Columbia Launches Third Building in Audubon Park

A groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 9 celebrated the launch of the third building in Columbia University’s planned five building complex, the Audubon Biomedical Science and Technology Park.

Construction on the Irving Cancer Research Center begins this year, thanks to a $21 million gift from Herbert Irving, a New York City philanthropist and major Columbia supporter. The 13-story, approximately 300,000-gross-square-foot facility will cost $131 million. It will double Columbia’s laboratory space for cancer research and will expand Columbia’s growing genetics program.

“The Irving Cancer Research Center is another way Columbia continues to expand its outreach to New York and into its own community,” says Dr. Gerald Fischbach, vice president and dean. “Biomedical research is one of the strongest areas of Columbia University Health Sciences.”

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Tech Transfer Office Restructured

Science and Technology Ventures—formerly Columbia Innovation Enterprise—has announced several management changes and staffing additions meant to improve the department’s overall service, efficiency, and responsiveness. STV’s mission is to evaluate, protect, and license Columbia intellectual property, increase private sector funding for research and development, encourage technology transfer, and distribute income from these activities among Columbia programs and faculty.

Dr. Ofra Weinberger, who has been named the office’s Health Sciences director, says, “We will continue to work with the faculty to maximize support for university research programs by developing collaborative research agreements and technology licenses with the private sector.”

Looking to the future, we hope to facilitate projects that involve multiple disciplines and departments, across both campuses, and with other institutions. This is an exciting opportunity for me.”

Dr. Weinberger joined Columbia in 1987 as a faculty member in the Department of Physiology.

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New Vice President and Dean Hosts Alumni Council

Dr. Gerald Fischbach, the new vice president and dean, spent much of January in briefings with P&S and Health Sciences leadership and constituency groups. One event he attended was the P&S Alumni Council’s January meeting, traditionally hosted each year by the dean. In the bottom photo, Dr. Fischbach, left, is pictured with Dr. David T.W. Chiu, president of the alumni association and the C.F. Barber Professor of Clinical Surgery at P&S. In the photo at right, Dr. Fischbach poses with two other P&S alumni, Dr. Andrew Frantz, professor of medicine and associate dean at P&S, and Dr. Marianne Wolff, special lecturer in pathology at P&S and past president of the alumni association. Dr. Fischbach moved into the vice president/dean’s office earlier this month.

Columbia Scientists Participate in Information-Based Heart Study

Approximately 300 Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center patients at high risk of a heart attack are being enrolled in a new study called MI-HEART (Myocardial Infarct Health Education Aimed at Rapid Therapy) in Columbia’s Department of Medical Informatics. Made possible by a contract with the National Library of Medicine, the study examines how information offered in different forms affects a patient’s understanding of heart attack risk and symptoms.

After filling out questionnaires and having their medical histories entered into a computer, 100 patients will be given access to web pages with tailored information about possible symptoms of a heart attack and what to do in case they appear, 100 will have access to web pages with similar but generalized information that does not take into account individual patient medical histories, and 100 will receive general information in printed form.

For all three groups, the information will be geared to getting the patient to an emergency room and the right kind of treatment as soon as possible in the case of an actual heart attack. While all the subjects will learn that a “Hollywood heart attack”—in which a person is stricken with terrible chest pain and falls to the ground—is not the usual kind, only patients with access to information tailored to individual medical histories will learn how their particular conditions may change the warning signs for heart attack.

“MI-HEART tests a system designed to help patients recognize symptoms and to appropriately respond to them,” says Dr. James Cimino, associate professor of medical informatics and principal investigator of the MI-HEART study.

“Patients in the study answer questionnaires about their knowledge. It would be statistically pretty difficult to prove within the scope of our study that improved delivery of information actually increased survival in those patients who actually had heart attacks,” says Dr. Cimino. “But what we can show is whether access to individualized medical information leads a patient to a better understanding of his or her risk and what symptoms to watch for.” The study measures what patients have learned at one or three months after receiving information. For more information or to get involved in the MI-HEART study, call (212) 305-4621 or visit http://www.mi-heart.com/info.htm.
Dr. Joan Leiman, one of the highest ranking Columbia Health Sciences administrators since 1984, stepped down as executive deputy vice president in January to join New York-Presbyterian Hospital as chief of staff to Dr. Herbert Pardes. Dr. Pardes resigned as Health Sciences vice president to become the hospital’s president and CEO last year. Joining Dr. Leiman in the move is Jayne Wade, administrative coordinator.

Before joining Columbia, Dr. Leiman had been a city official, hospital executive, and consultant on strategic planning, welfare reform, and national health insurance. She is listed in “Who’s Who” and “Who’s Who Among American Women” and was recently named one of the patrons and leaders of women in the sciences by Avenue Magazine. In 1997 she was elected to the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers and in February 1999 received an Athena Award from the Partnership for Women’s Health at Columbia. Under a grant from the Commonwealth Fund, Dr. Leiman was executive director of the Commonwealth Fund Commission on Women’s Health from 1993-99. In addition to her appointment as member of the board of directors for the American Medical Women’s Association Foundation, Dr. Leiman is also founding director of the Hadassah Foundation and has been a member of the Women’s Health Forum since 1999. Dr. Leiman still holds an appointment as clinical professor of public health (health policy and management).

In an announcement to the Health Sciences staff, Dr. Leiman wrote: "I have been very happy here at the Health Sciences, but it is time for me to move on to a new challenge. I feel enormously privileged to have worked with all of you and I want to thank each of you for your friendship and support which have made my job a wonderful experience."

"I will not say goodbye since I remain part of the extended family. Rather: To be continued."

A dozen children ages 5 to 10 used toy bulldozers to break ground on construction of the Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York at New York-Presbyterian Hospital at a ceremony in November. A parking lot adjacent to the existing Babies & Children’s Hospital at 165th and Broadway has been designated as the site for the new nine-story, 250,000-square-foot facility. The $120 million project is expected to be completed in 2003.

The Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital and the pediatric service of New York Weill Cornell Medical Center of New York-Presbyterian will be collectively known as as the Children’s Hospital of New York. More than 300 Morgan Stanley employees contributed $55 million-plus toward the construction. The existing building will be renovated for expanded outpatient services and research and diagnostic services. The youngsters who participated in the ceremony were either former patients of the hospital or children of hospital or Morgan Stanley employees.

Pictured are donors and hospital representatives as they joined children in breaking ground for the new children’s hospital. The adults, from left, are Cynthia Sparer, executive director of Children’s Hospital; Peter Karches, formerly of Morgan Stanley; Dr. Herbert Pardes, president and CEO of New York-Presbyterian; John Mack, president of Morgan Stanley; Dr. Peter Altman, Schullinger Professor of Pediatric Surgery and a hospital senior vice president; Dr. John M. Driscoll Jr., Reuben S. Carpentier Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics; and John McGillicuddy, chairman of New York-Presbyterian’s trustees.
**Faculty Practice How to Deal with News Media**

The Office of External Relations hosted a media training workshop in January to help Health Sciences faculty interact with print and broadcast media. Participants shared personal experiences with media, learned techniques used by reporters, and practiced effective ways to deliver their message to the public. Pictured, from left, Dr. Karen Antman, Wu Professor of Medicine (Oncology); Dr. Martin Davis, professor of clinical dentistry and associate dean of the School for Dental and Oral Surgery; Kathleen Crowley, director of Environmental Health and Safety; and Timothy Cage of Timothy Cage Communications Training, discuss a mock interview Dr. Antman taped during the session.

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**P&S Chosen for Doris Duke Fellowships**

P&S has been selected to participate in the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship Program for Medical Students, which encourages students to pursue a career in clinical research by giving them a year off from formal schooling to experience clinical research first hand.

P&S is one of seven participating schools that will receive $625,000 to support the program over five and a half years. Each year the participating schools will enroll four medical students as fellows in their CRF programs. P&S has committed matching funds to support an additional two fellows per year. Columbia is required to support only one additional fellow.

The second position has been added to recruit a fellow from a medical school with a predominantly African-American enrollment.

Funds will be used to provide stipends of $20,000 to support the six medical students during their fellowship year, and a $5,000 honorarium will go to each student’s mentor. In addition, a portion of the funds will be reserved to enable the fellows who have completed their fellowship to continue their research projects while they finish medical school, obtain clinical research training, and/or attend clinical research meetings.

“This is a wonderful opportunity that will provide medical students with invaluable training and experience in clinical research,” says Dr. Donald Landry, associate professor of medicine at P&S and program director for Columbia’s CRF program. “We are grateful to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for having the insight to foster programs that will encourage students to consider clinical research in its most sophisticated form as a career choice.” Dr. Landry will manage the program, ensuring that fellows are matched with appropriate mentors.

Students in U.S. medical schools who have completed the major clinical year (usually the third year) before the start of the fellowship will be eligible to apply. P&S distributed requests for applications in January, and decisions will be made in the early spring. The first six fellows will begin their fellowship year on July 1, 2001.

Last year, the Doris Duke Foundation gave its Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award to Dr. Andrew Marks, Wu Professor of Molecular Cardiology. This award provides funding to establish a program in translational heart failure research in the Center for Molecular Cardiology and funding for two postdoctoral fellowships, a speaker series, and annual symposium.

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**Audubon continued from page 1**

opportunity for attracting funding, founding new biotechnology companies, creating jobs, and stimulating the city’s economy, while simultaneously producing the major new scientific discoveries that will lead to lifesaving treatments.

A $10 million gift from Avon Products Foundation will help the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center expand its breast cancer research and clinical care. A portion of the gift will be used to support screening and comprehensive breast cancer care for indigent women in northern Manhattan. A comprehensive breast cancer screening facility will be located in the new building.

This state-of-the-art building will bring basic scientists and clinicians working on cancer, genetics, and cell biology together in one site and will encourage collaborative efforts, building on Columbia’s contributions in medical research and treatment. Mr. Irving is the largest donor in the history of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Audubon Biomedical Science and Technology Park will eventually consist of five academic and commercial research facilities. As New York City’s only university-related research park—housing the only biotechnology business incubator in the city—Audubon brings medical advances from the laboratory to the bedside through the development of pioneering biotechnology underlying new medical treatments, technologies, and therapies.

The new building is designed by Davis Brody Bond and will sit east of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center on St. Nicholas Avenue between 166th and 167th streets. The building features nine floors of research space, underground parking, and clinical facilities. Completion of the building is planned for spring of 2003.
Kandel Receives His Nobel Prize

Dr. Eric Kandel, University Professor, received the 2000 Nobel Prize for Medicine at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 10. The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet awarded the prize jointly to Dr. Kandel and Drs. Arvid Carlsson of Sweden and Paul Greengard of Rockefeller University for their discoveries concerning "signal transduction in the nervous system." Dr. Kandel, left, is pictured at the award ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall receiving his Nobel Prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

Start Right Receives $3.6 Million for Childhood Immunizations

The Mailman School of Public Health's Heilbrunn Center for Population and Family Health announced the Northern Manhattan Start Right Coalition has been awarded $3.6 million for four years from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The coalition is one of 25 programs funded under the REACH 2010 initiative, "Racial and Ethnic Approach to Community Health."

Start Right will focus on bringing childhood immunization coverage rates from 60 percent to 90 percent in Washington Heights and Harlem. Coalition leadership will be shared by the Heilbrunn Center, Alianza Dominicana, and Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement and will involve two dozen community organizations.

Each organization will use trained outreach workers to identify parents with children under age 3, screen the children's vaccination status, remind parents when immunizations are due, and educate parents about the importance of primary care and immunizations. The organizations have chosen to integrate this work into one of the following ongoing program activities: child care provider activities, co-madre or parenting programs, church baptism classes, tenant association meetings, facilitated child health insurance enrollment efforts, and WIC recertification.

Dr. Sally Findley, professor of clinical public health in the Mailman's Heilbrunn Center for Population and Family Health, is the program's principal investigator.

The departments of surgery and biomedical communications have teamed with Panavision and Sony to use the latest in video technology to record surgical procedures. The project evolved through contact with Dr. Eric Rose, Morris and Rose Milstein Professor and Chairman of Surgery, and Panavision’s desire to work with an academic medical institution for the first use of its 24p (24 frames per second) high definition video equipment in a surgical arena.

Last fall, Panavision began a program to introduce high definition packages to medical imaging. Its goal is to provide the highest quality cameras and lenses for documentation of surgical procedures for education and training.

Panavision approached Columbia because of Dr. Rose’s reputation and awareness of the types of audio-visual services Columbia provides. The high definition images produced with Panavision and Sony cameras and lenses can be viewed on either large projection screens or monitors with high resolution and color fidelity.

"The detail, vividness, and clarity of the image far surpasses anything we have ever seen in the OR," says Jeffrey Szmulewicz, assistant vice president for biomedical communications. "One can almost see clearer than looking directly into the surgical field. That type of quality makes the educational experience much better for students because the detail and clarity are as good as anything that has ever been created in a film sense."

All classrooms and OR facilities at the medical center will be converted to high definition television.

"We now have broken ground or opened the door on a new technology that will, over time, become the standard of medical education and media dissemination," Mr. Szmulewicz says. "High definition television in some way, shape, or form will be a reality and it will be a reality soon. The technology also will directly enhance minimally invasive surgical procedures using endoscopes, colonscopes, and bronchoscopes."
Timing Key to Success of Light Therapy for SAD

Synchronizing light therapy with a person’s biological clock doubles its effectiveness as a treatment for winter depression, Columbia University researchers have demonstrated.

In a study published in the Jan. 15 issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry, the team of Dr. Michael Terman, professor of clinical psychology (in psychiatry), and Dr. Juan Su Terman measured the plasma melatonin pattern in 42 patients with seasonal affective disorder (SAD) before and after they received bright light therapy. Treatment was administered for 30 minutes a day using a specialized high-intensity light box made for this purpose. The precise treatment time for each patient, in the morning or evening, was measured relative to each individual’s evening onset of melatonin production by the pineal gland, which lies deep within the brain.

Previously, researchers had hypothesized that people with SAD suffered from a delay in their circadian rhythms during the winter. But the Termans found that the melatonin cycle of patients can occur early, late, or in between. “You cannot conclude that these patients as a group suffer from a circadian phase delay that causes their depression,” says Dr. Michael Terman. Dr. Terman directs the Winter Depression Program, established in 1984, at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Instead, he explained, “People are falling asleep too soon after their melatonin onset, and their biological clock needs to be shifted earlier to make the correction.”

While morning light treatment pushes internal clocks forward, evening treatment pushes them back. Patients whose clocks were pushed forward the farthest in the study experienced the strongest response to therapy. The researchers found that treatment timed 8.5 hours after melatonin onset was by far the most effective at pushing the clock forward and relieving depression.

Study Identifies Groups with Greater Alzheimer’s Risk

Researchers at Columbia and the New York State Psychiatric Institute have found that the risk for developing Alzheimer's is elevated in African-Americans and Caribbean Hispanics. This increased risk remained even when researchers took into account the subjects' history of stroke, hypertension, heart disease, or diabetes, as well as level of education or literacy, which the researchers previously found to be associated with Alzheimer’s.

Dr. Richard Mayeux, Gertrude H. Sergievsky Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry and co-director of the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain, and colleagues published their report in the January issue of Neurology.

Dr. Mayeux’s team tracked the incidence rate of Alzheimer’s disease among a sample of Medicare recipients in northern Manhattan over a seven-year period and found that Caribbean Hispanic and African-American seniors get Alzheimer’s disease more often than whites.

The mechanisms that account for the ethnic differences for developing Alzheimer’s are unknown.

Vitamin A Activates Key to Kidney Development

Vitamin A deficiency during fetal development and mutations in ret, the gene that encodes an enzyme called a receptor tyrosine kinase, are associated with kidney malformations in mice and humans. A new study by Dr. Cathy Mendelsohn, assistant professor of urology, and colleagues at P&S, including co-author Dr. Frank Costantini, professor of genetics and development, demonstrates that vitamin A directs kidney development by turning on the ret gene. Says Dr. Mendelsohn, “Ret is a major target of vitamin A. Our work links these together and emphasizes how dietary vitamin A is absolutely critical for making the kidney in the mouse.” Because some human kidney malformations are linked to disease susceptibility, the authors of the paper in the January issue of Nature Genetics underscore the need for pregnant women to pay careful attention to their vitamin A intake.

In the new paper, Dr. Mendelsohn and others showed in the mouse embryo and cultured embryonic mouse kidney that depriving the fetus of vitamin A could drastically reduce the amount of ret in the developing kidney tissues and also disrupt formation of kidney structures.

Dr. Mendelsohn suggests that inadequate vitamin A levels during pregnancy may have important implications for the child’s health in adulthood. “There’s a hypothesis that a low number of nephrons leads to susceptibility to hypertension and other diseases later in life,” adds Dr. Costantini, “Having fewer nephrons is linked to increased susceptibility to kidney degeneration.” The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

MRI Can ID Sources of Memory Loss

Researchers at Columbia have found a way to pinpoint changes in brain activity that may underlie memory impairment, even before structural damage occurs. Dr. Scott Small, Irving Assistant Professor of Neurology, and colleagues reported their findings in the December issue of Neuron. The researchers used a new high-resolution MRI technique to study alterations in resting activity in subregions of the hippocampus, a brain circuit important for learning and memory. By enabling researchers to detect activity changes in mice genetically altered to model age-related memory loss, the approach may further understanding of the mechanisms of the disease in humans.

As a potentially valuable tool for diagnosing memory disorders from specific causes, the use of MRI to precisely map blood oxygenation in the brain at rest could also lead to more effective treatment for memory loss in its early stages. “We may be able to use this technique as an early diagnostic for Alzheimer’s disease,” says Dr. Small, first author of the paper. Dr. Small collaborated with Dr. Ed X. Wu, assistant professor of radiology; Dr. Dusan Bartsch, associate research scientist; Gerard Pereira, staff associate; Clay Laceyfield, technician; Dr. Robert Delapaz, professor of radiology; Dr. Richard Mayeux, Sergievsky Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Public Health; Dr. Vaakov Stern, professor of clinical neurology and psychiatry; and Dr. Eric Kandel, University Professor.
The end of the 1960s was a turbulent time in the history of America and Columbia University. In 1969 Richard Nixon was inaugurated president of the United States while the nation was embroiled in a war in Vietnam, and Andrew W. Cordier became acting president of Columbia University after a massive student sit-in chased his predecessor from office. At the same time a friendly, unassuming woman from Harlem started as a light cleaner for Columbia’s Butler Hall and contributed to a little-known chapter in the school’s history.

Shirley Jean Hawes’ employment coincided with a change of attitude at Columbia as well as across the nation. Her career became part of a larger movement for women’s equality. “At that time women were only hired as light cleaners,” she says. “The only heavy cleaners were men. I was one of the first two women to train and get hired by the school as heavy cleaners. It was hard to prove to the school that we were capable of working with the same heavy machinery and performing the same tasks as men, but we did it. That was in ’70 or ’71, and I have been a heavy cleaner ever since.”

Ms. Hawes was not as interested in making history as she was with simply doing her job to the best of her abilities. “The 60s and early 70s were fun times at the school,” Ms. Hawes remembers. “We worked hard, but all of us on the cleaning staff always had fun working together. I guess it has always been like that. The people I work with and the people I work for have always been so nice here.”

During the mid-70s the Hammer building opened on the Health Sciences campus and the Morningside campus sent 10 employees to comprise the facility’s cleaning staff. Ms. Hawes was among those 10 and spent the next 21 years making sure the library, classrooms, lounges, and labs were always clean. It was during this time in her career that Ms. Hawes started to gain a reputation as one of the best the cleaning staff had to offer. “At times some of the people I work with would joke that I was working too hard and making the others look bad,” she says. “I suppose I just like cleaning. It is what I have always done. I like to look at the areas I have cleaned. I like looking at the end-product of my hard work at the end of the day.”

Two years ago, an opening came up on the fifth floor in the Black Building, which houses the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics. Ms. Hawes applied for and earned the position. Only one heavy cleaner at the Health Sciences has more seniority. He works another floor in Black and has been here 34 years. Ms. Hawes has only been at it for 31.

Faculty and staff members on the fifth floor welcomed Ms. Hawes. Dr. David Hirsh, chairman of biochemistry & molecular biophysics, says, “Shirley does a wonderful job for us in her cleaning work, but also she lifts the spirits and good feelings of all the members of the laboratories.”

“Shirley is just wonderful,” adds Stella Franco, department administrator for Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics. “She anticipates our needs. She is friendly, knows her responsibilities, and carries them out with pride. She truly loves to do a good job and we are delighted to have her with us.”

“Shirley does a great job and is a pleasure to work with,” says Dr. Eric Gouaux, associate professor of biochemistry & molecular biophysics. “I can depend on her to take superb care of the fifth floor. I hope she never retires!”

Unfortunately for Dr. Gouaux and others, retirement is not far off for Ms. Hawes. That is what she focuses on most these days. When her time at Health Sciences is done, she looks forward to more time with her son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. They all live in Harlem where Ms. Hawes has lived since she started at Columbia. She claims to know everyone in her neighborhood within a 10-block radius. That’s easy to believe, considering she still receives holiday cards from Columbia employees she cleaned for decades ago.

“Every person I have worked for, whether it was Dr. [Richard] Axel or Dr. Hirsh, has treated me so nice,” says Ms. Hawes. “They have always treated me the same as any other employee or faculty member, always asking how I’m doing, even inviting me to their office parties.”

Ms. Hawes has worked through several deans and presidents, new and old buildings, even two major blackouts. But she is confident that retirement will make her just as happy as working at Columbia has made her.
Changing Scenes

Library Exhibits Celebrate 90s and Noted Alum

Two exhibits in the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library celebrate 10 years of recent acquisitions and the memory of Dr. Charles R. Drew, on display through March and February respectively.

Highlighted on Lower Level One are items acquired by Archives and Special Collections over the past 10 years. "Collecting the Past for the Future: Recent Acquisitions, 1990-2000" includes books, documents, photographs, and artifacts that illustrate the varied mission of the department as both a repository of the history of the health sciences and the archives for the Columbia University Health Sciences Division.

In 1993, Archives & Special Collections received 600 cubic feet of the central files of the Vice President for Health Sciences, the largest and most significant acquisition in its history. Included in this collection are documents relating to the early history of the medical center, such as a draft of Edward S. Harkness’ 1910 proposition to create a partnership between Columbia and Roosevelt Hospital. When Roosevelt rejected this proposition, Harkness made an identical offer to Presbyterian Hospital, paving the way for the world’s first medical center.

Another recent addition are records transferred from the University Archives on the Morningside campus. Displayed from this transfer are the earliest surviving records of P&S, the minute book of the Columbia College Faculty of Medicine, dating from 1792, and the earliest student register (1791-1813) with entries in Latin.

Archives & Special Collections has approximately 15,000 volumes; 2,000 cubic feet of archives and personal papers; tens of thousands of images; and several dozen artifacts. Materials date from 1476 to the present and are constantly expanded through donation, purchase, or transfer from University offices.

An exhibit on the Lobby Level, "Charles Drew at Columbia-Presbyterian," honors Dr. Drew’s memory and displays documents related to his time at P&S and Presbyterian Hospital, including his application to the Doctor of Medical Science program, letters of recommendation, and his dissertation, "Banked Blood."

In 1940, Dr. Charles R. Drew earned a Doctor of Medical Science degree from P&S. He was the first African-American to earn this degree in the United States. His dissertation was based on data gathered from the blood bank he helped establish at Presbyterian Hospital.

In 1960, Dr. Drew died after an automobile accident in North Carolina. His tragic early death evolved into a widely known but false story that "the father of the blood bank" died because racism prevented him from receiving a blood transfusion.

For more information, contact Stephen E. Novak, Head, Archives & Special Collections, 305-7931 (x7-7931).

CCNMTL Opens New Wireless Office at Health Sciences

The Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning held an open house in January to introduce its services to the Health Sciences.

In partnership with the faculty as content experts, the center is committed to advancing the purposeful use of new media and digital technologies in the educational programs of Columbia University. The center serves only faculty members who are teaching courses. Health Sciences faculty and staff also get electronic curriculum services and other computing assistance from the Office of Scholarly Resources.

While the center has been in operation serving the faculty from the Health Sciences campus since early last fall, the staff had been working out of a makeshift office. The new location is in the Armory Track and Field Center at 168th Street and Fort Washington.

A unique feature of this new location is that the office is entirely wireless, connected to Columbia and the rest of the Internet through a wireless access point that intercepts a beam of information that is sent from a similarly configured access point on the wired network. This focus on exploring new technologies is representative of the center’s goals of integrating new media tools with the health sciences curriculum. The emphasis so far has been on working with imaging and digital video technologies to provide Health Sciences students with patient simulations, virtual charts, and case studies, as well as providing the same services provided by CCNMTL at the Morningside campus, such as course web site development, workshops and forums on educational technology topics, assistance developing a plan for the use of technology in courses, and online conferencing and bulletin board discussion forums. For more information, visit the center’s web site at http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/, call Dr. John Zimmerman, associate director at (646) 772-8607, or visit the office during regular business hours.

The CCNMTL Health Sciences Staff are, from left, Abena Ntoso, educational technologist; John Zimmerman, associate director; Doug McAndrew, digital media specialist; and Mike Soupios, educational technologist.
Department of Medicine Opens Sleep Laboratory

The Department of Medicine hosted a Jan. 30 opening tour of its new Cardiopulmonary Sleep and Ventilatory Disorders Laboratory. The ceremony was held in the Atchley Loeb Conference Room and included a tour of the new facility housed within the Department of Medicine on the eighth floor of the PH Building.

This state-of-the-art facility boasts electronic, video, and audio technology to monitor critical bodily functions associated with clinical research sleep medicine studies. Under the direction of Dr. Robert C. Basner, associate professor of clinical medicine, the sleep laboratory conducts sleep research and provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient consultative and diagnostic services through the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine. Specific clinical problems addressed in the laboratory include breathing disorders associated with sleep, such as obstructive sleep apnea; apnea and periodic breathing associated with congestive heart failure and neurologic disease; sudden infant death syndrome; nocturnal asthma; disorders of ventilation associated with obesity, chronic obstructive lung disease, and neuromuscular disorders such as muscular dystrophy and motor neuron disease; excessive daytime somnolence; disordered initiation of sleep and sleep disruption; circadian rhythm disorders; sleepwalking; and movement disorders associated with sleep.

OPENING THE NEW SLEEP CENTER are, from left, Dr. Thomas Q. Morris, interim dean for clinical and educational affairs; Dr. Byron Thomashow, clinical professor of medicine; Dr. Robert C. Basner, associate professor of clinical medicine; and Dr. Paul Rothman, Stock Associate Professor of Medicine.

Tech Transfer (continued from page 1)

and Cellular Biophysics where her research focused on molecular aspects of HIV pathogenesis.

Dr. Weinberger succeeds Scot Hamilton, who has been promoted to senior director and will assume responsibility for the overall operation of STV in terms of legal agreements, patenting and patent costs, financial reporting and disbursements, and performance monitoring.

"The promotions are well earned and place Scot and Ofra in positions that maximize the use of their outstanding abilities and experience," says Dr. Michael Cleare, executive director of STV.

Already the leading university nationwide in licensing income with $143.6 million in revenues this year, Columbia expects to realize a significant additional revenue stream from scientific innovations and knowledge creation projects conveyed to industry either as a licensee or as the catalyst for new company start-ups.

With more than 7,000 active scientific research projects totaling $400 million in more than 90 distinct fields, Columbia is one of a handful of comprehensive "knowledge creation" organizations in the world, says Dr. Cleare. The current portfolio includes more than two dozen companies spun off from research by Columbia associates, including Bell Geospace, which provides survey data for oil and gas exploration; Memory Pharmaceuticals, involved in the development of drugs to treat memory-related disorders; and Remote Reality, which provides omni-directional cameras for Internet, video conferencing, security and surveillance, and entertainment uses.

New Structure, New Names

CIE has changed its name to Science and Technology Ventures and is now part of a larger Columbia organization known as Columbia Innovation Enterprises, led by Dr. Michael Crow, executive vice provost.

Science and Technology Ventures will be devoted to the transfer of science and technology to the marketplace. Its sister organization, Digital Knowledge Ventures, will oversee the transfer of digital educational content developed by faculty and graduate students. It will be led by Dr. G. Todd Hardy.

"Columbia Innovation Enterprises will be the entrepreneurial arm of Columbia University," says Dr. Crow. "Its mission is to link Columbia’s intellectual capital with financial capital. Its charge is to secure maximum return to Columbia for its knowledge assets as well as to ensure the appropriate use of those assets for maximum benefit to the public. In essence, these assets are a form of ‘knowledge capital’ that Columbia brings to the marketplace to leverage the development of new enterprises and new commercial activity."

The Health Sciences office of Science and Technology Ventures is located on PH 15 East, Room 1535. Telephone numbers: 305-5198 (voice) and 305-5070 (fax).
Union Talks Extended
As Columbia University’s contract with the Supporting Staff Association expired, the two parties agreed to extend the collective bargaining agreement through March 16, 2001, according to an announcement from the offices of David Cohen, assistant vice president of labor relations at Morningside, and Galene Kessin, assistant vice president of human resources at the Health Sciences.

Mr. Cohen and Ms. Kessin report that although negotiations have been slow, offers have been exchanged in an effort to narrow the differences between parties. Additional bargaining sessions have been scheduled in hopes of having a contract in place before the end of this contract extension. Both sides remain optimistic that a settlement will be reached before the new deadline.

Lunchtime Yoga Adds Thursday Class
Lunchtime Hatha Yoga is now available every Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. in the new Psychiatric Institute Gym. Sponsored by the New York State Psychiatric Institute Employee Assistance Program and the Richard & Hinda Rosenthal Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at P&S, each session costs $8 with special rates available for union members.

Hatha Yoga is an ancient system of postures, breathing practices, relaxation, and mediation developed to revitalize the body and calm the mind. It is believed to contribute to stress reduction and to be beneficial to anyone regardless of age or physical condition. Beginners are welcome. Call 212-543-9536 to register or for more information.

Personnel News

DR. JOHN BILEZIKIAN, P&S professor of medicine and pharmacology, received the Frederic C. Bartter Award from the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research in recognition of outstanding clinical investigation in disorders of bone and mineral metabolism. Dr. Bilezikian was presented with a $2,000 honorarium and a commemorative plaque at the society’s annual meeting in Toronto last September. Dr. Bilezikian is currently chief of the Division of Endocrinology and director of the Metabolic Bone Diseases Program at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. In addition, he is associate chair of the Department of Medicine and associate director of the Partnership for Women’s Health at Columbia University.

DR. FRANK COSTANTINI took on the position of acting chairman of the Department of Genetics and Development. He assumes interim leadership of the department after Dr. Claudio Stern’s seven-year tenure. A search committee has been formed to find a permanent replacement.

DR. JEAN C. EMOND has been named the Thomas S. Zimmer Professor of Reconstructive Surgery at P&S. Dr. Emond is the surgical director for the Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation. This endowed appointment is awarded to a senior faculty member with a primary interest and expertise in reconstruction of congenital anomalies and a firm commitment to education and training in an academic medical center.

JOHN FINK joined the Department of Environmental Health and Safety in December as the Health Sciences fire safety director. Mr. Fink comes to Columbia from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where he served as the fire protection manager since 1996.

REBECCA FISCHER has been appointed senior project analyst for the Health Sciences. Ms. Fischer has worked in New York City government as a budget and policy analyst for the Parks Department and as a senior supervising analyst for the Office of Management and Budget.

DR. ELSA-GRACE V. GIARDINA, P&S professor of clinical medicine and director of the Center for Women’s Health at Columbia-Presbyterian, is serving on the expert advisory panel of the national health initiative, Cardiovascular Health for Women. Launched by the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, and the American Nurses Foundation, the initiative is a multi-year effort to improve the knowledge of nurses and women across the lifespan about cardiovascular disease and health promotion strategies. It is supported by a grant from Pfizer Women’s Health.

DR. CAROL HIRSHMAN, Henrik H. Bendixen Professor of Anesthesiology, received the American Society of Anesthesiologists Award for Excellence in Research. The award recognizes outstanding research that has had a major impact on the practice of anesthesia and research that represents a mature and sustained contribution to the science of anesthesiaology.

DR. EDWARD SHORTLIFE, professor and chairman of the Department of Medical Informatics, was one of four recipients of the American Medical Informatics Association’s President’s Awards. The award rec-
Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series

Dr. Edward W. Said, University Professor of English and Comparative Literature, gave the Dean's Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities.

The lecture was the second of three lectureships to be awarded in the 2000-01 Dean's Distinguished Lecture series. The third and final lecture will be for basic sciences.

Dr. Said delivered his lecture, titled "Timeliness and Lateness: Health and Style," in December.

Berrie Award Given to Graeme Bell

The Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center granted Dr. Graeme Bell, Louis Block Professor in the departments of biochemistry & molecular biology, medicine, and human genetics at the University of Chicago, the first Naomi Berrie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Diabetes Research.

The award was presented at the Second Annual Frontiers in Diabetes Research Symposium in November. The $100,000 award supports a young investigator during a two-year research fellowship in his laboratory. A matching award was provided by the Berries for a young investigator at Columbia University.

Dr. Anthony Ferrante has been named the first Naomi Berrie Fellow in Diabetes Research. Dr. Ferrante is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Medicine working in the laboratory of molecular genetics at the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center. Pictured at the award ceremony are, from left, Dr. Rudolph Leibel, professor of pediatrics and co-director of the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, Dr. Bell, and Angelica and Russ Berrie.

David Seegal Alpha Omega Alpha Lecture

Dr. Tom R. DeMeester, professor and chairman of surgery at the University of Southern California, gave the 2001 David Seegal Alpha Omega Alpha Visiting Professorship Lecture. Dr. DeMeester delivered his lecture, "Alternative Medicine and the Spiritual World: A Question that Demands an Answer," in January.

PETER WORTSMAN, managing editor, alumni publications, recently taped an original essay for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." His play, "The Tattooed Man Tells All," which had its first staged reading in New York last May, was a finalist in the Dorothy Silver Playwriting Competition of the JCC Halle Theatre in Cleveland. His translation of German Humanist Johannes Reuchlin's historic 16th century treatise against intolerance and antisemitism, "Recommendation Whether to Confiscate, Destroy and Burn All Jewish Books," was published by Paulist Press in August and will be the subject of a multi-disciplinary symposium at New York University in the spring.

Graeme Bell received his award from Dr. Thomas Q. Morris, interim dean for clinical and educational affairs.

Dr. Tom R. DeMeester, right, delivered the 2001 David Seegal Alpha Omega Alpha Visiting Professorship Lecture. Dr. DeMeester is pictured with Dr. John Brust, professor of clinical neurology and AOA organizer.

MARINA CHAI VASARHELYI has been appointed associate vice president for financial services. Ms. Vasarhelyi worked in the public accounting field, as assistant treasurer and controller of the Fashion Institute of Technology, treasurer and controller of the New School for Social Research, and associate controller for the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, Drs. André Cournand and Dickinson Richards won the Nobel Prize for Medicine. The Nobel Committee recognized them, along with Dr. Werner Forssmann of West Germany, for “discoveries concerning heart catheterization and pathological changes in the circulatory system.”

Standing from left to right are Drs. Cournand, Forssmann, and Richards receiving their prize at the 1956 Nobel ceremony in Sweden. Dr. Forssmann was the first to catheterize the heart of a living human—performing the procedure on himself—several years earlier. Drs. Cournand and Richards, not as radical, experimented with chimpanzees and later developed the procedure for humans. Their work led to the attachment of precision pressure gauges and further probing beyond the heart, through the pulmonary artery, and into the lungs.

The next Nobel Prize for Medicine awarded to an active member of the Columbia faculty would go to Dr. Eric Kandel, who earned such recognition in 2000 for his pioneering work to understand the molecular basis of memory.