



Family medicine research has found its conceptual framework to underpin the discipline. Heretofore, science has been anchored in the concept of causal agents. However, these are often just triggers that release inherent patient processes. The final state of the patient depends less on the “causal agent” than on the patient’s personal and complex responses. Hence, 4% of symptomatic SARS patients die but more than 90% aren’t even aware they are infected.

**Cogitations
from the
Chair**



**Thomas
C. Rosenthal MD**

The gold standard of modern scientific medicine, the random controlled trial, selects a thousand patients and examines a treatment for the purpose of screening out, by homogenization, individual patient variables. Family medicine encounters are the opposite. Family physicians focus on one patient and must understand a thousand variables that influence the management and impact of several diseases, conditions or treatments.

The modern approach to medical science is best demonstrated by following a 50-year-old male with mild hypertension who presents to a hospital with chest pain. After 24 hours observation the patient will likely leave with prescriptions for 6 drugs. Good, sound randomized controlled trials have examined each drug but no randomized controlled trial could be concocted that could tease out the impact of using all 6 drugs together.

This is our horizon: complexity. Leaders in family medicine research, including my colleagues here at UB, are exploring the impact of treatment models on complexity. This is the new frontier of medicine. Stay with us, and Praxis, as we explore the world of real people, and real patients, together.

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

First-year student Amanda Gorman helps Jacqueline Holloman complete paperwork at the Lighthouse Medical Clinic.

Lighthouse Medical Clinic Provides a Beacon of Hope in Buffalo East-side Neighborhood

“The best thing I’ve ever done in my life, I’m lucky to have worked here” said Safina, a 3rd year medical student who helps out at the Lighthouse Medical Clinic on Wednesday evenings. Opened in October 2001 in the basement of Resurrection Lutheran Church at the corner of Genesee and Doat Streets, the clinic provides free medical care on Wednesday evenings on a drop-in basis. Once it became apparent that the clinic would be a success, the church purchased the building next door, and various funding sources have since provided for the clinic. The students have 2 fund-raisers per year and AOA grants raise more than \$5,000 per year. Medicines are provided through a \$25,000 grant from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Chet Fox, MD, and Pat Dyer, PNP, oversee the clinic, which is run by 6 2nd-year medical students and is open most Wednesdays year-round. Other volunteer physicians who help fill in when needed include family physicians: Drs. Andrea Manyon, Glenn Smith, Myron Glick, John Brewer, and Sharon Ziegler. Four to five first-year students also attend to help patients complete paperwork and to shadow the clinicians. On a recent November evening, 16 people were provided health care, 6 flu shots given,

Continued on page 4

Family Medicine Endowment Funds Annual Update

We are proud to report that our Endowment Funds experienced a year of outstanding support, thanks to the generosity of faculty, alumni, staff and friends. Approximately \$9,000 was contributed to the Family Medicine Endowment and \$2,000 to the Family Medicine Research Fund during the December 2003 Annual Appeal, an increase of 49% over last year's total \$7,400. There were 14 new 1st-time donors. Of our 67 donors overall, 33 are School of Medicine graduates, 26 are graduates of our residency, 17 are dual-graduates, 1 is a current Resident, and 6 are staff (non MD's). Total contributions to the Endowment Fund for the entire year of 2003 were \$19,243. Over \$100,000 has been raised for the Endowment Fund and \$6,000 for the Research Fund. Please continue your support, which is vital as we build a future for the goals of family practice.

Honor Roll of Giving

Thank you to the following people for their support of Family Medicine !

Dr. & Mrs. Galvin D. Anderson
 Dr. Jerome C. Andres
 Drs. Roseanne Berger and Daniel Morelli
 Dr. Richard Blondell
 Dr. Wade Bollinger
 Dr. Deborah Bowers
 Ms. Deborah E. Brown
 Dr. David Brubaker
 Dr. James Collins, Jr.
 Dr. Thomas E. Comerford, Jr.
 Dr. Gordon Comstock
 Dr. Brian F. Connolly *
 Dr. J. Steven Cramer *
 Dr. Bradley H. Crestol
 Mr. David Draper
 Dr. Melvin Dyster *
 Dr. Kevin Scott Ferentz
 Dr. William J. Fiden, Jr. *
 Dr. Chester Fox
 Dr. and Mrs. Ian Frankfort
 Dr. Lisa Gambino
 Dr. Peter F. Goergen, Jr.
 Dr. Ronald Greco
 Dr. Kim Griswold *
 Rev. and Mrs. Brendan Griswold
 Dr. David Holmes

Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Joyce *
 Linda S. Kahn, Ph.D.
 Mr. and Mrs. David H. Kernan
 Ms. Susan Klein
 Dr. Vito Laglia
 Dr. Mark Lichtenstein
 Dr. Barbara Majeroni
 Dr. Joel Mandelbaum
 Drs. Andrea Manyon and James Wild *
 Dr. and Mrs. Harry Metcalf *
 Dr. Ronald Marconi
 Dr. Deborah Miller
 Dr. Amos J. Minkel Jr.
 Dr. Peter J. Minkoff
 Dr. Douglas Moffat
 Dr. Julius Nagy
 Dr. Maureen Newman
 Dr. Danielle Notebaert and Thomas H. Feeley, Ph.D.
 Dr. Vinod Patel
 Dr. Laurence Plumb
 Dr. Ralph Pothel
 Dr. Edward Rayhill *
 Ms. Sherry Rook
 Dr. Thomas C. Rosenthal *

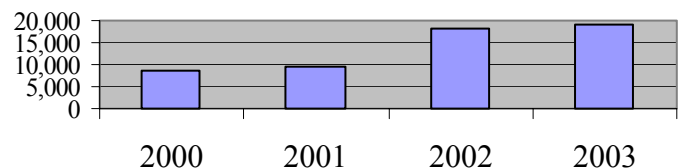
Dr. Joseph F. Ruh *
 Dr. Richard Ruh
 Dr. John Sauret
 Dr. Thomas Sheehan
 Gurdev Singh Ph.D.
 Dr. Ranjit Singh
 Dr. Gregory Snyder
 Dr. Joseph Testa
 Dr. David Thomas
 Dr. Ajeeb J. Titus
 Dr. C. Scott Thompson
 Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter Ph.D.
 Ms. Christine Wagner
 Dr. James Wetter
 Dr. Sandra Yale
 Dr. Michael Zionts

* James Platt White Society Member

WE Need Your Support !

Please consider a contribution to the Family Medicine Endowment or Family Medicine Research Fund. Online gifts may be made at:
wings.buffalo.edu/smb/fam-med/endowment.htm
 OR mail your check (payable to UB Foundation) to:
 UB Dept. of Family Medicine
 Attn: Joan B. Kernan
 462 Grider Street, CC Bldg.
 Buffalo, NY 14215

Total Contributions by Year



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



Our Very Own Steve Cramer !

Lt. Cols. John S. Cramer, left, and James F. Atkinson III, members of the 107th Air Refueling Wing, exchange congratulations on Jan. 11, 2004, after both were awarded Bronze Stars in special ceremonies at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. The medal was awarded for “exemplary leadership, personal endeavor and devotion to duty” during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Dr. Cramer, “Steve”, when he is not out defending our country, is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and practices at the UB Family Medicine Inc. offices on Sheridan Drive, Tonawanda. Congratulations Steve!

(Picture courtesy of the *Buffalo News*)

Department News

- **Rural Program Receives Full Accreditation:** The UB Family Medicine Rural Residency Program in Olean, NY, recently underwent an RRC (residency review commission) Accreditation process and received a 5-year full accreditation status. This is a testament to the high quality of the program. Thanks to **Galvin Anderson, MD**, **John Sauret, MD** and their staff for their hard work and dedication. There are currently six residents in the Olean program.
- **Richard J. Ruh, MD**, SMBS '90, R'93, has been named Vice President of Medical Affairs / Medical Director at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo and Our Lady of Victory Hospital (OLV) in Lackawanna, part of the Catholic Health System (CHS). Dr. Ruh, a Clinical Assistant Professor at UB, comes from a family of physicians: Dad is Dr. Joseph F. Ruh, and sisters include Dr. Kathleen Ruh Trapp who is finishing her residency in family practice at Millard Fillmore Family Practice, Dr. Mary Patricia Ruh is an anesthesiologist, and Dr. Jennifer M. Ruh practices with him at Orchard Park Family Practice.
- **Luis Zayas, Ph.D.**, Research Assistant Professor, FMRI, has been accepted as a fellow to the 2003-2004 class of the Grant Generating Project (GGP) sponsored by North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG), Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM), and the University of Missouri. This program focuses on mentorship and grant writing skills. Nationally, graduates of the program have had great success in receiving funding to support their research programs.
- Please congratulate **Meg Stephan, RN**, FMRI Research Coordinator, on her appointment to the health sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB). We have all come to rely on Meg as our resident IRB expert—now she will really have the inside scoop. Thanks to Meg for taking on the extra work. She will represent Family Medicine well !
- **Greg Snyder, MD**, Clinical Associate Professor, is the new Medical Director at the Community Health Center of Buffalo, replacing Dr. Tim McDaniel.
- **Ranjit Singh, MD, MBA**, Clinical Assistant Professor, recently obtained his MBA from the University at Buffalo School of Management's Professional MBA program. Ranjit was recognized by the School of Management for placing in the very top of his class. Congratulations Ranjit!

department news con't. on page 4

Recent Presentations from the UB Department of Family Medicine. For a more complete listing of publications and presentations, please visit our website: wings.buffalo.edu/smb/s/fam-med/ Congratulations to the many members of our department who have recently had papers and posters accepted for presentations at conferences. Nine faculty were accepted to present at the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) conference this past October in Banff, Alberta, Canada.:

Blondell RD, Dodds HN, Lewis CM, Looney SW, Hagan JK, Lukan JM, **Servoss TJ**. “Toxicology screening of injured patients”.

Cramer, J. Steven. “The Effects of Stanol Esters on Total Cholesterol and LDL-Cholesterol Reduction: A Meta-Analytic Review”.

Griswold, K. Workshop entitled “Mentor Magic—Shortening the Path to Success.”

Mahoney, MC. “Early Detection & Screening” at Primary Care Research & the Cancer Control Continuum, Roundtable Discussion.

Servoss, T. “Barriers and Incentives to Medical Student Teaching: Surveying Primary Care Physicians in New York State”.

Singh, G., Singh, R. “Novel Use of Hazard Ratings from Safety Engineering to Target Error Reductions in Primary Care”.

Singh, A., Singh, R., Servoss, T., Fox, C., Taylor, J., Singh, S., “A Practice-Driven Program for Safety Enhancement”.

Singh, R., Pietris, N., Kulkarni, J., Singh, S. “Nursing Attitudes toward Medication Errors and Reporting in a Skilled Nursing Facility”.

Tumiel, L., Glick, M. “Asthma and Smoking in an Urban Native American Population”.

Zayas L, Griswold K, Wagner C, Kernan J. “Fostering Cultural Awareness in a Refugee Cultural Awareness Training Program.”

Other presentations made by faculty include:

Fox, Chester. “Confessions of a Primary Care Physician on Understanding the Importance of Early Kidney Disease”. A regional conference on renal disease sponsored by the Syracuse Chapter of the National Kidney Foundation. March 29, 2003.

Fox, Chester. “What You Need to Know about Kidney Disease”. A City Wide presentation sponsored by Independent Health, the National Kidney Foundation, and the Anemia Awareness group. November 9, 2002

Mahoney MC. “Immunization Update 2003” and “Cervical Cancer Screening Update”, both presented at Annual Winter Weekend & Scientific Assembly, 21. NYS Academy of Family Physicians & American Cancer Society, Lake Placid, NY, January 2003.

Mahoney MC. “Cancer Prevention: Current Status, Future Promise”, presented at Oncology Nursing Society of WNY, ann'l conf. on Men's Issues in Cancer Care, 9/ 2003.

Praxis

UB Dept. of Family Medicine
462 Grider Street
UB Clinical Center
Buffalo, NY 14215

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

Lighthouse, continued from page 1:

1 case of diabetes diagnosed, and 2 referrals made for further care. Seventy-three youngsters ages 9-12 received free physicals last Fall, allowing them to participate in youth football. Once a month, a Univera Healthcare social worker provides help in enrolling people into health insurance plans, including Medicaid, and Child and/or Family Health Plus. Reverend Charles Biegner, Pastor Emeritus of Resurrection Lutheran Church, is in the process of raising \$25,000 for renovations including private examining rooms. Rev. Biegner said that "Having students working here is a pure bonus; everyone benefits in some way." Students see how an actual clinic is run, from processing paperwork to applying for health insurance to providing health exams for patients in a timely way.

The student-run clinic is managed by Michelle Niescierenko, Jenn Cozios, Tonya Dunlap, Lynne Learned, Matthew Mack, NhuNha Tran, and Kirk Scirto. At the end of this year, these students will choose six 1st-year students to assume responsibility during the next academic year. The Lighthouse Medical Clinic is always looking for more physicians to volunteer their time on Wednesday evenings to help oversee the students. For further information, please contact: Chet Fox at cfox@buffalo.edu or Lynne Learned at lynnel_earned@hotmail.com

Primary Care Safety Net

Drs. Myron Glick, Chet Fox, and David Holmes have received a US Dept. of Health and Human Services sub-award through the Christian Community Health Fellowship in Chicago to spawn two new primary care safety net sites in the City of Buffalo (one at Lighthouse Clinic and one near the closed Geneva B. Scruggs

Clinic. The sites will start small but will hold great potential for pre-doc training and practice based research. FMRI will be involved in the project evaluation.

Department News, continued from page 3:

- **Barbara Majeroni, MD**, Clinical Associate Professor, is the new Medical Director at Cleve Hill Family Health.
- **Vinod Patel, MD**, R'00, Clinical Assistant Professor, is the new Medical Director at the Deaconess Family Medicine Center.
- **John Taylor, MBA**, Executive Director of FMRI, was given an Award of Acknowledgement by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for his contribution to the Health For All initiative.
- **Linda Kahn Ph.D.**, Research Assistant Professor, is the new Director of Evaluation for FMRI and the New York State AHEC System. Linda worked as a medical researcher in the UB Biobehavioral Program (in the Department of Psychiatry) for six years where she was also involved in the development of medical curricula. Before coming to UB she trained teachers at Canisius College and taught anthropology. Welcome Linda!
- **Marco A. Muñiz, DO, MPH**, is the department's first National Research Service Award (NRSA) fellow in Health Disparity Research. Dr. Muniz is building a research career in occupational health disparities. The goal of this award program is to actively recruit minority fellows to work with established mentors in the departments of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics. For more information, please contact John Taylor at jstaylor@buffalo.edu