

inTOUCH

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EDUCATION ▶ RESEARCH ▶ SERVICE

New York Medical College joins the Touro College and University System

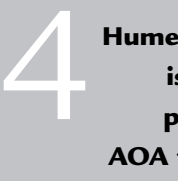


Karl P. Adler, M.D., chief executive officer, and Alan Kadish, M.D., president, pose before a statue of William Cullen Bryant with a framed copy of the New York Medical College charter.

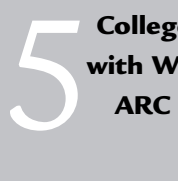
HIGHLIGHTS



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It's official: New York Medical College is now part of the Touro College and University System, creating one of the largest affiliations of medical and health education and biological studies programs under one institutional banner.

An announcement was made on May 25 by leaders of both institutions at a press conference held at Bryant Park in New York City, named for the College's most well-known founder, 18th century poet and editor William Cullen Bryant. Touro's president and chief executive officer, Alan Kadish, M.D., said, "Touro's goal is to help assure that the illustrious legacy, heritage, and accomplishments of New York Medical College are secured and that its momentum continues. We look forward to the synergy that will result from fusing two significant institutions and cre-

ating one of the broadest arrays of health science education programs available anywhere."

"This affiliation will enhance the training of tomorrow's medical and health care leaders, and offer them exposure to the benefits of other professional study programs in law, pharmacy, allied health and the humanities," said Karl P. Adler, M.D., chief executive officer. "This kind of integration exemplifies how medicine and healthcare will be taught and practiced in the future. Joining our two institutions, and harnessing their respective strengths, is how we plan to address the future needs of healthcare delivery."

Later in the day Touro hosted a celebratory barbecue on the Valhalla campus, attended by some 1,200 members of the College community and guests from Touro. Westchester County Executive



Accolades

- **Raymond Basri, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, was honored with the 2011 Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians for his volunteerism, including work after 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Airways emergency landing in the Hudson River, the earthquake in Haiti and the tsunami in Japan.
- **Herbert Hendin, M.D.**, clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, who is CEO and medical director of Suicide Prevention International, received the American Mental Health Foundation's Stefan de Schill award for outstanding research and contributions to the field of mental health at its annual Walk for Life in Riverside Park in May.
- **Kathryn E. McGoldrick, M.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, moderated a panel, "Current Controversies in Ambulatory Anesthesia," at the Ninth International Congress on Ambulatory Surgery presented by the International Society for Ambulatory Surgery (IAAS) in Copenhagen, Denmark. Dr. McGoldrick was also elected to a second-term on the IAAS Executive Committee. She is the only American elected to the IAAS Executive Committee, which is a 12-member board of physicians and surgeons from around the world.
- **Paul M. Wallach, M.D.**, vice dean for medical education, was honored with the University of South Florida College of Medicine Distinguished Physician Alumnus Award at its commencement in May. The award is the highest honor the university bestows on its alumni in recognition of their achievements.
- **Sheryl White-Scott, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.
- **Gary M. Williams, M.D.**, professor of pathology and of clinical public health, was an invited participant at the recent Acrylonitrile Group Scientific Discussion Meeting on "Histiocytic Tumors in the Rat Brain—Pathogenesis and Mode of Action Research" held at Vanderbilt University in Nashville in May. He presented "Rat Brain Tumorigens," and served as the facilitator for the panel discussion.

Urology residents earn honors at NYAM



Award winning urology residents David Green, M.D., Drew Freilich, M.D., Bobby Alexander, M.D. and Andrew Fishman, M.D., are flanked by their mentors Thambi Dorai, Ph.D., far left, research associate professor of urology, and Sensuke Konno, Ph.D., far right, associate professor of urology.

Four New York Medical College urology residents won prizes in the 61st Annual Valentine Essay Contest held at the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) in April. Three of the prizes awarded to NYMC residents were in the basic science research category—the first time a single institution swept all three prizes in one category.

"I have great pride and joy in the outstanding performance of our urology residents," said Muhammad S. Choudhury, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Urology. "It is remarkable and we are very proud of this unprecedented accomplishment."

All 16 of New York's urology residency programs, comprising a total of 124 residents from the metropolitan area, submitted their basic and clinical research projects. Sixty-five of the topics were selected by an independent committee for presentation. A three-judge panel selected the best papers in basic research, clinical research and miscellaneous categories. This year's chief judge was Richard Babayan, M.D., chairman of the Department of Urology at Boston University.

Andrew I. Fishman, M.D.

Dr. Fishman expressed gratitude for the guidance of Michael Grasso III, M.D., professor of urology, Thambi Dorai, Ph.D., research associate professor of urology, and David S. Goldfarb, M.D., professor and chief of nephrology at NYU Langone Medical Center, and as well as the financial support received from the Susan Schott Memorial-St. Vincent's Research Fund.

"My work in renal ischemia would not be possible without their academic support," said Dr. Fishman. "While this was a great achievement in my academic career, it was an even prouder honor that my colleagues won other awards. It made it a special night to remember in the history of urology at New York Medical College."

David A. Green, M.D.

Dr. Green examined how kidney stones are formed. Some evidence has shown that exposing kidney cells to oxidative injury from free radicals could be one of the contributing causes. His project looked at the effect oxidative stress on kidney cells grown in culture and the use of antioxidants to reverse negative effects.

"We found that the antioxidant reversed the negative effects of free radicals, and significantly reduced the degree of kidney stone formation," said Dr. Green. "The results of this experiment have exciting implications for the possible role of antioxidants in the prevention of kidney stone formation in humans."

Bobby Alexander, M.D.

Dr. Alexander attributed his idea to the "ingenuity and forward thinking" of research director Sensuke Konno, Ph.D., associate professor of urology. "His basic science research serves as a platform for us as residents to grow intellectually and think creatively," Dr. Alexander said of his mentor.

The urology resident became interested in the treatment of metastatic, renal cell carcinoma because of its notoriety as a deadly disease with few durable options. His study looked at the use of an extract found in maitake mushrooms combined with vitamin C in renal cell carcinoma cells in vitro. Results showed that a combination of benign agents in relatively low concentrations induced approximately 90 percent cell death in renal cancer cells.

Drew Freilich, M.D.

Dr. Freilich said that the driving force behind his project was that, while interviewing for his urology residency and talking with other residents, he heard very different reasons for why people were pursuing fellowship training. He decided to send out a survey to senior urology residents and recent graduates to assess the correlation between demographics, residency experiences, research experience, career goals and the pursuit of fellowship training. "We found that factors such as age, debt load and marital status were not significant factors in decision making," he said. "However, a shorter residency training length, manuscript publication during residency, encouragement by a program director or mentor were each independently significant factors. Residents who were encouraged by a mentor were 20 times more likely to pursue fellowship training."

His study will be distributed at the next American Urological Association in-service test in November that all American urology residents take each year. ▲

61st Annual Valentine Essay Contest

Basic Sciences Research Category

First Place

Andrew I. Fishman, M.D.

"Prevention of Renal Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury by a novel Renoprotective Cocktail in a Rat Model"

Mentor: Thambi Dorai, Ph.D., research associate professor of urology

Second Place

David A. Green, M.D.

"Preventive Effect of Antioxidants on Oxidative Renal Cell Injury and the Role in Renal Crystal Formation"

Mentors: Sensuke Konno, Ph.D., associate professor of urology, and Majid Eshghi, M.D., professor of urology

Third Place

Bobby Alexander, M.D.

"Apoptosis Induced by Combination of D-Fraction and Vitamin C in Renal Cell Carcinoma"

Mentor: Dr. Konno

Miscellaneous Category

Third Place

Drew Freilich, M.D.

"Factors Influencing Resident's Pursuit of Urology Fellowships"

Mentor: John Phillips, M.D., associate professor of urology

New York Medical College joins the Touro College and University System

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Rob Astorino was on hand to welcome Touro College to the county and to praise the union that will enhance both institutions.

The Touro College and University System educates approximately 5,300 students in medicine, health, and the biological sciences. Chartered in 1970 and headquartered in New York City, Touro is America's largest, not-for-profit, independent institution of higher and professional

“This affiliation will enhance the training of tomorrow’s medical and health care leaders, and offer them exposure to the benefits of other professional study programs in law, pharmacy, allied health and the humanities.”

—Karl P. Adler, M.D.

education under Jewish auspices, now with approximately 19,000 students studying at 32 locations in New York, California, Nevada, and other states, as well as campuses abroad. In addition to a law school, graduate schools in several other disciplines, and an array of undergraduate schools, Touro operates three colleges of osteopathic medicine and two colleges of pharmacy, and offers programs around the country that train students to work in a variety of allied health professions such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, nursing, physician assistantship, public health, and other areas.

Leaders of both institutions have said that compared to most mergers, they expect very little change in the way the College does business. Nevertheless, College staffers are busy implementing several areas where the change in sponsorship will be more apparent. New stationery identifying New York Medical College as “A Member of the Touro College and University System” can now be ordered from the College purchasing website, with delivery expected to take about 7-10 working days.

The transition to Jewish auspices will also entail early closings for Sabbath observance, the addition of several Jewish holidays, and kosher food service in the cafeteria and at all College-sponsored events. A list of holidays and early closings can be found at www.nymc.edu/UniversityPolicies/Holidays_and_Early_Closing_for_Religious_Observations.pdf. According to Peter Brown, associate vice president of human resources, the campus cafeteria is now being renovated to comply with kosher standards. “Packaged kosher foods are available for purchase in the interim, and the cafeteria will return to a full service operation in early July,” he said. The upgraded cafeteria will offer a complete menu of entrees, salads, sandwiches and soups, all prepared and served under kosher supervision. A pamphlet explaining kosher food customs and guidelines will be available soon in print and

online. For details, employees can refer to the new campus kosher food service policy, which is posted on the College website at www.nymc.edu/UniversityPolicies/Food_Services.pdf.

“The transition has been remarkably smooth thus far, and we expect that pattern to continue as we all become better acquainted and begin working together,” said Dr. Adler. “As we enter into this exciting new phase of growth and strength, I know I can count on the understanding and cooperation of all members of the NYMC community.”

“We are delighted to welcome the New York Medical College community into the Touro College and university family,” said Dr. Kadish. “We are committed to working together to maximize our collective potential as we pursue excellence in teaching medicine, the biomedical sciences and healthcare education.” ▲



President Alan Kadish, M.D., proudly sported his new NYMC baseball cap.



The College community gathered under the tent to learn more about Touro.



Celebrating the new partnership were, seated, from left: Karl P. Adler, M.D., chief executive officer, Alan Kadish, M.D., president, and Rob Astorino, Westchester County Executive. Standing from left were: Rabbi Moshe D. Krupka, Touro's senior vice president for college affairs, Dr. Mark Hasten, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and David Raab, Touro's chief of staff to the president.

Touro* At A Glance

- Touro College is America's largest not-for-profit independent institution of higher and professional education under Jewish auspices.
- Chartered: 1970
- Enrollment: Approximately 19,000 students studying at 32 locations, mostly in New York but also in California, Florida, Nevada, Moscow, Israel, Berlin and Paris. Students are pursuing graduate and professional degrees in such fields as medicine, law, business, education, and Jewish studies, among other areas.
- Faculty: Total: 4,930
Full Time: 2,091
Part Time: 1,317
Voluntary/Clinical: 1,522
- Alumni: Approximately 74,561
- Operating Budget: \$410 million
- Degrees and Programs of Study:
Doctoral: Ph.D.
Professional: DNP, DO, DPT, Dr.PH, J.D., M.D., PharmD
Master's: LL.M, M.A., MBA, MPH, MPS, M.S., MSW
Bachelor's: B.A., BPA, B.S.
Associate: A.A., A.A.S., A.O.S., A.S.
Certificates: Various certificate degree programs offered at graduate and undergraduate levels, in such areas as bilingual education, school leadership, business and digital media arts.

*Includes Touro College, Touro University and New York Medical College.

Humera Ahmed is awarded prestigious AOA fellowship

Second-year medical student Humera Ahmed has been awarded an Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) 2011 Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship. The award, which comes with a \$5,000 stipend, was named for Carolyn L. Kuckein, a long-time administrator and an honorary member of AOA who died in 2004. Ms. Ahmed will use the funding for her research on renal sympathetic denervation for the management of chronic hypertension, which is known by the acronym RELIEF. She was nominated for the award by William H. Frishman, M.D., the Barbara and William Rosenthal Professor and Chairman of Medicine, who serves as councilor of the College's Iota chapter of AOA.

Ms. Ahmed's study differs in several important respects from two well-received studies on the procedure that were published in 2009 and 2010 in the *Lancet*. In the prior studies, patients knew whether or not they were going to undergo the procedure, but in Ms. Ahmed's study, only the operating physician will know which subjects receive renal sympathetic denervation. The *Lancet* studies also used specialized catheters that are not yet commercially available and did not control for placebo.

"Blood pressure is notorious for being susceptible to placebo effects, so it is important that this study be blinded and placebo-controlled," said Ms. Ahmed. "And if we could prove that the specialized catheter was unnecessary, that would significantly expand the physician's flexibility in performing this procedure. But more important, it could broaden the availability of therapeutic options for a growing percentage of Americans who simply aren't responding to currently available anti-hypertensive medications. Ultimately, the attainment of therapeutic blood pressures in this population could result in a decreased risk of serious cardiovascular sequelae, including heart attack and stroke."

The procedures on patients will be done at Homolka Hospital in Prague, Czech Republic. Follow-up care will be performed by a doctor who does not know whether or not the patient received the treatment. Ms. Ahmed will be



Humera Ahmed, Class of 2013, is preparing for the next phase of her research on renal sympathetic denervation for the management of chronic hypertension.

responsible for organizing patient enrollment and managing data submitted weekly by the follow-up physician.

Ms. Ahmed is being mentored by Vivek Y. Reddy, M.D., director of cardiac electrophysiology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. She has been working with Dr. Reddy in various labs since completing her undergraduate education in literature and pre-med studies from Boston College in 2007.

"I was undecided about whether I should pursue a career in literature and writing or medical studies," she said. "I saw an opening for a research coordinator for Dr. Reddy. I didn't even know what cardiac arrhythmia and atrial fibrillation were at that point—but I quickly became fascinated once I got the job."

Ms. Ahmed has been collecting and analyzing data in Dr. Reddy's laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, the University of Miami, and a laboratory at Homolka Hospital in Prague, where much of the main research is performed. "We've been nomads the last few years," she said.

Ms. Ahmed has been involved in research to develop definitive therapies for cardiac arrhythmias, especially atrial fibrillation, the most com-

mon abnormal heart rhythm that affects millions of Americans. She is also investigating ventricular tachycardias, the most common cause of sudden cardiac death. The goal of both areas of study to eliminate the need for chronic medications. With particular focus on novel, catheter-based approaches to therapy, Ms. Ahmed's work has culminated in the publication of four first-authored manuscripts, as well as a dozen abstracts. The lab's efforts include fundamental research on the role of imaging modalities like MRI or ultrasound to guide cardiac electrophysiology procedures.

Hypertension, beyond its known impact on renal function, also significantly increases the risk for stroke, coronary artery disease, heart failure, and vascular disease. It is believed to contribute to the pathogenesis of cardiac arrhythmias via its remodeling effects on cardiac anatomy. This inextricable link between hypertension and cardiovascular health has been well described, as has its combined effect on up to 40 percent of the aging, obesity-battling Western world.

Despite the plethora of anti-hypertensive drugs, hypertension remains resistant in a considerable number of patients, thus creating the need for alternative strategies and interventional approaches. The renal sympathetic denervation, using a state-of-the-art technique called percutaneous catheter-based radiofrequency ablation, has shown to be beneficial in patients with resistant hypertension.

"This study is my first major independent research project. I admit there is a certain intellectual thrill that comes from trying to figure out the best approach to solving what could be described as a scientific puzzle. It was really exciting to just design the study and ultimately apply for the fellowship," she said. "I'm a hands-on person, and much of my first two years of medical school have been very much nose-in-the-book. This is a break from that, plus I get to write, which I love." ▲

2011 *Quill & Scope* is out!

It's become a springtime tradition on campus—the celebratory release of the latest edition of *Quill & Scope*, the student journal of New York Medical College. This year's event, held in the Health Sciences Library on May 12, revealed the fourth volume of this collection of essays, reviews, research abstracts, commentaries, poetry, photography and original art work. The journal was created as an outlet for medical students to show their passion for medicine, humanities and the arts. More than 50 works were published, making it the largest issue to date. This year's cover, created by Jordan Whatley, Ramsey Saba and Anna Djougarian, depicts the tree of Hippocrates with photos of students and faculty representing the leaves and roots dating from 1860. ▲

Photo right: *Quill & Scope* faculty advisor Gladys M. Ayala, M.D., M.P.H., second from right, senior associate dean for student affairs, congratulated editors-in-chief Gavin Stern, Linda DeMello and Navid Shams on their efforts.



College partners with Westchester ARC to provide a unique mentorship

In February 2011, Temple Grandin, Ph.D., professor of animal science at Colorado State University, noted author and subject of an award winning HBO film, was speaking about employment opportunities for people with autism to more than 1,600 corporate executives, state officials and parents at the first annual Autism and Employment Forum at 3M in Minneapolis. At the same time, the Department of Human Resources was reaping the benefits of the work and dedication of new part-time employee Paul Morris, a 23-year-old with autism.

Only three percent of people with autism are currently employed. Mr. Morris, who has worked at the College since last October, considers himself fortunate. "This job is very important to me," said Mr. Morris. "And I know it will lead to even better things in my life."

Autism is characterized by heightened intellect, awkward social skills, polarized, literal reasoning, an intolerance for noise and an inability to read facial cues or body language. But people with the brain disorder also frequently possess a commanding grasp of science, statistics, research and engineering. Autism experts say they can be great innovators, engineers, scientists and graphic designers.

Dr. Grandin, a woman with high-functioning autism who has achieved fame and high regard for her work in autism advocacy, believes people with autism are one of the most untapped pools of talent in the country.

Terri Haviland, M.P.H. '96, director of human resources, agrees. "Paul has an excellent memory, and is extremely self-motivated and industrious," she said.

Mr. Morris is one of about 1.5 million people in the United States who have some form of autism, according to the Autism Society of America. Most are under 18, and males outnumber females by four to one. Data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that one in 110 children has a disorder somewhere on the autism spectrum, and the numbers are growing. In response,



Tom Darcy, left, HRIS administrator, is helping Paul Morris, human resources assistant, to gain office skills and build confidence in the workplace.

more health care providers, disability advocates and others are pushing to improve community connections for individuals with autism.

Experts say this integration is critical in the workplace, where individuals with special needs can gain confidence, exert independence and improve their quality of life. A growing number of companies are finding qualified candidates with autism via referrals from partner agencies, word-of-mouth recommendations and community outreach. In addition to using

more inclusive hiring practices, some companies are training managers and workers and implementing teaching and technology aids.

Ms. Haviland first

became aware of Mr. Morris last summer, when a College employee called to tell her that Westchester ARC, an organization that provides career planning, training, job placement and employment-site coaching for people with learning disabilities, had an ideal candidate for employment.

"We felt Paul had excellent clerical skills and would be a good match for New York Medical College," said Stephen DeMarco, director of corporate and government relations at Westchester ARC. "The College has been so supportive. Paul's interpersonal skills have come a long way, thanks to the staff at the College."

Peter M. Brown, associate vice president for human resources, felt strongly that this was an opportunity for the department to participate in a very worthwhile effort. "Everyone has been

positively affected by having Paul in our department," he said. "It is very impressive to see how co-workers interact with Paul to give him the guidance and training that he needs to continue to acquire new skills and knowledge to prepare him for future responsibilities."

Mr. Morris is learning work and social skills from his mentor, Tom Darcy, HRIS administrator. "He is very proud of this job," said Mr. Darcy. "I am so happy we are able to give him a chance."

And though Mr. Darcy found himself in an unexpected role, and knew nothing about autism at first, he is learning. "I've had to make some adjustments in my thinking," he said. "I thought, 'I'm not going to treat him different because he has a disability.' But I do spend more time doing things with him than I would with someone else. And it's my job to teach him how to act properly on a job, so I've had to help him change some behavior patterns." Mr. Darcy has learned that the key to helping Paul learn social skills at work is to be highly specific, not subtle.

Mr. Morris works six hours a week, doing general office tasks under Mr. Darcy's guidance. He also helps out in the Department of Environmental Health and Safety where he enters information into a database of chemicals that have been delivered to the College.

Mr. Morris lives independently with supports provided by the POINT program, a collaborative effort between Westchester Jewish Community Services, Jewish Child Care Association and parents. The initiative allows participants to live in an integrated manner in the broader community. The POINT program is a unique model of "communities without walls" where members are encouraged and expected to live full lives that include work, social activities, physical fitness and health, and community service.

To show their support for Mr. Morris, on June 5 several members of the College community participated in a walk to raise money for Autism Speaks, supporting "Paulie's Promise," a team formed in his honor.

"He's been a real morale booster around here," said Mr. Darcy. "People have a better understanding of his perspective, of what he has to go through in his life. They appreciate being part of this opportunity for him and what he has to offer." ▲

"It is very impressive to see how co-workers interact with Paul to give him the guidance and training that he needs to continue to acquire new skills and knowledge to prepare him for future responsibilities."

—Peter M. Brown

Congratulations to the Class of 2011!

Look for our complete coverage of Commencement week and the 152nd Commencement exercises in the next issue of *InTouch*. You can see photos online at www.nymc.edu/Commence/2011/events.asp.



STEP student develops iPhone app for studying

A talented eighth grader in the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) at the College has developed an essay-writing application for the iPhone. The “app”—which can be downloaded for free from iTunes—is a testament to one of the STEP program’s principles that giving young people hands-on scientific, technical and health-related activities can have real-life implications for their education.

In May, STEP student James Spann, a 14-year-old who attends Hackley School in Tarrytown, was given the first-ever student entrepreneurial award at the annual STEP end-of-year luncheon. In his acceptance



James Spann and STEP coordinator Marva Richards check out iEssay, the app he developed to write essays using an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch.

speech, Mr. Spann announced that his iEssay app can be used on the go and has been downloaded more than 1,000 times in the past three months.

Although his app development project was not part of his official STEP activities, STEP coordinator Marva Richards is extremely proud of his work, believing that it shows great initiative and a deep understanding of technology.

STEP is an acronym for Science and Technology Entry Program, a state-funded project targeted to help minority students and economically disadvantaged non-minority students in middle and high school in lower Westchester and the Bronx. Medical students from the College volunteer their time on Saturday mornings, tutoring youths who are considering medical school or other science and technology careers.

Mr. Spann said the program and his mentors, third-year medical student Ran Zhu and Ms. Richards, had inspired him to be innovative and take chances. “I loved going to the Saturday meetings, and wouldn’t have been able to take the time to go if homework hadn’t been part of the agenda,” said Mr. Spann. “I got a lot of inspiration to try things there.”

Ms. Richards said that while the program focuses on science and technology, much of the Saturday activities this year centered around science. So she was delighted to see a student show curiosity and aptitude toward technology.

“We’re always telling our students to not just use the technology, but try to think about how they might create new technology, how they might improve the future,” said Ms. Richards. “That’s exactly what James has done. At STEP, we don’t want to be so tied to the past that we can’t look to the future. So we’re glad that James understands that notion, and is busy looking to develop things.”

She added that often, technology “geeks” go unappreciated in their middle and high school years. “It’s hard to be understood by your peers if you are a geek in middle school,” she said. “Here we celebrate it!” ▲

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology hosts research forum

Nine students in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology presented the results of their research in progress at the department’s 18th Annual Graduate Student Research Forum held on May 25 in the Alumni Center. The M.S. and Ph.D. candidates had the opportunity to sharpen their presentation skills and receive constructive feedback from a panel of judges, who also offered suggestions for future directions for the research projects.

Ernest Y.C. Lee, Ph.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, welcomed the audience and Joseph M. Wu, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, moderated the event. The panel of judges comprised Caroline Ojaimi, Ph.D., assistant professor of physiology; Kutluk Oktay, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, of medicine and of cell biology

and anatomy; Mary Petzke, Ph.D., assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, and guest judge Xiaoping Liu, M.D., Ph.D., postdoctoral research scientist in the Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics at Columbia University.

The forum was dedicated to the memory of Col. Melvin D. Freeman and Mrs. Helen Freeman, who were supporters of the forum for many years.

The presenters, back row, left to right, were:

Gagandeep Narula – *Biochemical Analysis of Residues Involved in DNA Sequence Selectivity by Topoisomerase I*

Salvatore Valenti – *Novel Insights into the Chemo-Preventive Mechanisms of Dietary Organoselenium (Se) - Conjugates*

Keerat Kaur – *Characterization of Proliferating Cell Nuclear Antigen Monoclonal Antibody in Cancerous Cells*

Miranda Laloo – *Biochemical and Genomic Characterization of Glutamine Transaminase L (GTL)*

The presenters, front row, left to right were:

Regina Nostramo – *Selective Modulation of Angiotensin II Receptors in Adreno-Medullary Derived Cells*

Christine LeRoy – *The Determination of Whether the Degradation of Polymerase Delta Subunits is a General Response to Different Kinds of DNA Damage and DNA Damage Signaling Pathways*

Sandra Aedo – *The SbcCD Complex is Involved in the Processing of Topoisomerase-DNA Covalent Complexes in E. coli*

Sharon Lin – *Reconstitution of Okazaki Fragment Processing by Human DNA Polymerase Delta and Flap Endonuclease-1*

Lishay Alaluf – *Animal Model for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Study Design and Preliminary Results* ▲



Department of Surgery hosts Ninth Annual Del Guercio Day

The Ninth Annual Louis R.M. Del Guercio, M.D., Lectureship and Research Day was presented by the Department of Surgery on May 4. The symposium offered surgeons, anesthesiologists, interventional radiologists, intensivists and researchers in the surgical arena an opportunity to learn about developments in surgical research and critical care. The event featured oral and poster presentations by medical students, faculty and residents. Juan A. Asensio, M.D., an internationally recognized expert in trauma surgery with a particular focus on surgical techniques and outcomes for difficult cardiovascular, thoracic, and complex abdominal and peripheral vascular injuries, gave the visiting professor lecture. Dr. Asensio, who is professor of surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, presented "Difficult Injuries and Difficult Problems in Trauma Surgery." He serves as director of Trauma Clinical Research, Training and Community Affairs,



John A. Savino, M.D., left, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery, and Louis R.M. Del Guercio, M.D., right, professor emeritus of surgery, welcomed visiting professor Juan A. Asensio, M.D. professor of surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

director of the Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, medical director for Education and Training of the International Medicine Institute, senior attending surgeon at Jackson Memorial Hospital, director of the International Visiting Scholars/Research Fellowship for the Division of Trauma and director of the Trauma Outreach and Community Affairs Program there.

Dr. Del Guercio Day was established in 2002 to commemorate the distinguished leadership and pioneering research efforts displayed throughout Dr. Del Guercio's

24-year tenure as chairman of the Department of Surgery. Honors went to residents in the Department of Neurosurgery D. Ryan Ormond, M.D., and Craig Shannon, M.D., for best scientific papers, and to Jyoti Sharma, M.D., a resident in the general surgery program, for best poster presentation. ▲

Congresswoman Nita Lowey tours future home of biotechnology incubator facility on campus

Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D., provost and dean of the School of Medicine, and Robert W. Amler, M.D., dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and vice president of government of affairs, joined Karl P. Adler, M.D., chief executive officer, to welcome U.S. Congresswoman Nita Lowey to the Valhalla campus in April. The objective was to tour of the College's Dana Road facility, site of a proposed biotechnology incubator.

The Congresswoman expressed her support for the project intended to create jobs and position the Hudson Valley region as a leader in the field of biotech innovation. Offices and laboratories in the 120,000 square foot facility, the site of the former Institute for Cancer Prevention, are scheduled for renovations beginning this summer. The building will be repurposed to house several of the College's current and future centers, including the Center for Disaster Medicine, a new Clinical Skills and

Simulation Center, and facilities for emerging infections and medical response training. Space will also be available to allow outside biotech firms to conduct their own research and development operations. ▲



College SNMA chapter named Region IX Chapter of the Year



The energy and dedication of the executive board of the Student National Medical Association earned them the honor of Chapter of the Year. Seated from left are: Adriane Argenio, co-president; Crystal Antoine, secretary; Chinye Azuh, community outreach. Standing from left are: Josephine Vincent, treasurer; Vanessa Baracaldo, co-president; Nneka Ndukwe, community outreach; and Krista Collman, vice-president. Not pictured: Peggy Bourguignon, historian.

The New York Medical College Student National Medical Association (SNMA) was named the Region IX Chapter of the Year at the SNMA Annual Medical Education Conference held in Indianapolis in April. That's quite an accomplishment for a group that has been in existence for only three years, not to mention the fact that Region IX comprises 19 medical

schools in New York and New Jersey whose members strive for excellence in everything. With the motto, "Go Hard or Go Home," they offer stiff competition.

The SNMA is the nation's oldest and largest student organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. The group is committed to supporting underrepresented minority medical students, addressing the needs of underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians.

Open to everyone, the College SNMA chapter was recognized for its efforts such as tutoring students in the Science and Technology Enrichment Program and raising scholarship money for them; staffing a mental health awareness booth at the student-run health fair; arranging events for Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month; organizing a holiday canned food drive to benefit a local food bank; hosting social events and outings; and sponsoring the popular International Food Festival to celebrate the College's cultural richness while raising money for a charity. This year's spring festival featured more than 50 exotic dishes and raised more than \$1,200 for Partners in Health's Haitian relief fund.

"I am so proud of the students. Their hard work is admirable and I am encouraged by their dedication to increase the exposure of SNMA to the College community at large," said SNMA faculty advisor Camille Clare, M.D., M.P.H. '11, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. ▲

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.

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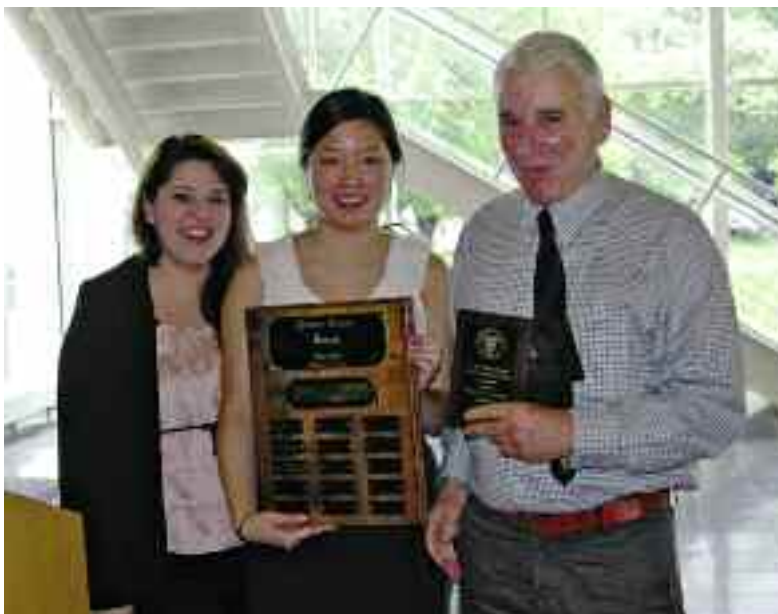
Stanley Passo, Ph.D., is a repeat Gender Equity Award winner

Co-presidents of the New York Medical College chapter of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), **Karem Alvarez**, left, and **Nancy Kim**, presented **Stanley S. Passo, Ph.D.**, professor of physiology, with the 2011 AMWA Gender Equity Award at a luncheon reception in the Medical Education Center on May 18. The award recognizes medical school faculty who promote a gender-fair environment for the education and training of physicians and who do their

part to ensure equal opportunities for women and men to study and practice medicine.

Dr. Passo, who won the award in 2005, was in good company with this year's other nominees: Sally Schwab, Ph.D., M.S.W., clinical assistant professor of medicine, Ofelia Martinez, M.D.,

M.P.H., assistant professor of medicine, Jan Geliebter, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and immunology, and Alan D. Springer, Ph.D., professor of cell biology and anatomy. ▲



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