

Congratulations Class of 2005 !



Recent graduates of the Department of Family Medicine's Residency Program celebrating at dinner on June 17, 2005 (left to right): Julius Nagy (BGH), Preeti Gupta (Niagara St.), Ade Olawaiye (BGH), Amitkumar Patel (Niagara St.), and Stella Etuk (BGH). Please see page 2 for more information on our graduates.

wings.buffalo.edu/smb/fam-med/

Cogitations, continued from Page 1:

Successful primary care is provided in a continuum, overtime. As our own careers add years and wrinkles, we find that patients who frustrated us in the first years of care have become models of motivation as we guided them through their natural, curve-linear course. Our graduates have also discovered that they guide patients in the company of an almost mystical assembly of caring professionals. From the receptionist who manipulates the schedule to get a distressed patient in for a visit; to the nurse who amplifies the effectiveness of the team by drawing out insights and fears and checks our doses, to our own struggle to make a diagnosis out of vague symptoms, to the pharmacist, the specialist, the rehab team and the community.

In spite of this company, there will be days when we feel like the late Jerry Garcia, of the Grateful Dead who said: *"Somebody has to do something, and it's just incredibly pathetic that it has to be me."* But, we do it. Because all of us are "Albert Einstein". We persist and we make our training programs proud. Our 2005 graduates will continue this tradition and in the process will make their parents and spouses proud. Above all they will make their children proud.

Congratulations to our residency class of 2005!

Lessons Learned, continued from Page 1:

Medical students volunteer their time in running the Lighthouse Medical Clinic, which provides free medical care on Wednesday evenings in the city of Buffalo. In addition to providing basic health care to people in an underserved neighborhood, medical students run the Lighthouse Insurance Program, dental students provide screenings, chiropractic students run a clinic on Monday and Friday mornings and pharmacy students help explain medications to the patients. Students involved include: Saddam Abisse, Chris Cancro, Steve Chao, Jenny Gaborski, Alla Grinblat, Yuk Ming Liu, Shannon O'Malley, Kory Reed, Lori Wittman, Shereene Brown, Kelly Sayles, and Jing Wang. Students have said that they learn more about medicine, but also they gain experience working with people and reap the reward of helping people that really need it. One student said that "you really learn a little bit more about medicine and you're reminded why you're going through that but you're learning about the other aspect of medicine and that's helping people too . . ."

The Department of Family Medicine has had a long history of providing volunteer opportunities to medical students and physicians in the western New York area. If interested in participating in the Refugee Health and Cultural Awareness Training Program, please contact Christine Wagner, FMRI, Project Director, at 898-5545 or for the Lighthouse Clinic, contact Yuk Ming Liu: yukliu@buffalo.edu or SteveChao schao2@buffalo.edu

Thomas C. Rosenthal, MD, is Professor and Chair of the UB Dept. of Family Medicine. He is also Director of the NY State AHEC System and Editor of The Journal of Rural Health.

Cogitations from the Chair



Thomas C. Rosenthal MD

I have never been quite certain whether graduations are the celebration of beginnings or endings. For the 15 graduates of the UB Family Medicine Residency this year, as always, it was both. Our graduates celebrate the end of many years of effort and toil. To date they have dedicated the majority of their lives to appending experience and knowledge to their innate intelligence. For faculty, graduations are a celebration of a different nature. They are the commemoration of the unfolding successions of life. We are sad to see our dear friends go; We are *glad* to see our dear friends go. It happens every 3 years. This year's graduates have discovered that patience is not inherent in the make up of a doctor. Textbooks may paint a very straight course for most diseases, but illness never charts a straight course. Talk to our residents about their own personal journeys. Few lives have traveled their path in a straight line.

George Bernard Shaw captured the sense of this phenomena in 1930. Shaw, a personal friend of Albert Einstein, said of the great physicist: "Dr Einstein knew his universe; he knew that it consisted of heavenly bodies that were in motion, and he also knew the one thing you cannot do, to anything whatsoever, is to make it move in a straight line. In other words, motion will *not* go in a straight line. Heavenly bodies go in curves because that *is* the natural way for them to go."

We are very appreciative that most of our graduates will chose to stay in Western New York and practice. Our graduates know what other leaders of countries have long known. That the primary care doctor functions as the "internet" of a health care system keeping the aims of the system closely aligned with those of the patient. The family doctor's job is to organize a **personal "system"** for each patient. A personal system of health care is a set of elements interacting, **to make each and every patient as healthy as possible.**

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Lessons Learned through Volunteer Programs

Volunteer experiences through the **Lighthouse Medical Clinic** and **The Refugee Health and Cultural Awareness Training Program** have proven fruitful in developing medical student's knowledge regarding health and culture. For over 3 years, 133 medical students have volunteered their time and effort to **The Refugee Health and Cultural Awareness Training Program**, working with a plethora of refugee patients from Rwanda, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Congo, Kosovo, Bosnia, Cuba, as well as a number of Asian countries. Feedback received from students participating in this New York State Department of Health grant awarded to Kim Griswold, MD, in 2002, indicates it is both rewarding and beneficial to medical students' training.

Students mentioned several strengths of the program, including the importance of interacting with refugees and people from other cultures, and learning how to use an interpreter. Students expressed gratitude at having the time to spend with the refugee patients. One student said "the doctors allowed us to take a great deal of time to meet the patients and hear their stories." Students have taken time out of their busy schedules to tutor, mentor, and befriend newly arrived refugees. Drs. Griswold, Myron Glick, John Brewer, and Katie Kolbert all volunteer their time to see refugees and work with medical students during evening clinic sessions.

Continued on Page 4

Graduating Residents - The Class of 2005

Congratulations and Good Luck to the following graduates:

Hoplyn McSeine Graham, MD
 Simret Dev-Raman, MD: Cleveland
 Stella Uduak Etuk, MD: Minneapolis
 Preeti Gupta, MBBS: Buffalo
 Dinraj Balakrishna Hedge, MBBS: Illinois
 Giselle Lawrence-Patel, MBBS: Fellow in Geriatrics at UB
 Thayaparan Mathanakaran, MBBS: Olean
 Hina J. Mian, MBBS

Julius I. Nagy, MD: CT
 Adefunke Olawaiye, MBBS: Boston
 Ekaterina V. Passetchnik, MD: St. Petersburg, Russia
 Amitkumar V. Patel, MBBS: CA
 Andrew B. Symons, MD: Orchard Park Family Practice
 Cheryl Ann Villamor-Nierva, MD
 Jennifer Ann Wisnoski, MD: Buffalo
2005 Sports Medicine Graduate
 Gurinder Singh Rai, MBBS: UB Sports Medicine

Graduation Awards Dinner June 17, 2005

Congratulations to the Following Awardees !

Resident Awards

Buffalo General Hospital

Bhanu Nagalla, MBBS, Year 1
 Ahunna Ahiarah, MD, Year 2
 Stella Etuk, MD, Year 3
 Amitkumar Patel, MD: Kaleida Buffalo General Excellence

Erie County Medical Center

Khalid Malik, MBBS, Year 1
 Ramani Arya, MBBS, Year 2
 Simret Dev-Raman, MD, Year 3
 Thayaparan Mathanakaran, MBBS: ECMC Excellence

Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital

Diana Pratt, MD, Year 1
 Bindu Ninan, MBBS, Year 2
 Jennifer Wisnoski, MD, Year 3
 Andrew Symons, MD: Louis Lazar Excellence Award

STFM Resident Teacher Award

Andrew Symons, MD
Chairman's Scholarship Award
 Andrew Symons, MD

Faculty Awards

Office Preceptor Awards

Richard Blondell, MD
 Antonia Redhead, MD
 Galvin Anderson, MD
 AnnMarie Zimmermann, MD
 Peter Kowalski, MD
 Jeanette Figueroa, MD
 John Sauret, MD

Inpatient Attending Awards

Alica Lisak, MD
 Eric Thierman, MD
 Greg Schenk, MD
 Kim Griswold, MD

Specialty Teaching Awards

Cyril Gunwardane, MD
 Henry Storch, MD
 Matthew Antalek, MD
 Susan Graham

Millard Fillmore Suburban

Family Medicine Teaching Award
 Greg Wolfley, PA

School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Class of 2005 Honors and Awards

Charles A. Bauda Award – Jacqueline Julius, MD

Dr. Bauda is a retired family physician who was a dedicated teacher during the formative years of the specialty of family medicine in the '70s. This award is given to a graduating student based on performance during his/her third year.

Dr. G. Norris Miner Award – Brigid Mack, MD

Dr. G. Norris Miner, a former UB varsity football player and organizer of the Buffalo Boosters in support of athletics at UB, graduated from UB and established a general practice in 1943 in North Tonawanda where he practiced for over 30 years. This award is presented to a senior who demonstrated outstanding clinical competence in family medicine.

Dr. Mark A. Petrino Award – Safina Koreishi, MD

Dr. Mark A. Petrino was a young family physician who was loved and respected by the West Side Buffalo community he served until his tragic death in an automobile accident. Recipient demonstrates fine academic and clinical performance and a strong commitment to family medicine.

Medical Students who matched in family medicine are:

Amy Burke, MD - Niagara Falls Family Practice
 Joshua Eisenhut, MD - Halifax Medical Ctr., Daytona Beach, FL
 Jacqueline Julius, MD - Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster, PA
 Safina Koreishi, MD - Oregon Health & Science Univ, Portland, OR
 Amanda Kost, MD - University of Washington, Seattle, WA
 Brigid Mack, MD - University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
 Lauren Roman, MD - Darnall Army Comm. Hospital, Ft. Hood, TX
 Lisa Rothgery, MD - University of Colorado, Denver, CO

2005 NAPCRG Student Award

This inaugural award, sponsored by the North American Primary Care Research Group, was given to 3rd year medical student Michelle Niescierenko for her outstanding primary care research at the Lighthouse Medical Clinic.

*Praxis is published by the UB Department of Family Medicine. To submit news items, please contact Joan Kernan at:
 jkernan@acsu.buffalo.edu or (716)898-4742 or
 Andy Danzo at adanzo@buffalo.edu*

New Grant Award for Magnesium Research

Chet Fox, MD and Angela Wisniewski, PharmD., have been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the AAFP Joint Grant Awards Program to study whether magnesium supplementation will reduce hypertension and insulin resistance in African Americans with high blood pressure. According to Dr. Fox, there is good epidemiologic evidence that African Americans consume less magnesium and physiologically, magnesium deficiency causes insulin resistance which in turn causes hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia and atherosclerosis. Their research question is "does high dose supplementation of magnesium reduce both blood pressure and insulin resistance?" It will be a small randomized placebo controlled cross-over study that will measure intracellular magnesium, 24 hour blood pressure, and insulin resistance.

In Memoriam

James Lovette, who was doing medical research this summer in the Department of Family Medicine, died unexpectedly in his sleep on June 29. He was scheduled to start at UB Medical School in August; the cause of death has not been determined. Only those closest to him knew about his medical problems or that he was the first successful recipient of a pediatric heart transplant. He had been working with Dr. Chet Fox, Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine, on a program intended to improve health care by making sure that the information provided by doctors to medical insurers is accurate. Fox said he was shocked to learn Lovette had died because he never brought up his medical history. "Always things had to be done today with Jim, which I never understood why until after," said Dr. Fox, "I think losing him is a loss to our profession."

Courtesy of The Buffalo News

Department News:

- The Community Health Center of Buffalo (CHCB) Residency Program will be moving to the Cleve-Hill Family Health Center in early Fall, 2005. Located at 1439 Kensington Ave., Buffalo, and under the leadership of Dr. Barbara Majeroni and Dr. Bill Fiden the office is undergoing renovation to adapt the site to residency education.
- The Deaconess Residency Program will be moving to 1315 Jefferson Ave. into new 6,491 square feet of office space in November, 2005. The office will be completely paperless, including electronic medical records, digital EKG, and spirometry. It is expected that 11 new employees will be hired to staff this site.
- Margaret Eberl, MD, starts on August 29, 2005 as our newest National Research Service Award (NRSA) fellow. Dr. Eberl does breast cancer research with a focus on pre-menopausal women.
- Venkata Pulivarthi, MD, starting in July 2005, is our newest Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP) fellow. Dr. Pulivarthi is working with Dr. Steven Cramer on a diabetes case management study.
- Dr. Kim Griswold has received bridge funding from the NYS Department of Health for 18 months to continue her "Refugee Health and Cultural Awareness Training". This program links medical students with physicians seeing refugees during evening clinic hours. In addition, the program provides opportunities for medical students to volunteer their time to tutor, mentor, and teach health care to refugees in Buffalo.

WE Need Your Support !

Make a gift to the Family Medicine Endowment or Family Medicine Research Fund.

Online gifts may be made at:

wings.buffalo.edu/smbf/fam-med/endowment.htm

OR mail your check

(payable to University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc.) to:

UB Dept. of Family Medicine

Attn: Joan B. Kernan

462 Grider Street, CC Bldg.

Buffalo, NY 14215

To Inquire About Making a Planned Gift, call Wendy Irving, Esq.
 716-645-3312, ext. 238 or Toll Free: 877-825-3422

Huge Thanks to our regular donors who give through payroll deduction:

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