

HSC E-NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2003 †† STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ††

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

One of the great pleasures during the first few weeks of each academic term is welcoming new students and faculty, as well as greeting returning ones. It lets me again experience the closeness and warmth of this campus community. This sense stems from the enduring relationships among alumni, students, faculty, staff, and other friends of the college. To initiate the beginning of their relationship with Stony Brook, on September 16, the University Convocation will be held at the Staller Center. New faculty and professional staff will be introduced and acknowledged. On October 14th, the President, Provost, and I unite to invite new faculty and staff to a reception in their honor. These occasions mark the beginning of what hopefully will be a productive and pleasant working relationship.



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On the horizon for this term are several projects. The Health Sciences Center and its Schools will be launching a new look to their web pages. In addition to the new graphically appealing look and continuity of image, improved navigation tools will be available. A more logical and user-friendly approach to the information distribution should make the sites easier for both inside and outside users to find what they need.

Health Sciences Center staff have been scanning faculty and staff personnel files. Digital imaging makes storage and retrieval of archival information better organized and available. They are currently working with faculty to improve the Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure (APT) process by using technology to facilitate the process. When the APT application process begins at the department level, it will be digitally captured and dated. Currently, the department must make twenty-four copies of the package which are then distributed to reviewers. Using a password-protected computer file will eliminate this step. Faculty reviewers currently must come to the HSC Personnel Office to evaluate the file. They will now be able to view the package and vote on line. A faculty member will also be able to track exactly where his/her package is at any given time.

The School of Health, Technology, and Management has been working on construction of a new multipurpose sleep/clinical simulation lab that is expected to be completed soon. This will enable the Respiratory Care Program to expand its sleep technology curriculum. Already a leader in providing sleep technology continuing education at both Stony Brook Manhattan and the Health Sciences Center, this new facility will significantly increase the hands-on component of sleep technologist education. There is a documented

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

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nation-wide shortage of sleep technologists and respiratory care programs are being encouraged on a national level to offer training to both students and graduates to help alleviate this shortage. Through the efforts of one of its alumni, John Brittelli (CRS '82), a commitment to donate approximately \$60,000 of state-of-the-art medical equipment for the new lab has been secured from Respiratory Marketing Group, ResMed, Pro-Tech Services, Donner Medical Marketing, and Medicare - US Operations.

During the summer, the Office of Scientific Affairs has made major progress in several key research infrastructure areas, highlighted below:

Integrating and expanding the new Proteomics Center to include research-grade MALDI and Q-ToF capabilities as well as full robotics for analysis of 2-D gels and complex mixtures of proteins.

In conjunction with the Office of the Vice-President for Research and the departments of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, Pharmacological Sciences, and Neurobiology & Behavior, acquiring a new 2-photon confocal microscopy suite in the basement of the Life Sciences Building.

Completing phase 1 of a project designed to renovate more than 15,000 n.s.f. of wet laboratory/office suites in the Health Sciences Center to support research in cancer and cancer-related areas.

Upgrading the research sterilization capacities of the Clinical Sciences Tower to support expansion of new investigative initiatives.

Completing the infrastructure program funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Facilitating the recruitment of exciting new faculty to the School of Medicine.

Commencing with University Hospital and the Office of the Vice-President for Research the creation of a new state-of-the-art Tissue Bank to support the cancer programs at Stony Brook.

In the School of Medicine, medical simulation rooms have begun construction and rehab. Students will be able to experience and respond to a wide variety of realistic medical scenarios. This can improve the quality of health care through teaching teamwork and clinical decision-making using simulation. The simulator allows students to practice performing examinations and other medical skills on a mannequin while viewing real-time images or hearing real sounds. By allowing students to practice on the simulator for as much time as they need to achieve initial competency, the students should be able to perform more effectively in a shorter period of time in the actual clinical setting.

With the new academic term comes new vigor and progress. Welcome to our newest members, and welcome back to you all.

TELEHEALTH AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY ISSUES ADDRESSED WITH WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR

A group of researchers that included a member of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC)-Craig Lehmann, Ph.D, Professor and Dean of the School of Health Technology and Management -met with representatives of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to address issues associated with home-based telehealth and advanced medical technologies.

Telehealth is the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, public health efforts, and health administration. The group met with John Marburger, Ph.D, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Co-Chair of PCAST. Dr. Marburger is a former President of Stony Brook University and former head of Brookhaven National Laboratory.

"Our goal is to make sure that the President and the Executive Branch are aware of the current status of medical technology, and how home health care can meet the needs of an increasingly older U.S. population and help address the rising expenditures on health care," said Lehmann, chair of the presentation group.

Health care spending is increasing at the fastest rate in over a decade. In 2001, the U.S. government spent \$1.4 trillion dollars on health care services-an 8.7% increase over the previous year and a figure that represents 14.1% of the total U.S. economy. This escalation is a direct result of rapidly increasing health care utilization in an aging population, and to a lesser extent increased costs. It is estimated that individuals 65 years of age or older will double by 2030, resulting in more than 70 million baby boomers eligible for Medicare benefits. In time, this demographic will consume more than two-thirds of the U.S. healthcare budget, likely setting up a scenario where Congress would step in with legislation intended to harness inflated medical expenses.

Many health care professionals agree that in order to keep costs down, the health care system must decrease utilization of costly services such as nonessential emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and extended nursing care services, while increasing the use of telehealth technology. Dr. Lehmann and his group will focus on a number of disease states most suited for telehealth applications, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and heart failure.

"In studies, telehealth technology significantly improves patient compliance when reporting vital signs and diagnostic tests versus traditional monitoring such as lab, office, or home visits," said Lehmann. "Consistent and timely reporting improves disease management affording healthcare providers constant access to patients and vice versa. For example, if a patient transmits alarming vital signs and is instructed to proceed to the nearest hospital, practitioners are already in possession of their test results and can begin life saving treatments while saving valuable time and nonessential testing," he explained.

Other members of the research group include Pramod Gaur, Ph.D., President and CEO, Viterion TeleHealthcare, LLC, A Bayer-Panasonic Company, Russell Bodoff, Executive Director Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST) and Vice President of Technology for The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA); Eric Dishman, PhD, Director, Intel Proactive Health Research Lab and Chair of CAST; and William Minnix, President of AAHSA.

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"It is clear that telehealth can play an essential role in providing quality healthcare to a large portion of the U.S. population, specifically the aged and those who require rigorous disease management," noted Gaur. "This exciting technology empowers patients and encourages them to actively participate in their own care while providing them with a strong sense of security. There is no doubt that these beneficial outcomes are the precursor to a new era of healthcare."

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) is the world's most prestigious professional association for clinical laboratorians, clinical and molecular pathologists, and others in related fields. AACC's members are specialists trained in the areas of laboratory testing, including genetic disorders, infectious diseases, tumor markers and DNA. Their primary professional commitment is utilizing tests to detect, treat and monitor disease.



**Sunday
September 21, 2003**

*10th Annual
Walk for Beauty...
in a
Beautiful Place*

Registration 8:30 a.m.
Walk 9:30 a.m.

Stony Brook Village Center

*Proceeds to Benefit Breast and
Prostate Cancer Research
at Stony Brook University*



Presented by:
Stony Brook University Hospital
The Ward Melville Heritage Organization

APPLICATIONS RISE BY 105 AT THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AS THE NATIONAL REPUTATION CONTINUES TO GROW

The School of Medicine recently reported an increase of 105 in applications from a year ago, a result administrators attributed to the medical school's growing national reputation in research and education. Stony Brook has the only School of Medicine in the region.

The School of Medicine received 2,516 applications this Spring, compared to 2,411 in 2002. The School interviewed 564 candidates and accepted 258. Stony Brook matriculated about 100 students for classes that began in August. In addition, the number of matriculated students who have "multiple accepts" (have been accepted by other medical schools) has risen dramatically since 1996 and is expected to rise again, Stony Brook officials said.

In 1996, 63 per cent of the matriculated students were accepted to other medical schools in addition to Stony Brook; in 2002, the figure was 87 per cent. The number of students who have "multiple accepts" is considered an indicator of rising academic quality in the student body.

"The numbers speak for themselves," said Norman H. Edelman, M.D., Vice President/Health Sciences Center and Dean of the School of Medicine. "Stony Brook is attracting more applications from outstanding prospective students because of the quality of our faculty, our academic programs, and our research."

The School of Medicine has received widespread praise in the academic world and in the national media for the strength of its curriculum and its research enterprise. ReoPro®, a leading drug used to reduce mortality in patients with heart disease, was developed at Stony Brook and was the first drug discovery ever at a SUNY institution approved for marketing by the FDA. Stony Brook has also been a leader in research related to cancer, Lyme disease, multiple sclerosis, and many other conditions.

Stony Brook was also among the first medical schools in the nation to introduce curriculum related to medical ethics and integrating psychiatry into overall patient care.

STUDENTS RECEIVE ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY AWARDS



From left, Norman H. Edelman, M.D., Vice President for Health Sciences Center and Dean of the School of Medicine, medical students Ashby Wolfe, Joseph Sobanko, and Maria Conti, and Jack Fuhrer, M.D., Associate Dean for the School of Medicine Admissions.

Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society, granted substantial funding towards a research project and a community service project to three Stony Brook School of Medicine students. All three students, who are in the class of 2005, applied for these prestigious awards through a competitive process. Joseph Sobanko received a \$3000 award to determine the "Efficacy of cultured epithelial autografts vs. aerosolization of epidermal cells in wound healing." His research, if successful, could lead to a novel approach to skin grafting. Ashby Wolfe and Maria Conti developed a "Real World Lecture Series" dealing with current health topics for Health Sciences Center students. As a pilot project in 2002 focussed on "Sex Education for the Real World," the program was very successful, drawing an audience of 800 attendees. They received \$1500 towards next year's' program. Dr. Jack Fuhrer, councillor of the Stony Brook chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, was excited to receive the award letters on behalf of the students. "Once again, this demonstrates that Stony Brook medical students are successful at research and are community service oriented, in addition to being well-trained clinicians. We are very proud of Ashby, Maria and Joe," said Fuhrer.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SECOND YEAR AWARDS

The Stony Brook School of Medicine has enjoyed a rich history of student involvement within the internal and external communities. We have always valued and prided ourselves on both the academic and civic achievements of students. In recognition of their achievements, the students below are being honored in the Class of 2004 for their special contributions in the categories below:

Community Citizenship: Nicole Ali

The Community Citizenship Award was created to recognize a student who has completed outstanding contributions to the off-campus community through participation in recognized School of Medicine clubs or organizations, especially serving underserved, poor, minority, or children and families at-risk. In addition to direct service, the successful candidate will also have a record of involving other students in these activities.

Medical School Citizenship: Ashby Wolfe

The Medical School Citizenship Award was created to recognize a student who has completed outstanding contributions to the health and welfare of other students through active participation within the life of the medical school. The successful candidate will have demonstrated involvement in a range of activities including governance, formal and/or ad hoc School of Medicine committees, or official activities involving the School of Medicine faculty and administration.

Medical School Leadership: Brad Wasserman

The Medical School Leadership Award was created to recognize the student who has shown exceptional leadership among the students and/or with the administration. The successful candidate will have demonstrated leadership that has led to the general improvement and/or effectiveness in areas including student administration communication, teaching and learning, development of School of Medicine policies and procedures, and delivery of services to students.

Humanism: Siamek Malek

The School of Medicine Humanism Award honors the student who most exemplifies professional values -- collegiality, empathy, adherence to high ethical standards, cultural sensitivity, and altruism. The successful candidate will have demonstrated the qualities above through contact with students, faculty, and staff both within and external the medical school.

The Married Couple Citizenship Award: Breena & Taku Taira

This year there is a special award -- for extraordinary contributions to the medical school community.

Kudos

Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



Dear HSC Community Members,

In the face of adversity, we behaved admirably. Unfortunately we have been tested several times over the past few years. Once again, Health Sciences Center faculty and staff in all areas have proven we are a community. I thank you for your maximal cooperation and patience. In my office, the heroic efforts of Glen Itzkowitz, Barbara Katz, and Rindy Pell averted more severe difficulties. We were greatly helped by the leadership of University Hospital and the University's Emergency Team.

There are many lessons to be learned from this event. In the next few weeks in conjunction with the University, we will review what worked and what did not. We will be soliciting your input so that improvements can be in place if the occasion mandates and emergency measures are again required.

Thanks again for working as a team in this crisis.

**Sincerely,
Norman H. Edelman, MD
Vice President, Health Sciences Center
Dean, School of Medicine**

September 8
Research Golf Classic
Port Jefferson Country Club
For info 444-2899

September 17
University Convocation
Staller Center

September 21
Walk for Beauty in a Beautiful Place
For Info - 444-9710

October 14
New Faculty Reception

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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