Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Dr. Steven M. Katz, assistant professor of surgery, has joined the multidisciplinary wound care team of the Stony Brook Leg and Foot Ulcer Treatment Group, for which he is doing evaluation and surgical management of chronic wounds; the surgical management of these wounds after debridement includes skin grafting and soft-tissue flap coverage.

In addition, Dr. Katz is now providing laser treatment of skin lesions (eg, small leg veins/telangiectasias; cherry angiomas; hemangiomas; facial spider veins), using the Department's state-of-the-art Laserscope system, which minimizes the undesirable side effects (eg, bruising, scarring) associated with use of other lasers.

Further expanding his practice, he is now accepting patients with injuries of the hand, for which he has expertise in the microsurgical repair of bony, soft tissue, and nerve injuries.

Surgical Oncology

Dr. M. Margaret Kemeny, professor of surgery (interim) and chief of surgical oncology, traveled in June to Switzerland to participate as a distinguished faculty member in the five-day workshop, “Methods in Clinical Cancer Research,” sponsored jointly by the Federation of European Cancer Societies, American Association for Cancer Research, and American Society of Clinical Oncology.

In October, Dr. Kemeny will be an invited speaker at the Sixth Annual International Conference on Gastrointestinal Cancer, to be held in Williamsburg, VA. Her presentation will focus on trials of intra-arterial therapies (see Research Focus, page 8). Dr. Kemeny was again cited as one of the “Doctors of Excellence” in the latest edition (1999) of the Castle Connolly Guide, How to Find the Best Doctors—New York Metro Area.

Transplantation

Dr. Kazimierz Malinowski, research associate professor of surgery and director of the Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory, is pleased to announce that, as of August 15, our fully operational polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based DNA typing laboratory will exclusively use DNA methods for typing human leukocyte antigen (HLA) class II antigens. These methods are based on new standards adopted in March 1998 by the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics.

Our Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics Laboratory is now in the process of establishing a program designed to provide nucleotide sequence-based typing of HLA alleles for solid organ, bone marrow, and stem cell transplantation. Accreditation of this new program will be sought from the New York State Department of Health, American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, College of American Pathologists, United Network for Organ Sharing, and National Marrow Donor Program.

Dr. Felix T. Rapaport, SUNY distinguished professor (surgery/transplantation), received a high honor in March when he was promoted to the rank of commander in France’s Order of the Legion of Honor by special decree of French President Jacques Chirac. The premier French order and decoration, this international honor was bestowed upon Dr. Rapaport for his continued efforts to further the trans-Atlantic cooperation of French and American scientists, together with his career achievements in transplantation which have contributed to the renown of France. He was originally inducted into the Legion of Honor in 1990.

Trauma/Surgical Critical Care

Dr. Robert D. Barraco, assistant professor of surgery, joined our faculty in July, coming to Stony Brook from the University of Maryland Medical Center/R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore. He received his MD in 1989 from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

After two years of active duty with the US Public Health Service (during which time he was a staff medical officer, clinical director of health services at the federal prison in Otisville, NY, and also recipient of a Hazardous Duty Award and Unit (Continued on Page 14)
Commenced by Dr. Barracco completed his residency training in general surgery at the Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, NJ, in 1997, and then his one-year fellowship training in trauma/surgical critical care at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

During the past academic year, Dr. Barracco was clinical instructor in trauma/surgical critical care at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. In addition, in May 1999 he received a master’s degree in public health, with certificate in injury studies, from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Dr. Barraco’s clinical practice at Stony Brook will focus on the surgical management of injured patients, including all aspects of traumatology, and the pre- and post-operative critical care of adult surgical patients.

A practicing general surgeon, he will also contribute to our general/gastrointestinal surgery service. He has a special interest in the surgical care of the elderly.

Dr. Barraco’s current research interests include the natural history of deep venous thrombosis in extremity trauma, the application of noninvasive modalities of cardiac output measurement, and the use of nonoperative management in multiple solid organ injuries.

Dr. Subir R. Maitra, research associate professor of surgery and emergency medicine, recently received a grant ($626,763) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to support a three-year basic science study titled “Glu-6-Pase and 6PF2K/FBPase Gene Regulation in Sepsis,” starting in July. He is the principal investigator of this study, as well as a related three-year study to be completed in December of this year, titled “Hemorrhagic Shock Effect on Glu-6-Pase Gene Expression” (also funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences).

At the 86th Indian Science Congress, held in India last January, Dr. Maitra was awarded the silver medal and certificate for the invited lecture he presented there: “Hormonal Regulation of Glucose-6-Phosphatase Gene Expression Following Shock and Trauma.”

Dr. J. Martin Perez, assistant professor of surgery, joined our faculty in August, coming to Stony Brook from the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital and the Ryder Trauma Center in Miami. He received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1992. During the period of his medical studies at Harvard, he also spent time as a research fellow in Harvard’s Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and at Merck, Sharp, and Dohme, in West Point, PA.

Dr. Perez completed his residency training in general surgery at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York in 1997; he was a special rotating resident in surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Subsequently, in 1999, he completed his two-year fellowship training in trauma/surgical critical care at Jackson Memorial.

Dr. Perez’s clinical practice at Stony Brook will focus on the surgical management of injured patients, including all aspects of traumatology, and the pre- and post-operative critical care of adult surgical patients. He has a special interest in trauma care of the elderly.

(Continued from Page 13)
Dr. Michael J. Petersen (‘92), both former members of our Division of Vascular Surgery, have gone into private practice together in Stony Brook.

Dr. John J. Doski (‘93) has completed his pediatric surgery fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, and is now in practice in San Antonio with Dr. Frank M. Robertson, with whom he formed San Antonio Pediatric Surgery Associates ([210] 615-8757). Dr. Doski remains active in the Pediatric Oncology Group (POG), a National Cancer Institute-sponsored clinical trials cooperative group of individuals and institutions dedicated to controlling cancer among children and adolescents (it is one of only two cooperative groups research groups in the United States dedicated to the treatment of childhood cancers). Recent presentations of his are “Management of Empyema in Infants and Children,” presented at the meeting of the North Texas Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, in February in Dallas, and also at the annual meeting of the American Pediatric Surgery Association, in May in Palm Springs, CA (this paper was honored as the “best overall paper” presented at the meeting in Dallas, and will be published early next year in the Journal of Pediatric Surgery); and “Updates of Hepatoblastoma, Neuroblastoma, Wilms’ Tumor, and Rhabdomyosarcoma Protocols on the Pediatric Oncology Group Website,” an online demonstration of protocols he reviewed and edited, which are posted on POG’s website (http://www.pog.ufl.edu/).

Dr. Alex F. Argotte (‘97) is in private practice in Crystal River, FL, specializing in general, vascular, and thoracic surgery. A personal note: Dr. Argotte says that he and his wife, Melissa, have “two lovely daughters.”

Dr. Dean P. Pappas (‘99) has started his one-year clinical fellowship in colorectal surgery at the Colon and Rectal Clinic in Orlando, FL. The fellowship program is based at Orlando Regional Healthcare System (ORHS), a community-based teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville. His primary experience will be gained in the acute care patient setting of Orlando Regional Medical Center, the flagship hospital of the ORHS, a 517-bed facility located on the downtown campus. On completion of this fellowship, he will qualify for the board examinations of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. His special interests are anorectal physiology and laparoscopic techniques in colon and rectal surgery.

Dr. Saad A. Shukri (‘99) is now practicing general surgery as a member of Caremax Surgical in East Patchogue, NY.

For current mailing addresses of our alumni, please see the Department’s Alumni Directory on the Internet at http://www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/surgery/alum-dir.html.

To submit alumni news online, please go to http://blackwidow.informatics.sunysb.edu/surgery/alumsubmit.cfm.

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**Division Briefs**

(Continued from Page 14)

Board-certified in general surgery, Dr. Perez will also contribute to our general/gastrointestinal surgery service. He has expertise in the surgical management of alimentary tract, soft tissue, and breast disease; hernia repair; and minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic laparoscopy.

Dr. Perez’s current research interests include shock (basic science) and, with regard to clinical studies, trauma in the elderly, pulmonary confusions, and infectious disease in the setting of surgical critical care.

**Vascular Surgery**

**Dr. Fabio Giron**, professor of surgery and chief of vascular surgery, was again cited as one of the “Doctors of Excellence” in the latest edition (1999) of the Castle Connolly Guide, *How to Find the Best Doctors—New York Metro Area*.

**Dr. John J. Ricotta**, professor and chairman of surgery, in March was elected **vice president of the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery**, which is a leading national organization of about 1,000 academic and community vascular surgeons. He has also been elected to serve as **president of the Eastern Vascular Society**, and selected for membership in the American Surgical Association, the premier surgical society in America.

In May, Dr. Ricotta served as a board examiner for the American Board of Surgery’s vascular surgery certifying examination, and also was the Seventh Annual Dale Lecturer of the Department of Surgery at Vanderbilt University, where he delivered a presentation titled “Management of Combined Carotid and Coronary Disease: A Paradigm for Clinical Research.”

Dr. Ricotta was recognized as **one of the “Best Doctors in New York”** in the June 9th issue of *New York* magazine. He was also cited as one of the “Doctors of Excellence” in the latest edition (1999) of the Castle Connolly Guide, *How to Find the Best Doctors—New York Metro Area*.

Recently, Dr. Ricotta received a three-year grant ($1,050,000) from the National Institutes of Health to conduct a **multi-center study on the timing of carotid endarterectomy in patients having coronary bypass surgery**. He is the principal investigator of this study, which involves five medical centers from around the country led by Stony Brook.
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Innovations in the Surgical Treatment of Facial Paralysis
New Program in Obesity Surgery
Research to Improve Therapy for Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases
New Clinical Trials for Thoracic Cancer Surgery
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