

NEWSWORTHY

Suggestions for story ideas are always welcome. Stories can be about research, curriculum or programs of study, unique or interesting personal achievements, growing trends or patient care with an academic focus.

Please email your comments and inquiries to lori_perrault@nymc.edu.

You can read current and archived issues of *InTouch* by visiting us on the web: www.nymc.edu/OfficesAndServices/PublicRelations/Publications/Intouch.html

inTOUCH

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College community battles it out in “Jar Wars”

A little friendly competition in the cafeteria yielded nearly \$1,000 for a local family in need of some extra help. “Jar Wars” was declared on campus during the week of January 25, pitting faculty, graduate students, the Class of 2012, and the Class of 2013 against each other to raise money for a family whose plight was discovered through Child Welfare Services at the Westchester Institute for Human Development.

Five-gallon water jugs to hold the contributions of each of the four contestant groups were set up in the cafeteria. The goal for each group was to accumulate the most points during the week, counter-intuitively reckoned in negative point values. Different denominations of money placed in the jars were worth various point values, with pennies being worth one point, while nickels, dimes,

quarters and dollars carried negative point values. The strategy was to add negative points to the opposing team jars while adding pennies to one’s own team jar to accumulate the least amount of negative points. Special theme days added to the twists and turns of the competition.

When all the coins and bills were counted, and the quirky reckoning was finished, the Class of 2012 came out the winner. They will be treated to an ice cream party when the weather warms up.

All proceeds from “Jar Wars” will go to a trust fund being set up for a young girl whose single

mother has been diagnosed with terminal lymphoma. Recently, the child has been temporarily placed into foster care while the mother is hospitalized, but they remain cheerful and resilient, say the student organizers. ▲



Second-year medical students Jeannie Tran, Ann Tran and Jon Weisiger took turns tending to “Jar Wars” and playfully badgered people to spend their coins on a good cause.

March 2010

inTOUCH



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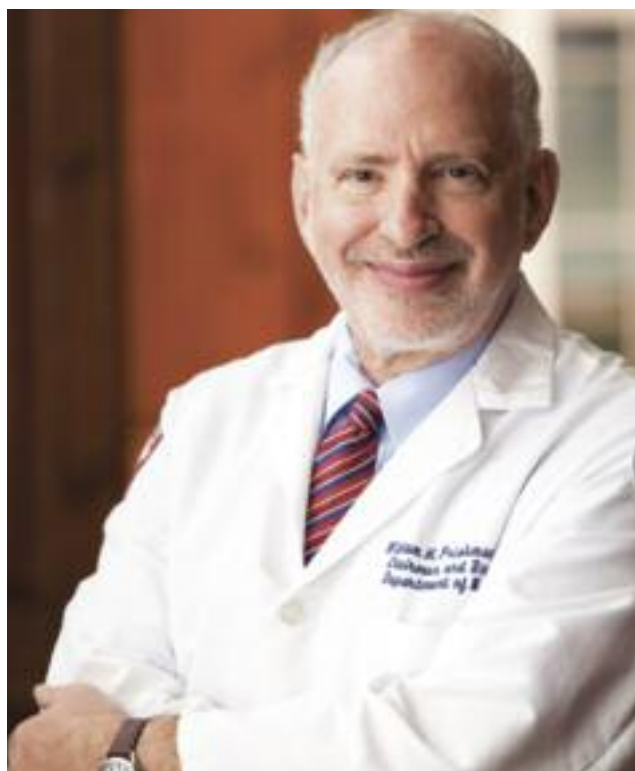


inTOUCH

Volume Sixteen | Number Two
March 2010

EDUCATION ► RESEARCH ► SERVICE

William H. Frishman, M.D., will highlight College's rich history at AOA Lecture



With an historical flair, William H. Frishman, M.D., the Barbara and William Rosenthal Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine, will present the 54th Annual Alpha Omega Alpha Visiting Professor Lecture on March 24.

Photo by William Taufic

The event will be held on March 24, beginning with Dr. Frishman's lecture at 5 p.m. in Nevins Auditorium followed by light refreshments in the Medical Education Center lobby. An induction ceremony and banquet by invitation will be held at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Dr. Frishman is a highly accomplished, lettered and prolific physician-scientist. A board-certified internist and cardiologist with an international reputation in clinical cardiology, epidemiology, cardiovascular pharmacology and geriatrics, Dr. Frishman has authored more than 1,000 original research articles, reviews and book chapters. He has also edited, co-edited, authored and co-authored twelve full-length textbooks, including *Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapeutics*, now in its third edition by McGraw Hill Publishing.

Dr. Frishman has participated in federally-funded cardiovascular research trials as a co-principal investigator, including Systolic Hypertension in the Elderly, Studies of Left Ventricular Dysfunction, the Bronx Aging Study and the highly touted Women's Health Initiative. He is currently the clinical leader of a New York State consortium project on cardiac stem cells.

He has received national recognition for excellence in teaching, including the Teaching Scholar Award of the American Heart Association, the Preventive Cardiology Academic Award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and distinguished teacher awards from the Association of American Medical Colleges and Alpha Omega Alpha. He is also the recipient of the Humanism in Medicine Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges, and holds a Mastership of the American College of Physicians.

At the banquet, members of the faculty and alumni will be honored and inducted into the society based on outstanding contributions to the medical profession and the educational system at New York Medical College. They include alumni initiates John Degliuomini, M.D. '93, assistant professor of surgery, and Joanna Pessolano, M.D. '81, assistant

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HIGHLIGHTS

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College community rallies for Haitian relief efforts

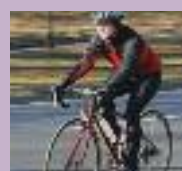


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Art exhibit expresses beauty, pain, hope and healing

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Noted Harvard cell biologist will address the 22nd annual GSRF



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Roommates bike cross country to raise money and awareness



Accolades

- *Edward Miller Jr., D.M.D.*, clinical assistant professor of dental medicine, was installed as president of the New York County Dental Society on January 21.

- *Lori Weir, M.D. '99, M.P.H. '09*, assistant professor of family and community medicine and course director of the Introduction to Primary Care course, presented "Faculty Development Needs of Experienced Primary Care Preceptors" at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine 36th Annual Predoctoral Education Conference in Jacksonville, Fla., in January.

Forum underscores impressive student research

The 14th Annual Medical Student Research Forum on February 4 upheld its tradition of showcasing noteworthy student basic science and clinical investigations to the College community and featuring a keynote address by a renowned scientist. Each year the forum gives students an opportunity to whet their presentation skills, think on their feet as they respond to the probing questions and comments of faculty judges, and receive valuable feedback.

This year's keynote was given by Joseph S. Cervia, M.D. '84, director of the Comprehensive HIV Care and Research Center at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Dr. Cervia, an alumnus of the School of Medicine, is also clinical professor of medicine and of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

He began by praising the caliber of the student research presentations, and observing how much has changed—on campus and in the world of medicine—since his days as a medical student. Back then, in the early 1980s, AIDS was first clinically observed and HIV was virtually an unknown—concepts that were difficult to imagine for some of the medical students in the audience.



Joseph S. Cervia, M.D. '84, presented "Matters of the HAART: Gleanings on life, immunity, and cardio-metabolic risk from the study of HIV" at the 14th Annual Medical Student Research Forum.

Dr. Cervia presented a chronology of HIV that included anecdotes from his own early research and his experiences caring for patients battling HIV and their families. He also described his clinical research related to HIV therapies, opportunistic illnesses, and quality of life issues. ▲

14th Annual Medical Student Research Forum Winners

Oral Presentations

Basic Sciences Category

First Place

Chris LaFargue (4)

"Using Fluorescence in situ Hybridization (FISH) to Examine the Prevalence of ETS Gene Fusions in a Large Prostatectomy Cohort"

Second Place

Susan Boisvert (6)

"Use of EGFR Genetic Analysis to Potentially Expand Treatment Options for Patients With Vulvar Squamous Cell Carcinoma"

Third Place

Nicolas Kummer (5)

"Arachidonate 5-Lipoxygenase Expression in Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Correlates with Invasive Histopathology and Promotes Extracellular Matrix Degradation via MMP-9 Induction"

Clinical Sciences Category

First Place

Paul Nestadt (1)

"Resilience in the Third Year of Medical School: A Prospective Study of the Associations Between Stressful Events Occurring During Clinical Rotations and Student Well-Being"

Second Place

James Cassuto (3)

"Wait List Death and Survival Benefit of Kidney Transplantation among Extra-renal Transplant Recipients"

Third Place

Edward Hurley (2)

"Racial Differences in Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Severity for Neonates with Mitochondrial Superoxide Dismutase Polymorphism"

Poster Presentations

Basic Sciences Category

First Place

Hsienhwa Cha (9)

"Quantitative Metallomics of the Human Red Blood Cell"

Second Place

Catherina Pinnaro (10)

"Bone Morphogenetic Protein 2 Inhibits STAT3 Activity in Human Pulmonary Artery Endothelial Cells"

Clinical Sciences Category

First Place

Humera Ahmed (7)

"Esophageal Temperature Monitoring During Balloon Cryoablation of Atrial Fibrillation"

Second Place

Noorjahan Ali (8)

"Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Gene Polymorphism is Associated with Susceptibility to Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia in ELBW Infants"

Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D., far right, provost and dean of the School of Medicine, congratulated the winners. Noorjahan Ali (8) was also the winner of the Dean's Award for receiving the highest score in the poster or oral competition for work with a NYMC affiliated research group.



Pravin B. Sehgal, M.D., Ph.D., is honored with 2009 Dean's Research Award

It's not easy to sum up the research accomplishments of Pravin B. Sehgal, M.D., Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy and of medicine, but the inscription on the 2009 Dean's Research Award plaque offers a noble attempt: "In recognition of the discovery and cloning of the human interleukin-6 gene, the uncovering of intracellular membrane-associated trafficking pathways relevant to interleukin-6 signaling through stats, and the demonstration that altered transcytoplasmic trafficking of regulatory proteins in the lung endothelium is a dominant feature of pulmonary hypertension."

The College community, including many past winners of the award, filled Nevins Auditorium on January 21 to witness the presentation of the 2009 Dean's Research Award and listen to Dr. Sehgal's talk, "Four Graduate Student Stories: Paradigm Shifts in STAT3 Signaling and Pulmonary Hypertension." While the scientist

chronicled his own memories as a graduate student and the findings in his laboratory—some expected, some not—his underlying message was always to remember the joy and excitement of doing science as his mentors taught him, a philosophy that he tries to instill in his own students.

The Dean's Research Award annually recognizes an individual for initiation of a significant discipline at the College, and for exceptional leadership of a College research program. Nominations for the award are made by fellow faculty, administration and students.

Dr. Sehgal was recognized for his expertise in the world of cellular communications. He has built an internationally-recognized career on the investigation of how and why cellular messages misfire.

Dr. Sehgal received his M.D. at the University of Bombay in India and his Ph.D. in cell biology and



Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D., left, provost and dean of the School of Medicine, presented the 2009 Dean's Research Award plaque to Pravin B. Sehgal, M.D., Ph.D.

virology at Rockefeller University in New York. He completed a fellowship and served on the faculty there before joining the College in 1991. Author or co-author of more than 200 publications, Dr. Sehgal is also the senior editor of a book published in 2003, *Signal Transducers and Activation of Transcription (STATs): Biology and Activation* and two previous books on IL-6 that were published by the New York Academy of Sciences. ▲

Medical student begins foundation to help rural India



Fourth-year medical student Vedika Nehra believes in the power of small, positive acts of service.

In May, when her classmates walk across the stage at Carnegie Hall to receive their diplomas, fourth-year medical student Vedika Nehra will not be among them. Instead she will be hard at work in a small rural village in India, setting up a malaria clinic.

Even though Ms. Nehra was raised in Canada, Australia, and the United States, she was born in rural India and has always called it home. The Nehra-Savent Foundation (NSF), which she formed in late 2009 using the surnames of both sets of grandparents, is a way of honoring her family history while providing health and education assistance to rural communities. "My dad always told me, if you want to do something, start small, go slow, and begin with what you know," she said.

The foundation's initial goals are to set up a clinic and a school library to serve six villages located approximately 50 miles northwest of the city of Hissar in the state of Haryana, India. Currently, Ms. Nehra is in the process of gathering funds—she estimates needing \$3,000 to get the clinic up and running and \$4,000 for the library. She is

being helped by the fundraising efforts of a group of medical and graduate students at the College, along with several high school students from the College's Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP), a mentoring program.

"Rural communities in India, the U.S. or any other nation, are my passion. I created the Nehra-Savent Foundation to aid rural communities and share the stories of their people with the rest of the world," said Ms. Nehra. "From the day of inception my parents and my sisters have been my inspiration and a constant source of support. I also have a wonderful team of students working with me and everyday I am grateful for their enthusiasm and hard work. It has been a joy to get to know all of these talented individuals and I am very excited about the future of the Nehra-Savent Foundation."

The NSF projects will aid a community where there are no doctors, nurses, or nearby clinics. Ms. Nehra hopes to convince medical students from Hissar to continue making visits to the villages after she leaves, and her long-term goal is to build a permanent free clinic.

"There's a little room in my grandfather's house with a separate entrance that we will be converting into a clinic. Now local villagers must travel long distances to reach a doctor, then often they must wait days to see that doctor. A clinic situated in a village that can provide basic health care would reduce the burden of traveling to the city for minor health problems. It will also promote preventive care, provide screening and patient education opportunities, and allow for the timely referral of patients to city doctors for serious diseases," she said. "When a visit to the doctor is a hardship, people will not go unless their situation is dire. Through our clinic we hope to circumvent this dangerous reality by providing appropriate primary care."

Infectious and waterborne diseases—including diarrhea, typhoid, infectious hepatitis, measles, malaria, tuberculosis and pneumonia—are all common in rural India. And while the government offers free medicine for diseases like malaria, they will not give it out if there is no doctor or clinic available to dispense it. The NSF clinic would help resolve that issue.

Education is another concern and passion of Ms. Nehra's. For the approximately 600 children in the area who attend a poorly staffed public school, simply completing a tenth grade education can be a daunting challenge. "Necessary family chores add to the battle against the clock each day after school. A child's aspiration of earning a diploma quickly begins to dissolve given a difficult home environment, no one to help with homework, no money for basic school supplies and daily electricity outages," said Ms. Nehra.

"I wanted to create an environment that promotes learning and provides a quiet place for children to study and complete daily homework assignments, even after sunset. A library in the village public school was the perfect fit," said Ms. Nehra. The library will be a safe, clean, well-lit space filled with books and supplies. Her long-term goals are to have tutors available for the children and bi-weekly literacy courses for adults. "Illiteracy and dropout rates in the farmlands of India are exceptionally high. We hope the library project will generate excitement for learning and reading in the children and their families, thus fostering a desire to remain in school and graduate with a twelfth grade diploma," she continued.

To learn more about the Nehra-Savent Foundation please visit <http://nehra-saventfoundation.webs.com>. ▲

College community rallies for Haitian relief efforts

In typical NYMC fashion, the emails began flying as soon as news of the devastating 7.0 earthquake in Haiti on January 12 began to unfold. People were asking: Does anyone have family in Haiti? What is the best way to help? Where should I donate money? For days, these and other messages of concern were shared among the College community as shock and grief set in and the world learned more about the devastation.

“As members of a community dedicated to the health of people everywhere, it is natural for us to experience great anguish over the tragedy, combined with an urgent desire to help in some meaningful way,” Ralph A. O’Connell, provost and dean of the School of Medicine, wrote in an email to the College community.

True to form, NYMC responded. Following are brief accounts of some of their stories.



Sean Kivlehan took a break from his medical duties and spent time with some of the more resilient young Haitian earthquake survivors.

Sean Kivlehan

Sean Kivlehan, a third-year M.D./M.P.H. student, spent ten days in Haiti in late January. The trained paramedic travelled with NYC Medics, a New York City-based nonprofit organization that responds to global disasters, a group he has worked with since 2005. The self-sufficient medical unit set up a tent hospital system outside of Port-au-Prince. Mr. Kivlehan wrote in his account, “the conditions on the ground are brutal. The damage is unreal—everything is crushed and the smell of dead bodies is everywhere, but the people are so happy to have us here.”

Lt. Cmdr. Mill Etienne, M.D. '02

Long before he became a physician, Haiti native Mill Etienne had an intense drive to help those in need. When the neurologist and School of Medicine alumnus, who was then stationed at a naval hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, heard that a hospital ship was travelling to Haiti, he immediately cleared his schedule and volunteered. While at sea he taught his shipmates, Creole, the French-based dialect of Haiti. En route he also shared with them the history and culture of Haiti before arriving to tend to the injured.



Mill Etienne, M.D. '02, was one of 1,100 military personnel on board a hospital ship bound for Haiti to tend to victims of the earthquake. Photo by Kim Hairston. Courtesy of the Baltimore Sun Company, Inc., All Rights Reserved

Philip A. Marraccini, M.D. '50

Inventor, School of Medicine alumnus and trustee, Philip A. Marraccini, M.D. '50, donated 500 units of WoundCare, a therapeutic powder he invented, to help earthquake victims in Haiti. The patented powder is used to treat wounds, burns, diabetic ulcers, post-operative wounds and abrasions. The 90-year-old retired surgeon was happy to help after being contacted from a mission group in Florida who learned about his product on a website.



Philip A. Marraccini, M.D. '50

Student Organizations

Members of the Student HealthCare Executives (StuHe) Club, the Graduate Student Association (GSA), and the Genocide Awareness and Prevention Club (GAAP) banded together to host a four-day bake sale to raise money for the American Red Cross. Their generous supplies of sweets, homemade treats and heartfelt donations netted more than \$900. The Student Senate agreed to match funds up to \$500, bringing the total amount raised to \$1,413.39. ▲



This foursome of students helped coordinate a bake sale to benefit the Red Cross. Clockwise from top left: Ogo Nwankwo, StuHe co-president; Mike Karsy, GAAP treasurer; Karyn Monahan, StuHe vice president; and Obigeni Nwankwo, StuHe co-president.

“Thoughts in a Disaster”

The following is excerpted from the work of Sean Kivlehan, Class of 2011, who was in the midst of completing his psychiatry and behavioral sciences clerkship.

...Catastrophe is the great equalizer, but it also becomes the greatest unifier.

The first unification is with the shock and fear. Many don't understand how such a horrible thing could occur. As the magnitude of the earthquake was revealed—in this case over 200,000 killed, one million orphaned, and up to three million homeless—the affected become unified in misery. It is at this point that the role of psychiatry becomes evident and the skill of exploring feelings and emotions becomes life-saving.

I was guilty of underestimating psychiatry, even upon my arrival in Port-au-Prince. Preparations were for treatment of traumatic injuries: fracture reductions, wound debriding, amputations and suturing, as well as for medical complaints such as respiratory and wound infections, fevers, and infectious diseases. On the evening of the first full day of wandering through internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and treating hundreds of victims, my reflections surprised me. Sitting against a crumbled stone wall, watching a person I had just comforted with words dig his family out of the pile that was once his house, I realized that it was those discussions...with the affected that helped them more than any physical treatment administered.

This man, who had escaped rubble yet was crushed on the inside, came to me with hopelessness. I listened to his story, sympathized with him, and steadied him while he took this load off of his back. Survivor's guilt had left him directionless; being told that it was not his fault was a sort of forgiveness he needed to go on. Suddenly I realized that the most common injury in Haiti was the emotional trauma, and the most important treatment that our team brought was our capacity for listening.

The patients treated that first day had a wide variety of injuries and medical complaints. But all had the same emotional trauma and need for support. It was very different from the inpatient ward only a four hour flight away in New York City, yet the interpersonal connections were the same. Those first few weeks of experience with the various patients had built a foundation of skill that I was until then unaware of. We didn't have the diversity of conditions like bipolar and schizophrenia, and there was no time to explore personality disorders. There were no psychotropic medications or advanced diagnostic techniques or readily available follow up. However, there was a raw emotion of pain and suffering with universally shared stressors: every single person I encountered had lost a family member, a friend, a home; all that was left was despair.

In response, we performed psychiatry in its purest form. People were encouraged to express their emotions and explore their pain. Beneath the tears and heartache, together we were able to find the hope that everyone still had within them. Giving this back to the people, showing them what they did have left, and helping them move forward was more healing than any suture stitched.

NYMC art exhibit expresses beauty, pain, hope and healing

When Mahatma Ghandi said, “You must be the change you want to see in the world,” he wasn’t standing anywhere near the Medical Education Center lobby. But that is where signs of hope and world change were depicted and represented in the first New York Medical College Art Exhibit.

Perhaps it was Ghandi’s advice that first-year medical student Radeeb Akhtar followed last fall after attending the College’s annual club fair and finding



First-year medical student and art exhibit organizer Radeeb Akhtar posed with his charcoal work, an untitled nude. He also displayed “Self-portrait: Essentially without Anything” in charcoal.

no outlet for his artistic leanings. The “unofficial” art minor from New York University had always enjoyed different forms of creative expression, so when he didn’t find the club he was looking for, he decided to start one of his own.

Four months later, sixteen artists displayed their work in the lobby of the Medical Education Center. Because the indefatigable Mr. Akhtar organized meetings and sent a bevy of long, persuasive e-mails, a group of students, faculty and staff finally had a venue to express their ideas and talent to the College community.

The New York Medical College Art Club exhibit opened on January 25 with a wine and cheese reception and music. The artists were available to discuss their work.

One installation, outlines of blue tape placed about the walls of the exhibit area, was inscribed with questions or statements about medical philosophy and ethics, such as, “Can I practice without uncertainty?” “Treatment of the body, but not of the soul.”

The work of Ellen Jorgensen Ph.D., adjunct assistant professor of pathology,

told the story of Henrietta Lacks, a Baltimore mother of five, who developed cervical cancer and died in 1951 at the age of thirty-one. A sample of Ms. Lack’s tumor was used to produce the first human cell line, known as HeLa cells. A new book about the historical phenomenon was recently published, no doubt inspiring the mixed media art piece.

“Since it was a tremendous breakthrough for science, the donor’s identity eventually became known, and debate still rages over whether or not the practice of creating something from a person’s living tissue without their involvement is morally sound,” Dr. Jorgensen said. “As a basic researcher who works daily with human cell lines, I often wonder who they came from, if the donor survived their illness, and how they would feel about my work.”

Ximena Lillo Richardson, who is the billing coordinator for pediatric cardiology of Children’s and Women’s Physicians of Westchester,

spends her days making sure the coding on the billing is correct. Her acrylic painting interpreted the stories of medical wonders she is able to glean from her daily reviews of the billing.



Second-year medical student Ava Asher was creative and economical at the same time. She submitted acrylics on cardboard, saying, “cardboard is free and I can always find a piece.” Her work, “Daily Assessment of Mindfulness,” asked questions about her state of mind, while other works depicted limbs and the skeleton of a whale.



Fiona Villate, administrative secretary in the Department of Physical Therapy, School of Health Sciences and Practice, hoped to put a face on systemic lupus erythematosus. Using charcoal, she drew her 18-year-old daughter, Patricia, who was diagnosed with the disease in March of last year.



First-year medical students Annie Xu, Lauren Snyder and Thomas Vu folded 1,000 paper cranes for a mobile. Their work was based on the legend of leukemia victim Sadako Sasaki, who believed that “one who folded a thousand paper cranes would be granted a wish.”

“Even though I am at the other end of the spectrum [from doctors] and do not have contact with patients, I still realize what a great job our doctors are doing by saving the lives of little children one at a time,” Ms. Richardson said.

Other artists who exhibited their work included M.D./Ph.D. candidate Nicolas Kummer, fourth-year medical students Debasree Banerjee and Kathy Deng, third-year Aaron Savedoff, second-year Katrina Bernardo, first-years Jeffrey Stern, Anna Djougarian, Jonathan Drake and Calley Levine, and Sandy Rybczynski, budget analyst in the University Budget Office.

“There are a lot more artists around campus with something to say,” Mr. Akhtar said. “And we hope we’ll be hearing from them in our next show.” ▲

Noted Harvard cell biologist will address the 22nd annual Graduate Student Research Forum



The Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences (GSBMS) will welcome Marc W. Kirschner, Ph.D., as the keynote speaker for the 22nd Annual Graduate Student Research Forum on Wednesday, April 7. The event, sponsored by

Graduate Student Association (GSA), will feature a full day of activities, including oral and poster presentations of student-conducted research capped by a keynote by a renowned scientist.

Dr. Kirschner is the founding chair of the Department of Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School. His laboratory investigates three broad, diverse areas: regulation of the cell cycle, the role of cytoskeleton in cell morphogenesis, and mechanisms of establishing the basic vertebrate body plan.

Dr. Kirschner graduated from Northwestern University and received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Following post-doctoral research at Berkeley and at the University of Oxford, he joined the faculty of Princeton University. He later held the title of professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco for 15 years. In 1993 Dr. Kirschner moved to Harvard to become the founding Chair of the Department of Cell Biology. In 2003, he established the Department of Systems

Biology there and became its first chair. He was recently named the John Franklin Enders University Professor, Harvard's highest professorial distinction.

Dr. Kirschner is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Foreign Member of the Royal Society of London and the Academia Europaea. He has served on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health and was President of the American Society for Cell Biology. Dr. Kirschner has received numerous honors and awards, including the E.B. Wilson Medal from the American Society of Cell Biology.

Dr. Kirschner is the co-author of *Cells, Embryos, and Evolution* (Blackwell, 1997) and *The Plausibility of Life: Resolving Darwin's Dilemma* (Yale University Press, 2005). ▲

Calendar of Events for 2010 Commencement

DAY/TIME/EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Friday, May 21		
10:00 a.m. Pre-Internship Completion Ceremony & Anointing of Graduates' Hands	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Regina Damon/594-4490
11:30 a.m. Pre-Internship Reception	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Regina Damon/594-4490
Saturday, May 22		
6:00 p.m. Annual Alumni Banquet	Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, NYC	Abby Rosenthal/594-3134
25 th Reunion Cocktail Reception, Class of 1985 – Awarding of Silver Diplomas		
50 th Reunion Cocktail Reception, Class of 1960 – Awarding of Gold Diplomas		
7:00 p.m. General Cocktail Reception		
8:00 p.m. Dinner and Awards Presentation		
Sunday, May 23		
12:30 p.m. Luncheon for 5-Year Reunion Classes, Campus Tours and Alumni Association Annual Meeting	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Abby Rosenthal/594-3134
Monday, May 24		
11:30 a.m. Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences Luncheon	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Barbara Lewis/594-3163
2:00 p.m. Distribution of Academic Attire (SHSP and GSBMS)	Medical Education Center Lobby	University Registrar/594-4495
3:00 p.m. Commencement Rehearsal (SHSP and GSBMS)	Nevins Auditorium	Barbara Lewis/594-3163 Jacqueline Jenkins/594-4847
4:30 p.m. SHSP Physical Therapy Recognition Ceremony	Nevins Auditorium	Fiona Villate/594-4917
SHSP Speech-Language Pathology Recognition Ceremony	The Center for Interactive Learning	Liz Carrion/594-4239
5:00 p.m. School of Health Sciences and Practice Reception	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Jacqueline Jenkins/594-4847
5:30 p.m. School of Health Sciences and Practice Dinner and Awards	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Jacqueline Jenkins/594-4847
Tuesday, May 25		
8:30 a.m. Commencement Breakfast & Rehearsal (School of Medicine)	Nevins Auditorium	Miriam Feliciano/594-4521
11:00 a.m. Distribution of Academic Attire (School of Medicine)	Medical Education Center Lobby	University Registrar/594-4495
12:45 p.m. University Commencement Mass and Anointing of Graduates' Hands	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Deacon Lawrence O'Toole/594-4646
2:30 p.m. Senior Honors Convocation	Tent, Valhalla Campus	Cathy Pantoja/594-4498
4:30 p.m. University Reception	Medical Education Center Plaza	Faye Seltzer/594-3655
Wednesday, May 26—Commencement Day		
3:00 p.m. Class of 2010 Assembles	Carnegie Hall	Pat Travis/594-3045/4575
5:00 p.m. 151 st Commencement Ceremony	Carnegie Hall	Pat Travis/594-3045/4575

Roommates bike cross country to raise money and awareness

Roommates and fourth-year medical students Heidi Gollogly and Tim Mitchell may be fighting over the shower when they get back from a 3,700-mile, two-month long bike ride on May 25, the day before graduation.

Ms. Gollogly and Mr. Mitchell are participating in the Ride for World Health cross-country bicycle ride in April and May. Along with a group of medical students, healthcare professionals, and community representatives, they will ride from San Diego, California, to Washington, D.C., to promote education and awareness of global and domestic health concerns. Their ride will also raise funds for World Bicycle Relief and HEAL Africa, this year's beneficiaries of the ride.

Members of the group will stop enroute to create a dialogue and lead discussions with community groups on issues related to health care in the United States and abroad—issues like poverty and disease, healthcare access, women's and children's health, and infectious diseases.

Travel is not new to the two students, each of whom, unbeknown to each other, applied for the Ride for World Health program while away for internships last summer.

Mr. Mitchell has lived in Washington, New Mexico, Idaho, Tennessee, Maryland, New York and Montana. Before attending medical school, he performed research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Baltimore, studied healthcare distribution in India, and surveyed amphibian populations in the Montana marshlands. He plans to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology.



A cold winter day didn't stop fourth-year medical students Tim Mitchell and Heidi Gollogly from training for their 50-day, 3,700-mile bike across the United States ride to bring awareness to world health issues.

"My upbringing instilled a great enjoyment and respect for the outdoors as well as the diverse cultures sprinkled throughout the U.S., laying the seeds for an interest in working with the public at a local and global level," he said. "I think combining outdoor activities with educating and motivating the public to work for change is the perfect way to complete my medical school career. I look forward to the challenge."

To prepare for the ride, the two have been training extensively in Central Park and northern New Jersey, as well as on bike trainers that they can use indoors during inclement weather.

Ms. Gollogly, who is a tri-athlete and former leader of the College's Cycling Club, was born in Vienna, Austria, but grew up in Northern Ireland where her family lived with and cared for adults with Down syndrome and autism. At age 13, her family moved to rural Colorado, and later to Santa Fe, New Mexico. After studying religion at Brown University, she backpacked across Europe, relearned German from her grandmother in Austria, travelled throughout Australia and New

Zealand, and worked with children in her uncle's surgical clinic in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was there that she decided to specialize in ophthalmology. She will begin a residency at Mayo Clinic in 2011 after a one-year preliminary internship.

"The focus of Ride for World Health greatly appeals to me because many issues in international health have reinforced my interest in medicine," she said. "I look for ways to share my passion for medicine and dedication to positively affecting the lives of others. I see this cross-country journey doing just that."

The roommates are eager to support the two organizations Ride for Health has chosen to sponsor this year.

World Bicycle Relief is a nonprofit founded in 2005 in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. The organization delivers bicycles on a large scale to underdeveloped areas in the belief that bicycling, as compared to walking, can increase productivity as well as access to health care, education and economic development opportunities.

Ms. Gollogly and Mr. Mitchell's ride will also benefit HEAL Africa, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide holistic care for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Founded in 1996 by a Congolese orthopedic surgeon, HEAL Africa is based in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, a devastated region of central Africa characterized by extreme violence and mass population displacements, that have claimed more than six million lives in the past 15 years.

For more information please visit www.rideforworldhealth.org. ▲

Students get ready for community health fair

Several student groups are collaborating to ensure a successful second New York Medical College Community Health Fair, which will be held on Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sam's Club in Elmsford, N.Y. The first student-run health fair, held last spring, was so well received by the community that it motivated students to work to make this one even better, eager to uphold the College's long-standing tradition of community service.

The event will be hosted by student members of the American Medical Association in collaboration with other campus organizations, including Unite for Sight, Physicians for a National Health

Program, the Family Medicine Interest Group, the Cardio Club, La Casita de la Salud, the American Medical Women's Association, the Ob/Gyn Club, the Peds Club, and public health and physical therapy students in the School of Health Sciences and Practice.

Under the supervision of faculty, students will provide blood pressure and vision screenings and Body Mass Index (BMI) measurements, and will distribute and discuss patient education materials on smoking cessation, nutrition, exercise, breast self-exams, heart disease risk factors, and domestic violence. There will also be a children's area to encourage healthy play and physical activity.

Students also reached out to other organizations to ensure the day's productivity and success. Staff from the Open Door Family Medical Clinic in Tarrytown, N.Y., will be on hand to provide information and schedule appointments. The medical students will work in conjunction with the Westchester Department of Health to provide insurance enrollment information to people in the community. ▲



Juan DesLoges, an M.S. candidate in basic medical sciences, second-year medical student Jeannie Tran and first-year Marissa Friedman, discussed the logistics of the upcoming community health fair which they are organizing.

William H. Frishman, M.D., will highlight College's rich history at AOA Lecture

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professor of obstetrics and gynecology; faculty initiates Ray Whitt, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and Jay Draoua, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences. William Walsh, M.D., clinical associate professor of orthopedic surgery, will receive the 2010 AOA Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award.

Members of the Iota chapter have been busy this year tutoring first- and second-year medical students, and pairing fourth-year students with first-years in a mentoring program. They also continued a project called "Tar Wars," an anti-smoking campaign aimed at discouraging elementary age children from smoking later in life. The group is working on a guide to third-year medical clerkships and a guide to residency applications.

AOA students are developing a new website to centralize all resources medical students need for career planning. "Sometimes students can be overwhelmed by all the information that's out there regarding careers, so we want to put it one place and help them by organizing it," Ms. Romblom said. ▲