicine, challenged the audience to consider the expansion of Medicare as the most viable option for extending health coverage to all Americans. David Himmelstein, Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, presented devastating evidence about the adverse health effects of being without health insurance. Oliver Fein, Professor at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, examined the history of health insurance in the United States and explored issues that have prevented this country from providing access to health care for all. The Symposium ended with a forum moderated by John Rizzo, Professor of Public Health at the Health Sciences Center, and Jamie Talan, health reporter for Newsday.



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The purpose of the Inaugural Symposium was to begin a new public deliberation on this issue - to seek ways to understand the forces that have prevented us from providing universal access to care; to seek new ways to approach the problem; and to rededicate ourselves, as a community, to solving this particular, important public health problem. It is the intent of the Director and faculty that that the Inaugural Symposium will be the first of many events sponsored by the Graduate Program in Public Health at Stony Brook that challenge and inspire the Long Island community to create a healthier environment for all residents - in the tradition of our public health founders and heroes.

IT'S ABOUT US

This fall we started our first faculty/staff campaign. There are six co-chairs: Professor Gerry Brown, Professor Jack Stern, Dean Yacov Shamash, Dean Craig Lehmann, Hospital Associate Director Michael McClain, and Associate Vice President Karol Gray. The campaign runs until



December 31, 2004. It provides the opportunity to give to a favorite project in one's department, to scholarships, to research, or any other funding category.

As of December 1st, the Faculty/Staff Campaign attracted a total of \$450,000. Many of the individuals have contributed to the University for their first time. So far, we have received outright gifts that total more than \$200,000, and new pledges for payroll deductions that total \$1,464 per pay period.

You should have received a It's About Us brochure and pledge form in

the mail at home. If you need another copy, you can get the pledge form from the web at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/campaign/index.shtml> by clicking on the How to Give icon. This site also provides you with additional information, including frequently asked questions. You can also request a brochure by emailing Philip Yankovich at philip.yankovich@stonybrook.edu.

If you have not responded already, please take a few minutes to complete the pledge form and send it in. Your tax deductible donation will be used to support programs right here at Stony Brook. Best of all, you decide where you want your donation to go.

A very important component of this campaign that cannot be overstated is that YOU give where you want. There are so many existing funds that are worthy of your donation that the list is too long to include in this email. If you would like to know more about specific funds that exist in the Health Science Center, please let Phil know and he will be very happy to assist you. When completing the form just enter your fund of choice in the other (specify) space and check the box.



At this season you are asked to support many causes. We know that your choices are difficult. However, charity begins at home. Please support the hospital, health sciences, and university. By authorizing a biweekly payroll deduction, or donating by check or credit card, you will be making an important investment in the future of your campus.



SEASONS GREETINGS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*ALL HSC FACULTY, STAFF,
AND STUDENTS*

*PLEASE JOIN YOUR FRIENDS
AND COLLEAGUES OF
THE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER FOR A
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION*

*ON
MONDAY
DECEMBER 20, 2004
GALLERY, HSC, LEVEL 3
2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM*

*MAY THE COMING YEAR BRING
PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO ALL*



LET IT SNOW

*NORMAN H. EDELMAN, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT
DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE*

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

On November 5th, the London Times Educational Supplement published a list of what they consider to be the 200 best universities in the world. **Stony Brook** comes in number **1** in the New York State University system, number **50** overall in the US and number **136** in the world.

M. Cristina Leske, Distinguished Professor of Preventive Medicine, has been awarded an honorary D.Sc. from the University of the West Indies in recognition of her career accomplishments, with particular reference to the Barbados Eye Studies - the largest medical research project ever conducted in Barbados to gather the first population-based data on eye diseases in people of African descent.

Elinor R. Schoenfeld, Ph.D., of Preventive Medicine, has been awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for University Service by the Stony Brook Alumni Association.

December 20

HSC Holiday Party - Gallery 2:00-4:00 p.m.

February 7

"Using Geographic Information Systems in Epidemiologic Studies" Erin O'Leary, Ph.D. Research Assistant Professor and Epidemiologist, Preventive Medicine, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Preventive Medicine Conference Room 067.

February 16

"Modeling Biofluidic Systems for the Microcirculation" Harvey J. Palmer, Ph.D., Dean, Kate Gleason College of Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology, For info call 631 - 632-2302 or visit: 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. 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.