Convocation 2004



NJMS graduates Daniel Behin and Ann Baron

The 157 graduates of the Class of 2004 had much to celebrate during NJMS's Convocation, which took place on May 24 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in downtown Newark. Students elected Kenneth Swan, MD, professor of surgery, and Dorian Wilson, MD, assistant professor of surgery, to serve as marshal and gonfalon bearer, respectively. John Stone, MD, MACP, professor of medicine, emeritus at Emory University School of Medicine, delivered the keynote address. In addition to publishing three books of poetry and a book of essays on his work as a physician, Dr. Stone is the coeditor of the book On Doctoring, which is distributed to all U.S. medical students by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Much like his written works, Dr. Stone shared personal stories and poems that illustrate the importance of practicing humanistic medicine.

NIH Rankings on the Rise

Once again, New Jersey Medical School is reporting impressive research news. According to the NIH, awards to NJMS rose from \$38,237,000 (FY 2002) to \$64,922,000 (FY 2003). New Jersey Medical School now stands at No. 56 in the NIH rankings compared to last year's No. 69 ranking among the nation's medical schools.

Golden Apple Winners

In March, 37 NJMS professors received Golden Apple Awards. Established to recognize excellence in teaching, award winners are determined by students.

<u>Class of 2007</u>	<u>Class of 2006</u>
Sylvia Christakos, PhD	Marjorie Brandriss, PhD
David DeFouw, PhD	Lester Sultatos, PhD
Michael Lea, PhD	Richard Watson, MD

Classes of 2004 and 2005

Faculty	<u>Residents</u>
Suzanne Atkin, MD	Krystene Boyle, MD
Jonathan Harrison, MD	Frank Caputo, MD
Gaines Mimms, MD	Kevin Clarke, MD
Jo-Ann Reteguiz, MD	Morris Friedman, DO
Anand Srinivasan, MD	Nyota Peace, MD
Constancia Uy, MD	Marcus Rivera, MD

Excellence in Service

Mayra Marallano, Staff Assistant, Student Affairs

Celebrating 50 Years of Medical Education

New Jersey Medical School celebrates its 50th anniversary in August 2004, becoming the first of the eight UMDNJ schools to reach this milestone. The oldest N.J. school of medicine, NJMS predates UMDNJ by 16 years. Initially established as the Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry, the college's mission was to train highly qualified clinicians to meet the healthcare needs of New Jersey and the nation - a mission that remains a top priority.

We are collecting NJMS memorabilia and photos for display and/or publication. If you have any items to donate or lend, contact Carol Stavraka at stavraca@umdnj.edu.



In the News

- •Leonard Bielory, MD, associate professor and director of the Asthma and Allergy Research Center, commented in a March Associated Press article that the mild New Jersey weather sparked an early spring allergy season. In a separate AP article, he confirmed that this year's spring allergy season hit extremely early nationwide.
- Diana DeCosimo, MD, associate professor, commented in February for an Associated Press article about recent studies that measure biomarkers, proteins in the blood whose presence can diagnose or predict heart trouble. Because nearly all patients in the studies were white, Dr. DeCosimo emphasized the need to confirm the results among minorities, particularly those with higher heart failure rates.
- •Developer Joseph Muscarelle Jr. has donated \$2 million to New Jersey Medical School to establish an endowed deanship. Funds will be used to provide scholarships to medical students. **George Heinrich, MD,** vice chair and CEO of the Foundation of UMDNJ, was quoted in an April *Star-Ledger* article stating, "Joseph Muscarelle is a wonderful example of a person dedicated to making New Jersey the best place it can be."
- •Russell T. Joffe, MD, dean, and George Heinrich, MD, vice chair and CEO of the Foundation of UMDNJ, were featured in a *Home News Tribune* article about the establishment of the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey Center for Humanism in Medicine.

Save the Date!

Dean's Distinguished Lecture October 26, 2004 Medical Science Building B552 11:45 a.m.

Featuring Mark Rosenberg, MD, MPP Former Director, CDC National Center for Injury Control and Prevention

- •Norman Lasser, MD, professor, agrees that new findings announced by the NIH regarding the dangers of long-term estrogen use have caused confusion among patients. He stated in the Associated Press in March, "It sounds cliché to say do more studies, but I don't think we should give up on estrogens. If doctors could learn to predict who was most likely to have an estrogen-caused side effect, other women could safely use it."
- •Norman Lasser, MD, professor, was quoted in March in a *Home News Tribune* article commenting about ways to assist the CDC in identifying interventions for people at high risk for diabetes to prevent the disease.
- •Norman Lasser, MD, professor, commented for an Associated Press article in April about how HDL, the cholesterol that reduces the risks of heart disease, can be dramatically boosted by torcitrapid, an experimental drug that also lowers bad cholesterol. The findings are according to a preliminary study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- Manuela Pedra-Nobre, MD, assistant professor and rheumatologist, commented in an Associated Press article in March that recent studies conducted by researchers at Massachusetts Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School confirms the correlation between gout and the consumption of high-protein meat and seafood, further supports her caution to patients concerning diet and gout attacks.
- Lee Reichman, MD, MPH, professor, was featured in *Newsweek's* International Edition in March about the continued prevalence of TB, despite preventive measures and drugs to fight the disease. In fact, TB takes more lives today worldwide than it did centuries ago and many patients do not respond to treatment.

- •Louis Rizio, MD, chief of Sports Medicine, commented in March for a *Star-Ledger* article about the likelihood of Sacramento Kings forward Chris Webber's return to the starting lineup following microfracture surgery.
- •Susan Rovi, MD, assistant professor and principal investigator for the New Jersey Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board, commented in a March *Courier News* article about the continuing problem of domestic violence.
- •Debbie Salas-Lopez, MD, assistant professor and chief of academic medicine, geriatrics and community programs, and Keerti Sharma, MD, assistant professor, were featured in a *Star-Ledger* article in March about the success of the House Calls for Seniors program. Plans are to hire more geriatricians are in progress.
- **Muhamed Saric, MD,** assistant professor, commented in a February *Star-Ledger* article about the correlation between age, cold weather and flu.
- **Dorian Wilson, MD,** assistant professor, was featured in an Associated Press article about the country's 19 African-American transplant surgeons. The surgeons gathered on the Newark campus in March to encourage organ donation and inspire medical students to consider this field.

A Celebration of Art, Medicine and Life

NJMS Fall Arts Festíval September 13-October 20, 2004

If you are interested in exhibiting or for more information contact Noreen Gomez (973) 972-4795
gomeznm@umdnj.edu

On the Tube

•Leonard Bielory, MD, associate professor and director of the Asthma and Allergy Research Center, was interviewed on a number of New York and New Jersey radio stations about the early arrival of the pollen season.

•Nancy Connell, PhD, professor and director, Grant

- Gallagher, PhD, research director, and Brendan
 McCluskey, assistant director, Center for BioDefense, were
 interviewed in March on NJ 101.5 FM radio for a story
 about the academic BioDefense consortium UMDNJ hosted.
 •Patricia Kloser, MD, MPH, professor, was interviewed in
 February on NJ 101.5 FM radio about a report issued by the
 U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the
- •Norman Lasser, MD, professor, was interviewed in March on NJ 101.5 FM radio for a story about a CDC study indicating that teenage obesity has more than doubled during the past 30 years.

incidences of sexually transmitted diseases in teens and

young adults.

- Steven M. Marcus, MD, professor and executive director, NJPIES (NJ Poison Information and Education System) and Richard Casas, MD, NJPIES, appeared on WNJU-TV, (Telemundo), in February for a news segment on poison prevention.
- Bruce Ruck, PharmD, NJPIES, and Wilma Pomerantz, RN, BSN, MA, NJPIES, were featured during a new segment in February on Time Warner Cable of Bergen and Hudson Counties about the dangers of ingesting hand sanitizing gels.

Grants

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Binay Chaubey, PhD, postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Virandra N. Pandey, PhD, received a \$150,000 grant from Life Sciences Research Foundation for "Molecular Biology of HIV-1 Reverse Transcriptase Complex."

Neerja Kaushik-Basu, PhD, assistant professor, received an \$800,000 grant from the NIH/National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disorders for "Molecular Modulators of HCV Replication."

Cell Biology and Molecular Medicine

Maha Abdellatif, PhD, assistant professor, received a \$600,000 grant from the NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for "Mechanisms of RasGAP in Cardiac Cell Growth and Survival."

Junichi Sadoshima, MD, PhD, professor, received a \$1.25 million grant from the NIH/National Institute on Aging for "The Role of Thioredoxin in the Aging Heart."

Steven Vatner, MD, professor and chair, received a \$1.1 million training grant from the NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for "Integrative Mechanisms in Cardiovascular Disease."

Ishikawa Yoshihiro, PhD, professor, received an \$840,000 grant from the NIH/National Institute of General and Medical Sciences for "Catalytic Activation of Adenylyl Cyclase Type V."

Family Medicine

Mark S. Johnson, MD, MPH, professor and chair, received a one-year grant for \$50,000 from the National Cancer Institute to study "Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening among Hispanics." He also received a five-year, \$168,350, grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases for a summer research experience for minority students.

Medicine

Nancy Connell, PhD, professor and director of the Center for BioDefense, received a \$1 million award from the Department of Defense to study host response and aerosolization at the UMDNJ Center for BioDefense. Co-investigators on this project are Grant Gallagher, PhD (Department of Oral Biology, New Jersey Dental School), David Alland, MD, associate professor and Kevin Fennelly, MD, MPH, assistant professor.

Additionally, Dr. Connell and the Center for BioDefense received a \$611,800 award from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for a series of projects in public health and first responder training. The co-investigator in this project is Brendan McCluskey, MPA, executive director, Center for BioDefense.

Norman Lasser, MD, PhD, professor, received a five-year \$4.3 million award from the CDC for translating research into action for diabetes (TRIAD). TRIAD is a translational research study of the relationship of managed care plan characteristics to the quality of care among diabetic members.

Leonard G. Meggs, MD, associate professor, received a \$100,000 award from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (BIPI) to test the effectiveness of Micardis as an antihypertensive medicinal product. Debbie Salas-Lopez, MD, assistant professor, is co-primary investigator.

Vishwanath Venketaraman, PhD, assistant professor, received a three-year, \$198,000 grant from the American Heart Association to study the role of glutathione and compounds in tuberculosis immunity.

Robert S. Wallis, MD, associate professor, received a \$115, 000 award from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for the "Effects of TNF Inhibitors on Expression of TB Immunity *in vitro*."

Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Ian P. Whitehead, PhD, assistant professor, received a four-year, \$800,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to study "RhoGEFs in Cell Growth and Cancer." These studies will examine the role of small GTPases in malignant progression with emphasis on breast cancer.

Neurology and Neurosciences

Benjamin Natelson, MD, professor and Robert S. Wallis, MD, associate professor (Medicine), received a \$120,000 bridge grant from the NIH to study cytokine dysregulation and sleep disturbance in chronic fatigue syndrome.

Karen Quigley, MD, assistant professor, received a three-year, \$760,940 grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs for "Risk Perception and the Psychobiological Sequelae of Vaccination." Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) for the "Role of Limbic-Midbrain Axis in Aggressive Behavior."

Allan Siegel, PhD, PI neurology and neurosciences and Steven Zalcman, PhD, assistant professor (Psychiatry), received a five-year, \$1,637,188 award from the NIH/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) for the "Role of Limbic-Midbrain Axis in Aggressive Behavior."

Neurological Surgery

Jeffrey Catrambone, MD, assistant professor, received a \$150,000 grant as a subcontract from NJIT to study scanning laser ophthalmoscope in hydrocephalus.

Sapru Hreday, PhD, professor, received a \$1 million award from the NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for "Cardiovascular Actions of Melanocortins."

Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health

Carlos Molina, PhD, assistant professor, received a \$100,000 grant from the NIH/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for "Inducible cAMP Early Repressor in Ovarian Function."

Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD, professor and chair, received an unrestricted \$110,000 grant from The Research Institute to Prevent Blindness, Inc., the world's largest voluntary organization dedicated to prevention, treatment and cure for debilitating visual disorders. Dr. Zarbin has received this award annually since 1994. He also received a \$181,200 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey to establish a comprehensive low-vision rehabilitation and applied vision research center. The Center is a component of IOVS' Center for Macular Degeneration Treatment and Research.

Pharmacology and Physiology

Martha Nowycky, PhD, professor, received a three-year, \$300,000 grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association for "TRPC Channels and Calcium in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (MDA3689)."

Ruben Peluffo, PhD, assistant professor, received a four-year, \$260,000 grant from the American Heart Association for "Arginine Transport in Cardiac Muscle Cells."

Lester Sultatos, PhD, associate professor, received a \$14,000 award from Schering-Plough to study the determination of tissue-blood partition coefficient.

Andrew Thomas, PhD, professor and chair, received a \$1.25 million grant from the NIH/National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for "Ethanol on Excitation-Contraction in Cardiac Cells."

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Professional Achievements

Family Medicine

Linda Boyd, DO, associate professor, was named director of Pre-Clerkship Clinical Education and will be the course director for the new Doctoring course. The Doctoring course is a keystone of the new curriculum, which begins in August.

Linda Boyd, DO, associate professor; Judy Washington, MD, assistant professor and Chantal Brazeau, MD, assistant professor, presented at The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's 30th Anniversary Predoctoral Education Conference in New Orleans. Their workshops were "An Integrated Curriculum and Project for Third-Year Students to Achieve Competency in Evidence-Based Medicine" and "Developing Better Access to and Communication with Preceptors through More Efficient Database Design."

Mark S. Johnson, MD, MPH, professor and chair, was recently honored by the Students National Medical Association (SNMA). Dr. Johnson was the faculty adviser for the past 12 years and is an SNMA alumnus.

Medicine

Leonard Bielory MD, associate professor, presented a national lecture at the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology on "Ocular Allergy - Diagnosis and Management" in San Francisco in March. He also presented a regional lecture at the University of Michigan on "Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Asthma and Allergy" in March.

Nancy Connell, PhD, professor and director of the Center for BioDefense, was appointed to the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Advances in Technology and the Prevention of their application to Next Generation Biowarfare Agents.

Professional Achievements

Kevin Fennelly MD, MPH, associate professor, was an invited speaker at the first International Conference on Women and Infectious Diseases (cosponsored by the CDC, DHHS, WHO, PAHO and ASM) on "Airborne Infections in Women at Work" in February in Atlanta.

Jonathan Harrison, MD, associate professor and George Studzinski, MD, PhD, professor of pathology and laboratory science, presented two posters at the 2004 annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in New Orleans: "MAP Kinase signaling pathways associated with 1a, 25-dihydroxyVitamin D3-induced differentiation of leukemia cells ex-vivo" and "Combination of the MAPK p38 inhibitor SB202190 and carnosic acid reverses the resistance of HL60-40AF leukemia cells to 1,25(OH)2 vitamin D3 and 1-b-D arabinofuranoyl cytosine."

Norman Lasser, MD, professor, presented at the 44th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention on "Higher self-reported physical activity over a three-year interval is associated with lower blood pressure and LDL-C in childhood" in San Francisco in March. He also presented "Hysterectomy and risk of cardiovascular disease."

Maya Ragawashi, MD, MPH, associate professor, gave the convocation speech as president of the student government for UMDNJ-School of Public Health. She received an MPH in Urban and Environmental Health from the UMDNJ/Rutgers/NJIT combined program. Dr. Ragawashi had three abstracts accepted for poster presentation at the Endocrine Society meeting in June in New Orleans and was recently inducted into the Fellowship of American College of Physicians.

Maya Ragawashi, MD, MPH and Elizabeth Alger, MD were named Fellows of the American College of Physicians in January.

Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Harvey Ozer, MD, professor and senior associate dean for research, was invited to participate in the recent National Cancer Institute workshop "Validation of a Causal Relationship: Criteria to Establish Etiology of Cancer" in Washington, DC. He also gave a seminar titled "SV40 Transformation-Immortalization of Human Cells" at the Department of Biology, Temple University, Philadelphia in April.

Ian Whitehead, PhD, assistant professor, was invited to give a seminar, "RhoGEFs and Cancer," at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Department of Molecular Medicine, New York, in November 2003.

Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Robert D. Fechtner, MD, associate professor, served as a visiting professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, Columbia University School of Medicine. He taught a basic science lecture, "Glaucoma Imaging Technologies for Ophthalmology Residents" in January.

Larry P. Frohman, MD, associate professor and vice chair, was elected president of the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society (NANOS). He was also listed in *Best Doctors in the Northeast*, Woodward White Publishers, 2004.

Peter S. Hersh, MD, clinical professor; David Chu, MD, assistant professor; Suqin Guo, MD, assistant professor and Kristin Fry, OD, were invited to conduct a continuing education course for optometrists, "Innovations in Corneal Refractive and Cataract Surgery: Optometric Update" in March.

Paul J. Lama, MD, associate professor, received the ORBIS faculty recognition award for glaucoma medical/surgical mission work abroad. American-based ORBIS's mission is to train ophthalmologists in other countries. He was also a visiting professor at the Connecticut Ophthalmic Society Hartford in February and lectured on "Medical and surgical management of glaucoma: Are we practicing evidence-based medicine?"

Paul D. Langer, MD, associate professor, was elected president of the Ophthalmology Program Directors' Advisory Council in March. He was also a visiting professor at the University of California Department of Ophthalmology lecturing on "Orbitopathy: Current concepts regarding pathogenesis and management."

Dawn N. Maxwell, MD (resident), Roger E. Turbin, MD, assistant professor; Larry P. Frohman, MD, associate professor; Paul D. Langer, MD, associate professor and M. Mori, presented "When is a lid lac not just a lid lac?" at the North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society (NANOS) in Orlando in March.

Roger E. Turbin, MD, associate professor, was listed in *Best Doctors in the Northeast*, Woodward White Publishers, 2004. He was also invited and served as section moderator for NANOS's annual meeting, "Surgical Innovations and Neuro-ophthalmic Complications" in March.

Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD, professor and chair, was a visiting professor at the University of Louisville Medical School's Department of Ophthalmology, lecturing on "Analysis of retinal pigment epithelium integrin expression and adhesion to aged submacular human Bruch's membrane." He was recently included in *Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists*, 2004-2005 second edition, Consumers Research Council of America, Washington, D.C.

Professional Achievements

Pharmacology and Physiology

Vanessa Routh, PhD, associate professor, was an invited speaker at the European Winter Conference on Brain Research in Les Arcs, France in March and lectured on glucosensing neurons and hypoglycemia, glucosensing neurons and insulin on brain research. She was also an honored participant and speaker at the IASO stock conference in the Dominican Republic, lecturing on "The role of glucosensing neurons in CNS fuel sensing."

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Patrick M. Foye, MD, assistant professor and director of the student clerkship, received the Equal Justice Medal from the Legal Services of New Jersey in March. The award honors efforts to assist the work of the supplemental security income program at Legal Services of New Jersey.

Steven Kirshblum, MD, associate professor and associate medical director at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, recently won the Young Academician Award from the Association of Academic Psychiatrists. This major award honors an academic physiatrist who has demonstrated outstanding performance in the areas of teaching, research and/or administration.

Gerard Malanga, MD, associate professor, was an invited lecturer at the American Academy of Pain Medicine in March in Orlando. He lectured on Rehabilitation of Neck Pain, and also served on a panel with internationally known anatomists and clinicians.

Sue Ann Sisto, PhD, assistant professor and director of the Human Performance and Movement Analysis Laboratory at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, was appointed to Editorial board of the *Journal of Neuroengineering and Rehabilitation*.

Todd P. Stitik, MD, associate professor, received first place for the "Best Research Poster" at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Academic Physiatrists in February. The abstract, "The Effectiveness of Interactive Videotaped Instruction in Teaching the Technical Aspects of Electrodiagnostic Testing," was prepared by Todd Stitik, associate professor; **Patrick M. Foye, MD,** assistant professor and Boqing Chen, MD, PhD, clinical assistant professor, and was published in the *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* in March.

The third edition of the textbook *Rehabilitation Medicine: Principles and Practice* edited by **Joel A. DeLisa, MD, MS**, professor and chair, was translated into Chinese. The fourth edition of this well-known text is scheduled to be published in England in Fall 2004.

Psychiatry

Charles Kellner, MD, professor and chair, was appointed as a member of the Corresponding Committee on Electroconvulsive Therapy and Other Electromagnetic Therapies.

Gary Rosenberg, MD, assistant professor, was elected as a fellowship member of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

NJMS Student Awards

NJMS students **Seun Akeju** and **Hiral Patel** were selected for the 2004-05 Howard Hughes Medical Institute-NIH Research Scholars Program. Only 43 students were selected nationwide. This research program was established in 1985 to give students at U.S. medical and dental schools the opportunity to conduct basic, translational or applied biomedical research under the direct mentorship of senior NIH research scientists.

Mary Leigh Anne Daniels, Class of 2006, attended the National Student Research Forum as the student representative of the NJMS Summer Student Research Program. The meeting took place in Galveston, Texas in April. Her oral presentation, "Reduced Cardiac Parasympathetic Activity in a Subgroup of Children with Autism," was awarded first prize among pediatric research oral presentations. Ms. Daniels was mentored by Sue X. Ming, MD, PhD, assistant professor neurosciences and Michael Brimacombe, PhD, associate professor department of preventive medicine and community health. Tiffany Ticinelli, Class of 2006, also contributed to this project.

Michael Lindy class of 2006, under the direction of Robert Wieder, MD, PhD, associate professor and director of the molecular oncology laboratory, won a travel award to attend a national meeting as part of the NJMS Summer Student Cancer Research Symposium. He was selected as one of 40 students nationally to give an oral presentation at The National Student Research Forum, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX.

Li Cheng, PhD, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, was the recipient of the New Jersey Medical School Bergen Medal for outstanding graduate research.



185 South Orange Avenue PO Box 1709 Newark, NJ 07101-1709

Items for consideration for the next issue of *Inside New Jersey Medical School* must be submitted by July 31, 2004. Please e-mail information to Valerie Miller, marketing and communications coordinator, at *millerva@umdnj.edu*. Due to space limitations, we reserve the right not to publish all submissions.

