



A Message from Richard N. Fine, MD Dean, School of Medicine

As we welcome the New Year and begin a new decade, I am pleased to bring you this supplemental edition of *Medicine Today*. This edition brings you up to date on some current happenings at the School of Medicine and beyond, and welcomes vital new members to our Stony Brook community—including the University's fifth president, Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., MD. You can look forward to receiving our next full issue of *Medicine Today* this spring. I wish you all a prosperous, happy, and healthy 2010.

Stony Brook University Welcomes its Fifth President

Renowned biomedical scientist, Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., MD, was inaugurated as Stony Brook University President on October 23 at the University's Sports Complex. President Stanley comes to Stony Brook from Washington University in St. Louis, where he was the Vice Chancellor for Research and Professor in the Department of Molecular Microbiology. As Vice Chancellor, he is credited with substantially advancing the research enterprise and oversaw a research portfolio of \$548 million, including \$391 million in National Institutes of Health funding. In 2006, he was presented with the Distinguished Service Teaching Award from students at Washington University. Dr. Stanley also served as Director of the National Institutes of Health-funded Midwest Regional Center for Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases.

In his Inauguration address, President Stanley outlined his vision for Stony Brook University, noting that Stony Brook and the State University of New York "have never been more important in any time in

the history of this State than they are right now...We are the best investment the State can make to address the economy and many of the critical issues that face us today: energy, climate changes, health, social justice, and globalization." (Go to www.stonybrook.edu/sb/inauguration/address.html for the complete address.)

President Stanley's main priority is to recruit more than 400 faculty over the next 8 to 10 years. During this period, he plans to create 40 new endowed professorships designed to help recruit and retain outstanding faculty, which will be a focal point of fundraising activities. ■



Dr. Stanley receives the Presidential Medallion from SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher.

President Stanley Attends SOM Alumni Chapter Meeting

President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., MD, was welcomed by members of the School of Medicine (SOM) Alumni Chapter at its November meeting. Dr. Stanley thanked the members for their service and dedication on behalf of all Medical School Alumni and acknowledged Dr. Debra Messina-Coritsidis '88 for hosting this year's

reunion. He also acknowledged Dr. Fine for his many contributions as Dean, and for enhancing the medical education and environment for today's medical students. President Stanley spoke briefly about his own career, his goal to rival the best universities in terms of science, and his belief that academic medical centers drive universities forward.

The meeting included an update on the search for the School of Medicine Dean position, with President Stanley announcing that he will serve as chair of the search committee. He added that 40 names of well qualified candidates have been received, and assured the group that the committee will find the right person to serve as the new Dean. ■

Annual White Coat Ceremony and Distinguished Alumni Awards

Stony Brook University School of Medicine alumni, family, and friends gathered on October 18 to commemorate the School's most accomplished alums and those who are following in their footsteps—students in the Class of 2013.

First on the program was the White Coat Ceremony, where 124 new Stony Brook University School of Medicine students took a major step toward their profession by donning the doctor's white coat for the first time and taking the Hippocratic Oath.

Following the ceremony was the presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards to two alumni who personify the School's tradition of excellence. This year's Outstanding Recent Graduate Award recipient was Joshua Brody, MD '00, now working in the Division of

Oncology at Stanford University Medical Center. He was joined by his family and former classmate Konstantin Zakashansky, MD '00, who nominated Dr. Brody, and was himself a recipient of the award in 2007. Jeffrey R. Garber, MD '74, a graduate of the first class of the School of Medicine, received this year's Distinguished Alumni Award. He was nominated by Sherry Sussman, MD '95, who also introduced him at the ceremony. Dr. Garber is Chief of Endocrinology at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates and President of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

Both Dr. Brody and Dr. Garber shared their personal stories, their current success as established physicians, and inspiring words of encouragement to the new medical students. Dr. Garber concluded his speech offering the follow-



Dr. Brody and Dr. Garber display their Distinguished Alumni Awards.

ing advice—"Medicine grants the privilege to ask important questions and the means and tools to address and possibly even answer them, whether it is about a sick patient, scientific investigation, or policy decisions. Remember, medical training has paved the way for many Albert Schweitzers, Nobel laureates, and leaders, and will continue to do so." ■

New Alumni Leadership and Chapter Member

Members of the new School of Medicine (SOM) Alumni Chapter Executive Committee began their two-year terms in January. Elise Belilos, MD '86, will serve as Chapter President; Anthony Girardi, MD '80, as Vice President; Evelyn Marienberg, MD '88, as Treasurer; Patrice Vorwerk, MD '86, as Nominations Chair; and Howard Sussman, MD '96, as Faculty Representative.

The newest addition to the Executive Committee is Debra Messina-Coritsidis, MD '88. In December 2009, Dr. Messina-Coritsidis was elected to the position of Secretary. An active member of the Alumni Chapter, she hosted a SOM Reunion in her home and volunteers on the Class Agent Task Force Committee. After graduating from Stony Brook

University School of Medicine, Dr. Messina-Coritsidis completed her Ophthalmology training at Nassau University Medical Center in 1992. She is a board-certified ophthalmologist.

The SOM Alumni Chapter is pleased to welcome its newest member, Robin Cunningham, MD '88. Dr. Cunningham is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology's Division of Abdominal Imaging at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

Dr. Cunningham is a board-certified radiologist, specializing in imaging of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis. Upon graduation from Stony Brook's School of Medicine, she completed her residency in diagnostic radiology at The Long Island College Hospital, an affiliate of SUNY at Brooklyn, Downstate Medical

Center in New York and went on to do a fellowship in body imaging at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She then went into private practice in the community prior to returning to Stony Brook.

The SOM Alumni Chapter Executive Committee wishes to extend a special thank you to its Immediate Past President, Joan Faro, MD '82, for giving of her time and energy, and making a commitment to School of Medicine alumni and medical students.

The SOM Alumni Chapter looks forward to a successful year. If you would like information on how you can get involved with the School of Medicine, please contact Heather Edwards, Office of Alumni Relations, at Heather.Edwards@stonybrook.edu. ■

Family Shows Gratitude for Lifesaving Care

In gratitude for the extraordinary care her father, Filippo Lombardi, received from Dr. Henry Woo, renowned cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgeon, Filomena Lombardi and her family made a generous gift in honor of Dr. Woo's pioneering work to benefit Stony Brook University Medical Center's Cerebrovascular Center.

At the May grand opening of their newest restaurant and catering facility, Lombardi's on the Bay located on the Great South Bay in Patchogue, the family hosted a celebration honoring Dr. Woo. The Lombardi family is also

the proprietor of Mamma Lombardi's, Villa Lombardi's, Lombardi's Market, and Lombardi's on the Sound.

Dr. Woo belongs to an elite group of only 41 surgeons nationwide who are trained in both traditional and noninvasive techniques. With his team at Stony Brook's Cerebrovascular Center, Dr. Woo is pioneering groundbreaking research and treatments for strokes and aneurysms. He brings a new area of expertise to Stony Brook for patients requiring treatment for cerebral aneurysms; endovascular management of acute stroke; and surgical, endovascu-



Filippo Lombardi and Dr. Henry Woo.

lar, and radiosurgical treatment of cerebral arteriovenous malformations, spinal arteriovenous malformations and fistulas, dural arteriovenous fistulas, and carotid and intracranial atherosclerosis. ■

HOME Reaches the Underserved

Stony Brook HOME (Health Outreach and Medical Education), a student-run free health clinic located in Islip Terrace, has made an impact on the health of many Long Islanders living in underserved communities. [HOME was featured in the Winter 2009 issue of *Medicine Today*.] Since opening in October 2008, the clinic has cared for 200 uninsured and underinsured individuals. More than 50 medical students have volunteered time at the clinic and have been instrumental in helping patients understand the importance of good health, manage chronic conditions, and provide basic primary care. Medical students provide care at the clinic with the supervision of an attending physician.

"The communities located near the HOME clinic have really embraced this service. Each week we see more people coming in for medical advice and care, with many of those individuals coming in for follow-up," says Jedan Phillips, MD, HOME Medical Director. He adds that through the work of the students,

patients also gain knowledge and access to resources should they need follow-up and specialized care outside HOME.

Mark Snyder, a fourth-year medical student and one of the students who spearheaded HOME, says the clinic's first year exceeded expectations. "We've had an overwhelmingly positive response from the Central Islip and Brentwood communities," says Mark. "We believe that many of our patients discovered HOME from family and community members who visited the clinic." This is particularly satisfying because the students made efforts to establish open, two-way communication with many community leaders, including the Latino Health Initiative of Suffolk County and the local Rotary Club, to learn how to best serve patients.

Although accurately assessing the impact the clinic has had on Suffolk County's underserved communities is difficult, Mark says, "We do know that in our first year, well over 100 of our patients visited a doctor for the first time in years."



Mark Snyder and other medical students at the HOME Clinic in Islip Terrace.

Aldustus Jordan, EdD, Associate Dean for Student and Minority Affairs at Stony Brook and program faculty advisor, says, "HOME is an important learning opportunity for our medical students and an excellent vehicle for the patients. Not only are the patients obtaining quality healthcare, they are engaged in patient education that has a positive impact on their families and their communities." ■

LILAC Grant

Department of Pharmacological Sciences at Stony Brook University Medical Center (SBUMC) cancer researchers received a \$9,995 grant from the Long Island League to Abolish Cancer (LILAC) to purchase a DNA imager, an ultraviolet light and camera source to enable analysis of DNA gels of tissue to advance molecular studies of cancer.

Pharmacological Sciences investigators Howard Crawford, PhD, Associate Professor; Stella Tsirka, PhD, Professor; Emily Chen, PhD, Associate Professor; and Sabine Brouxhon, MD, Visiting

Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, will use the new DNA imager to conduct laboratory studies on pancreatic, brain, breast, and skin cancer.

Over the past 12 years, LILAC has provided more than \$85,000 to SBUMC to support instrumentation for cancer research initiatives. A portion of the 2009 grant was funded by LILAC's "Teens Against Cancer," a group that includes young people from Half Hollow Hills High School in Dix Hills, who volunteered their time during the past school year to raise funds for LILAC. ■

Saturday CME Surgical Seminars

Faculty from the Stony Brook University Medical Center Department of Surgery are offering community physicians and surgeons free continuing medical education (CME) opportunities. Launched in fall 2009, CME Saturday Surgical Seminars run through much of 2010 and feature updates by surgical faculty representing specialty fields such as vascular, colorectal, and general oncologic surgery. CME Saturdays run through June 12. For a complete schedule and more information, call (631) 444-2037. ■

Save the Date

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

Alumni Welcome Luncheon,
Class of 2014

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Distinguished Alumni Awards,
held in conjunction with the
White Coat Ceremony

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**Stay on the lookout for
your invitation to the 2010 Class
Reunion to be held in the fall!**

Share what's new in your life.

Email your class notes to
alumni@stonybrook.edu

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School of Medicine,
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