



WINTER 2011
NUMBER 14

ROBERT MANCINI, D.O., PH.D. THE LOSS OF A LEGEND IN OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Robert Mancini, D.O., Ph.D., (left) a beloved and highly respected former NYCOM Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Dean of Clinical Services, and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Experimental Therapeutics, recently passed at the age of 65 on November 17. Suffering many years from complications associated with Parkinson's disease, Dr. Mancini relocated from Long Island to Vermont in 2001 where he eventually lost the battle at the home of his brother, Ronald Mancini.

Prior to joining the faculty at NYCOM, Dr. Mancini taught at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Both Thomas Scandalis, D.O., Dean of NYCOM and Abraham Jeger, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Clinical Services remember Dr. Mancini with the utmost admiration as "a giant in the osteopathic profession" and "a model professor and sensitive administrator" Dr. Scandalis is planning a memorial tribute to Dr. Mancini in the near future.



NEW PROGRAMS AT SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL

The American Osteopathic Association has approved two new NYCOM sponsored programs at Southampton Hospital in Southampton, New York.

Under the educational leadership of Shawn Cannon, D.O., the hospital already has several relatively new programs: Traditional Rotating Internship, Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine. These programs have become very competitive in a short period of time.

The first new program is the Integrated Family Practice and Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine. This combined program allows the resident to be simultaneously trained in both Family Practice and NMM. This program leads to dual board eligibility and dual certification. Daniel Van Arsdale, D.O. serves as the program director.

The second new program is the NMM +1. This residency allows a graduate of any osteopathic residency to train in NMM and become board eligible in only one additional year. Many DO's, particularly those in primary care, after completing their initial residency wish they had additional training and expertise in NMM. This program, under Stephen Braun D.O.'s directorship, makes this possible in a relatively short time.

For more information about these programs, please contact NYCOMEC or the Hospital's Medical Education Office directly at 631-726-0409.

David Broder, D.O., FACP, FACOI
Associate Dean, NYCOM
President, NYCOMEC
516-686-3730

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LETTER FROM ALUMNI AFFAIRS



To all of you who have attended our annual receptions at ACOFP, EROC, AAO, AROC and AOA in 2010 we thank you, and we look forward to seeing many of you again at our upcoming events and programs for 2011. Our CME events with Dr. Gabriel and Zucker were well attended and provided opportunities for our alumni to gain CME credits and reconnect with old acquaintances. Our 25th anniversary reunion of the class of 1985 at the Water Club and our 10th anniversary reunion of the class of 2000 at Angelo and Maxie's were both extremely successful.

For those of you who were not able to join us this year, plans are already in the making for the events of 2011, and we hope to see you there. Diane Zucker will be returning on February 15 to deliver her well attended program on Billing and Coding. We will again be hosting receptions at the ACOFP Convention in San Antonio Texas on March 18, the AAO Convention on March 18 in Colorado Springs, at EROC on March 4, honoring the class of 1981, and AROC on April 6 at Bally's in Atlantic City and at the AOA in Orlando on Halloween. Again we encourage your participation in coating our students at the White Coat event for the class of 2013 on Wednesday, July 20 from 4:30 to 9 pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club. Last year's event was a huge success, and alumni participation was appreciated by students, staff, faculty and administration. So mark the date on your calendar to be one of our coaters and be part of this important event

for our students. Plans are underway for a 25th Anniversary Reunion in September, a 10th Anniversary Reunion in November and a 20th Anniversary Reunion in June. Check our alumni website, your e-mail and regular mail for further information about these events.

As NYCOM alumni you should be proud of the accomplishments of your alma mater over the past year. At his State of the College Address in October, Dean Scandalis presented the following key points regarding the current status and future plans for the college:

- Of the 5,027 applicants for the class of 2014, 299 were accepted. NYCOM is becoming more and more competitive with applicants who have high GPA's and MCAT scores. NYCOM currently has an enrollment of 1,178 medical students.
- There is now a greater emphasis on active student learning. NYCOM is offering faculty development sessions and shifting the classroom emphasis on comprehension and application of information rather than information acquisition. We implemented a new system for student evaluation of teaching known as the Course Faculty Assessment (CFA). The Office of Program Evaluation and Assessment (OPEA) implemented the Formal Outcomes Assessment Plan (LOAP) and staff are being trained for the education management system known as Weave-online. We welcome our new affiliate for 3rd and 4th year Clerkships, Brookhaven Memorial Hospital in Patchogue, NY.
- The Riland Academic Health Care Center offers comprehensive student health services, primary and specialty care services for campus and community residents, and translational neuromusculoskeletal research. The Central Islip Family Health Center will utilize a Medical Home Model to deliver primary care and a Women's Wellness Center.

- The Center for Global Health provides opportunities for our students and physicians to deliver medical assistance on an international level. This year, 9 NYCOM students experienced a life changing humanitarian mission to the interior villages of Ghana, West Africa. Their medical training and compassion raised both the spirits and health care of the children and adults living in this impoverished, remote area of the world.

As always, we value your support of the Alumni Fund; your input and your advice and questions are welcomed and encouraged. Feel free to contact me at 516-686-1329. We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming year. We wish you and yours a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2011.

Sincerely,
Felicia Bruno

LOCAL DOCTOR IS A LEADER AT ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

PATRICK O'SHAUGHNESSY IS MAN OF THE YEAR IN MEDICINE FOR EMPATHY; COORDINATED TEAMWORK

By Anthony Frasca

December 29, 2010 | 04:18 PM

From being named director of emergency services to becoming interim chief medical officer at Saint Catherine of Siena Hospital, Dr. Patrick O'Shaughnessy has distinguished himself as a leader and as a skilled clinician. That is why he is The Times of Smithtown's 2010 Man of the Year in Medicine.

"He came onto the scene when we needed a leadership change in the emergency department," said Dr. William Flader, a St. Catherine's emergency room physician since 1989. "The emergency department is critical to the success of the hospital. It reflects on what happens in the rest of the hospital. Dr. O'Shaughnessy brought a lot of key elements to the job."

In addition to his hospital duties, O'Shaughnessy serves on the county's Heroin and Opiate Advisory Panel, battling drug abuse among children and young adults.

A graduate of Stony Brook University, O'Shaughnessy attended the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury where he achieved a degree as a doctor of osteopathic medicine in 1999. He studied emergency medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center and worked for two years at the Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey before returning to Long Island, where he became the director of emergency services at St. Catherine's in 2008 before being named interim chief medical officer recently.

He lives in St. James with his wife Mia and 3-year-old daughter Brooke.

"Pat has been very successful at bridging gaps and creating a coordination that hasn't existed in the emergency department for a long time," Flader said. "He brought the physicians together and got us clicking on all cylinders. That's key to having an emergency department functioning at a high level. A big part of that is that there is a lot of confidence in Patrick and he has confidence in us."

Being organized and working well with staff are not the only things O'Shaughnessy has going for him.

"Dr. O'Shaughnessy has true empathy for those who are sick or infirm and delivers high quality clinical care as the leader of our emergency department, and that compassion carries over into his new administrative function," Dennis Verzi, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of St. Catherine's, said. "He treats everybody with mutual respect including both physicians and non-physician colleagues. He has true appreciation for the important work of the first responders, maintains open communications, and takes the time to coordinate quarterly education community sessions to meet with them. Dr. O'Shaughnessy brings unrelenting energy and focus on mission to hospital administration. In the short while that we have served together it has been a pleasure to work with him, and I am in support of him being honored as the Man of the Year."

Dr. O'Shaughnessy has also established lines of communication with the nursing staff.

"[He] is intelligent, a multitasker, knowledgeable of the topic at hand, highly motivated team leader," Donna Thomson, nurse manager of the emergency department, said. "He has worked diligently since arriving at St. Catherine's in 2008 to streamline processes, improve throughput, improve communication processes both inter- and intradepartment and services. He forged ahead in creating a bridge to the emergency services community and has met quarterly with this community to present dinner lectures which have been very well received, and the number of community attendees have increased."

Of the Man of the Year Award Dr. Flader said, "I think this is something he is very worthy of and deserving of it. It's going to attract more attention to what he's trying to accomplish in the future. He came from some big hospitals with big population and big emergency departments on the cutting edge of programs and protocols. Coming to St. Catherine's required a shifting of gears and a cultural shift. He comes in with excellent clinical skills and a firm understanding of what has to be done in an emergency department and establishes confidence in the community with the care delivered."

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FROM THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Over 14 months ago NYCOM Dean Tom Scandalis invited me to become NYCOM Director of Development and Liaison for Government Relations. I am often asked "How are things going?", and "Are NYCOM Alumni involved in supporting the school?" I am pleased to report that things are going well, and yes, NYCOM Alumni support and care for their Alma Mater.

I am proud to report that:

- Last year there was a 90% increase of donors to the NYCOM Annual Fund over the previous year.
- NYCOM staff and faculty responded and supported the NYCOM Student Scholarship Raffle by raising more than \$2,500 awarding five \$500.00 scholarships to fourth year students.

Over 90% of NYCOM students are required, due to financial need, to acquire student loans. The class of 2010 had an average debt of \$175,000 upon graduation. NYCOM Dean Tom Scandalis has made student scholarships the top priority for NYCOM fundraising.

If you build it, they will come. We are building a case to support the NYCOM Annual Fund, and it begins with the need for medical student scholarships. Developing a culture of philanthropy at NYCOM is well underway. This past fall NYCOM students participated in the Fall Alumni Phone-A-Thon. For four weeks in October current NYCOM students contacted over 1,000 NYCOM alumni of whom 175 made contributions raising a total of \$15,000. Equally important, by speaking with alumni we were able to obtain current mailing addresses and 180 new e-mail addresses. We also learned NYCOM alumni want to be engaged and support NYCOM student scholarships.

This past holiday season 150 NYCOM medical students participated in the First Annual NYCOM Student Scholarship Send a Student Home for the Holidays

Raffle and raised more than \$1,500. Please join us in congratulating our winning students: First Prize- Erlin J. Marte, Southwest Airlines \$500 Ticket Voucher; Second Prize- Christina Hajicharalambous, Apple iPad; Third Prize- Brandon Lee, Kindle 3G Wireless Reading Device. This is a first step towards creating a culture of philanthropy among the students, NYCOM's future alumni.

Spring 2011 is here and NYCOM students and alumni will have an opportunity to participate in the brand new NYCOM Buy a Brick Program. Members of the 2011 graduating class will be able to buy a brick with their names and graduation year engraved for a discounted price of \$50.00 to mark the first year of the program. This is also a great way for friends, family and faculty to honor members of the class of 2011. Alumni are also encouraged to participate and buy a brick engraved with their name and graduating class to support NYCOM at a cost of \$100.00. All proceeds of this program will go to the NYCOM Annual Fund to support student scholarships. Further details will be available on the NYIT/NYCOM website.

NYCOM staff and faculty are anticipating the spring 2011 NYCOM Student Scholarship Raffle. More than twenty prizes will be awarded including gift certificates to local restaurants, spas, and with a little luck an airline ticket!

Your support of the Phone-A-Thon, Annual Fund and individual philanthropy makes a difference. In addition, corporations, foundations and alumni are being asked to support NYCOM student scholarships. Upcoming events and ways to give:

- Spring 2011 Annual Fund Appeal
- Spring 2011 Alumni Phone-A-Thon
- Buy a Brick Program
- Spring 2011 Staff-Faculty Raffle
- Named Scholarships

With a minimum contribution of \$1000 per year for five years, a scholarship is established in your honor of, or in memory of, an individual who you would like to recognize.

• Endowed Scholarships

A minimum contribution of \$25,000, payable over five years, will establish an endowed scholarship in perpetuity. The principle is restricted as specified by the terms of the endowment agreement, and earnings generated annually can be designated to support the donor's intent for either scholarships or academic programs. Additional contributions to the principle can always be increased at a future date. NYCOM is proud to celebrate our donors by listing them in the NYIT President's Annual Report, the NYCOM Alumni Newsletters, and the NYCOM E Newsletter. Starting this past fall, donors at the Dean's Council level and above will be invited to attend The Annual NYCOM Dean's Donor Appreciation Reception. Thank you for supporting the NYCOM Annual Fund. Your gift makes a difference. If we missed recognizing your contribution, please let us know by e-mailing me at dochoa@nyit.edu.

Sincerely,
David Ochoa
Director/Government Liaison

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**Partial listing*

APPLYING FOR MSPE'S

If you are applying to the ERAS Fellowships Documents Office (EFDO) or any other program requiring a copy of your Medical Student Performance Evaluation, here is information you need to know in order to obtain the information.

In case you are unaware, Medical Student Performance Evaluations (MSPE) were previously known as the "Dean's Letter" for the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) and conform to the guidelines established by the AAMC's (Association of American Medical College's) Dean's Letter Advisory Committee, 2002. MSPEs cannot be mailed or emailed directly to you, nor can you get a copy. MSPEs need to be sent

directly to the hospital or institution where you are applying for position. In order for us to facilitate the transfer of your MSPE, you need to fill out a form, which is available on the web at <http://nyit.edu/nycom/alumni/deansletter/>. In the email, please indicate what specialization you are applying for.

If you would like us to update your original MSPE, please submit a current copy of your CV, highlighting the key points you'd like for us to emphasize in your updated letter. Keep in mind, updating your MSPE requires advanced notice of the due date. Please allow 5 business days for your MSPE to be processed and sent out on your behalf.

Also, if you need to have a transcript sent in addition to your MSPE, please fill out and submit the Transcript Request Form located on the Alumni homepage at: <http://nyit.edu/nycom/alumni/transcript/>. Please allow 5 business days for your transcript to be processed and sent out on your behalf.

***For those of you applying to the ERAS Fellowships Documents Office (EFDO), in addition to submitting your current CV, you must also (electronically) submit to Erin, a copy of the EFDO Document Submission Form, which contains your Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) ID number. Information relating to the EFDO program can be obtained at: <https://www.erasfellowshipdocuments.org/index.asp>

NEW MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENT

Dr. Paul Littman of Skylands Urology Group in Hackettstown and Sparta is the first urogynecologist in Warren and Sussex counties to offer women the new Elevate minimally invasive prolapse repair system, which helps restore anatomy to its normal position with just a single-incision.

Prolapse is a condition which affects over 34 million women worldwide. It occurs when muscles and ligaments have been weakened or damaged due to childbirth, previous surgery, hysterectomy, obesity, age, ethnicity, genetics, or repetitive straining. This may cause pelvic structures such as the bladder or rectum to protrude or herniate into the vaginal wall. As a result, women may feel a

bulge or sense of heaviness or the sensation that something has fallen in the pelvic area. Elevate allows for a minimally invasive and comprehensive solution to treat these defects.

Elevate utilizes self-fixating tips that allow for safe, simple, and precise mesh placement in proven anatomical landmarks, through a single vaginal incision. The single incision promotes a short procedure time. Elevate incorporates proven mesh that has been used in more than 100,000 procedures.

Elevates, single-incision approach minimizes tissue trauma, allowing for a less invasive procedure. This has the potential for a shortened recovery, compared to abdominal prolapse

repair. Patients bodies are restored, along with an improvement to their overall quality of life, says Dr. Littman.

Dr. Littman has recently joined the medical staff at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center. He earned a Medical Degree in Osteopathic Medicine from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Old Westbury, NY, and completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he also served as Administrative Chief Resident. Dr. Littman did a fellowship in Urogynecology and Female Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at the Atlantic Health System, Morristown, NJ.

AVON AWARD

Dr Sharon Koehler on behalf of Brookdale Hospital and Medical Center accepted a \$90,000 award from the AVON Foundation for Women. The award was presented at the closing ceremony of the Avon Walk New York held on October 17, 2010. Dr Koehler, The physician in charge of breast health services at Brookdale was on hand to accept the mock check from Dr

Marc Hulbert the executive director of the Avon Foundation for Women and Financial expert Suze Orman, a Special Ambassador for the Avon Foundation for Women.

Brookdale University Hospital & Medical Center was awarded funding to support the salary of a full-time Community Social Worker/Patient Navigator to provide breast health outreach and patient navigation ser-

vices. The Outreach and Patient Navigation Services for Women of Color in Brooklyn initiative at Brookdale University Hospital & Medical Center will target women 40 and older, poor, and medically underserved Caribbean and African-American women at risk for breast cancer or diagnosed with breast cancer.

NEWS FROM NYCOMEC

Postdoctoral Perspectives Program

On Monday, December 13, 2010, the NYCOM Division of Postdoctoral Education held a lunch time student program- Postdoctoral Perspectives: A Day in the Life of a Resident. This is an annual event where residents from different NYCOM Affiliate hospitals speak about their hospitals and programs. The program was well attended by both first and second year NYCOM students who were interested in learning about the various NYCOM affiliate hospitals, specialties and also about life as a resident. The NYCOM Alumni who spoke at the program included:

Frederick Davis, D.O.- Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, Central Islip, NY- Emergency Medicine
Salvatore Docimo, D.O.- Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY- General Surgery
Eva Galstian, D.O.- Peninsula Hospital Center, Far Rockaway, NY- Family Practice Hospitalist Fellowship
Nadia Rao, D.O.- St. Barnabas Hospital, Bronx, NY- Radiology
Wendy Wong, D.O.- Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY- Pediatrics

NYCOMEC Grand Rounds 2010

On Tuesday, December 7, 2010, NYCOMEC held its eleventh annual Grand Rounds program, a multi-specialty continuing medical education program that is designed for NYCOMEC's interns, residents, fellows, attendings and faculty at NYCOM. NYCOMEC is the Osteopathic Postgraduate Training Institution (OPTI) affiliated with NYCOM. It is comprised of NYCOM and twenty seven (27) teaching health care facilities located in New York and New Jersey. This year Grand Rounds was held at the NYIT DeSeversky

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NEWS FROM NYCOMEC

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Conference Center in Old Westbury, New York. The program was well received by both those attendees who participated in the program either in person or via live web-casting.

The morning session started with "Identifying and Assisting the Impaired Physician presented by Jeffrey A. Selzer, M.D. Gregory Rokosz, D.O., J.D., Vice-Chairman, NYCOMEC Board of Directors, gave a presentation, "Medical Errors and Disclosures of Adverse Events. Michael Schoppmann J.D. spoke on "Medical Malpractice- Self Protection and Damage Control."

After a holiday buffet lunch, the afternoon program began with a presentation by Denise Burns, D.O. on the "The Five Minute OMM Consult." Thomas Jan, D.O., (NYCOM Class 1991) gave a lecture on "The Art of Balancing Pain Management with the Risk of Addiction."

Frederic Vagnini, M.D., host of a radio call-in program-"The Heart Show" was the keynote speaker. Dr. Vagnini spoke on "Nutritional Management of Heart Disease and Diabetes. Following Grand Rounds was a cocktail reception sponsored by the NYCOM Office of Alumni Affairs. The entire day was enjoyed by all.

A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR NYCOM ALUMNI

The Office of Alumni Affairs is delighted to inform you that the White Coat Ceremony for the class of 2013 will take place on Wednesday, July 20, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. This important event celebrates our students' entry into clinical medical education. The ceremony will be held at the Crest Hollow Country Club, located at 825 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, New York. There will be a Dean's reception following the ceremony.

We would be honored and greatly appreciate your participation in this ceremony in "coating" our students. Please call Esther Hevia at (516) 686-3801 if you will be able to participate in this memorable event.

*Please note: Coaters need to arrive by 4:30 p.m.

BE PART OF NYCOM'S HISTORY BE AN "ALUMNI COATER!"



ALUMNI ROUNDUP

NYCOM Class of 2000 -Ten year Reunion
Angelo and Maxie's Restaurant
November 6, 2010

Members of the NYCOM class of 2000 reunited on the evening of Saturday, November 6, 2010 for a dinner held in their honor at Angelo and Maxie's in Gramercy Park. Alumni shared photos and memories throughout this very enjoyable evening.



Alumni Holiday Party 2010
Garden City Hotel
December 16, 2010

On Thursday, December 16, 2010 alumni gathered at the beautiful Garden City Hotel for their annual alumni holiday party. More than eighty five guests attended from classes as early as 1985 and as recent as 2010.



NYCOM Class of 1985
25th Anniversary reunion
September 25, 2010
The Water Club

On Saturday, September 25, 2010 members of the NYCOM class of 1985 gathered at The Water Club in NYC for an evening of dinner and dancing. During his welcome speech, Dr. Scandalis updated the alumni on all the changes and advancements that have taken place at NYCOM. Guests enjoyed an elegant dinner with a breathtaking view and danced the night away.



AOA 2010-October 25, 2010
San Francisco
Alumni luncheon and reception

On Monday, October 25, 2010 alumni and students gathered at the AOA Annual Alumni luncheon at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. Thomas A. Scandalis, D.O., Dean of NYCOM, delivered his State-of-the-College Address to update alumni on the current status and future plans for NYCOM. In the evening, an alumni reception was held at John's Grill, a historical restaurant and one of the city's oldest and most famous establishments. Guests enjoyed a lavish cuisine and the company of fellow NYCOM alumni.



ALUMNI BRIEFS

William J. Ennis, D.O. '85 Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, and Chief, Section of Wound Healing and Tissue Repair at University of Illinois at Chicago has been awarded the 2011 Georgetown Distinguished Achievement Award in Diabetic Limb Salvage by the Georgetown University Hospital Conference on the Team Approach to Diabetic Limb Salvage. For more than twenty years Dr. Ennis has been at the leading edge of wound care medicine. An internationally known speaker and educator, he is also the immediate past president of the Association for the Advancement of Wound Care. At the University of Illinois at Chicago he founded the nation's first academic, physician-based fellowship in wound care.

Dr. Ennis is also Medical Director, comprehensive Wound and Disease management Center at St. James Hospitals and Medical Centers Crestwood Care Sub-Acute Wound Unit, and Chief medical Officer, Accelcare Wound Centers.

A member of the editorial boards of several publications, Dr. Ennis is the author of more than seventy five articles in professional journals, book chapter and abstracts. He has spoken and lectured widely on wound care and other subjects and has been involved as lead or principal investigator in many clinical trials.

Jose C. Vigario, D.O. (92) a board certified specialist in geriatric medicine, will join the medical staff at Princeton Health Medical Associates in January 2011.

Dr. Vigario, who began his clinical practice in 1998, has been treating patients in the Monroe Township area for the past 12 years. He also lives in the township and is an active participant in the community. Board certified in internal medicine and geriatric medicine, Dr. Vigario's practice encompasses general internal medicine with a specialized focus on the wellness and needs of the senior population.

Daniel Makas, D.O. (92) has joined Eastern Shore Rural Health System Inc. at the Atlantic Community Health Center. He is certified by the American Academy of Family Practice and currently serves as the Community Affiliate for Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Prior to joining ESRHS, Makas owned a private practice for 10 years.

Ronald Januchowski, D.O. '93 has recently been selected to be the Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs for the Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Carolina Campus. He will step down from his role as Program Director and Director of Student Medical Education at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center beginning in January 2011 to focus on the clinical track curriculum for the new campus.

Hadi Michael Rassael, D.O. '94 is excited to announce the addition of Zerona, the first non-invasive body contouring procedure,

to his practice, Millennium Medical, located in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Zerona effectively removes excess fat without the negative side effects associated with surgical methods. The Zerona laser treatments will provide his patients noninvasive, alternative medical solution to the traditional fat removal procedures and surgeries offering no down time or pain and no need for compression garments or anesthesia. "The Zerona laser treatment is an exciting addition to our practice", notes Dr. Rassael. I am thrilled to be able to offer my patients the latest in laser technology to meet their cosmetic needs."

Akwasi A. Achampong, D.O. (97), a physician at Elmont Medical PC, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in medical care. With 11 years of professional experience, Dr. Achampong serves as a physician at Elmont Medical PC. Utilizing his expertise in diabetes and hypertension treatment, he sufficiently treats patients. In his spare time, he volunteers for The Organization for International Development, in which he offers free medical aid in various countries. Dr. Achampong is a member of the Nassau County Medical Society and MedNet Technologies, Inc. "Consumers Digest" recognized him as one of America's Top Physicians for 2007 to 2008, and he attributes his success to hard work and determination.

Dr. Aliya Browne, D.O. (97), is the owner and cardiology physician at Central Jersey Heart Group. Dr. Browne worked in a private practice in Flemington for almost five years. She then returned to Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, where she had previously completed a cardiac fellowship. During her second stint at Deborah, which lasted about two years, Browne was part of an initiative that carries over to her mission at Central Jersey Heart Group. "I helped them open up and set up a couple of outreach centers, a woman's center in particular," Browne said. Browne left Deborah to start Central Jersey Heart Group, which focuses on women's cardiac care. "I treat both men and women, but my predominant focus is on women and heart disease and attempting to let women know that it's the number one killer," Browne said. "If we can prevent disease from occurring, then we can definitely help you live longer and live better, healthier, stronger lives. So, the initial step is as much prevention as possible," Browne said.

Michele Reed, D.O. 97 co-founded First Things First Foundation of Health and Wellness with Mrs. Sepia Owens-Villas in late 2009. Their organization's vision is to create communities where individuals make preventative health care a priority in their life. Focusing on prevention of disease and lifestyle changes, First Things First aims to promote and improve health and wellness in under-served communities through education and advocacy. Dr. Reed and her co-

founder share a passion for building healthier lives and empowering individuals to take control over their health and well being.

Since the inception of First Things First, they have sponsored several events in the Queens - Long Island area. Their H1N1 educational seminar featured, Dr. John Clarke, the winner of the Center of Disease Control's H1N1 Public Service Announcement campaign. This seminar was co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Congregational Church of South Hempstead. During the summer they organized a family oriented Summer Safety Seminar that was co-sponsored by the Uniondale Public Library. Close to one hundred children and adults participated in this event. The adults learned about skin care by dermatologist Dr. Adrienne Houghton, exercise safety, proper fluid intake and received a CPR take home kit. The children learned about swimming tips by a former life guard and other age appropriate tips were discussed by a police officer and a member of the Uniondale Fire Department.

This year Dr. Reed and Ms. Owens-Villas partnered with the Lakeview Public Library to create The Girls Mentoring Program that meets the first and third Saturdays at the library. The girls are ages 10 - 16 years old and meet after each session with their mentors. Dr. Reed and Ms. Owens-Villas were honored by The Civil Service Employees Association, Inc. (CSEA - Nassau Local 830) on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at the Coral House in Baldwin, New York where they will receive an Achievement Award at their 17th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon. Congratulations, Dr. Reed.

Bellamy Carter Brook, D.O. (98) has joined Peconic Landing, a life care retirement community in Greenport, as medical director. He has offices in Cutchogue and Riverhead and is also affiliated with Eastern Long Island Hospital in Greenport. As promoting the delivery of quality long-term care has been a major focus of his career, Dr. Brook felt leading the medical team in a long-term care facility would be the perfect opportunity for him to further his mission. "People are living much longer, and the geriatric population is the fastest-growing population," he added. Since he is also on staff at Eastern Long Island Hospital, Dr. Brook said he will be able to follow patients back and forth from the life care community to the hospital. "There will be continuity of care, which will help improve quality," he said.

Sania Wilkins, D.O. (98), of Port Pediatrics, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in pediatric healthcare. Now celebrating her 12th year in pediatric medicine, Dr. Wilkins specializes in treating patients from birth to age 22. As the primary physician of Port Pediatrics, she oversees the practice with

ALUMNI BRIEFS

three employees, educates parents and mentors medical students. Dr. Wilkins is a renowned public speaker on topics ranging from compliance to pediatric medication and maintains a strong belief in child advocacy and community service. She recently received a grant through the Community Access To Child Health (CATCH) to advance advocacy training at Schneider Children's Hospital. She has lobbied with the Federal Advocacy Action Network on Capitol Hill for children's health insurance. She works closely with the Safe Kids Coalition of NY and received a grant through Reach Out and Read to promote literacy at her practice. Port Pediatrics is a family-centered practice that promotes healing and education for children of all ages. For more information on Port Pediatrics, please visit <http://www.portpediatrics.com>.

Gus Katsigiorgis, D.O. '00 has been appointed to the position of Associate Chief of Orthopedics, specializing in sports medicine orthopedic surgery and joint replacement, at Franklin Hospital in Valley Stream, New York. Dr. Katsigiorgis also has privileges at North Shore University Hospital and Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Congratulations!

Michael Smith, D.O. (00) St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital announces the addition of family physician Michael J. Smith. Dr. Smith, who recently joined the practice of New Windsor Family Medicine, completed a residency in family practice at Mid-Hudson Family Practice Residency Program, Kingston, where he was chief resident. He is board-certified in family practice. During his last year of residency, Michael received the Resident Teacher Award from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. Later, as a major in the U.S. Air Force, he served as a family physician at Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, Mass. In 2006, Dr. Smith returned to the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute to become a faculty physician. He served as medical director of the Family Practice Center of New Paltz.

Dr. Julian Moore, D.O. '01 has received the Daniel Koprince National Award in Dermatology for his clinical case presentation of Bullous Sweets Syndrome at the annual American Osteopathic College of Dermatology Mid-Year Meeting and Scientific Seminar held in Sedona, Arizona on April 15, 2010. The Koprince Award, the highest honor for a resident in dermatology, is a highly coveted accolade reserved for one outstanding resident case presentation per year. After careful review by the evaluation committee, Dr. Moore was selected from more than 100 applicants as the recipient of the award.

The case presentation came as a result of a dermatology consult from Broward General Medical Center. Sweets Syndrome, also known as acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis, is an uncommon condition, and can be an indication of more serious underlying conditions, including an associa-

tion with hematologic malignancy. Dr. Moore quickly realized the gravity of the consult and, along with his colleagues, effectively diagnosed and treated the patient.

Angela R. Dorsey, D.O. (02) has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in medical care. Dr. Dorsey completed her training in Family Medicine and currently works for Indian Health Services as an Urgent Care Physician. She desired to assist the tribal community with their health needs and she attributes her success to her upbringing to help those in the underserved community. She has previously utilized her free time by volunteering for local shelters for Hurricane Katrina victims and the American National Red Cross. One opportunity that she continues to cherish as a physician was the chance to volunteer with a medical mission group to South Africa. In addition, she currently sponsors children in Africa through Child Fund International.

Dr. Khorsheda Begum Ali, (03), a board-certified OB/physician, has joined the medical staff at Catskill Regional Medical Center's Women's Health Center. The Women's Health Center offers services for women of all ages, including gynecological exams, mammography, ultrasound, bone densitometry and obstetrical care.

Peter Gambacorta, D.O. (04) has been appointed Medical Director, Pediatric and Adolescent Sports Medicine, Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. Although his practice encompasses many areas of general orthopedics, Dr. Gambacorta's specialty is in the care and treatment of sports related injuries of the pediatric, adolescent and young adult athlete with expertise in advanced arthroscopic surgical techniques of the hip, knee, shoulder, elbow and ankle.

Dr. Karine Thevenin-Smaltz, D.O. (04), a board-certified family physician, has joined Dillsburg Family Health Center. She is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Artemio Perez, D.O. (05), has joined Innovative Orthopedic & Spine Surgery as of November 2010. After graduating from NYCOM, he began his residency training in Family Practice at Peninsula Hospital Center in New York City in the Borough of Queens. During his time in residency training Dr. Perez was recognized by the hospital for excellence in critical care in 2007. In addition he also served as Chief Resident for Family Practice from 2007 - 2008. After completing his residency training in Family Practice in 2008, Dr. Perez started a fellowship in Primary Care Sports Medicine at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ which is a major affiliate of Mount Sinai School of Medicine. During his fellowship, he trained under nation-

ally known sports medicine specialist Dr. Michele T. Gilsenan, DO, FAOSM who is the immediate past president of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. Dr. Perez provided medical coverage for various sports at the local high school and collegiate level during his fellowship training. In addition his fellowship training also included working closely with various orthopedic surgeons and musculoskeletal specialists some of which were team physicians for local NFL and NBA teams. He has also provided volunteer medical coverage for the Livestrong Cycling Challenge by Lance Armstrong in Philadelphia (2007) as well as various 5K races throughout Northern New Jersey. Dr. Perez is board certified in Family Practice and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. He is board eligible in Sports Medicine.

Rosanna Sabini, D.O. (05) has joined Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana's traumatic brain injury team as a physiatrist. She joined RHI after working as a Traumatic Brain Injury Fellow with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Prior to her fellowship, she was a resident at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, N.Y., and an intern for the Long Beach Medical Center in Long Beach, N.Y. In addition to her role as an RHI physiatrist, Dr. Sabini is an assistant professor in the Indiana University Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Brian M Walters, DO, (05) a physician of The Exigence Group, a national healthcare management organization, was named Director of Emergency Services for the Upper Allegheny Health System. Dr. Walters facilitates the integration and standardization of Emergency Department policies and procedures for Olean General Hospital and Bradford Regional Medical Center. He was most recently the Director of the Emergency Department at BRMC. Dr. Walters is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine. He is responsible for the development and implementation of patient care protocols and processes to enhance clinical quality, patient satisfaction and operational efficiency. He also provides clinical coverage at both hospitals.

Megan Westervelt, D.O. '07 was recently appointed to the Active Staff in the Department of Family Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, New York. Megan completed a residency in Family Medicine at Wilson Memorial Hospital in Johnson City, New York. Dr. Westervelt has joined Arnot Medical Services.

Tanasha Sylvester, D.O. (08) and Ashley Simela, D.O. (08) were married Sunday, October 10, 2010 by the Rev. Dr. Douglas Gerds at the First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. The couple met while pursuing their degrees at NYCOM. Congratulations, Doctors!



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FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Linda Friedman of the Neuroscience and Histology department has published a manuscript in the *European Journal of Neuroscience* (impact factor 3.42). In addition to searching for protective genes that may be triggered by an early-life insult, extensive morphological analysis of the hippocampus was carried out in juvenile rats with and without a history of two neonatal seizures with the aid of two fellows (Grace La Torre and Victoria Rudenko) and two first year medical students (Ankita Sharma and Vishal Mehta). Calcium imaging was performed by a physiology trained postdoc working under Dr. Linda Friedman to determine whether excitatory responses were attenuated in animals with multiple early life seizures. Two first year medical students (Asfi Rafiuddin and Brian Goldstein) assisted with the NMDA receptor immunohistochemistry to determine their distribution at the same ages since they play a pivotal role in membrane excitability. Part of this work was previously presented at the Society for Neuroscience last year in 2009 and two faculty members co-authored (Dr. Friedman and Dr. Hallas) the manuscript that was subsequently accepted for publication in the *European Journal of Neuroscience*, 2010.

Recent publication:

Saghyan A., LaTorre G.N., Keesey R., Sharma A., Mehta V., Rudenko V., Hallas, B.H., Rafiuddin A., Goldstein B., Friedman L.K. Glutamatergic and Morphological Alterations Associated with Early Life Seizure-Induced Preconditioning in Young Rats. *Eur J Neurosci.* Eur J Neurosci. 2010. Nov 3. doi: 10.1111/j.1460-9568.2010.07464.x. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21050279>

The Department of Neuroscience and Histology is pleased to announce that former Neuroscience and Histology Fellows (Sherry M. Zakhary and Diana Ayubcha) have published their work in *Synapse*, 2010.

This published work was conducted under the supervision of the students' mentors, Drs. Joerg R. Leheste and German Torres.

"A behavioral and molecular analysis of ketamine in zebrafish"

SHERRY M. ZAKHARY, DIANA AYUBCHA, FARAH ANSARI, KIRAN KAMRAN, MEHWISH KARIM, JOERG R. LEHESTE, JUDITH M. HOROWITZ, AND GERMAN TORRES*

Three faculty members of NYCOM's Neuroscience department, (left to right) Joerg Leheste, PhD (Assistant Professor),

German Torres PhD (Assistant Professor), and Brian Hallas PhD (Chair/Professor), attended and presented their abstract at the Annual AOA Research Conference on Sunday, Oct. 24 through Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010, in San Francisco.

The theme of the conference was "Emerging Research Themes for Osteopathic Clinicians and Scientists in the Early 21st Century." Drs. Hallas, Torres and Leheste were also judges at the Student Poster Competition.

News From the Anatomy Department
Dr. Brian Beatty and Dr. Jonathan Geisler of the Anatomy Department had their paper, "A stratigraphically precise record of Protosiren (Protosirenidae, Sirenia) from North America", published in the journal, *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie - Abhandlungen* (Volume 258, Number 2, pp. 185-194). The paper describes new material of the hindlimb of an ancient relative of modern manatees, clarifying its age and distribution, including a discussion of how the earliest seacows spread between the western and eastern hemispheres approximately 40 million years ago.

A link to their paper is:

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/schweiz/njbgeol/2010/00000258/00000002/art00005>