The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University

Fall 2002

Inside:
• Distinguished Teacher of the Year
• New Residence for Postdocs
• Commencement 2002

The Armory
A Transformation

Photo by Douglas Levering
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ON THE COVER: The Armory at 168th Street and Fort Washington Avenue went from being an embarrassment to the neighborhood to being a good neighbor to the medical center. This view from 169th Street and Fort Washington looks southeast; the Black Building is in the background. Photo by Douglas Levere.

CORRECTION: The cover photo for the Spring 2002 issue was taken by Charles Manley. He was correctly credited on this page but the cover itself incorrectly credited another photographer.
Old academics have a favorite maxim: All you need for a college is a fallen log with a student at one end, a teacher at the other. A medical school, of course, requires one more element—a patient. To equate New York City’s Old Bellevue Hospital—the main site of J.B. Amberson’s activities—with three people and a piece of dead wood may overstate the case, but P&S students and house staff of the mid-1900s vividly remember that the conditions there were primitive.

Amberson, one of the world’s half dozen most esteemed phthisiologists (specialists in tuberculosis, after phthisis, “wasting”) directed the Bellevue Chest Service as professor of medicine at Columbia from 1938 to 1955. The most modest of men, he uncomplainingly supervised the care of uncountable numbers of patients with tuberculosis and emphysema and taught an estimated 5,000 undergraduate and graduate medical students, according to an article in the New York Times in 1979, in a shabby hospital setting chronically short of equipment, supplies, and support staff. It should be said that the hospital buildings had been constructed with high ceilings and big windows for maximal light and air, after the model of TB sanitoria. (It should be noted that the windows were never washed, decade after decade; so much for the light.)

Photographs of Dr. Amberson are hard to come by. This portrait of him hangs in the chest department office at Bellevue Hospital.

James Burns Amberson (always known as “J. Burns” or “Burns”) was born in Lancaster, Pa., the son of a physician. He graduated from Lafayette College with a Ph.B. (the equivalent of
the modern B.S.) and received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins in 1917. Evidently committed early to chest disease, he took no internship or residency, moving directly from medical school to the Loomis (TB) Sanitorium in Loomis, N.Y., near Liberty, in Sullivan County in the Catskills region. He worked there for 12 years (1917-29), serving as physician in chief the last two years. Soon recognized as expert, he was appointed assistant professor of clinical medicine at Columbia in 1928, receiving the same appointment from NYU in 1935. For a short time in the late 1920s, he served the city of Detroit as consultant in tuberculosis and helped plan a TB hospital for that city. For a few years before 1929 he divided his time between Loomis and Bellevue. After that he worked only at the latter but worked also in many consultative capacities—at Presbyterian and, for New York City, as adviser on diseases associated with dust (e.g., silicosis) at the Bronx and Manhattan VA hospitals, and in several distinguished societies devoted to pulmonary disease. He continued teaching and consulting after 1955 when he retired, publishing still more articles (more than 80 in all) well into the 1960s, in which he reviewed and analyzed his enormous experience.

Quietly, completely without ostentation, he made all these scholarly contributions while managing a 500-bed pulmonary service (including thoracic surgery patients) with patients overflowing into hallways in winter, about 16 residents, and roughly 30 attending practitioners of pulmonary disease, meanwhile attracting to Bellevue numerous junior and senior physicians for postgraduate study.

The world of pulmonary scholarship remembers Amberson for what he added to our knowledge of the natural history of pulmonary TB and the radiological manifestations of the disease. Columbia’s memories of him—i.e., as a teacher—may be humbler but are by no means less important. Two examples suffice: His service’s chest conference—for everyone, students, house staff, attendings, visitors—and the X-ray conference for students and interns. G.M. Turino’48 evocatively described the first in 1985: “The high point of an intern’s life was . . . the weekly case conference over which Dr. Amberson presided. The patient was presented and seen. Dr. Amberson talked to and reassured the patient. A brief physical examination followed, then the patient would leave . . . The chest film would be reviewed by an intern, unexpectedly summoned, with sinking heart, to the view box. After a few mumbled observations by the intern, Dr. Amberson, in a most unassuming, unexaggerated, and kindly manner, would . . . talk about the radiograph. Here would follow an amazing display of clinical skill. [The Professor] had a way of bringing forth, in the most logical way, an analysis of the case . . . that carried [with it] the perspective of a whole lifetime spent with the disease, and of having cared for many different people living many different lives.”

In the X-ray conference the chief would display a chest radiograph, then summon, without prior notice, a student or intern and ask her to “build up” or reconstruct a picture of the patient from the X-ray alone: Child or adult? How old? Male or female? Acute or chronic lesion? Perhaps a diagnostic impression? This exercise—which could be excruciating—tested the pupil’s observational and analytical skills. Amberson would conclude with his own reconstructions, which were legendary in their accuracy and command of detail. Most important, Dr. Amberson used these impromptu quizzes to instruct, never to embarrass.

A medical historian, examining Amberson’s curriculum vitae up to the mid-1930s in the light of those of modern applicants for high medical positions, would at first think the record meager: no house staff training, most of his experience in one rather obscure place, only 20-odd papers. But closer scrutiny of his published work pre-1938 would disclose an astonishingly wide range of experience, great variety, and capacity for deep, rigorous analysis.

Former pupils reminiscing about Dr. Amberson recall him as “diffident.” It turns out that the word implies hesitancy owing to a lack of self-confidence. At the view box, he often made vague waving gestures as if conducting an orchestra, but his comments were brief, incisive, not hesitant at all. These attributes were based on solid self-confidence, but in the presence of Dr. Amberson, who never raised his voice, you wouldn’t have guessed that.

Author’s Note: The writer is thankful to Anne Davis’49 and Gerry Turino’48 for their help and remembrances of Dr. Amberson.
Swelling Is Main Cause of Harm after Certain Type of Brain Hemorrhage

A sudden, excruciating headache followed by loss of consciousness is a telltale sign of bleeding from a brain aneurysm. Even when such a subarachnoid hemorrhage is not fatal, a patient's ability to think, speak, and move can be severely affected.

Seeing a need for a comprehensive study of why cognitive impairment occurs, researchers led by Dr. Stephan Mayer, associate professor of clinical neurology (in neurological surgery), evaluated 113 patients three months after their hemorrhage and found that swelling and small strokes are the most important factors related to how badly the brain is affected.

While it may be too soon to employ specific treatment advice from the findings, it appears that reducing swelling and removing the blood that has leaked could be important in limiting the amount of harm done. The findings were reported in the January 2002 issue of Stroke.

Finding New Targets to Fight Asthma and Allergy

Although many treatments are available for asthma and allergy, most have side effects and others do not work all the time. The laboratory of Dr. Paul Rothman, the Richard J. Stock Professor of Medicine (Immunology) and Microbiology, has been studying a gene, STAT-6, as a new target for therapeutic intervention. Stopping the gene's activity in immune cells that make the IgE antibody, which is responsible for allergies and asthma, could be a new treatment against these disorders.

But new findings from Dr. Rothman's laboratory reveal how complex STAT-6 actions are inside these cells. By studying cells that do not express this protein, they have found that STAT-6 is important for both increasing and decreasing the levels of many other genes. The findings were published in the Feb. 1, 2002, issue of the Journal of Immunology. The laboratory is now performing follow-up studies to better understand the STAT-6 regulatory pathway.

Elderly Colon Cancer Patients Benefit from Both Chemotherapy and Surgery

Approximately 50 percent of elderly patients who have advanced, but not metastatic, colon cancer do not get chemotherapy after surgery. But a Columbia statistics-based study reveals that elderly people with colon cancer live longer when they receive both types of treatment. The study was published in the March 5, 2002, issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Led by Dr. Alfred I. Neugut, professor of medicine and public health, investigators found that patients 65 years and older with colon cancer that had spread to the lymph nodes who were treated with both the drug 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) and surgery had a 30 percent reduction in mortality at five years after diagnosis compared with individuals who received surgery alone. The increased longevity is similar to what patients under age 65 realize with both therapies.
Many Born with HIV Now Suffer from Mental Problems

Progress in AIDS research and treatment 10 years ago helped put an end to Harlem’s “boarder baby” epidemic of the 1980s, yielding a new generation of HIV+ children who today are living with, rather than dying from, the disease, but many of the young-adult survivors of this crisis are facing a new wave of medical problems, this time in the form of severe psychological and behavioral disorders.

In the cover story of February 2002’s American Journal of Public Health, Dr. Stephen Nicholas and Dr. Elaine Abrams, associate professors of clinical pediatrics who are based at Harlem Hospital Center, write that a high percentage of older children with HIV exhibit significant signs of mental illness, possibly due to the combined effects of fetal drug exposure, genetics, and the stress of living with a chronic illness. The behaviors—which include aggression and inappropriate sexual conduct—are placing enormous strain on the health, educational, and foster care systems designed to help them. They suggest that a new approach to medical treatment for former “boarder babies”—incorporating significant levels of psychiatric care—is warranted.

Improving Accuracy of Cross-Cultural Neuropsychological Testing

Tests of memory, reasoning, and other cognitive skills are used to help diagnose patients with dementia. But some ethnic groups, such as African-Americans, tend to score lower than whites on these neuropsychological tests even if all the test-takers achieved the same number of years of schooling. Because of lower scores, healthy African-Americans are more likely to be misdiagnosed with Alzheimer’s and other cognitive deficits.

To improve the accuracy of the tests, researchers led by Dr. Jennifer Manly, assistant professor of neuropsychology, decided to measure quality of education rather than quantity of schooling. They found that reading tests could help characterize a person’s quality of education, regardless of race. Both whites and blacks with a poor quality of education obtained low scores on the reading test. The researchers found that by factoring in quality of education or reading level, they could eliminate most of the racial differences found in the neuropsychological test assessments. This research will help improve the accuracy of cognitive tests in diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease across racial and cultural groups. The findings were published in the March 2002 Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society.

Fat Hormone Leptin and Weight Loss Maintenance

When people lose weight, the blood levels of the hormone leptin that is secreted by fat cells go down and muscles need fewer calories to work. As a result, dieters who have lost weight must decrease their calories or increase their activity to maintain their weight. Dr. Rudolph Leibel, professor of pediatrics and medicine and co-director of the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, and Dr. Michael Rosenbaum, associate professor of clinical pediatrics and medicine, hypothesize that the decline in leptin following weight loss signals the decline in energy expenditure that accompanies maintenance of a reduced body weight.

To test the hypothesis, the researchers gave four people who had lost weight sufficient leptin by injection to return the hormone to its prediet level. They found the replacement doses increased energy expenditure and corrected hormone changes associated with weight reduction. Their research was published in the May 2002 Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. Further studies will determine whether long-term leptin administration will help people keep weight off.

Treating Latent TB Infections Could Reduce Cases in Foreign-Born

More aggressive treatment of latent tuberculosis infections in foreign-born residents of New York City could reduce the very high rate of active disease in this population, according to an analysis of the disease during the past decade. The researchers, led by Dr. Neil Schluger, associate professor of medicine and public health, analyzed the DNA of TB strains from 546 TB cases in the city between 1991 and 1999. They found foreign-born residents were more likely to have a strain acquired abroad that became reactivated in the United States.
The findings, published in the May 9, 2002, New England Journal of Medicine, suggest current public health strategies that target only active infections will not reduce the high TB rate in foreign-born residents in New York and throughout the country. Treating latent infections might be a better approach. The results also point to the need for better international TB control.

**New Clues to How Our Cells Stick Together**

Cadherins are the proteins on the surface of human cells that hold the cells together as tissues. Using protein X-ray crystallography, a technique that enables determination of 3-D structures at the atomic level, researchers now understand how cadherin molecules stick cells together.

The research, led by Dr. Lawrence Shapiro, associate professor of ophthalmologic science and biochemistry and molecular biophysics, was published in the May 17, 2002, issue of Science. Understanding this structure may enable the design of new compounds to modulate cell adhesion, which could ultimately result in the development of new therapeutics.

**Type 1 Diabetes Arrested with Short-term Use of New Drug**

A new type of immunosuppressive drug administered for only two weeks halted the course of Type 1 diabetes for a year, according to results of a study by researchers at Columbia and the University of California, San Francisco.

The researchers found that 12 patients taking the drug, which specifically targets the disease-causing immune cells, continued to produce their own insulin and needed less supplemental hormone to maintain their blood sugar than 12 patients who did not take the drug. Patients on the drug, a humanized monoclonal antibody, also experienced few side effects. The research, led by Dr. Kevan Herold, associate professor of clinical medicine, was published in the May 30, 2002, New England Journal of Medicine. Although the results are promising, more research is necessary in a larger population to determine the drug’s long-term effectiveness.

**How Brain Cells Stop Accepting Information**

Reading these words excites billions of cells in your brain. Understanding the meaning of these words and remembering them involves the movement of the chemical glutamate from one brain cell to another, where the molecule binds to a receptor. The glutamate receptor allows most of excitatory transmission in the mammalian nervous system to occur and is involved in the creation of structural changes that lead to memory.

But for the receptor to work properly it has to shut down temporarily to be ready for the next stimulus. Constant activation of the glutamate receptor can lead to brain seizures. Research led by Dr. Eric Gouaux, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, has elucidated the mechanism by which the glutamate receptor becomes desensitized to incoming messages by changing its structure for a fraction of a second. The research, published in the May 16, 2002, issue of Nature, could lead to the development of drugs that allow the receptor to stay active longer and, thus, enhance memory in impaired individuals.

**Location of TV Linked to Obesity Risk**

Children who have TV sets in their bedrooms have a higher risk of obesity, according to a study led by Columbia researchers based at Bassett Healthcare. The investigators, led by Dr. Barbara Dennison, associate professor of clinical pediatrics, set out to describe the TV viewing habits of a multi-ethnic, low-income pre-school population in New York state and to determine if weight was associated with watching TV.

After surveying more than 2,700 parents of children between ages 1 and 5, they found children with TV sets in their bedrooms watched almost five more hours of TV and videos per week than those without and were more likely to be overweight. Since most children watch TV by age 2, the researchers say their findings, published in the June 2002 Pediatrics, suggest parents start early in a child’s life in limiting TV and video watching and that they should not keep a television set in their child’s bedroom.
GREEN TEA EXTRACTS AND GROWTH OF HUMAN CANCER CELLS

By Robin Eisner

Several epidemiological studies have shown that green tea may have protective effects against some types of cancer. Green tea extracts also inhibit tumor growth in animals. Research has shown that epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), a compound present in these extracts, provides the chemoprotective benefit by working through the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR).

Overexpression of EGFR frequently occurs in human head and neck squamous cell cancers and is an indicator of a poor prognosis. So Dr. Muneyuki Masuda, an oncologist who specializes in otolaryngology at Kyushu University in Japan and who has been working in the laboratory of Dr. I. Bernard Weinstein, the Frode Jensen Professor of Medicine and director emeritus of the Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, studied the effects EGCG might have on head and neck cancer cell lines via the EGFR signaling pathways.

Drs. Masuda and Weinstein found that a dose of 10 micrograms per milliliter of EGCG could kill 70 percent of the cells growing in vitro. The compound works by stopping the cells in the G1 phase of the cell cycle and by inducing apoptosis. EGCG decreases cyclin D1 expression, which explains the arrest in G1; inhibits the activity of antiapoptotic genes Bcl-2 and Bcl-X1; and increases pro-apoptotic Bax and caspase 9 activity.

EGCG also inhibits the synthesis of the angiogenesis factor VEGF.

In addition to promoting apoptosis and cell cycle arrest and inhibiting angiogenesis, EGCG also markedly enhanced the killing effect in cell culture of the chemotherapeutic drug 5-fluorouracil. A tenth of a microgram per milliliter of EGCG promoted the killing effect of 5-FU by approximately 50 fold.

The researchers suggest that green tea extracts, which are relatively non-toxic, may be beneficial in treating patients with head and neck cancers.

Further studies are necessary to determine the proper dosage of the extract. Dr. Masuda presented the research findings at the International Society of Preventive Oncology meeting in February 2002 and the research was published in December 2001 in Clinical Cancer Research.

EGCG also may inhibit other types of cancers via other growth factor receptors. Recent evidence from Drs. Masuda and Weinstein indicates that EGCG inhibits HER2-neu activity in breast cancer cell lines; this natural product, therefore, may also be useful in treating patients with breast cancer.
ALS is an extremely difficult disease to treat. Invariably fatal, often within three to five years, it produces progressively disabling symptoms, with patients eventually losing the ability to eat, talk, and even breathe on their own. With the overwhelming majority of ALS patients living at home, caretakers and patients depend on outpatient therapy from neurologists, nutritionists, pulmonologists, and other specialists. For the past two years, since spring 2000, all the specialties needed for ALS care have been provided at the ALS Multidisciplinary Center of Columbia University.

The center is a new stage in the evolution of the Eleanor and Lou Gehrig MDA/ALS Center, which was founded in 1987 by Dr. Lewis P. Rowland, then chairman of neurology. The center now offers all the specialties required for ALS care: neurologists, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nutritionists, pulmonologists, and gastroenterologists. “We cannot yet offer a cure of ALS or even reliably slow its progress, but our collaboration promotes the highest function possible for patients and the highest possible quality of life,” says Dr. Hiroshi Mitsumoto, the center’s director. Dr. Mitsumoto, a world-renowned expert on ALS, became director in 1999.

“Family caregivers for ALS patients face incredible difficulties,” Dr. Mitsumoto says. “Not only do patients face muscle paralysis, the disease is rapidly progressive, so every few months patients and families have to face other major changes in care. Caretakers and patients have to see many different specialists. At Columbia’s ALS center, we provide all the necessary resources, including visits by physicians, at a single location, coordinating many different specialties in each appointment."

The center, one of only two multidisciplinary ALS centers in the New York area (the other is at Beth Israel Hospital), provides comprehensive outpatient care for 300 new patients a year. As a major research and treatment facility, Columbia’s center conducts a number of research efforts, including clinical trials of drugs aimed at slowing the progress of the disease: creatine, Celebrex, TCH346, and the protease inhibitor Indinivir.

Another focus of research is to develop technological markers for diagnosing ALS. With $1.6 million in NIH funding, researchers at the center are developing neuroimaging and neurophysiological tests for ALS. Other NIH-funded research studies pursue improvements in end-of-life care.

This type of comprehensive care is expensive, and insurance reimbursement covers only a fraction of the cost. Nearly two-thirds of the cost of care, therefore, is contributed by University funds and private donors. “Since we are one of the few clinics in the country that focuses on ALS, this work is important, and we feel it deserves support,” says Dr. Mitsumoto.
Plastic surgery is often difficult to obtain for patients with Medicare, Medicaid, or no insurance. Insurers classify many procedures as purely cosmetic, and complex procedures frequently are not fully covered. Beginning in the fall of 2000, Columbia-Presbyterian’s pediatric plastic surgery clinic started to address this gap in services. The clinic began to provide pediatric plastic surgery free of charge as a service to the community to all patients from birth to age 18. The clinic’s three plastic surgeons—Robert T. Grant, assistant professor of clinical surgery and chief of plastic surgery; Jeffrey Ascherman, assistant professor of surgery; and Arnold Breitbart, assistant professor of clinical surgery—serve up to 50 patients a month.

“Most of our patients are drawn from the Washington Heights area, but we are open to all referrals,” says Dr. Grant. “Our referrals come mainly from ambulatory care community health centers.” The physicians donate their time and the clinic helps the caretakers of patients apply for Medicare and Medicare coverage to pay hospital costs. “In many cases insurers will not pay for things that other families routinely get fixed—a prominent mole, abnormal skin growths, protruding ears, and so on,” says Dr. Grant, “but our social workers get the patients coverage under various programs aimed at children, such as the New York State Children’s Health Program.

“In addition, we find that more severe craniofacial abnormalities occur with greater frequencies among disadvantaged populations, due to more environmentally caused birth defects. The clinic is well equipped to handle these complicated cases without burdening patients with uninsured charges.”

Among the more common conditions that the clinic treats are hemangiomas, benign tumors consisting of abnormal concentrations of blood vessels. These are not only a cosmetic problem; they can grow to interfere with speech or vision. Surgery is needed to first cut off the blood supply to these growths and then remove them and repair any damage done to underlying tissue. “In one recent case, we removed one of these growths from the lower lip of a 5-year-old, whose speech immediately improved dramatically,” Dr. Grant says.

While most pediatric plastic surgery corrects craniofacial defects, the clinic also performs surgery involving all parts of the body—such as removing sixth fingers or toes or even correcting abnormalities in the rib cage of a child.

Craniofacial distraction is a surgical technique used in pronounced mandibular micrognathia, an under-bite or receding chin, which can be a congenital defect characteristic of symptoms of various syndromes or can arise from an early childhood temporomandibular joint trauma. The distraction technique is performed through osteotomy where bone is cut and through use of a distraction device (uni-, bi-, or multi-directional). This technique creates two callus sites allowing osteogenesis, or new bone growth, as well as the development of a mandibular angle. The multi-directional distractor (shown) allows vertical, horizontal, and transverse movements of the mandibular bone.

Dr. Grant emphasizes that no experimental procedures are done at the clinic, although the patients benefit from plastic surgery research performed elsewhere by plastic surgery faculty. “We have pioneered new and proven techniques for craniofacial reconstruction and in some cases these are used at the clinic,” he explains. “One example is craniofacial distraction, a technique that in the past decade has become invaluable in treating many congenital defects. In this method, facial bones are cut and then gentle stress is applied as they heal. New bone grows in naturally to expand the involved bone to its proper size.”

The clinic is the only purely pediatric plastic surgery center in the New York area that specifically treats financially disadvantaged patients. “We see it as one way that Columbia-Presbyterian can give back to the community that it is a part of,” says Dr. Grant.
Dr. Martha J. Morrell has transformed patient care at the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at Columbia-Presbyterian since she took the helm in 1999 by applying one of her important discoveries about the disease: Men and women with epilepsy are not alike.

Dr. Morrell, professor of clinical neurology, is generally acknowledged as the driving force behind today's gender-focused approach to the treatment of women with epilepsy. Her research has proved that hormonal changes—which manifest at puberty and with monthly menstruation, pregnancy, lactation, and menopause—can wreak havoc when a woman has epilepsy.

Dr. Morrell and her colleagues have found that for many women a monthly estrogen surge accompanied by a monthly progesterone decrease (the challenges of menstruation) can trigger seizures, just as another uniquely female event, pregnancy, also can be affected by epilepsy. Through their research they found that some women with epilepsy experience irregular ovulation 50 percent of the time while, paradoxically, other women become pregnant because many antiepilepsy drugs (AEDs) interfere with the action of oral contraceptives. When these findings are compounded by research showing that some AEDs are teratogens and are associated with birth defects, it becomes clear that work stemming from the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center influences the management of women with epilepsy around the world.

But Dr. Morrell is also transforming the way men are treated at the center. She came to Columbia with a mission: to alter the traditional paradigm in which individuals with epilepsy are managed. “My goal for the epilepsy center is to expand the scope of its clinical practice while maintaining the center's well-deserved reputation for conducting unparalleled scientific research,” Dr. Morrell says.

The center earns its title of comprehensive. Patients are followed by neurologists, neuropsychologists, a psychiatrist, neurosurgeons, and nurse educators, with a focus on the patient as an individual. In this multidisciplinary environment, patients are trained to be partners in their health care, and the many ongoing clinical trials in which Dr. Morrell participates bring promising new therapies to the patient population.

Under Dr. Morrell's leadership, the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center is one of the largest epilepsy surgical centers in the world. Many patients at the center are treated using sophisticated brain mapping techniques and highly intricate stereotactic 3-D magnetic resonance imaging techniques, which allow neurosurgeons to perform precise and safe resection of epileptogenic cortex, or the neurons from which seizures arise.

The approach to care at the center also focuses on the challenges of aging. AEDs alter bone metabolism, Dr. Morrell says, and women and men with epilepsy who control their disease with drugs such as phenytoin, carbamazepine, and other well-known AEDs have twice the risk of fractures than do elderly without epilepsy.

Research is ongoing at the center. It is one of only a handful of centers soon to begin testing an experimental brain defibrillator, the first of its kind in the world. The goal of
this research is to pinpoint the exact spot in a patient’s brain where seizures originate and, by zapping the brain electronically, stop the seizures almost before they have a chance to begin.

As a principal investigator for one NIH study, Dr. Morrell is also looking at whether the AEDs taken by pregnant women to control their seizures will ultimately affect the brains and behavior of their children. Other research conducted under Dr. Morrell’s aegis explores the associations between epilepsy and sleep disorders and epilepsy and memory lapse.

Ten years ago, the traditional medical paradigm taught that women with epilepsy should be managed no differently than men and Dr. Morrell’s gender-based approach was ridiculed. Today, her dedication and vision not only directly benefit the more than 5,000 patients seen at Columbia’s Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, but also help set the standard of care at epilepsy centers internationally.
When the 2002 USA Indoor Track and Field Championships meet was held in March at the Armory Track and Field Center at Fort Washington Avenue and 168th Street, it was a watershed moment for Dr. Norbert W. Sander Jr., president of the Armory Foundation. It was a clear sign that the 93-year-old structure had put its worst years behind it.

Dr. Sander had been working toward that moment since 1993, taking many steps in a long journey to secure the rebirth of the Armory, a four-story, 125,000-square-foot facility that features a 200-meter, Olympic-class banked track. The drill floor of the Armory is the site of 90 events each year, including 14 major track meets. The designation two years ago of the Armory as the new home for the USA Track & Field organization’s National Track & Field Hall of Fame will guarantee a prominent role for the Armory in furthering the sport in the 21st century.

It will be the only sports hall of fame in New York City and the only sports hall of fame in a major city in the
United States, says Dr. Sander. It’s also going to help from the tourist standpoint.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 have complicated the fund raising and construction schedule for the Hall of Fame. Contributions came to a halt after the terrorist attacks. It’s an $8 million project. We raised $5.5 million but we really hit a snag with Sept. 11, says Dr. Sander. We had actually planned to do everything in one year but we don’t have the money for the fabrication of the exhibits.

Even with the delays, construction began July 1 and should be complete by November 2003. The renovations will include the installation of a new elevator.

USA Track & Field will work with the Armory to jump start the funding by tapping major donors and corporations that have supported track and field events in the past, says Craig Masback, CEO of the track and field organization, based in Indianapolis.

USA Track & Field will move the winter 2003 USA Indoor Track & Field Championships meet, originally planned for the Armory, to avoid conflicts with the new construction schedule, says Mr. Masback.

Once all the parts are in place, the Hall of Fame and an interactive learning center will span three floors. On the first floor, visitors will have a choice of exhibits: a theater/auditorium complex that will show an introductory film about track and field sports; What It Takes to be a Champion interactive displays on the training, nutrition, and discipline needed to succeed; and galleries (now represented by kiosks) illustrating the history of the sport. Along the stairways will be Poetry of Motion murals showing athletes in action. The second floor, the Fred Lebow Marathon Hall, named in honor of the New York City marathon founder, will focus on the history of U.S. marathons.

The high point of these exhibits will be the National Track & Field Inductee Wall of Fame, a glass wall on the third floor that will have names etched in it and will overlook the track and field arena. Visitors, especially young, potential athletes, will see that you can run on the track at the Armory and earn your way into the Hall of Fame, says Mr. Masback.

The messages of the interactive presentations are aimed at the overwhelming majority of the annual 300,000 visitors to the Armory high school and elementary school students. It’s important to work with them. That’s where the need is, says Dr. Sander. The interactive center will stress ways to avoid lifestyle options excessive TV, drug use, sexual activity that negatively impact them.

Dr. Sander anticipates that the interactive center will spur the development of a classroom curriculum that he hopes will involve Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and Columbia specifically. He also hopes the curriculum will be taught to sixth and seventh graders at surrounding local elementary schools and possibly expand citywide.

The curriculum would be another example of the Armory’s many connections to the surrounding community. The Armory is a hub for a variety of community-based programs such as the Police Athletic League day camp, teacher training, a fitness program for senior citizens, and computer training.

By all accounts, the Armory has had an amazing comeback from its nadir in the 1980s and early 1990s when it was a homeless shelter for up to 1,000 men. The shelter now focuses on 200 men who are being treated for their mental illness and drug addiction. That’s when I think the whole neighborhood collapsed, Dr. Sander says, because there really wasn’t the anchor that the building had been.

Ultimately, Dr. Sander hopes that when the kids come in here or when anyone comes, they find a clean, neat, secure building that’s quiet, and you can feel at home here.
Research and clinical care are not mutually exclusive. A new program funded through 2006 by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation seeks to help medical students understand and appreciate the synergy of the two pursuits. In July 2001, 41 students from around the country—including six from P&S—took a year off from medical school to become the first Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellows. The program will fund three more years of one-year fellowships plus support research that extends beyond the fellowship years.
“The program is designed to pique the interest of someone who might want a career in clinical research,” says program director Donald Landry, associate professor of medicine. “Or, for those who want to be involved primarily in patient care, it can sensitize them to the issues of research.”

The foundation chose P&S and six other sites around the country to host the program; nine fellows—six from P&S plus three others—were based at Columbia. The students, all of whom had completed their third year of medical school, were paired with mentors and spent July 2001 through June 2002 learning the ins and outs of clinical research. Their work was reinforced by classes in biostatistics and epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health. Two of the fellows, Alexander “Sasha” Opotowsky’03 and Cornell student Michelle Denburg, discussed their experiences in the program and their work with their mentors.

This was Mr. Opotowsky’s first exposure to clinical research. He spent the year studying under John Bilezikian’69, professor of medicine and pharmacology and chief of endocrinology in the Department of Medicine, and was able to participate in a number of research projects. His major focus revolved around a study of Asian women and their risk for osteoporosis.

“It’s an interesting paradox,” he says. “Asian women, on average, tend to have a lower bone density than Caucasian women. But while bone density is a major indicator of fracture risk for Caucasian women, Asian women actually have a lower risk for fractures, and no one knows why.”

Mr. Opotowsky, who also pursued his master’s in public health degree during his fellowship year, began the study from scratch: He developed the protocol and submitted it to the IRB for approval and wrote the grant applications that were eventually approved.

His plans for the study include focusing on a group of Asian-American women in New York’s Chinatown, comparing the differences in such variables as diet and activity between Asian and Caucasian women. A database will be created to seek clues about why Asian women, in spite of lower bone density measurements, fracture at a lower rate.

Mr. Opotowsky’s fellowship officially concluded at the end of June, just as the study was about to get off the ground, but funds are available to support the fellows’ continued study during their fourth year of medical school. He plans to be on hand to see his project through.

While waiting for grant approval on the study, Mr. Opotowsky sought other projects. One actually found him.

“I took an interesting class on large-scale national databases,” he says. “It explored large national datasets that are available for public use but are not widely used. They contain high-quality data, but many people don’t even know these databases exist.”

Through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey III, a database containing survey results on more than 35,000 people, Mr. Opotowsky was able to extensively study and compare the bone mineral density of postmenopausal Caucasian and African-American women.

“This survey asked thousands of questions, including—believe it or not—how much milk the respondents drank as children and teen-agers,” he says. “What was so fantastic about this database was that it provided information on 742 African-American and 1,740 Caucasian women. We were given this large, nationally representative sample that we could never have gathered on our own.”

He compared the two groups for the possi-
ble effects of early milk consumption on post-menopausal bone density measurements. He presented his findings to the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research in September.

“I’m thrilled I did the fellowship,” he says. “I had a chance to take classes and learn about the process of clinical research. I was also able to enhance my skills by doing the work myself.”

Mr. Opotowsky calls Dr. Bilezikian the ideal mentor who, in spite of a very busy schedule, always made time for him. The admiration was mutual, Dr. Bilezikian says. “Sasha was fantastic. He had definite ideas about what he wanted to accomplish this year, and he made many professional contacts around the country.

“It’s actually been a lot of fun for me. Like any good student, Sasha has opened up doors. It’s not just the faculty who educates; the students do it too.”

Michelle Denburg had been exposed to some laboratory-based research as an undergraduate and during the summer following her first year at Cornell’s medical school. She spent her Doris Duke fellowship year at P&S under the guidance of Dr. Lenore Levine, professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric endocrinology, and Dr. Sharon Oberfield, professor of pediatrics and deputy director of pediatric endocrinology.

“My research revolved around insulin resistance syndrome, a condition better defined in adults than in children. She examined the endocrine and metabolic characteristics of three specific groups: children with premature adrenarche, adolescent girls with polycys-
tic ovarian syndrome, and children who were the products of pregnancies complicated by gestational diabetes.

“I worked with the idea that these three groups are at risk for insulin resistance, which may predispose them to lipid abnormalities, type II diabetes, and cardiovascular disease in adulthood,” she says. Through her research, she hopes to identify populations of children at risk for insulin resistance. At the annual Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in May, she participated in presenting preliminary findings in boys with premature adrenarche. She also submitted the work for publication in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

She found the coursework helpful. “Biostatistics makes you think more critically about the data; you’re better able to analyze and interpret a study’s results,” she says. “In epidemiology, where you learn about study design, you can apply everything you’re learning directly to what you’re doing.”

Ms. Denburg worried about the effect taking a year off for research would have on the momentum she built while seeing patients during her third year of medical school. The worry turned out to be unfounded when her mentors encouraged her to accompany the department’s fellow on rounds and see patients in a weekly clinical setting.

“I had a really great relationship with my mentors. They took the time to get to know me as a person. They even helped me choose my fourth-year electives,” she says. “They became mentors not just in terms of my fellowship, but of my entire medical school experience. I could not have asked for better.”

Ms. Denburg “exceeded all of our expectations,” says Dr. Oberfield. “She is an exceptional, motivated individual with unparalleled academic integrity.

“The nicest part of the year was watching Michelle’s confidence grow. As her skills sharpened and she became more confident in her execution of all aspects of the protocol, the world of clinical research grew less daunting.”

Adds Dr. Levine: “She had the opportunity to learn how our division works, and she became an integral part of it. We enjoyed having her, and we’d love to have her back.”

The new program was labeled a success by the program director, the mentors, and the fellows. “The fellows were extremely well-qualified, enthusiastic, and hard-working,” says Dr. Landry. “Each in his or her own way demonstrated star potential. What’s more, their performance completely vindicated the premise of this program, which was that if medical students were presented with the opportunity to take a year off to hone their skills in clinical research, there would be a pool of highly talented people eager to take advantage of it.”

Both Mr. Opotowsky and Ms. Denburg described the experience as invaluable in its potential impact on their futures as doctors. “By working on a number of different studies, I was able to participate in the entire clinical research path,” says Mr. Opotowsky. “I learned grant writing and how to analyze data. I was able to apply what I learned in the classroom to my work as a clinician. Clinical research will definitely be a part of my future. I want to integrate it into my plans for patient care and teaching.”

Ms. Denburg plans to spend some of her time back at P&S during her fourth year con-
“I loved this experience; it was everything I wanted and more,” she says.

“I feel like I knew very little about clinical research before, but now I’ve had a complete immersion into the field. This year has definitely made clinical research appealing,” she says. “In learning about evidence-based medicine, you realize that seeing patients can give you ideas for studies. By following through on these ideas, you can change—and improve—the level of care you provide.”

Dr. Landry has some changes in mind to build on the inaugural year of the program. Foremost among the changes is a greater variety in the coursework. “We need to allow the coursework to tie in more tightly with the specific needs of each individual fellow. Some may have an interest in multivariate analysis, others may want to know more about plumb ing the depths of databases. The fellows should be able to take courses that best suit their projects.”

Overall, the program has left Dr. Landry with a heightened sense of optimism. “My experience with the fellows—their interest, intensity, and intellect—has been very heartening,” he says. “I see in them a bright future for medicine and clinical research.”

The second class of Doris Duke fellows—eight more fellows began their research at P&S in July—will have that high standard to meet.

About Doris Duke

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people’s lives by nurturing the arts, protecting and restoring the environment, seeking cures for diseases, and helping to protect children from abuse and neglect.

Columbia has benefited from four Doris Duke Foundation medical research programs. P&S faculty have received individual research awards through three programs of the foundation. Dr. Daniel M. Bloomfield, assistant professor of medicine, received a 1998 Clinical Scientist Development Award. Dr. Howard Kaufman, associate professor of clinical surgery, received a Clinical Scientist Development Award in 1998 while on the Albert Einstein College of Medicine faculty and transferred the research support to Columbia when he joined the P&S faculty last year. Dr. Andrew Marks, the Clyde and Helen Wu Professor of Molecular Cardiology, professor of pharmacology, and director of the Center for Molecular Cardiology, received a Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award in 2000. Dr. Steven O. Marx, assistant professor of medicine, received a 2001 Innovation in Clinical Research Award.

The clinical research fellowship program for medical students was started at seven medical schools, including P&S, and has been expanded to 10 schools.

Doris Duke was born in 1912 in New York City. She was the only child of James Buchanan Duke, a founder of the American Tobacco Company and Duke Energy Company and a benefactor of Duke University in his native North Carolina. When J.B. Duke died in 1925, he divided his fortune between his 13-year-old daughter and the Duke Endowment, a foundation he established to serve the people of the Carolinas.

Miss Duke was an active supporter of medical research and child welfare throughout her life. At age 21 she established a foundation called Independent Aid, which later became the Doris Duke Foundation. When she died in October 1993 at age 80, she left more than 90 percent of her estate to the foundation.
It was really no surprise that Carrie Ruzal-Shapiro, recipient of this year’s distinguished teacher award, became a doctor.

“I always liked science and working with people,” says Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro, associate professor of clinical radiology and pediatrics.

The Brooklyn native attended New York’s acclaimed Stuyvesant High School. Among her classmates was Dr. Eric Lander, now one of the leaders of the Human Genome Project. “He was valedictorian, I was salutatorian,” she says.

During her undergraduate studies at Princeton, she met her husband, Peter Shapiro, associate professor of clinical psychiatry at P&S; the two were married when Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro was a senior. Peter, who was two years ahead, left Princeton for medical school at Columbia. After earning her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry, Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro followed her husband to New York and Columbia, and both have been here since. Peter Shapiro earned his M.D. degree in 1980; Carrie Ruzal-Shapiro graduated P&S in 1982.

Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro started out as a pediatrician, interning in pediatrics after medical
school. Her decision to further specialize in radiology grew out of her desire to work in a hospital rather than in private practice.

“I wanted to do in-hospital work, but I didn’t want to spend most of my time in a lab,” she says. “Radiology was something I discovered during my internship. I thought it was very cool, because you could get to the answer right away: It’s right there on the films. There’s also a lot of interaction with both patients and with doctors, which I enjoy. So I went on to do a residency in radiology and a fellowship in pediatric radiology.”

Teaching was not part of Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro’s original plan but something she fell into. “I was the junior person in my department,” she says. “An assignment—teaching the third years as they rotated through pediatrics—came up, and I was told I was doing it. But it turns out I really liked it, and I got very involved in education. I don’t do much research, and so I’ve found my academic niche in teaching.”

Her teaching schedule has grown since that first assignment, and she now also lectures during the second-year introduction to radiology. When third-year students rotate through pediatrics, she instructs them for about an hour a week, and she sees fourth-year students who choose pediatric radiology electives.

Her style of teaching is socratic rather than didactic; she prefers interactive discussions over lectures. And because she views the radiologist’s role as fitting together puzzle pieces to determine diagnoses, she prefers teaching from abnormal films rather than normal ones. “One of the lectures I do with my third-year students is what a foreign body stuck in the windpipe looks like,” she says. “Often you can’t see what’s been aspirated because it’s a peanut or a piece of a hot dog, so you need to look for clues—like areas of lung collapse—to tell you what’s going on.”

Her teaching doesn’t end when students graduate. Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro also runs the radiology residency program, a position she actively campaigned for. “I went to the chair of the department. He was the director of the residency program, and I told him students were intimidated by him. He needed the help of someone more approachable. I then told him I was the person he needed.

“I’d never done anything like that before. But he said yes, and I eventually became the program director.”

Her teaching earned her the highly prized distinguished teacher award and the opportunity to speak at the inaugural Class Day this year, an awards ceremony held the day before commencement. In introducing her, P&S Club co-president Dave Walker’02 called the recognition for Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro “long overdue.”

“My husband asked me why I was chosen for the award, and I think it may be because I treat the students like peers,” she says. “If there’s anything that I’d like my students to take away from my classes, it’s to always have respect not only for their colleagues, but for those who are coming up behind them. If you treat those around you well, it makes for a more pleasant work experience.”

Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro credits her family with her successful career at Columbia. “I’ve been incredibly lucky to have a wonderful support system,” she says. “I couldn’t manage without my husband.”

The couple has two sons, Daniel, 16, and Billy, 12. When she’s not working, her time is devoted to them. “I go to a lot of varsity and Little League baseball games,” she says. “I like to cook, and my older son will sometimes help me while my younger son hangs out with us. I just enjoy spending time with them.”

She is also grateful for the encouragement and support she has received from her parents throughout her career. Now retired, they have moved to her neighborhood and provide backup for carpool and other duties.

The importance of family was evident during Dr. Ruzal-Shapiro’s Class Day address. After warning the graduates that their residency years would be harder than anything they might expect, she strongly encouraged them to make time for loved ones.

She gave the graduates other sound advice during her address: “Laugh as often as possible. Cry at the tragedies. Nourish your soul and your mind. And remember why you wanted to become a doctor.”
The community of Washington Heights is one of the greatest assets of P&S,” the P&S student handbook says to describe Cultura, one of the P&S Club organizations.

Cultura was founded to give students the opportunity to become more aware of the differences among cultures and eventually appreciate how these differences will affect the care they provide as doctors. Among the group’s activities are an exchange program that pairs students with neighborhood Dominican families, weekly lunches where members can practice their Spanish, and seminars on cultural awareness.

“Washington Heights is an incredible place that has so many assets,” says Ben Shelton’03, a Cultura leader. “Cultura attempts to introduce the medical students to Washington Heights. Through Cultura understanding we learn more, help more, and become better physicians.”

This year Cultura sponsored a photo mentoring project. Ten P&S students were paired with 10 community youths, mostly seventh and eighth graders, to photograph the neighborhood in a project called, “What is Washington Heights to You?” Cameras and darkroom supplies were donated by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The community youths were participants in the Police Athletic League after-school program at the Armory.

The pairs committed to meeting five times to take pictures and develop film, and many met more than five times. This kind of mentoring project was new to P&S students, Mr. Shelton says. “We had a specific focus to our interactions, and this served as a fun medium to get to know and learn about each other. The theme was an opportunity for all of us to focus on the neighborhood—for the PAL participants to be proud of their neighborhood and to teach the medical students about the neighborhood from their perspective.”

The result was a May exhibit of photos taken by the medical students and the community photographers they mentored. Each pair picked five photos to show at exhibits in Bard Hall and in the Armory. An exhibit is also planned at Police Athletic League headquarters in downtown Manhattan. “The kids were excited to see their work displayed,” says Mr. Shelton, “and we invited the family and friends of all participants to a reception.”

Mr. Shelton turned the photos into a slide show for orientation.

Other Cultura projects include the Reach Out and Read event (described in the Spring 2002 P&S Journal), in which incoming P&S students read to Washington Heights children in neighborhood parks during orientation. In Cultura’s family exchange program, “families in the community opened their doors to us because we wanted to get to know them,” says Jeremy Keenan’03, also a Cultura leader. Dr. Dodi Meyer, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, is faculty adviser to the group.
FACULTY AWARDS

P&S Distinguished Service Awards were awarded to Rejane Harvey’43, the Dickinson W Richards Professor Emeritus of Medicine, and Dr. Sidney Carter, professor emeritus of neurology and of pediatrics. Neither could attend.

Charles W Bohmfalk Awards were presented to Marc Dickstein’87, associate professor of clinical anesthesiology, and Dr. Liza Pon, associate professor of anatomy and cell biology, for distinguished teaching in the pre-clinical years, and to Dr. Janis Cutler, associate clinical professor of psychiatry, for distinguished teaching in the clinical years.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award was given to Dr. Richard U. Levine, clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

The Dr. Harold and Golden Lamport Research Award in basic sciences was given to Dr. Jean Gautier, assistant professor of genetics and development and of dermatology. Jonathan Barasch’88, assistant professor of medicine, received the Dr. Harold and Golden Lamport Research Award in clinical sciences.

The Distinguished Teacher Award was given by the Class of 2002 to Carrie Ruzal-Shapiro’82, associate professor of clinical radiology and of clinical pediatrics. (See profile, Page 19.).

Columbia University’s Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Dr. Gerald E. Thomson, the Lambert Professor of Medicine and the Robert Sonneborn Professor of Medicine, at the Morningside campus commencement ceremony.
STUDENT PRIZES AND AWARDS

Dr. Harry S. Altman Award (outstanding achievement in pediatric ambulatory care)
   Xochitl L. Olmos

Alumni Association Award (outstanding service to P&S)
   David Matthew Walker

American Academy of Neurology Prize (for excellence in neurology)
   Nobl Barazangi

Virginia P. Appar Award (excellence in anesthesiology and intensive care)
   Prashant Sinha
   Edward H. Taliaferro

Michael H. Aranow Memorial Prize (best exemplifying the caring and humane qualities of the practicing physician)
   Elvin H. Geng

Herbert J. Bartelstone Award (exceptional accomplishments in pharmacology)
   Jinesh Nathubhai Shah

Alvin Behrens Memorial Fund Award (outstanding graduate entering ophthalmology)
   Margaret Amy Chang

Edward T. Bello, M.D., Listening Award (to a graduating student who best portrays the art of listening to patients, colleagues, and self in practicing the chosen field of medicine)
   Matthew J. Carty

Robert G. Bertsch Prize (emulating Dr. Bertsch's ideals of the humane surgeon)
   Kelly Tector Migliero

Coakley Memorial Prize (outstanding achievement in otolaryngology)
   Gregory J. Vipond

Titus Munson Coan Prize (best essay in biological sciences)
   Nobl Barazangi
   Deon Wolpowitz

Thomas F. Cock Prize (excellence in obstetrics and gynecology)
   Holly Elizabeth Campbell

Rosamond Kane Cummins’52 Award (graduate entering orthopedics with academic excellence, sensitivity, kindness, devotion to patients, and the fine human qualities she exemplified)
   Maximillian C. Soong

Dean’s Award for Excellence in Research, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Health Sciences:
   Neali Alyssa Armstrong
   Ai Yamamoto

Frederick P. Gay Memorial Award (achievement in microbiology)
   Miera Beth Harris

Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award (excellence in science and compassion in patient care)
   Elissa Michelle Schechter

Dr. Charles F. Hamilton Award (excellence in pulmonary disease)
   Elvin H. Geng

Janeway Prize (the highest achievement and abilities in the graduating class)
   Daniel M. Scuibba

Albert B. Knapp Scholarship (awarded at the conclusion of the third year to the medical student with highest scholarship in the first three years)
   Holly Elizabeth Campbell

John K. Lattimer Prize in Urology (outstanding essay in urology)
   Jay Bakul Shah

Barbara Liskin Memorial Award in Psychiatry (empathy, scholarship, and excellence exhibited by Barbara Liskin)
   April Jiang Zhu

Robert F. Loeb Award (excellence in clinical medicine)
   Christiana Adesua Iyasere

F. Lowenfish Prize in Dermatology (creative research in dermatology)
   Molly Anne Vanner

Alfred M. Markowitz Endowment for Scholars (exemplifies Dr. Markowitz’s dedication to patient care, teaching, and scholarship)
   Matthew J. Carty

Dr. Cecil G. Marquez, B.A.L.S.O. Student Award (outstanding contribution to the Black and Latin Student Organization and the minority community)
   Mary Louise Pisculli

Edith and Denton McKane Memorial Award (outstanding research in ophthalmology)
   Candice Schuen Chen

Dr. Harold Lee Meierhof Memorial Prize (outstanding achievement in pathology)
   Krzysztof Kiryluk

Drs. William Nastuk, Beatrice Seegal, and Konrad Hsu Award (demonstrated successful laboratory collaboration between student and faculty)
   Elvin H. Geng

Marie Nercessian Memorial Award (exhibiting care, unusual concern, and dedication to helping sick people)
   Renuka Jain

Maximillian C. Soong
Lee C. Bollinger, a Columbia Law School graduate, became the 19th president of Columbia University in June. He succeeds George Rupp, who led Columbia since 1993.

The former president of the University of Michigan is a legal scholar whose primary interests are free speech and the First Amendment. He also served as dean of Michigan Law School and provost of Dartmouth College.

At Michigan, his presidency attained record levels of research funding and private giving. During the last two years, for example, gifts to Michigan topped $200 million a year. His administration also developed a major campus revitalization plan.

In developing new initiatives and leading the legal battles to uphold the University of Michigan’s affirmative action policies in student admissions. Mr. Bollinger was at the forefront of advancing programs that are considered critically important to colleges and universities across America.

At Michigan, he launched a Life Sciences Initiative in 1999 to coordinate and expand research and teaching in such rapidly advancing fields as genomics, chemical and structural biology, cognitive neuroscience, bioinformatics, and other areas of study that bear on and are influenced by the life sciences. A new six-story Life Sciences Institute, which is part of the Life Sciences Initiative, is scheduled to open in spring 2003 and will serve as a hub for interdisciplinary research and teaching in the life sciences. The Life Sciences Institute will link, physically and intellectually, the central and medical campuses of the university.

Mr. Bollinger graduated from the University of Oregon. At Columbia Law School he was an articles editor of the Law Review. After serving as law clerk for Judge Wilfred Feinberg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for Chief Justice Warren Burger on the U.S. Supreme Court, he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School in 1973. In 1987, he was named the dean of the law school.

Columbia President Lee Bollinger visited the Health Sciences in June for a strategic planning meeting with faculty. He is shown here with Nobelist Eric Kandel and, in the background, Columbia Provost Jonathan Cole.
school. He became provost of Dartmouth College and professor of government in 1994 and was named the 12th president of the University of Michigan in 1996.

He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In November 2001, Mr. Bollinger received the Herbert W. Nickens, M.D., Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges. The award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to promoting justice in medical education and health care.

Mr. Bollinger was born in Santa Rosa, Calif., and raised there and in Baker, Ore. His wife, Jean Magnano Bollinger, is an artist who graduated from the University of Oregon and received a master's degree from Columbia.

During George Rupp's presidency, Columbia made significant strides on several fronts. He noted a steady increase in collaboration between the Morningside and Health Sciences campuses, citing interactions through the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior between the Health Sciences and such Arts and Sciences departments as psychology and biology as one example.

He expressed pride in helping the Health Sciences sustain forward momentum at a time of financial pressures on academic medical centers.

Dr. Rupp left Columbia to become president of the International Rescue Committee, one of the world's leading refugee relief agencies.

In other administrative developments, Jonathan Cole, provost of Columbia since 1989, decided to return to research and teaching. He will remain as provost and dean of faculties, the university's chief academic officer, until 2003 while President Bollinger seeks a successor.

Dr. Cole, was a key player in Columbia's academic transformation during the 1990s and will have served longer than any other provost except William H. Carpenter, whose tenure lasted 15 years, from 1912 to 1927. As provost, his tenure has been devoted to improving the quality of the university’s faculty, students, scholarship, and programs in its 15 schools.

**RESIDENCE OPENS FOR POSTDOCS**

Here's how the first months of a postdoc at Columbia might have gone for Xander Wehrens: After flying from his native Holland to New York City in January, he would have moved into a hotel while searching for housing.

Instead, two weeks before leaving Holland, Dr. Wehrens learned that his application had been picked in that month's postdoc fellow “lottery”—the random ordering process that gave him on-campus accommodations. When he arrived in New York he moved into a studio apartment in the new building Columbia opened for postdocs at 390 Fort Washington, within walking distance of the campus. Columbia opened the residence with a ribbon cutting in October 2001. Built from scratch, the 12-story building has 46 apartments—36 studios and 10 one-bedroom apartments.

Dr. Wehrens, one of the first occupants of the new building, lives in one of the smaller studio apartments, which the university furnished with a hide-away bed, kitchen appliances, light fixtures, window blinds, and cleaning supplies. His apartment has a terrace that looks out over the back of the building.

Getting an apartment in the building was especially helpful for Dr. Wehrens because, like most international postdocs, finding housing in New York City is difficult when your credit history and official documentation are based in another country.

The postdoc residence is the first new housing constructed at the Columbia Health Sciences since the 1970s. When the new building was dedicated, the university's housing inventory at the Health Sciences included 850 units to house 1,000 students and 200 postdocs and faculty. The inventory expanded in July when the Health Sciences secured 10 one-bedroom apartments at the Palisades, a newly constructed apartment complex in Fort Lee, N.J. "Over the years, the Health Sciences has not been successful in offering housing for couples and families. In the first phase of this experiment, student couples currently enrolled and those coming to the university for the first time will be offered this new housing option,” says Renee Riley, assistant vice president for housing at the Health Sciences.

Even with the new building in Washington Heights, apartments in New Jersey, and additional units available on the Morningside campus, the demand for housing by CPMC students, postdocs, and faculty far exceeds the supply. “We are
trying to address housing needs in a variety of ways,” says Ms. Riley. Efforts continue across the university to identify new housing opportunities within the metropolitan area. An off-campus housing resources center was established three years ago to provide students, postdocs, and faculty with the tools and resources necessary to find an apartment in the community. The center also works with local landlords and brokers who are interested in accommodating Columbia affiliates. Renewal of current housing is also a challenge. “New buildings are great, but we are also putting our energies into keeping existing housing acceptable too.”

Faculty and postdocs live in university apartments at the Health Sciences and on the Morningside campus. Students reside across the campus system in residence halls (Bard Hall and the Georgian Residence) and apartments at Bard-Haven Towers, 106 Haven, and 154 Haven. These buildings have few vacancies, creating an even greater challenge as enrollments continue to grow and as new programs at the Health Sciences flourish.

When he’s not enjoying his apartment at 390 Fort Washington, Dr. Wehrens is conducting research in the Andrew Marks lab, focusing on the electrical mechanisms and the role of calcium in heart disease. He received his Ph.D. and M.D. degrees from Maastricht University in Holland. While finishing his Ph.D. degree, he was a visiting graduate student in 1999 in the Robert Kass lab at P&S, where he studied why people die from long QT syndrome, a disease, using a technique that quantifies gene expression in brain tissue. To look at differences in gene expression in diseased vs. healthy brain tissue, the researchers will use Serial Analysis of Gene Expression, or SAGE, a method that tracks gene expression in cells by creating unique identifying tags from each gene transcript and then submitting all the tags to high-throughput sequencing. Marubeni also has agreed to lead an investment fund that will provide capital for Columbia’s technology transfer and commercialization efforts in emerging industries such as health sciences and nanotechnology. The initial capitalization of the Marubeni fund is expected to be more than $20 million. • Two P&S professors received 2002 New York Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Science and Technology for their breakthrough research. Dr. Thomas Jessell, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, won in the biological and medical sciences category. Dr. Anna Marie Pyle, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics, was recognized in the Young Investigator category, which recognizes outstanding researchers under age 40. Drs. Pyle and Jessell received their awards from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a June ceremony at the New York Hall of Science. The awards program recognizes the important role members of the science and engineering communities play in the city’s success. • Dr. Rita Charon, professor of clinical medicine at P&S, received a 2002 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for her work in the sciences and humanities. Dr. Charon, who will use her grant to complete scholarly research in the field of narrative medicine, was chosen from an applicant pool of 2,800 to receive one of only 184 Guggenheim fellowships. She is director of the narrative medicine program at P&S. She has published and lectured extensively on linguistic studies of doctor-patient conversations, narrative competence in physicians and medical students, literary analyses of medical texts, narrative ethics, empathy in medical practice, and the impact of training in narrative writing on medical education. As a Guggenheim fellow, Dr. Charon will complete work on a book, “Narrative Medicine,” which will probe the literary and narrative techniques through which physicians can achieve empathy for their patients.
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FACULTY

CARL R. FEIND, M.D.

Dr. Carl R. Feind, professor emeritus of clinical surgery, died Feb. 21, 2002. He spent 50 years with the Department of Surgery at P&S and Columbia-Presbyterian, where he excelled as a head and neck, thyroid, and parathyroid surgeon. He was a 1950 graduate of P&S.

Dr. Feind was named professor emeritus and special lecturer in surgery in 1982 and remained active in the department until 1996. He participated in activities of the John Jones Surgical Society and the P&S Alumni Association. He was an advocate for causes to improve student life at P&S. (See the Alumni In Memoriam section—Class of 1950—for more information.)

IRVING KUPFERMAN, PH.D.

Dr. Irving Kupfermann, professor of psychiatry and of physiology and cellular biophysics in the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior, died Feb. 19, 2002, of Creutzfeld-Jacob disease. He had been a P&S faculty member and researcher at P&S and the New York State Psychiatric Institute for 28 years.

He was a pioneer in the study of the cellular basis of motivation and a leader in the study of feeding behavior. He earned his Ph.D. in biophysics at the University of Chicago. After joining Dr. Eric Kandel’s lab at Harvard, he moved with the Kandel lab to NYU and joined Columbia in 1974.

OTHER FACULTY DEATHS

Dr. Stuart S. Asch, lecturer in psychiatry, died Jan. 20, 2002.


Miguel Morales, instructor in clinical psychiatric social work, died Feb. 22, 2002.

Dr. Juan M. Taveras, former professor of radiology, who was widely acclaimed as the “father of neuroradiology” for his pioneering work started at Columbia, died March 28, 2002, in his native Dominican Republic.
ALUMNI

CLASS OF 1926
K. Russell Tether died in July 2001 at age 99. His autobiography was titled “The Country Doctor.” A resident of Demarest, N.J., for 67 years, he had a combined practice of general surgery and family medicine. He was a former surgical staff associate and chief of surgery at the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in Englewood, N.J. In 1946, he was the first doctor at his hospital to use penicillin in the successful treatment of a civilian patient suffering from a severe blood infection. Dr. Tether is survived by his wife, Margaret, age 101, two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

CLASS OF 1927
Saro M. Cali died June 12, 2001. A specialist in industrial medicine, he worked for many years for Stauffer Chemical Company. Dr. Cali served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was appointed physician to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower during his stay in New York. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, two daughters, a son, and 12 grandchildren.

CLASS OF 1931
Retired dermatologist Royal M. Montgomery died Dec. 14, 2001. Former chairman of dermatology at Roosevelt Hospital and attending dermatologist at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Dr. Montgomery was honored in 1980 with the Practitioner of the Year award of the Dermatology Foundation. Survivors include his wife, Maxine, two sons, two daughters, 13 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

CLASS OF 1932
Katharine Hooton died Dec. 23, 2001, at age 96. One of only four women in her class, Dr. Hooton helped pave the way for women in medicine. She served for several decades as school physician in the Montclair, N.J., public school system and was active with the Women’s Health Clinic in Newark. Her husband of 60 years, Thomas Campbell Hooton, preceded her in death. She is survived by a son, a daughter, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a brother.

CLASS OF 1936
Edward B. Self, a distinguished retired surgeon, loyal alumnus, and past president of the P&S Alumni Association, died Jan. 26, 2002, from complications of leukemia and malignant melanoma. He was 91. A former associate professor of clinical surgery at P&S, Dr. Self also earned a doctor of medical science degree from P&S in 1942. He served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II, first as chief of surgery of the 160th Station Hospital in Bath, England, and Amiens, France, and later of the 229th hospital in Nagoya, Japan. Dr. Self was a member of the surgical staffs of Presbyterian, Babies, Francis Delafield, Harlem, Dobbs Ferry, and Martha's Vineyard hospitals. Dr. Self was a recipient of the P&S Alumni Medal for Service to the Medical School and its Alumni. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, two daughters, a son, Edward B. Self Jr. ’70, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

CLASS OF 1937
John A. Root died of respiratory failure Jan. 14, 2002. A retired pediatrician, he had been affiliated with Syracuse Memorial Hospital and SUNY Upstate, where he was a member of the pediatric faculty. Dr. Root served in the Army Medical Corps in Africa and Italy during World War II. In 1970, he switched from pediatrics to emergency medicine on staff at the Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital in Syracuse. A widower, he is survived by three sons.

CLASS OF 1939
Robert W. Berliner, a former dean of Yale School of Medicine and an expert on renal physiology, died Feb. 5, 2002, at age 86. While at Goldwater Memorial Hospital in New York and later at the NIH, he directed basic research that led to a clearer understanding of how the kidney regulates the body’s balance of salt and water and of the molecular processes in kidney disease. At the NIH, where Dr. Berliner served as deputy director of science in the 1960s, overseeing its research program, he created and ran its kidney and electrolyte metabolism lab. He also briefly served on the P&S faculty. In 1973, he was recruited as dean and professor of physiology and medicine at Yale, retiring in 1984. Yale created a professorship and a
Class of 1941
Victor B. Vare, a retired orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand surgery, died Oct. 6, 2001. Former chief of orthopedics at Phoenixville, Montgomery, and Sacred Heart hospitals in Pennsylvania, Dr. Vare served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II and in the Korean War, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Bronze Arrowhead, the Mediterranean Theater Ribbon, and Victory Medal. Retiring from active practice in 1985, Dr. Vare served as a medical adviser to the U.S. Army Surgeon General and to other government and private entities and as a consultant in the field of medical law. Survivors include his wife, Ann, two daughters, two sons, and nine grandchildren.

Class of 1943M
Thomas B. Clark, who pursued a combined practice of medicine and surgery, died Jan. 6, 2002. Dr. Clark served with the U.S. Army overseas as chief of orthopedics at the American Hospital in Nuremberg, Germany, during the Korean War. He is survived by his wife, Jane, three daughters, four sons, and 14 grandchildren. • Charles W. Findlay Jr. died Feb. 11, 2002, at age 84. Former associate clinical professor of surgery at P&S, he practiced general and thoracic surgery at CPMC for more than three decades. Dr. Findlay served in the Army Medical Corps. An impassioned horticulturist, Dr. Findlay founded and operated Shortleaf Nursery after retiring from practice. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Class of 1943D
William E. Pasutti, a retired pediatrician, died Oct. 27, 2001. He had been chief of staff at St. Mary’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Class of 1944
Retired surgeon Walton D. Thomas died Dec. 28, 2001. He was one of the founding members of the Milwaukee Medical Clinic. A former associate clinical professor of surgery at Marquette Medical School in Milwaukee, Dr. Thomas had retired to Naples, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Jane.

Class of 1945
Ralph W. Buddington, a retired professor of psychiatry at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans, La., died Sept. 8, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, a daughter, and a son.

Class of 1947
Belated word has been received of the death of Rupert C. Burtan, an expert in occupational and environmental medicine. Following his graduation from P&S, Dr. Burtan earned master’s and doctorate degrees in public health from Columbia. Specializing in occupational health, he worked as medical director of Delco Products Division, General Motors Corporation, Health Screening Centers Inc., in Denver, Colo., and the Denver Regional Office of Tabershaw-Cooper Associates. He held positions with American Oil, International Telephone and Telegraph, B.F. Goodrich, and other companies before opening up his own consulting practice in occupational and environmental medicine. A former member of the clinical faculty of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the University of Colorado, he served as chairman of the American Industrial Hygiene Association’s occupational medicine and hazardous wastes committees. He wrote and published extensively on the subject of industrial toxic waste. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and a son. • Retired thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon

Dryden Morse died Jan. 17, 2002, from complications of Parkinson’s disease. Dr. Morse served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II and the Korean War, and he earned a Bronze Star. A former professor of thoracic surgery at Robert Wood Johnson (Rutgers) Medical School, he pursued a busy private practice, published extensively in his field, including six books and countless papers, and invented a number of devices, including thoracic surgical instruments and a telephone pacer monitoring system. He is survived by his wife, Teri, four sons, and a grandson.

Class of 1949
Word has been received of the death of retired general physician Jacques D. Wells, date unknown. Dr. Wells served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force based in France from 1951 to 1953. His wife, Renee, preceded him in death.

Class of 1950
Carl R. Feind, professor emeritus of clinical surgery and special lecturer in surgery at P&S, died Feb. 21, 2002, at age 85. In the course of a long and distinguished career, his scholarly work made significant inroads in the fields of head and neck, thyroid, and parathyroid surgery. Also a pioneer in interdis-
cidoinary research, he pursued collaborative projects with colleagues in pathology and internal medicine. As a youth, Dr. Feind had been an Olympic-level swimmer and he trained for the 1936 Olympics in breast stroke. He later served with the Army Air Corps during World War II, training fighter pilots during the war and surgeons after the war. A loyal P&S alumnus, Dr. Feind received the Alumni Federation Medal of the Columbia University Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife, Helen, three daughters, a son, Carl Robert Feind Jr.’83, and 10 grandchildren. The Department of Surgery, his home base for more than five decades, has established a research fund in his memory." Louis A. Pyle, former director of University Health Services and director of athletic medicine at Princeton University, died Jan. 14, 2002, at age 81. He spent the first two decades of his career as a pediatrician in private practice before switching fields. He received the Ollie B. Morten Award of the American College Health Association. Preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, he is survived by two daughters, a son, and five grandchildren.

Class of 1953
John A. Taylor Jr. died Jan. 11, 2002. An internist in private practice, Dr. Taylor was affiliated with Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Carol, a daughter, and two sons, including John A. Taylor III’94.

Class of 1954
David G. Faris died March 9, 2001. After graduation, Dr. Faris served for four years in the U.S. Air Force and later earned a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and two sons.

Class of 1957
Renate M. Dische, a recognized authority on pediatric cardiac disease noted for her work on sudden infant death syndrome, died of ovarian cancer Dec. 29, 2001. Professor of clinical pathology at P&S, Dr. Dische specialized since 1960 in pediatric pathology. In the course of a distinguished career, Dr. Dische also taught at Cornell, Mount Sinai, Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children, and the Pediatric Cardiology Institute in Gottingen, Germany. The native of Breslau, Germany, also earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Columbia. She is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

Class of 1958
Richard W Brenner, former clinical professor of surgery at P&S, died Jan. 9, 2002. A retired pediatric vascular surgeon in group practice in Summit, N.J., Dr. Brenner had been director of surgical education at Overlook Hospital. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1963 to 1965. He is survived by his wife, Judith, a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

Class of 1959
Pediatrician John W “Jack” Schieffelin died Feb. 22, 2002. A member of the National Accident Prevention Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Schieffelin concentrated his professional efforts on childhood safety. He was affiliated with Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Walnut Creek, Calif., and was on the faculty at the University of California at San Francisco. Dr. Schieffelin was a loyal alumnus and generous supporter of P&S. Survivors include his wife, Marion, a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

Class of 1960
Norbert A. Ehrmann, a retired family practitioner and hospital administrator, died March 1, 2002. Former chief of medical services at Samaritan Hospital in Kearny, Ariz., Dr. Ehrmann previously spent 30 years in private general medical practice before retiring to Tucson. He is survived by his wife, Iva, a daughter, and a son.

Class of 1968
Edward K. Dunham of Seal Harbor, Maine, died Feb. 22, 2002. A former member of the clinical faculty of Harvard Medical School and head of the allergy clinic at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Dr. Dunham served as staff physician at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. He was a member of the advisory panel on allergy, immunology, and connective tissue disease of the U.S. Pharmacopoeial Convention. He is survived by three daughters.
Baruch Blumberg’51, the intellectual polymath and 1976 Nobel Prize recipient who circled the globe on a scientific odyssey that led to the discovery of the hepatitis B virus and development of the vaccine to prevent it, has embarked on a new journey of discovery—this one, literally, out of this world. Director since 1999 of the NASA Astrobiology Institute (NAI) at NASA Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif., his institutional mission is the study of the origins of life on Earth and the search for life elsewhere in the universe.

A Septuagenarian Searcher

“With this work, you are in a constant state of excitement. You are seeing things that no one has ever seen before. Indeed, you see things that no one could have seen before,” Dr. Blumberg told the New York Times in an interview published Jan. 22, 2002. The words inevitably bring to mind Captain James Kirk’s tag line from TV’s “Star Trek” series that stoked and teased a generation’s curiosity about space. Passing on the form-fitting space suit, Dr. Blumberg opts instead for a loose-fitting sweater and casual slacks. At 77 and counting, he stands ready as ever to receive and process clues to life’s mysteries. And while the years may have eroded his hairline, the effervescent sparkle in his eyes and the infectious smile bespeak a spry spirit, a limber mind, and heaping helpings of gusto.

Having set out on a new intellectual quest at an age when others are content to knock little white balls into holes, Dr. Blumberg chuckles, “I’m saving golf for when I get older, I don’t think I’m quite old enough yet.”

From Oxford to Outer Space

When last we checked in with Dr. Blumberg (“A Nobel Laureate’s Lifelong Commitment to Curiosity,” Alumni Profile, P&S Journal, Winter 1996) he was just back from a fruitful five-year term as master of Balliol College at Oxford University and wondering what to do next. “It was one of the happiest times in my life,” he recalls of his tenure at Oxford, where he delighted in bringing together creative thinkers in diverse fields. “You don’t have any real power, but you can make things happen,” he says of the position, roughly equivalent to president or chancellor of an American college.

Returning to his old home base, the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, where he still pursues several lines of collaborative research with colleagues, Dr. Blumberg decided not to start up a new lab of his own. Instead, he accepted a visit-
A Fast Learner in a Fledgling Field

The field of astrobiology is a new construct born of the challenge and promise of recent advances in space technology. A burgeoning multidisciplinary intellectual forum involving physicists, geologists, biologists, chemists, paleontologists, astronomers, and engineers as well as serious science fiction writers, astrobiology is the search for the origins of life on Earth and possible signatures of life elsewhere in the universe. Needless to say, the thrill is not lacking. “It’s like when Galileo first looked through a telescope and everything he saw was new,” Dr. Blumberg put it to an Associated Press reporter at the first Astrobiology Science Conference, organized by NASA in 2000.

“It’s another life, a whole new world I had to learn about, but I’m a fast learner,” freely admits the director, who keeps a notebook of the evolving terminology and acronyms.

Perhaps the greatest tool he brings to the job is a rare ability to think and work across disciplines, a skill he honed while shepherding the team of clinicians, basic scientists, immunologists, epidemiologists, statisticians, and computer scientists who cracked the mystery of hepatitis B. The virus infects approximately 350 million people around the world and is one of the primary causes of death from an infectious agent. Dr. Blumberg eloquently describes that search in his new book, “Hepatitis B, The Hunt for a Killer Virus,” published in June 2002 by Princeton University Press.

Ever the maverick thinker, he still delights in crossing intellectual borders, “so much so,” he insists, “that I don’t see them as borders. You have to talk about disciplines in the academic world, because that’s where people have their careers. But here at NASA, we’re not involved in those distinctions. So we can afford to be truly interdisciplinary. I personally like that a lot,” he adds. “I’m fascinated by the engineering aspects of NASA, all this wonderful equipment, all these crazy airplanes and space ships.” Avid botanist on the side, he also has a favorite tree just outside his office which he has been known to climb.

“Like Trying to Herd Cats”

Though the NAI maintains its executive office at Ames Research Center, Dr. Blumberg’s actual domain is, in fact, a virtual reality comprising 15 interdisciplinary teams at universities and NASA centers around the country, as well as international affiliates in Spain, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

“Interdisciplinary is very hard to pull off,” he told the 2000 gathering of the Northern California Science Writers Association. Getting 440-plus fiercely independent thinkers to work together, he suggested, is like “trying to herd cats.” The advanced technology of video-conferencing, which NASA helped develop, as well as Dr. Blumberg’s analytical acumen, plain-spoken English, and personable manner help tame the tigers or at least keep them leaping through hoops. “When somebody delivers a paper at one of our meetings,” he says, “I ask them to keep in mind that they’re not talking to their expert buddies. They have to speak in terms that everybody else in the group can understand.”
Daring to Ask the Big Questions

The NAI’s daunting objective is to conduct scientific inquiry relating to three profound and fundamental questions (per Dr. Blumberg’s introduction to “The Quest for the Conditions of Life,” 2002): “How did life originate? Are we alone in the universe? What is the future of life on Earth and in the universe?”

Humanity has pursued this line of inquiry from various mythological, theological, philosophical, and scientific perspectives at least since classical times. Some Renaissance thinkers, like Galileo and Giordano Bruno, got into trouble with religious authorities for positing the unthinkable, Galileo barely escaping excommunication and worse for his solarcentric concept. Bruno was burned at the stake at the Piazza Campo dei Fiori in Rome in 1600 for refusing to recant his radical view that the Earth was not the center of the universe and that there were surely other worlds in the heavens.

A scientist with profound respect for and interest in philosophy, theology, and art—the field of endeavor of his wife, Jean—Dr. Blumberg believes that humanity can and must think in parallel modes and “live in more than one world without getting our wires crossed.” Father of four and grandfather of two, he readily admits having “stopped years ago trying to be totally analytical and ‘scientific’ in making decisions regarding children and emotional life.” Still, “in those areas in which science can provide answers,” he insists, “you want to be as rigorous as possible.”

And whereas Galileo and Bruno risked the wrath of Rome, centuries later Dr. Blumberg and his colleagues at NASA must still please Washington or risk draconian budget cuts.

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Bio-Signatures and Other Virtual Signs of Life

A prerequisite for the search for life elsewhere in the universe is a clear understanding of life in all its forms on Earth and the ability to detect signs of life in the most unlikely places. The microorganisms found in caves, for instance, “have a big effect on the shape of the rock. How,” he asks, “do you make the distinction between life and its effects? One of the fascinating things in astrobiology is that we have been able to tell a rock from bacteria.” This knowledge of terrestrial “bio-signatures” has already come in handy in NASA's search for possible life on Mars.

The 3.6 billion-year-old ALH84001 meteorite discovered in 1984 in the Allan Hills region of Antarctica offers potentially valuable astrobiological clues. The meteorite, which contains Martian atmospheric traces and is almost certainly from Mars, displays rock patterns that some scientists believe to be fossil bacteria. Furthermore, the meteorite is shot through with magnetite, a compound of iron found in magnetotactic bacteria as well as in more advanced organisms, such as birds. Magnetite permits the bacteria to orient themselves to a magnetic field and the birds to orient themselves in flight. It may, consequently, be a bio-signature.

A NASA robotic probe of Mars to gather rock and soil samples and test them for past or present microbial life had been planned for 2005, but federal budgetary constraints have compelled its postponement.

Another source of virtual clues, NASA's Stardust probe, was launched in February 1999 and is expected to rendezvous with Comet Wild-2 in early 2004, its mission to gather samples of the comet's core and test for life's precursory chemicals. This probe, as the Houston Chronicle reported in 1999, “may hold clues to the role comets played in the delivery of [organic chemicals] during a period of intense bombardment in Earth’s formative era.”

Other scientific findings of interest to the NAI tease the distinction between life and virtual life. Bacterial spores found in petrified bee amber in Central America, for instance, have been shown to survive in a dormant state for thousands, perhaps millions, of years. Some scientists even hypothesize that spores may have been the transport mode of life from elsewhere to Earth.

Extremophiles and Other Genetic Cousins

In addition to herding intellectual cats, Dr. Blumberg supervises the cultivation and study of primitive microscopic organisms that live in the interstices between ice crystals, beneath geysers, and under other extreme geothermal and harsh climatic conditions. Scientists believe that these “extremophiles,” which include Cyanoabacteria and archaea, are among the oldest animate forms on Earth and may contain genetic clues to the origin of life. Archaea, originally thought to be a form of bacteria, are now recognized as a separate species, roughly a third of whose DNA is shared with mammals.

“We want to know about the molecular biology of these organisms and fit them into the evolutionary pattern,” says Dr. Blumberg. “We’re particularly interested in approximating conditions of the archaean oceans from the Pre-Cambrian period, where sulphate concentrations were lower than they are in the modern ocean.”

To this end, a NASA Astrobiology team from
Ames is studying the respiratory processes and other life functions of microbial mats that thrive in salt ponds in Baja California, Mexico. Back at "Archae Gardens," a greenhouse installation at Ames run by NASA scientist Brad Bebout, samples from these microbial mats, aggregates of microorganisms composed mainly of bacteria and algae, are analyzed and subjected to bio-geochemical testing.

"Something like 90 percent of the diversity of the biosphere is contained in these microbial representatives," says Dr. Bebout. "They've had the whole place to themselves for 80 percent of the entire time, and they're still livin' on the edge." In addition to other primeval clues, the trace gases emitted by these microbial mats may serve as diagnostic indications of life in unlikely places on Earth and on other planets.

The Mars Odyssey 2001 mission and other earlier space probes led to the discovery and photography of flood channels on Mars similar to those found in Washington state. Equally exciting was the fly-by discovery of a saline icy surface on Europa, one of Jupiter’s satellites. The presence of water, even in the form of ice, tantalizes astrobiologists. And while NASA was initially discouraged by the apparent absence of liquid water on the surface of Mars, ongoing research on the ability of extremophiles to survive in the interstices of ice crystals and under other harsh conditions compels a reappraisal of the evidence. "We now know that there's a lot of life in high pH and ice," says Dr. Blumberg.

"Down to Earth" Medical Benefits

While the long-term goals of astrobiological research remain "futuristic" and elusive, humanity is already reaping multiple benefits along the way. "One of the great things about space," says Dr. Blumberg, "is that it gives you ideas. You look at Earth in a whole new way."

Extremophiles, it turns out, share certain genes with mammals. "Well, some of the genetic functions served in lower life forms may also persist in the mammalian genes. This is a real coup," Dr. Blumberg points out. "You can try to understand the function of a gene in these primitive organisms and see if there's some corollary in us." Such information can be of inestimable value, he suggests, in the development of gene therapy.

The burgeoning field of space medicine holds other potential down-to-earth benefits. NASA and the National Cancer Institute are engaged in various collaborative research projects. Also, in the field of nanotechnology, advanced imaging techniques developed by NASA for the long-distance health care of astronauts, including the injection of minute diagnostic probes in the body, hold promise for application in under-served or remote regions back on Earth.

Another spinoff of space research is the devel-
opment of biomimetic materials, that is, materials that act like living tissue and are able to self-repair. Such advances, Dr. Blumberg suggests, may one day revolutionize transplant surgery or, rather, facilitate its replacement by the implantation and growth of artificial organs. Research into weightlessness and the psychological effects of long-term space travel are other areas of virtual terrestrial application.

The International Diplomatic Benefits of Space Science

Keenly attuned to what he calls the “biological diversity” of planet Earth, Dr. Blumberg also perceives an implicit humanism underlying the science. “Astrobiology requires extensive international cooperation in order to be successful,” Dr. Blumberg writes in “The Quest” introduction. “A single nation cannot hope alone to accomplish this mission that is a quest of importance to all mankind.” Cooperation is the keystone, not only to good science, but also to international relations. One example: Scientists in the former Soviet Union, a land mass of climatic extremes, are working closely with their American counterparts on the development of drilling equipment for space probes.

A Long-Term Proposition

As to the hypothesis of the existence of extraterrestrial life, Dr. Blumberg finds the quest compelling whatever the outcome. “The discovery of life elsewhere is obviously very interesting . . . as it will radically change our perceptions of self and how we fit into the Cosmos,” he writes in the introduction to “The Quest.” “However, if the search is conducted for, say, 100 years, and life is not discovered, then it would decrease the possibility that life exists elsewhere . . . . It would reverse the concept of Copernican mediocrity . . . . The realization of aloneness would profoundly change our attitudes.”

In either case, it’s going to be a long haul. Dr. Blumberg likes to compare astrobiological research to the building of the great medieval cathedrals: “I think Chartres was several centuries in the making. The people who built it were prepared to make a contribution to a project they knew they wouldn’t live to see completed.” No meek reflection for a man approaching his ninth decade, keenly aware of the educational role of the true scientist, to pass on “skills from one generation . . . to another.” He is undaunted by the realization that “the very experiments you design are going to be finished by someone else.” Ever the evolutionary thinker, he remains committed to the future of the human species: “Evolution doesn’t operate to its perfection, because if it’s perfect that means it’s not ready to be adapted to the changing environment. So you always want to have enough variation so you’re kind of getting ready for the next unknown and unknowable event.”

From the Australian Outback to Oxford, from Moffett Field to Mars, he keeps evolving along with his environment. Head in the clouds, feet firmly planted on Mother Earth, herder of cats, miner of microbial mats and meteorites, Baruch Blumberg may well be living proof that, cosmically alone or not, humanity is the most versatile extremophile of all.
A VINE TIME IN HEALDSBURG

By Peter Wortsman

Heading north by northwest out of San Francisco, the vines sprout at the northern rim of Marin County, and by the time you cross over into Sonoma County the lush spectacle makes you downright tipsy. Head up to Healdsburg, where the well-heeled tippler rubs elbows with the laid-back locals, including singer Tom Waits and restaurateur Charlie Palmer (chef-owner of Aureole in New York, Zagat’s top-rated American restaurant), whose brand new eatery, Dry Creek Kitchen (Tel: 707/431-0330), located in the recently completed high-style Hotel Healdsburg (Tel: 800/889-7188), is already drawing raves.

Healdsburg, a cozy blend of genteel Victorian eccentricity and post-modern style nestled in the northwest corner of Sonoma County, melds the best of the past with a new nature-friendly aesthetic. The eclectic mix is perhaps most evident in its refined nexus, Healdsburg Plaza. Here beneath the incongruous tangle of wispy palm trees and towering redwoods, solitaries lunch, children play, couples court, and Sunday music concerts soothe.

On Saturdays, a sprawling organic farmer’s market crowds the banks of Foss Creek, inspiring the seasonal menus of Dry Creek Kitchen and Manzanita’s (Tel: 707/433-8111), another local culinary gem the San Francisco Examiner recently rated as one of the 100 best restaurants in the Bay Area.

Just out of town on Highway 128, the Jimtown Store, an actual location on the map, is a quirky California take on the general store. A local landmark since 1893, reinvented by an East Coast couple, the store caters to all tastes and whims with a gourmet menu, an antique depot, an odd knickknack exchange, and regular events, including wine tastings and the annual “jimboree,” to which men named Jim are invited from around the country. (Non-Jims are also welcome.)

The real reason all those food-crazed San Franciscans and out-of-towners swell the population on weekends from early spring through late fall is near at hand. Here at the confluence of Alexander, Dry Creek, and Russian River valleys bursts Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Zinfandel, and other varietals. You can learn all about the fruit of the vine at the Healdsburg Public Library, now a wine museum. Better yet, head straight for the source.

Three of the top local winemakers keep their production small and manage to remain a well-kept secret: A. Rafanelli Winery (4685 W. Dry Creek Road; Tel: 707/433-1384), whose Zinfandel the Wall Street Journal recently rated as America’s best; Michel-Schlumberger Benchland Wine Estate (4155 Wine Creek Road; Tel: 707/433-7427), whose Chardonnay, so they say, is peppered with ash from Mount St. Helens; and Rochioli Vineyards and Winery (6192 Westside Road; Tel: 707/433-2305) in neighboring Russian River Valley, which produces an award-winning earthy Estate Pinot Noir.

Small family-owned estates and gentleman farming are the norm here. The mineral-rich soil is conducive to other rarefied crops. Chalk Hill Clematis (11720 Chalk Hill Road; Tel: 707/433-8416), a specialist in potted plants and cut flowers that supplies fresh flowers to the White House, welcomes public visits on Fridays.

With this issue, P&S Journal launches a column of travel reflections. Subjects will include domestic destinations plus noteworthy nooks in countries with educational and clinical programs in which P&S students, faculty, and alumni participate. Most will be penned by Peter Wortsman, the magazine’s alumni writer, whose travel articles have appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the United States. The inaugural installment is about his travels after interviewing Nobelist Baruch Blumberg ’51 for this issue’s Alumni Profile.
PROFILES IN GIVING

ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON CREATES SCHOLARSHIP FOR NON-SCIENCE MAJORS

By Peter Wortsman

Thomas Sculco’69 majored in the classics at Brown University, intending to become an archeologist. Then a biology class captured his imagination and the medical bug bit. The rigorous mental discipline of Latin, he firmly believes, helped hone his problem-solving skills. Dr. Sculco went on to become a well-known expert in joint replacement, a professor of surgery (orthopedics) at Cornell, and director of orthopedic surgery and chief of the surgical arthritis service at the Hospital for Special Surgery.

His own circuitous path to P&S and gratifying academic career in orthopedic surgery prompted him to pave the way for others. The Thomas Sculco, Class of 1969, Scholarship Fund, with awards to be given to a deserving student with a non-science undergraduate background, is his way of saying thank you and extending a helping hand to individuals who, like himself, bring an alternative dimension to the study of medicine.

“P&S was very good to me in so many ways,” he recalls. “First, by accepting me, which was a great honor. Second, by giving me a fabulous education. And third, by helping me get by.” A full-tuition scholarship, which he supplemented with modest earnings from a job in the blood bank, made all the difference.

Above all, Dr. Sculco was impressed by the commitment of the faculty and their humanistic qualities. When George Perera, then dean of students, learned that young Sculco intended to take out a loan to rent a microscope, he reached into his closet and pulled out a vintage Zeiss-Jena. “Here,” he said, “you can borrow this.” Teachers like the esteemed internist Yale Kneeland in physical diagnosis and Keith McElroy, his preceptor and mentor in orthopedic surgery, both of whom spent their entire professional careers at P&S and left their stamp on the school, imparted their own profound sense of caring along with their knowledge.

Himself an educator to the bone, in more ways than one, Dr. Sculco, who runs the residency program at the Hospital for Special Surgery, relishes every aspect of the pedagogical experience—in the classroom, at the bedside, in the operating room. “My method is very Socratic,” he explains. “I’ll just keep asking questions and dissecting the facts as you would the syntax of a sentence. A lot of medicine is what you see in your interaction with the patient. That’s what my P&S teachers taught me and what I’m trying to teach my residents.” He finds it gratifying to watch residents mature from “rough stones” when they start out to “gems” at the end of their fourth year. Teaching also keeps the teacher on his toes. “I like that stimulation. As a surgeon, it keeps me thinking. It keeps me dynamic.”

In establishing a named scholarship at P&S, Dr. Sculco feels that he is fulfilling a responsibility and satisfying his educational impulse. “Why not give back to the place that helped me get where I am today and at the same time give somebody else the opportunity I had to grow and make a contribution down the road that really impacts society?”

While Dr. Sculco prefers to leave the selection process to the experts, he looks forward to sharing a cup of coffee with recipients and, who knows, “maybe if he or she goes on to pursue orthopedic surgery, I can offer guidance.

“It’s a glorious feeling to pitch in and do your part. I really believe that there are a lot of physicians out there who could do more and are themselves missing out on the satisfaction.”
DEAN’S DAY PROGRAM

“...I’ve only been here a year, but believe me, I know why you come back,” declared Dean Gerald Fischbach in his welcoming remarks that kicked off Alumni Reunion Weekend 2002 and the Dean’s Day Program on May 17.

Dean’s Day Program Chairwoman Carmen Ortiz-Neu’63 introduced Allan G. Rosenfield’59, the Delamar Professor and Dean of Public Health. Dr. Rosenfield chaired an expert alumni panel on P&S and the environment. Since the events of Sept. 11, public health preparedness is ever more on the minds of Americans, and the Mailman School of Public Health, the only accredited school of public health in New York City, has taken a front-line role in assessing multiple threats to the health of the nation and rallying the health-care work force to address these threats. Acute disaster management, environmental contamination, mental health issues, and bioterrorism are among the school’s multiple missions.

Panel members were Michael D. Iseman’65, professor of medicine at the University of Colorado and the Girard and Madeline Beno Professor in Mycobacterial Diseases at National Jewish Medical and Research Center; Col. Jonathan Newmark’78, chief of operations, Chemical Casualty Care research coordinator in neuroprotection, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense; Jean G. Ford’84, assistant professor of medicine and of environmental health sciences at Columbia and chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Harlem Hospital; and Ezra S. Susser’82, chairman of epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health.

The keynote presentation, a film and narration, was delivered by Charles S. Houston’39, professor emeritus of medicine at the University of Vermont. Dr. Houston, a veteran mountain climber and internationally recognized expert in high altitude physiology, presented vintage clips of his historic climbs up K2. He was introduced by fellow mountain climber and friend Dr. Samuel C. Silverstein, chairman of physiology & cellular biophysics at P&S.

MEDICINE AND MUSIC

A musical afternoon in the main lounge of Bard Hall was organized and moderated by Jay H. Lefkowitch’76, professor of clinical pathology at P&S. The program featured performances of original compositions by P&S alumni and classical selections played by members of the Apgar Memorial Quartet and other musicians plus informal remarks by Dr. Lefkowitch on the historical link between medicine and music. Expert luthier Carleen Hutchins spoke of her collaboration with Virginia Apgar’33 to build the instruments played by the Apgar Memorial Quartet. Internist Mitchell Kahn’75 spoke of the thrills and pitfalls of his work as physician at the Metropolitan Opera. Among the original compositions performed were instrumental and vocal selections by Kenneth Altman’54, Jay Lefkowitch’76, and a stirring sonata for horn and piano by Jonathan Newmark’78, written in memory of John Wood’76, who was a Juilliard-trained horn player. Of the latter piece, a poignant musical dialogue on death for Dr. Wood, who was murdered in Washington Heights more than 20 years ago, Dr. Newmark said: “This may not be Carnegie Hall, but for this work it is Carnegie Hall.”
Anniversary Class Reunions

Anniversary classes in five-year increments from 1927 to 1997 celebrated their graduation from P&S. As always, the 50th anniversary class took the spotlight. Surgical pathologist Marianne Wolff ’52, a past president of the P&S Alumni Association, chaired the Class of 1952 party at the elegant Century Club. Retired family practitioner Charles I. Doolittle from Salinas, Calif., brought along his four sons. Denton S. Cox is a researcher in the burgeoning field of anti-aging medicine. Henry E. Payson is a retired forensic psychiatrist long associated with Dartmouth Medical School. Retired internist Munro H. Proctor stays young by committing his time and wisdom to international health missions to Africa, Asia, and South America. Class wit, internist Ernest Reiner, who still practices medicine on a limited basis, summed up the sentiments of all in his take on the three stages of life: “1. adolescence. 2. middle age. 3. ‘You’re looking good!’”

Regional Representatives Roundtable

On Friday afternoon, alumni regional representatives reported on their activities and shared ideas for spreading the word about P&S and helping alumni stay in touch with the college. The discussion was led by Regional Committee chairman Oscar B. Garfein ’65.

Ernest Reiner ’52 was “re-inducted” into the medical ranks by Dean Gerald Fischbach at his 50th anniversary class party.

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

On Saturday, May 18, Andrew G. Frantz ’55 saluted this year’s Honorary Alumni Day Chairman, the distinguished hand surgeon, Robert E. Carroll, with a paraphrase from Pythagoras, who believed that the function of the hand was a necessary prerequisite to the machinations of the mind. Founder of the Division of Hand Surgery at the New York Orthopedic Hospital at CPMC, Dr. Carroll helped train generations of surgeons in his specialty, including 49 professors in the United States and 149 abroad. He is a past president of the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons and was honored in 1992 by the International Societies of Hand Surgery as a pioneer in the field.

The following scientific papers were delivered:

“Management of Dislocation after Hip Replacement,” William B. Macaulay Jr.’92, director, Center for Hip and Knee Replacement at Columbia-Presbyterian

“Aesthetic Reconstruction of the Craniofacial Skeleton: Application of Aesthetic Principles for Superior Results,” Craig R. Dufresne ’77, clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco

“Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Science Addresses a Popular Movement,” Stephen E. Straus ’72, director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the NIH

“Drug-Induced Hepatoxicity in the USA,” William M. Lee ’67, the Meredith Mosle Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas

“Nasal Carriage of Staphylococcus aureus is a Risk Factor for Serious Community-Acquired and Nosocomial Infections,” John M. Sheagren ’62

“Rheumatoid Arthritis: 50 Years of Self-Deception,” Wallace V. Epstein ’52, professor emeritus of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco

“A Successful Cost-Effective Diabetes Treatment Program in a University County Hospital,” Joseph C. Shipp ’52, professor emeritus of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and eminent scientist at the Sansum Medical Research Institute, Santa Barbara

“Is Human Breast Cancer Infectious?” James F. Holland ’47, distinguished professor of neoplastic diseases at Mount Sinai School of Medicine

WOMEN IN MEDICINE AWARD

Lila A. Wallis ’51, past president of the American Medical Women’s Association and founder and first president of the National Council on Women’s Health, received the 2002 Virginia Kneeland Frantz Distinguished Women in Medicine Award. Dr. Wallis, clinical professor of medicine at Cornell, is an internationally recognized expert on osteoporosis, estrogen replacement therapy, and menopause.
The view was resplendent from the Rainbow Room, the Art Deco New York City landmark atop Rockefeller Center, where P&S anniversary class alumni, faculty, and graduating students pulled out the stops for the annual gala on Saturday evening. The event was to have been held at the Windows on the World in the World Trade Center. And while the Twin Towers were missing from the downtown skyline, the Empire State Building stood tall and the Statue of Liberty held her torch aloft in the sunset as celebrants toasted their commitment to medicine and the school in which they earned their stripes.

“Class of 2002, we welcome you into the medical profession, Class of 1952, we welcome you home,” said Martha G. Welch’71, president of the P&S Alumni Association. Marianne Wolff ’52, 50th anniversary class chairwoman, spoke on behalf of her classmates, recalling how they were the first class to be involved in the residency match program. “The P&S class scholarship fund we established when we graduated has doubled,” she announced. The 25th anniversary class spokesman, Mitchell Benson’77, the George F. Cahill Professor of Urology at P&S, joked: “I actually thought that presbyopia was the nearsightedness that came from working too long in Presbyterian Hospital.” He raised his glass to toast “the special teacher everyone of us had who made a difference.” Graduating class president Matthew Carty’02 drew a rousing applause when he recalled, as a consequence of “roughly 35,000 study hours” the class put in, “we pulled back the shroud of mystery of the human body to help the human being.”

Honors and Awards Committee chairman Donald O. Quest’70 distributed this year’s awards. The gold medal for distinguished achievements in medicine went to Alfred G. Knudson Jr.’47 in recognition of his “two-hit” theory of the origin of cancer which became a paradigm for the understanding of inherited cancer syndromes. Rae Shepherd, longtime secretary of Henry D. Janowitz’39, accepted the gold medal for excellence in clinical medicine on his behalf. In a touching tribute to the ailing Dr. Janowitz, she declared, “My days at his side gave me a daily opportunity to watch a miracle worker at work.” The gold medal for meritorious service to the school and its Alumni Association went to Thomas Q. Morris’58, alumni professor of clinical medicine, former president of Presbyterian Hospital, and former interim dean for clinical and educational affairs at P&S. The medal to a graduating student was awarded to P&S Club president David Walker’02.

Kenneth A. Forde’59 conferred honorary alumna status on Dr. Linda Lewis, longtime associate dean of students.

Dean Gerald D. Fischbach concluded the program by saluting the classes of 1952 and 2002. Toasting the 50 years of accomplishment of the former, he predicted for the latter, “You have an extraordinary 50 years ahead of you.” Both classes and all in between, he said, benefited from “the unique atmosphere of caring informed by the highest level of scholarship at P&S.”
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

BARD DINNER

A nnual Fund chairman and unofficial historian in residence, Richard J. Stock’47, regaled alumni, friends, and supporters of P&S with his unique blend of wit and erudition at the 20th annual dinner for the Samuel Bard Associates Feb. 20 at the United Nations Delegates Dining Room. Dr. Stock recounted how Dr. Bard, the illustrious founder of the medical school, then part of King’s College, treated his most famous patient, George Washington. Performing surgery on America’s ailing first president immediately after his inauguration for what the physician loosely diagnosed as “an anthrax so malignant as to threaten mortification,” Dr. Bard, despite his previous loyalist sympathies, saved his patient and the day Washington put in another decade of public service. And Dr. Bard went on to found New York Hospital.

Taking up where history and his predecessors left off, Dean Gerald D. Fischbach saluted all in attendance. Acknowledging the challenges and difficulties of his first year in office, Dr. Fischbach praised the “rare closeness and unity of spirit I find here at Columbia.” In addition to other goals, Dr. Fischbach spoke of his plans to create a teaching academy to focus on undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and stressed the need to help foster “a culture of caring.”

Though a seasoned public speaker, guest presenter Robin Cook’66, author of “Coma” and 22 other medical thrillers, admitted that “coming back to speak to this organization makes me as nervous as I was at my third-year medical presentation.” The jitters did not show. Dr. Cook presented his philosophy of educating the general public with his fiction and sensitizing the medical profession to pressing ethical issues. And while he no longer practices ophthalmology, the author said, “I still feel like a doctor who happens to write.”

CAREER FORUM

O n March 26, the alumni office coordinated a career forum in the Bard Hall Main Lounge to convene faculty members and upper-class medical students to discuss the residency application process and to congratulate fourth-year students on their recent matches. Third-year students were able to eat with faculty and residents at tables organized by medical specialty, while fourth-year students traded Match Day stories.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner
The 2002 Distinguished Achievement Award
Dr. Clyde Y.C. Wu, P&S 56
Trustee of Columbia University
to benefit
The Asian Columbia Alumni Association Scholarship Fund Program
and
Helen and Clyde Y.C. Wu, P&S 56, Scholarship & Loan Fund
Keynote Speaker
Lee C. Bollinger, Columbia Law 71
President of Columbia University
Monday, November 4, 2002
The Rotunda
Low Memorial Library
Columbia University
New York City
Reception at six-thirty p.m. Dinner at seven-thirty p.m.
Please call for further information 212-305-3498
Parents’ Day Program

Parents, grandparents, spouses, and significant others crowded the P&S Alumni Auditorium April 27 for an insider's view of medical student life. As in the past, the annual Parents' Day Program was coordinated by Katherine Couchells, director of alumni relations, and hosted by Parents' Day Program chairwoman Carmen Ortiz-Neu'63. Dean Gerald D. Fischbach delivered welcoming remarks. The brightness of the students and the erudition and commitment of the faculty, Dean Fischbach pointed out, make an ideal mix. Other administrators who spoke were Ronald E. Drusin'66, associate dean for curricular affairs; Ellen Spilker, director of student financial planning; and Andrew G. Frantz'55, chairman of the Admissions Committee. Faculty presenters Dr. Rita Charon, Glenda Garvey'69, and Dr. Peter G. Gordon spoke about various aspects of the theoretical and clinical curriculum. Rebecca Bauer’03, Kristin A. Kozakowski’03, Juliette Lee’03, and Jeremy Keenan’03 followed with student perspectives. Professor emeritus of urology and P&S historian John K. Lattimer’38 wrapped up the program with a review of historical highlights.

Regional Program

Gerald and Ruth Fischbach were guests of honor at two regional alumni events in Florida. On Feb. 16, Dr. Brian and Isis Hoffman hosted lunch at their beachfront apartment in Key Biscayne. Guests enjoyed good conversation, a sensational view of the ocean, and Mrs. Hoffman’s contemporary art collection. On Feb. 17, the feast moved to John’65 and Dr. Daisy Merey’s West Palm Beach digs in the Trump building on Flagler Avenue, with its wrap-around terrace and picture window view of the wide blue yonder in multiple shades of blue and Daisy's museum-quality Herend porcelain collection. Both events gave the Fischbachs occasion to meet the extended Florida P&S family.

On April 12, Oscar B. Garfein’65, chairman of the Regional Representatives Committee, hosted a cocktail reception and dinner at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel for Philadelphia area alumni and alumni attending the annual meeting of the American College of Physicians.

Alumni Council

On Jan. 23, Dean Gerald Fischbach hosted the traditional dean's council dinner. New York metropolitan area alumni flocked to the Faculty Club to meet him, engage in dialogue, and hear his prognosis for the future of P&S. “After 11 months as your new dean, the honeymoon will soon be over,” Dean Fischbach joked, moving on to more somber reflection on the tragedies of Sept. 11 and the crash of Flight 587, both of which had a profound impact on the city, the medical school, and the medical center community. He introduced new members of the administration, including Kevin E. Kirby, Mary Miers, and his assistant Tina Hansen.

The April 2 council dinner guest speaker, Dr. Richard Mayeux, is Gertrude H. Sergievsky Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Public Health (epidemiology). His talk, “Washington Heights Odyssey,” was grounded in and informed by his multiple perspectives. He reviewed the history of health care facilities in Washington Heights and the changing ethnic mix of the community. Hispanics and African-Americans, he reported, appear to have a significantly larger incidence of Alzheimer’s disease, among other conditions. Head injuries, smoking, estrogen replacement therapy, and genetic predisposition may be related risk factors. He and his team are studying the role of so-called “disease genes” vs. “risk genes” and envision possible future therapeutic interventions with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and cholesterol-lowering agents.

The April council meeting’s guest speaker Richard Mayeux
1937
The Department of Medicine at the University of Virginia has established the William Parsons Visiting Professorship of Teaching Excellence.

1942
Ethan A.H. Sims was elected to fellowship of the American Society for Nutritional Sciences in April 2002 to honor his “distinguished career in the science of nutrition.”

1943
Madison H. Thomas is still active on the staff of LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. He also serves on the Utah Drivers License Advisory Board and the American Academy of Neurology Practice Improvement Committee and chairs the medical panel for the State Labor Commission. He also does some writing, publishing, and traveling.

1944
The American College of Rheumatology designated Edward E. Fischel master of rheumatology. Ed retired as emeritus professor of medicine at SUNY at Stony Brook in the early ‘90s; he now enjoys gardening, watercolor classes, and singing with the local chorus.

1946
Bill Arnold keeps fit by walking at least one hour daily. He continues to serve as director of health for Middlebury, Conn., a post he has held since 1954.

1949
In December 2001 Elizabeth B. Davis received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State Office of Mental Health for “improving the lives of those served in the public mental health system” and practicing “core values of recovery, hope, excellence, respect, and safety.”

1952
Victor Herbert was invested as a Master of the American College of Physicians, not Member, as reported in the Spring 2002 issue. Masters are recognized for a lifetime of outstanding achievements in patient care, teaching, and research.

1956
Retired from the active practice of orthopedic surgery, L. Arne Skilbred has become medical director of Southampton Hospital in Southampton, N.Y. In his words, this poses “a new challenge.”

1958
Former chief of the medical service at the VA Medical Center in Washington, D.C., James D. Finkelstein is devoting more time to teaching (still at the VA) and research on methionine (homocysteine) metabolism. In recognition of this research he received the Robert Herman Award of the ASCN and the Distinguished Researcher Medal from George Washington University.

1961
A special recognition award from the Association of Professors of Medicine was given to Louis M. Sherwood in 2002; Lou retired from Merck & Co. at the end of March but plans to continue to work as a consultant. He describes having had two wonderful careers, including “the best in academia (1968-87) and the best in industry (1987-2002).” He is grateful to P&S for providing him with “an outstanding education” as well as enabling him to do the things he did by “setting him on the right pathway.” Leon Skolnick was honored at retirement with the title of professor emeritus of radiology at the University of Pittsburgh.

1962
Robert S. Waldbaum received the Russel Lovengood Award from the American Urological Association, New York section, for 31 years of service.

1965
Tom Delbanco, who has served as chief of primary care at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, has been named Koplow-Tullis Professor of General Medicine and Primary Care at Harvard Medical School. This is the first endowed chair in primary care at Harvard.

1966
Robert Glick was re-appointed director of the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research through 2007. Donald L. Snider has been appointed chairman of the board of directors of Health Care Excel, a private, non-profit consulting firm dedicated to helping health care professionals deliver quality, cost-effective care in such areas as case management, statistical surveillance, and utilization management. The organization is involved in developing health policy, inves-
Medical Alumni Honored at University Commencement

Two medical alumni joined the ranks of distinguished honorees at the 2002 Columbia University commencement May 22. George D. Yancopoulos ’86 Ph.D./’87 M.D. received the University Medal for Excellence, given each year to a Columbia alumni who has made significant contributions to society. Dr. Yancopoulos, president of Regeneron Research Laboratories in Tarrytown, N.Y., and adjunct professor of microbiology at P&S, was the recipient last year of the Stevens Triennial Prize at the P&S commencement. Judith Sulzberger ’49 received the Medal for Distinguished Service of the Alumni Federation. Dr. Sulzberger, a medical practitioner and writer, played an important leadership role in founding the Columbia Genome Center as an outgrowth of the National Institutes of Health’s Human Genome Initiative. The center now bears her name. She was the recipient last year of the P&S Alumni Gold Medal for Distinguished Service to the Medical School and its alumni association.

Having retired from his position at Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City, Calif., Walter E. Berger works part time as associate clinical professor of medicine at U.C. San Francisco’s Cardiology Clinic. He is also studying conservational biology and taking liberal arts courses at Stanford University.

Michael E. Makover, an internist and rheumatologist, is on the faculties of NYU and Cornell. He has written several magazine and newspaper articles, has published a book, “Managed Care: How Corporate Medicine Jeopardizes your Health” (Prometheus Books, 1999), and is working on a new book on preventing heart disease. Another of Mike’s sidelines is running a company, Ineedmd Inc. This enables M.D.s and their patients to communicate with each other from anywhere in the world. Kent Saltonstall, associate clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Washington, teaches a course in musculoskeletal radiology and teaches medical writing and clinical reasoning to first- and second-year students. He makes a living doing independent medical evaluations and giving expert testimony; he reports being “constantly amazed by the antics of lawyers.”

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Donald O. Quest has been elected president of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery.

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has a private practice in New York City.

**1976**

*Neil S. Talon* is chairman of psychiatry at the William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich.

**1979**

*Donald J. Kurth* is associate professor in the psychiatry department at Loma Linda University Medical Center, chief of service in addiction medicine at the University’s Behavioral Medicine Center, and president-elect of the California Society of Addiction Medicine.

**1982**

*Mark Mercurio*, a neonatologist at Yale, is working toward a master’s degree in philosophy at Brown University, with an emphasis on bioethics, while continuing to coordinate medical ethics seminars for pediatric residents and fellows at Yale.

**1983**

*Henry Davison Jr.*, a general and vascular surgeon in Princeton, N.J., is serving a two-year term as vice president of the medical and dental staff at the medical center in Princeton; he will become president for the term 2003-2005.

**1987**

*Jeffrey M. Ahn* is back at P&S as director of the residency program in otolaryngology/head & neck surgery. He is also director of facial, plastic, and reconstructive surgery as well as director of sleep disorder surgery at CPMC.

**1990**

*Wendy Post*, a cardiologist at Johns Hopkins, where she is assistant professor of medicine and associate director of cardiac CT, is participating in a major NIH study of atherosclerosis, using high-tech imaging techniques. Wendy has a master’s in epidemiology from Harvard’s School of Public Health. She and her husband, Dr. Roger Blumenthal, work at the Ciccarone Center for the Prevention of Heart Disease, whose mission is prevention of heart disease and rehabilitation of patients with heart disease. In October 2001, the couple was honored at a fund-raising gala for the Ciccarone Center.

**1994**

*Hilary Manette Klein* has been named chief of the child and adolescent unit of Hall-Brooke Behavioral Health Services in Connecticut. Following her fellowship in child psychiatry at CPMC she was given the Child & Adolescent Award for excellence in research from the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Hilary, her husband, Larry, and 5-year-old twins, Josh and Sarah, live in Westchester County.

**1996**

*Julie Lin* is an instructor in nephrology at Harvard Medical School and attending physician at Brigham & Women’s Hospital. She is working toward an MPH degree at Harvard. In addition to bringing up her young son, Henry Lin-David, she plays in a string quartet that debuted early this year.

**2001**

*Frank David*, who received his Ph.D. along with his M.D., is a pathology resident at Brigham & Women’s Hospital. Beginning in 2003, he will start a postdoc research fellowship. He is married to *Julie Lin*’96 and is Henry’s daddy.
ACROSS
1 Small dosage indicators
5 Type of ray or camera
10 Psychiatric diagnosis
14 It may lead to graft
15 Go over like --- balloon
16 Not give --- (be totally indifferent)
17 Pneumonic plague
19 Irish export
20 Author Deighton
21 Shortened the telomeres
22 Unlike most Amanitas
24 Leak out
26 Cause of some keratoses
27 Tuberculous spondylitis
34 Newsstand
37 Frighten
38 Coroner's statistic
39 Man, e.g.
40 Memorial of stones
41 Oxygen costs
42 Cloning material
43 Decubitus ulcers
44 Kind of organ
45 Syndenham's chorea
46 Most recent glacial period
47 Dragonfly nymphs
48 Cloning material
49 Harrison or Osler
53 Precede in time
56 Of light complexion
58 Simian
59 End product of nitrogen metabolism
60 Brucellosis
63 This flowed in Voltaire's veins
64 63-Across, for Locke
65 Ibsen heroine
66 Tart fruit
67 Oozes
68 Modern medical procedure

DOWN
1 Mendeleev's creation
2 It meant everything to Koch
3 Sauvignon ---
4 Professional org.
5 Contrivance
6 Out of the wind
7 Fermented honey drink
8 Tatami
9 Inflammatory band
10 Important solution
11 Swift horse
12 Chemical ingredient of 10-Down
13 Fencer's weapon
18 Silk-cotton tree fiber
23 When Dracula wakes
25 Recess in church
28 Nicholas and Alexander
29 Became a mole
30 Backs
31 Largest city in Yemen
32 Drunkards
33 Alleviate
34 Joshes
35 "--- It Romantic?"
36 Patron saint of Norway
37 Titan of Nature
40 Units of electrical charge
41 Make a deadline
43 Without a date
44 Dandruff
46 Most recent glacial period
47 Dragonfly nymphs
48 Cloning material
52 Showed twice
53 Object or complain
54 Like most medicines
55 Betting setting
56 Berg
57 Over
61 It may come in a yard
62 Annapolis grad

Answers in next issue