Dean’s Message

Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, Senior Vice President, for the Health Sciences; Dean, School of Medicine

May brings another round of exciting new initiatives to Stony Brook Medicine. Match day in March has come and gone, and our 129 4th year students now know where they will spend the next three to 23 years of their lives (e.g. I moved to Seattle ostensibly for three years, and didn’t leave for 23). In the realm of the humdrum, just another match day, NOT. One of our graduates proposed to another one of our graduates on Match Day, and the proposal was accepted, enthusiastically (see: http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2014/03/21/cbs-2-exclusive-residency-match-day-turns-into-marriage-proposal-for-l-i-med-students/) – talk about a day! And we just celebrated the 40th Stony Brook School of Medicine graduation. Being a special, special day, we decided to reminisce during the ceremony, having produced three short films on the School, past, present and future. We had members of the very first graduating class in attendance, having traveled from Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Hauppauge (OK, not so far for Joe).

On the research front, Stony Brook Medicine continues to dazzle, with numerous high impact papers and several new research grants, including some first-time R01 awards. In March we graduated our first class of the new Facilitated Peer Mentoring Program, encompassing 16 faculty members who completed the 18 month curriculum. During the awards ceremony it became quite clear that the clinical research projects proposed and conducted by these new faculty members that represented 7 different departments were the future of not only Stony Brook Medicine, but of much of academic medicine in general. It was my pleasure to congratulate all the graduates, and to award a certificate of appreciation to the head of the program, Meenakshi Singh, our Dean for Faculty Affairs. Recently, we had an opportunity to assess the growth of the School of Medicine over the past three to four years; since the beginning of academic year 2011, our faculty have grown by 174 members,
37 research intense individuals and 137 clinicians. And to help house those new faculty, I am pleased to report that progress continues on the MART building and the new Hospital Pavilion, with ground breaking for the MART building behind us, the site cleared and concrete being poured. And while our recent inclement weather seems to have slowed work, our architects believe we can make it up and get back to schedule very soon. For a virtual tour of the MART and Hospital Pavilion, please visit: http://stonybrookmedicine.edu/mart-animation

LEARN, the new School of Medicine curriculum, is about ready for prime time; the final logistics for the switch over are rather complex, but the departments that offer third year core clerkships are doing a tremendous job in juggling their schedules to make things as seamless as possible – many thanks! There is little doubt that so ambitious an undertaking as a curricular redesign is a huge team effort, and I thank each and every one of our faculty, staff and students who have been involved in the myriad committees and think tanks and planning sessions, to bring us to the point of roll out for the matriculating class of 2015.

Our clinical programs are also thriving. Stony Brook University Hospital is the busiest hospital on Long Island, at least as measured by % bed occupancy, and yet continues to receive accolades for outstanding clinical care, thanks in huge measure to our students, residents, faculty and staff. Our clinical outpatient practices have also never been busier. And we continue to add to the list of “Stony Brook Onlys”, as I call it, being the only medical center that boasts a Biograph Simultaneous PET/MRI scanner, a Burn Unit (recently relocated into brand new digs on SBUH level 8), a Level 1 Trauma Center, a Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, an inpatient Child Psychiatric Program, Stem Cell and Kidney Transplant programs, amongst other onlys, in either Suffolk County or all of Long Island.

All in all, Stony Brook Medicine continues to rise, based on the incredible team effort, and all of our students, residents, fellows, staff and faculty should feel quite proud.

Kenneth Kaushansky, MD

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### A Word From the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development (continued from page 1)

The 3rd Annual Partners in Quality & Patient Safety Day was an interdisciplinary showcase of the initiatives and research being done at Stony Brook Medicine. Drs. Pasternak, Kaushansky, Laver and Ms. Gomes addressed the audience and shared their perspective on this significant and foundational aspect of patient care.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AWARD AND Awardee</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Award</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>“Development of a Handheld Guide to Promote Patient Safety, Education and Quality in Cardiology Inpatient Units and Clinics”</td>
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<td>Lloyd D. Lense, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Award</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>“Orthopedic Co-Management Model Reduces Length of Stay and Readmission”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathew Tharakan, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Authors: Donna Hoffman RN, Shai Gavi DO, Lawrence Hurst MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Award</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>“Orthopedic Co-Management Model Reduces Length of Stay and Readmission”</td>
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<td>Riyaz Kamadoli, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Authors: Donna Hoffman RN, Shai Gavi DO, Lawrence Hurst MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellow Award</td>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>“Effectiveness of CT Dose Reduction Software, a Retrospective Review”</td>
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<td>Hiten B. Patel, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Authors: Elaine S. Gould MD, Kevin Baker MD, Choowon Kim MD, Ammar Chaudhry MD, Ming Huang MD, Charles Mazzarese, MPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident Award</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>“Assessment of Obesity Documentation in Internal Medicine Resident Continuity Clinic”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramanuj Chakravarty, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Authors: Christopher D’Ambrosio MD &amp; Rachel Wong MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Award</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Development of an Evidence-based Protocol for Increased Tracheostomy Safety and Improved Patient Outcomes”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacey Heuschneider, RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Authors: Nancy Avino RN, Elliot Regenbogen MD, Susan Owens RN, Mary Tjersland RRT, Karin Ganetis RN, Susan Guschel CWOCN, Karen Chmiel CWOCN, Marianne O’Connor AAS, William Dan Roberts PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Award</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>“Development of a Program to Enhance the Care of Pregnant Patients Outside of the Obstetrical Service”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antonietta Lynch, RN</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Authors: Adriann Combs RN, Joseph Chappelle MD &amp; the Delivery Room Task Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outstanding Faculty Leadership in Promoting Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Education</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Wong, MD</td>
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The nature and high caliber of the research at SBU by women researchers was highlighted at the 8th Annual Women in Medicine Research Day. I share with you here some of the comments made by the invited experts during the panel discussion that I moderated.

1. Mentors who challenge you to perform at a higher level early in your career.

2. The importance of having an “academic home,” that will allow you to do your best work.

3. A passion for what you really want to do; be courageous, innovative, persistent and collaborative.


5. Know your own strengths and weaknesses and project your strengths.

6. Find the time to do what you want to do, and manage your time wisely.

7. Overcome the challenge of doubt, your own and that of others.

8. Be resourceful in finding funding.

9. Yes you can be a parent and a top notch scientist.

10. Be your own advocate and believe in yourself.

The attendees got the opportunity to interact and network with the invited women faculty and Stony Brook University faculty, staff and students. The winners of the awards gave impressive presentations on topics listed in the table. Dr. Sharon Nachman was recognized for her research on HIV in children. We learned from Dr. Margaret McGovern about the impact that Sharon has made on research in HIV in children at the national and international level. (See photo below)

The Office of the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development has provided support to Laura E. Hogan, M.D., Department of Pediatrics and Mingqian Huang, M.D., Radiology to attend the Early Career Women Faculty Development Seminar by the American Association of Medical Colleges and to Dr. Adam Gonzalez, Psychiatry, to attend the National Hispanic Medical Association meeting. These individuals will present workshops at the SOM to inform others about what they have learned at these seminars. Dr. Todd Griffin, Chair of OB Gyn and Reproductive Medicine, has provided support to Joyce Varughese-Raju, M.D. to attend the Early Career Women Faculty Development Seminar. Kudos to Dr. Griffin!

The Faculty Diversity Advisory Council has reviewed and submitted a draft of a strategic plan for diversity at the SOM to the Dean for his consideration.
The **Peer Mentoring Program** that I lead has successfully graduated its first cohort of early career clinical faculty. They each completed research projects during this 18 month longitudinal structured program.

We are now ready to **receive applications for the next group of mentees and volunteer mentors**. Mentee applicants should submit an updated CV, a letter of support from the Chair and division chief (if applicable) and a plan for having the time to attend at least 80% of the program sessions in person and to complete all assignments on time. A total of 25 mentees shall be selected by the review committee. Mentors may send a letter of interest to me stating reasons for their interest, a commitment to attend at least 80% of the program sessions and to be an active participant in the mentoring process; 25 mentors shall be selected. The deadline for both is June 30th. Selection announcements shall be made in August and the formal program shall begin in October 2014.

**MENTEE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MENTEE</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>RESEARCH TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Bloom, MD</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Development of the cardio-oncology center for clinical practice and research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imran Baig, MD</td>
<td>Medicine - VA</td>
<td>A Model To Increase House Staff Utilization of Hospital Observation Beds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Constantino, MD</td>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>The effect of alcohol use disorders on the course of schizophrenia: 10-year follow-up in a recent first episode cohort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula I. Denoya, MD</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Dearterialization vs. hemorrhoidectomy: a 3-year follow-up of a randomized controlled trial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpa G. Desai, MD</td>
<td>Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine</td>
<td>Does Pre-Transplant Pulmonary Function Predict Mortality in Stem Cell Transplantation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igor Kravets, MD</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Elucidation of changes in colonic tissue genetic expression associated with colon cancer in patients with DM Type 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olena Ksovreli, MD</td>
<td>Internal Medicine-Hospitalist</td>
<td>Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Kunkel, MD</td>
<td>Department of Psychiatry</td>
<td>Pathophysiology and Treatment of Bipolar Disorder as Assessed by In Vivo Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark F. Marzouk, MD</td>
<td>Surgery - Otolaryngology</td>
<td>ECOG 3311 – Testing De-intensified Adjuvant Therapy for HPV+ Oropharynx Cancer using Trans oral Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan P. Mintzer, MD</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>Noninvasive Monitoring of Neonatal Regional Oxygenation Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berrin Monteleone, MD</td>
<td>Pediatrics - Medical Genetics</td>
<td>Establishing a database for high-risk individuals for pancreatic cancer and to determine effectiveness of endoscopic ultrasound for early detection of pancreatic cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Stafford, MD</td>
<td>OB/GYN</td>
<td>Optimal duration of urinary catheterization after elective cesarean delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana A. Telem, MD</td>
<td>Surgery- Laparoscopic, Bariatric &amp; General Surgery</td>
<td>Sleeve gastrectomy impact on gastroesophageal reflux in a rodent model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathew Tharakan, MD</td>
<td>Medicine - Hospitalist</td>
<td>Hospitalist-Orthopedic Co-Management Model reduces length of stay and readmission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Tsui, PhD</td>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>Spinal Cord Stimulation Outcome Prediction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Miller-Horn, MD</td>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>Development of a Resident Research Curriculum and Resident Research Workshop</td>
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The Leaders in Medical Education (LiME) program graduated its 7th cohort of 9 faculty after an 18 month comprehensive program (more on this in the next issue of The Academic). We are now accepting applications for the 8th LiME Program. Faculty from all campuses and schools of SBM are encouraged to apply. They should submit a cover letter detailing their interest and leadership roles/potential in advancing medical/dental/nursing/pharmacy education at SBM, an updated CV, a letter of support from the Chair and division chief (if applicable) that makes a clear commitment to providing the faculty with the time to attend at least 80% of the program sessions in person and to complete all assignments on time. A total of 10-15 faculty shall be selected by the review committee. The deadline for application is June 30th. Selection announcements shall be made in August and the formal program shall begin in October 2014.

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>RESEARCH INTEREST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azin Abazari, MD</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Determine if the teaching of new and specific concepts in ophthalmology residency will benefit from using spaced education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Braverman, MD</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Medicine Morning Report Summaries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marina Chartou, MD</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Can online modules and a lecture series improve nutrition knowledge for internal medicine residents?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roderick Go, DO</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Look at the impact of a medical documentation curriculum centered on electronic health records.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Johnson, MD</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>Implementation of a novel Team-Based Learning educational module into an Emergency Medicine residency curriculum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Pynn, MD</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>The development of an effective neonatal board review curriculum which will improve both In-Service Training Examination (ITE) and Neonatal Board Certifying Examination Scores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Caramore Walker, DNP, CNM</td>
<td>School of Nursing</td>
<td>The improvement of students’ academic and clinical competency in the Advanced Nursing Program in Nurse Midwifery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athena Zias Dilena, MD</td>
<td>Medicine-VA</td>
<td>Construct Curriculum for Medical Residents who Rotate in the Ambulatory Setting of Primary Care in the VA Medical Center at Northport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Zove, DDS</td>
<td>School of Dental Medicine</td>
<td>To assess and compare specific educational outcomes when delivered via traditional classroom lecture or flipped classroom.</td>
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Many educators and leaders from the SOM participated in the North East Group on Educational Affairs meeting at the Yale SOM in April and presented our exciting new educational initiatives. Drs. Chandran, Schiavone, Singh, Granek, Susan Lane, Lu, Beverly and others presented workshops and posters. A multi institutional study poster on EHR use amongst medical students, co-authored by Dr. Susan Lane, received the best poster award at the meeting.

A New Chair/New Leader On-Boarding Program was conducted for the Chairs of Surgery, Radiation Oncology, Biomedical Informatics, Radiology and the Chief Medical Officer. The Office of the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development at the SOM is one of very few around the country that has instituted such a program. The aim is to facilitate the chairs’ timely development of a comprehensive understanding of the institution and processes that impact their effectiveness as leaders of their departments.
I am pleased to announce that we are bringing forward two new initiatives for the benefit of our faculty. The first is a Writing Group Program. The individuals who have presented posters this year at various SOM events hosted by our office are invited to participate in writing groups that will meet on a scheduled basis to report on the progress they have made towards writing manuscripts. The aim of this program is to enhance faculty scholarship, networking and career advancement. The second new initiative is in collaboration with the American Association of Medical Colleges for us to conduct a new program at SBM on Teaching for Quality. Applications shall be solicited from interdisciplinary members nominated by hospital leadership, including SOM faculty, to participate in this 9 months - 1 year long program that shall teach the teachers to teach Quality to our faculty, staff, students, residents and fellows. The participants shall develop and conduct educational projects as a component of this program. This work shall be converted into scholarship with the aim of being disseminated in poster, verbal and manuscript forms.

Meenakshi Singh, MD
The Department of Pediatrics at Stony Brook Medicine was founded in 1980 as a small inpatient pediatric unit and residency training program supported by 13 full-time faculty. From this modest beginning the Department has grown into a full service children's health program dedicated to improving the health of infants, children, and adolescents, providing excellence in family and patient centered care, educating the next generation of pediatricians, conducting innovative research, and advocating for children.

Currently there are 97 full time and 8 part time faculty with primary appointments in Pediatrics, 26 faculty with joint appointments and over 200 voluntary faculty. Organized into 15 clinical divisions representing all of the Pediatric subspecialties, the Department provides primary and subspecialty care to children in our region with offices extending as far east as Southold on the North Fork and Hampton Bays on the South Fork. Over the past five years the clinical program has undergone a period of remarkable growth with the addition of new Divisions of Hospitalist Medicine, Rheumatology, Allergy and Clinical Immunology and Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Along with the recruitment of chiefs for each of these new services, new leadership also has been recruited for the Divisions of Cardiology, Primary Care and Nephrology. New clinical programs include a Pediatric Oncology Survivorship Program, the Healthy Weight and Wellness Center, a Celiac Disease Center, and the Pediatric Hypertension Program. The Department also serves as a state designated center for all of the New York State Newborn Screening Programs, houses a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation certified CF Center and provides expert noninvasive cardiology services in a nationally certified Pediatric Echocardiography Laboratory as well as cutting edge cardiac MRI imaging.

The Pediatric Hospitalist Program, formally established in 2009, provides expert inpatient care and has resulted in shortening of the length of stay, improvements in quality metrics and high patient satisfaction. The Division has participated along with pediatric nursing in numerous quality initiatives at the national level through the Children’s Hospital Association. This division along with the outpatient primary care practice is an important provider of pediatric care in Suffolk County, particularly for indigent and medically complex patients. In 2014 all of the ambulatory sites in the Division of Primary Care received Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home recognition, which along with the implementation of the EMR is facilitating further improvements in patient care as well as opportunities for research.

Along with the growth in the clinical programs, the Department’s educational offerings also have expanded. Initiated as an 8 resident categorical pediatric training program, the residency now includes 36 Pediatric and 12 Medicine/Pediatric residents in training, as well as fellowships in Neonatology, Infectious Disease, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology and Academic General Pediatrics. All residents are required to carry out a research project and an annual research day occurs in the spring. Residents also have the opportunity to participate in global health experiences, most recently in Africa, and a formal curriculum in global health will be integrated into the training programs in the next academic year. Led by faculty who have prominent roles in national pediatric educational organizations, our program attracts highly qualified candidates and has enjoyed a board pass rate above 96% for the past three years compared to the national mean of 75%.

In recognition of the increasing cultural diversity of the US population, and the need for a racially and ethnically diverse pediatric workforce that is educated to recognize and address the needs of a diverse pediatric population, the department is committed to recruiting trainees and faculty from diverse backgrounds. This commitment is reflected by the composition of our residency program which includes 22% underrepresented minorities (URM; NIH definition) which provides a pipeline for increasing the diversity of the faculty. Similarly, proactive efforts have allowed us to recruit faculty from diverse backgrounds with 6% of the Pediatric faculty from URM compared to less than 1% across the School of Medicine.

Research efforts of the faculty include health services research, clinical trials, educational research and basic science programs. The Division of Pediatric Oncology is a full member of the Children’s Oncology Group with numerous active protocols and a Maternal Child HIV Unit has been continuously funded through NICHD since 1992. More recently the Department has recruited a number of physician scientists carrying out basic science research in cancer, gastroenterology and infectious diseases. These latter initiatives have been fostered by collaborations with the basic science Departments that have assisted with mentoring and sharing of research infrastructure and have led to several successful NIH and foundation grant awards.

The next few years will see the Children’s Health Program at Stony Brook Medicine continue to grow as we plan for occupancy of the new Children’s Hospital. The new building will provide state of the art clinical facilities that have been designed with children and their families in mind including all single rooms with pullout couches for the parents, play and respite space and improved teaching facilities. Important relationships have been developed that also will contribute to our program, including with Ronald McDonald House of Long Island which has provided a Family Respite Room and plans to fund raise to build a Ronald McDonald House on campus.

Finally, our faculty, trainees and staff serve as unwavering advocates for children. Our residents participate in the American Academy of Pediatrics Advocacy Day in Albany, and the faculty have developed numerous programs that promote improved child health including the nationally recognized Opt To Quit program which encourages smoking cessation among parents, the Keeping Families Healthy Program that provides in home support to those with complex needs, our service programs for HIV infected youth and numerous other initiatives designed to address child health needs on both the local and national level.
Growing up in Nasik, a historic city on a volcanic formation in the western hemisphere of India, I dreamed of becoming a scientist. Physics was a natural choice for me, perhaps because I came from a family of teachers and professors in physics and mathematics. However, fate conspired for me to become a physician-scientist. For several reasons, including that there were no physicians in the extended family, my parents gently nudged me towards medical school. I left home at seventeen to study at one of the most prestigious medical colleges in the city of Pune, India.

Early on, I was drawn to infectious diseases because of the variety, mystery and challenges inherent to the field and never knowing what the next patient might bring. Yet the same love of suspense made me want to look beyond the symptoms and understand what drove diseases at the cellular level. My old fascination with particles and molecules steered me towards Molecular Biology, a rapidly developing discipline in the west. I left India armed with a medical degree to begin my journey in science at Hahnemann University (now Drexel University) in Philadelphia.

During my graduate work under the guidance of Professor Akhil Vaidya, a molecular parasitologist, I discovered the gene for the mitochondrial phosphate carrier in the malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum. With this protein, I demonstrated that Plasmodium mitochondria were competent in importing extra-mitochondrial proteins – a finding of considerable significance because the function of Plasmodium mitochondrion was in question at the time. Since then, the parasite mitochondrial electron transport machinery has been identified as a major drug target; the commonly used anti-malarial drug Atovaquone is an example. Although I was thoroughly enjoying my foray into science, I found myself missing the “human aspect” of biomedical science. This led me to a residency in Pediatrics.

By the middle of my second year in residency, I knew that to find fulfillment and be effective in my career, I would need to learn to move seamlessly between the clinical and research arenas. I discovered several role models doing just that in the division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Yale. I switched pathogen gears to undertake fellowship training under the mentorship of the eminent Epstein-Barr virologist Professor George Miller. A remarkably well-adapted virus, EBV establishes silent residency in practically every human but is also able to cause a myriad of infectious disease manifestations and cancers. I began by asking how the human immune system suppresses disease from this pathogenic virus. My research uncovered the importance of CD4+ and γ-δ T cells in controlling EBV-transformed B lymphocytes as well as the existence of IgA responses to EBV replication proteins during infectious mononucleosis and Hodgkin lymphomas. Following fellowship training in virology and clinical infectious diseases, I was promoted to Assistant Professor at Yale where I continued my studies on EBV.

Funding from the NIAID (K08), NICHD (K12), NCRR (Clinical and Translational Scholar award) and the Charles Hood foundation allowed me to establish my independent research program at Yale and subsequently at Stony Brook. Research in my lab focuses on understanding cancer development by studying the interaction between EBV and its host B lymphocytes by investigating 2 main study areas: 1) identifying host proteins that determine susceptibility of EBV-infected B cells to lytic activation, a process important for lymphomagenesis, and 2) exploring the hypothesis that EBV manipulates host anti-tumor defenses to bypass critical cell-cycle checkpoints, thereby driving B cell proliferation and transformation.

Pertaining to the first study area, my lab pioneered the detection and separation of EBV-infected lytic and non-lytic cells. Experiments with these separated cells led us to discover that EBV uses STAT3, a pro-proliferative host protein that is overactive in many cancers, to control susceptibility to lytic activation signals and thereby promote viral persistence in the host. Published in a series of papers, this work which has implications for oncolytic therapy of cancers, recently received R01 funding from the NIAID.

In addressing the second study area of host anti-tumor defenses using the oncovirus EBV, we discovered that EBV exploits host STAT3 to interfere with an innate anti-tumor mechanism in cells (called the DNA damage response) to make these cells prone to divide and grow into cancer. To do so, STAT3 recruits the help of a cell death-promoting protein called caspase 7 to instead promote cell survival and growth. Our findings add to the short list of known mechanisms by which this anti-tumor barrier is breached prior to cancer development. Because STAT3 in involved in most cancers, our findings are likely to impact several types of cancer. Also published in a series of papers, we expect this line of investigation to unveil novel cancer therapies.
My journey so far has been incredibly rewarding. The support of mentors and institutions has allowed me to meld my passion for research together with my love for clinical infectious diseases. The path has been and continues to be fraught with challenges however. Some of these challenges are similar to those faced by full-time physicians and full-time Ph.D. scientists but many are unique to physician-scientists. Much has been written over the last few years about this breed of endangered species that struggles to bridge the chasm between basic science and clinical practice, both logistically and culturally. These struggles are further heightened by measures of fiscal austerity enforced by funding institutions and universities, little encouragement for such dual careers, the need for striking an optimal work-life balance, and a lack of compelling role models. The last two are perhaps the ones that discourage women the most.

On a final note as a woman physician-scientist, I feel compelled to urge young physicians, men and women with a passion and aptitude for research to be proactive in finding supportive environments, seeking and cultivating strong scientific mentors and developing self-discipline to manage time well. These are among the most important ingredients to the making of the “triple threat” – an idealized concept of the clinical investigator able to navigate effortlessly between the bedside and the research laboratory bench while devoting time to teaching and mentoring.

**Did you know?**

Introducing the Inaugural Academy of Clinical and Educational Scholars (ACES)

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to the School of Medicine community the inaugural Academy of Clinical and Educational Scholars (ACES). ACES is a community of dedicated and scholarly medical educators whose creativity, energy and innovation will address important issues in medical education for the physicians of tomorrow. ACES’ mission is to develop and promote expertise in medical teaching, educational scholarship, and leadership among the School of Medicine faculty. As part of an intramural curriculum alignment grant, we had selected five interdisciplinary faculty teams who authored the five “Stony Brook Teaching Families” which will be used as teaching materials throughout the new LEARN curriculum. Through a competitive application process from these individuals the following SOM faculty were selected as founding members of ACES:

- Linda Cimino, EdD, CPNP, ANP, Department of Anesthesiology
- Janet Fischel, MD, Department of Pediatrics
- Miguel Garcia-Diaz, PhD., Department of Pharmacology
- Iris Granek, MD, Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine
- Jonathan Mintzer, MD, Department of Pediatrics
- Stephen Post, PhD, Department of Preventive Medicine
- Paul Richman, MD, Department of Medicine
- Lisa Strano-Paul, MD, Department of Medicine
- Jennie Williams, PhD, Department of Preventive Medicine

Please join me in congratulating these faculty members. We expect the first year of ACES to be focused on integrating the SB Teaching Families into the LEARN curriculum as well as laying the ground work for a longer term ACES action plan aligned with our mission. The selection of these individuals for the inaugural Academy of Clinical and Educational Scholars reflects their contributions to teaching, mentoring, curriculum development, leadership in medical education at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

A Steering Committee for review of applications and projects as well as for other administrative functions has been created. The ACES steering committee comprises of:

- Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, Dean, School of Medicine
- Latha Chandran, MD, MPH, ACES Director, Vice Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education
- Frederick Schiavone, MD, Vice Dean, Graduate Medical Education
- Meenakshi Singh, MD, Vice Dean, Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development
- Wei-Hsin Lu, PhD, Senior Education Specialist, Undergraduate Medical Education
- Richard Iuli, PhD, Medical Education Specialist, Undergraduate Medical Education

It is my hope that through a yearly renewal and induction process, we will have more faculty engaged in the ACES mission with great contributions to the school in the years ahead.
Graduate Medical Education - Welcomes it’s New Executive Director

Frederick M Schiavone MD, Vice Dean for GME
Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine
Medical Director of the Center for Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety

The Office of Graduate Medical Education is excited to announce the addition of Catherine Eckart, MBA as the new Executive Director of GME. Carrie has been working in the field of Graduate Medical Education since the completion of her Biomedical Engineering and MBA degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in September 1987. She most recently served as the Assistant Vice President of GME at UPMC, Pittsburgh, where she was responsible for 1700 residents and fellows training in 200 specialties and subspecialties in a system of over 20 hospitals. Prior to UPMC, she was the Director of GME at Albany Medical Center from 1992-2009, where she managed 400 residents and fellows in 30 ACGME accredited programs until moving to the University at Buffalo in July 2009, where she had responsibility for all activities related to ACGME accreditation for 800 residents and fellows training in 60 programs.

Leaders of Graduate Medical Education recognize Ms. Eckart nationally; she is a featured speaker on a wide variety of topics at teleconferences, the annual Association for Hospital Medical Education (AHME) Institute and the AHME Academy that assists GME professionals to understand the complexities of GME. She has presented at several other national meetings of other organizations including The Association of American Medical Colleges, The Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, while serving as a consultant for ACGME in her current role as president of the Association for Hospital Medical Education (AHME). She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of AHME since 2004 and was Co-Editor in Chief of the AHME Guide to Medical Education in the Teaching Hospital from 2005-2007 as well as CADME Council Chair from 2004-2008. The Executive Director of AHME believes she “possesses enviable intellect and analytical abilities, a broad knowledge of graduate medical education, a truly remarkable work ethic, outstanding interpersonal and communication skills, as well as the confidence and judgment that is required for leadership positions”. We are lucky to bring Ms. Eckart to our already talented and dedicated GME Team.

Ms. Eckart will also serve as my Associate DIO and will join me just as Stony Brook embraces the ACGME’s New Accreditation System. This system includes the six priorities of the Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) – Patient Safety, Health Care Quality (including health care disparities), Transitions of Care, Resident Supervision, Duty Hours & Fatigue Management/Mitigation and Professionalism. Key to Stony Brook’s success will be the system-wide integration of residents and fellows into these six priorities. This is best accomplished through the GMEC and the network of its five newly formed teams that will focus on the CLER and other priorities including professional development of our program directors and coordinators, recruitment and retention of our residents and fellows and the new accreditation requirements including continuous oversight of our programs and the Annual Institutional Review. An institutional approach to policies such as “Transitions of Care” will also be addressed by the newly expanded GME Office.

One of the greatest honors is to be recognized professionally by one’s peers at a national level. Perhaps even better is to be recognized along with colleagues you truly respect. In 2013, Ms. Eckart and I were honored by the ACGME on the same day. She received the ACGME Institutional Coordinator Award, given to those in GME administration who work in collaboration with the DIO. I received the Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award, a national honor given by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to outstanding Designated Institutional Officials (DIO). Now, one year later, we are so fortunate to work as partners, at Stony Brook, and launch the new era of GME - NAS and CLER, ACGME and AOA integrating accreditation, affiliating with Mather Hospital and Southampton Hospital to broaden our GME base and engaging the five teams of the GMEC that will energize and fully integrate the residents and fellows and their program directors, faculty and coordinators into all of the institution’s priorities.

Cancer Corner
From the desk of Dr. Yusuf Hannun, MD, Director, Stony Brook Cancer Center

Can Curry Cure Cancer?
Recognizing Stony Brook Medicine’s expertise related to Hodgkin’s lymphoma research, the Jesse & Julie Rasch Foundation has recently awarded Gerardo Mackenzie, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, and Stony Brook University Cancer Center, a $179,000 grant investigating prevention of the disease.

“We are excited to be working with Dr. Mackenzie and the team at Stony Brook,” says Jesse Rasch, Chairman of the Rasch Foundation. “We believe that certain natural compounds have tremendous potential to both prevent and help treat blood cancers. Not enough is being done to evaluate these promising compounds, so we are delighted to help drive this research forward.”

Entitled “Evaluation of the anti-cancer effect of various compounds against Hodgkin’s lymphoma,” the study will evaluate the safety and efficacy of selected test agents in preclinical models of Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Dr. Mackenzie and his team will study numerous compounds that have been linked to cancer prevention in general and prevention of Hodgkin’s lymphoma in particular.

A major focus of the research will be the evaluation of curcumin, one of the primary ingredients in turmeric and curry powders as well as various formulations of curcumin, specifically prepared to increase its

(continued on page 11)
National Hispanic Medical Association
Attending the National Hispanic Medical Association Conference (NHMA) was a wonderful opportunity. At first, I was hesitant to apply for the award to attend the conference, since I am not a physician; however, I am grateful that Dr. Singh encouraged me to pursue the opportunity. The NHMA is welcoming of all professionals interested in the health and well-being of the Hispanic community. The NHMA also encourages Hispanic professionals to enter into leadership positions and to advocate for policy changes. In addition to cutting-edge research presentations, which focused on advances in health knowledge and care delivery for the Hispanic community, the NHMA conference offered a workshop on leadership skills building. This workshop was the most rewarding part of the conference. The workshop consisted of a panel of leaders from government, big businesses, and recruitment agencies. Discussions inspired me to think big and remember that all of us have the ability to create change and make a difference.

An unfortunate reality discussed at the conference was the disproportionately low representation of Hispanics in academia and leadership positions. These facts underscore the importance of mentoring Hispanic youth and others from underrepresented communities. Fostering positive self-efficacy and leadership skills are key for success. I am grateful to SBU for providing me with the opportunity to attend the NHMA conference. As a result, I am working on building a mentoring program for Hispanic and underrepresented students. I would highly recommend the conference, especially for medical students, residents, and new healthcare professionals.

SUNY Faculty Diversity Program Award
It is truly an honor to have been chosen for the SUNY Faculty Diversity Program. I am grateful to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for this opportunity. Currently, I am a principal investigator in the Department of Psychiatry and the research administrator at the SBU World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program. The WTC Health program, under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Luft, provides yearly health monitoring and treatment services to individuals who responded to the 9/11 disaster. Together with Dr. Luft, Evelyn Bromet, PhD, and Roman Kotov, PhD, we have built a clinical research program focused on understanding and treating comorbid PTSD and respiratory conditions in WTC responders. As part of my new appointment, I plan to continue this work and expand this line of inquiry and clinical services to other chronic health populations.

As a gay Hispanic clinical researcher, I plan to promote diversity within the Stony Brook School of Medicine by serving as a role model for current and future scientists. In addition, I am excited to become a member of the faculty as a research collaborator, clinical service provider, and educator. My goal at SUNY Stony Brook is to build a Mind-Body Clinical Research Center in the Department of Psychiatry that incorporates clinical services, research, and training. Clinical services would be direct-ed at providing holistic care for mood and anxiety disorders, pain management and health behavior change (e.g., smoking cessation) among individuals managing chronic illnesses. Related, my program of research focuses on understanding the psychological and neurobiological risk and resiliency factors at the intersection of mental and physical health conditions, and developing, evaluating, and refining treatments for mood, anxiety and behavioral health problems. My plan is to continue scholarly work with WTC responders and to expand clinical and research efforts to other chronic health populations, including those managing Cancer and HIV/AIDS. Last, I believe that mentoring and training our clinical research leaders of the future is an essential responsibility, especially those from underrepresented communities. I am currently working with Glenda Trujillo, PhD (Pathology) to develop a joint mentoring program, which will provide students from underrepresented backgrounds with both basic laboratory and applied clinical research opportunities.

I would like to thank the wonderful mentors that I am fortunate to have at SUNY Stony Brook including Roman Kotov, PhD, Evelyn Bromet, PhD, Benjamin Luft, MD, and my Chair, Ramin Parsey, MD, PhD, for their support and guidance. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Nina Maung-Gaona and Glenda Trujillo, PhD for their encouragement and guidance during the SUNY Faculty Diversity Program application process.

A Focus on Diversity
Adam Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

(continued from page 10)

bioavailability. Besides curcumin, other natural compounds being investigated include polyphenols, aspirin, vitamins, minerals, fish oils, probiotics and other agents known to boost the immune system. In preclinical models of Hodgkin’s lymphoma, they will look at toxicities related to dosage as well as each compound’s potential for reducing tumor growth. If this approach is found to be successful, the team hopes, in the near future, to translate these novel therapies into viable methods for the prevention and treatment of Hodgkin’s lymphoma for patients.

“We are very pleased with the support from the Jesse and Julie Rasch Foundation,” says Dr. Mackenzie, the study’s principal investigator. “Hopefully, results from these studies will set the stage for the further evaluation of the most promising compounds for Hodgkin’s lymphoma.” In addition to Dr. Mackenzie, the team includes academic research psychologist Nengtal Ouyang, MD, PhD, research scientist George Matthaiol-ampakis, PhD, and lab technician Joseph Lacomb.

The Jesse & Julie Rasch Foundation, headquartered in Toronto, Canada, is dedicated to driving change that will improve the health and quality of life for current and future generations. It takes a highly targeted, self-described “venture philanthropy” approach, actively investing with a goal of achieving “above average market returns.” It has funded research efforts in childhood eczema, fibromyalgia and Hodgkin’s lymphoma. It is particularly interested in the latter because they believe lymphomas do not generally attract the support and research dollars as some of the more “high profile” cancers.

http://www.raschfoundation.org/
Cancer’s impact upon women and men, especially those cancers that uniquely or overwhelmingly afflict one gender, differ in many ways; physically, emotionally, etiologically, and genetically. For women, gynecologic cancers have an impact far greater than the underlying disease. Women with cancer are mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, friends, co-workers; they are the glue that holds most families together. Their lives, and those of their families and friends, are affected on all levels by the cancer.

The Gynecologic Oncology Disease Management Team (DMT) treats cancers of the vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus (endometrium), ovary, fallopian tube and peritoneum and trophoblastic disease. Together, these cancers account for 13.3% of the new cancers afflicting women annually in the United States. Although substantial strides have been achieved, gynecologic cancers still account for 10% of cancer deaths annually in women.

In Suffolk County, approximately 500 new gynecologic cancer cases are identified annually, compared to approximately 1,200 new breast cancer cases. Compared to New York State, the incidence of cancers of the uterus, ovary and vulva are higher in Suffolk County, while the incidence of cancers of the cervix and vagina are lower. The incidence of gynecologic cancers in Suffolk County is estimated to increase 4.4-8.9% between 2010-2015.

The Division of Gynecologic Oncology, directed by Dr. Michael Pearl, FACOG, FACS, is the only academic subspecialty gynecology oncology practice in Suffolk County. Currently, the Division’s clinical staff consists of three gynecologic oncologists (Drs. Pearl, Melissa Henretta, FACOG and Joyce Varughese), one physician’s assistant (Marlo Dombroff, PA-C), and three full-time nurses (Sylvia Macco, RN, Donna Panarello, RN, BSN and Tracey McKenzie, RN). The Division serves as the nucleus for the Gynecologic Oncology DMT.

The members of the Gynecologic Oncology DMT have three overlapping goals: to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for women with known or suspected gynecologic cancers, as well as for those with complicated gynecologic surgical and selected pre-invasive conditions; to conduct research into the development and treatment of these cancers; and to educate healthcare professionals, and the public about gynecologic cancers and pre-cancerous conditions.

**CLINICAL ACTIVITY:**

Annually, the Gynecologic Oncology DMT sees approximately 740 new patients, performs approximately 500 surgical and 135 brachytherapy procedures, administers 600 chemotherapy cycles, and totals 4500 office visits.

**Clinical Volume**

Three components of the clinical activity of the Gynecologic Oncology DMT deserve specific mention: 1) Minimally Invasive Surgery; 2) Women’s High Risk Cancer Program; and 3) Palliative Care and Hospice.

**Minimally Invasive Surgery**

Drs. Henretta and Varughese bring expertise in minimally invasive abdominal surgery, including robotic-assisted and laparoscopic approaches, to the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, while Dr. Pearl has become widely recognized throughout the region as a vaginal surgeon. Because minimally invasive surgery is performed through smaller incisions, patients experience less pain with shorter hospital stay and faster recovery. The DaVinci® robotic system offers an effective alternative to traditional “open” surgery and conventional laparoscopy, especially for management of endometrial and cervical cancers, as well as selected complex gynecologic conditions.
**Women’s High Risk Cancer Program**

The Division of Gynecologic Oncology, in conjunction with faculty from several other departments, is developing a multidisciplinary risk assessment program for women with a personal or family history of gynecologic or breast cancer, pre-cancerous conditions or genetic susceptibility (e.g., BRCA 1 or 2 deleterious mutations, Lynch Syndrome) in order to provide: 1) individualized assessment; 2) education and counseling about screening options and methods of prevention; and 3) opportunities to develop research studies for risk reduction and early detection. This program, led by Dr. Barbara Nemesure in the Department of Preventive Medicine, will offer a unique and specialized service that addresses an urgent and unmet need, provides best-practice clinical care, and fosters community outreach.

**Palliative Care and Hospice**

Drs. Michael Pearl and Andrzej Kudelka are Board Certified in Hospice and Palliative Medicine and are working closely with the Palliative Medicine Service, directed by Dr. Lynn Hallaran, to incorporate palliative care into the management of patients with gynecologic cancers. Palliative care is “patient and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing and treating suffering. Palliative care throughout the continuum of illness involves addressing physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual needs and facilitates patient autonomy, access to information and choice.” Palliative care is appropriate at any time during management of a serious illness. It can be provided at the same time as, and in addition to, life-prolonging treatment. Contemporary multidisciplinary palliative programs improve patient satisfaction and survival while reducing cost.

Unfortunately, despite high rates of initial response to treatment, the majority of women with advanced gynecologic cancer will develop recurrent, progressive disease that is ultimately fatal. Management should be individualized, multidisciplinary, directed by an experienced gynecologic oncologist and focused on relief of suffering by timely enrollment in hospice, rather than focusing on generally unsuccessful attempts at prolonging life. The members of the Gynecologic Oncology DMT are striving to reduce the number of women with terminal gynecological cancer who continue to receive anticancer treatment and are repeatedly admitted to the hospital during the last six months of their life. Through timely referral to hospice, higher quality and more satisfactory care in more appropriate and, often, less costly settings, is provided.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITY:**

The members of the Gynecologic Oncology DMT conduct clinical and basic science research. Stony Brook Medicine was a parent site for the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG), an NCI-funded cooperative group dedicated to performing cutting-edge research on gynecologic malignancies. At any given time, approximately 15 GOG trials were available at Stony Brook Medicine for women with a variety of gynecologic malignancies. In addition, the GOG site at Stony Brook Medicine oversees five affiliate GOG sites: Winthrop University Hospital, Women’s Cancer Care Associates in Albany, Montefiore Medical Center, Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

On March 1, 2014, the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group and the GOG formally merged into NRG Oncology. NRG Oncology is one of the five NCI-funded Lead Protocol Organizations in the National Clinical Trials Network. Stony Brook Medicine was selected as an initial Voting Main Member of NRG Oncology and will continue to oversee its five affiliates. The depth and breadth of our NRG Oncology research unit immediately increased because NRG Oncology required member sites that participated as an affiliate member of two or more of the legacy groups to designate only one site as their parent member.

In addition to conducting clinical research, the Gynecologic Oncology DMT collaborates with scientists in several departments. The members of the Gynecologic Oncology Division are major contributors to the Department of Pathology’s Tumor Bank and conduct numerous clinicopathologic studies on gynecologic malignancies with Drs. Carmen Tomos and Meenakshi Singh. Dr. Wen-Tien Chen’s lab in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine has developed a method (“Cell Adhesion Matrix”) for isolating viable cancer, including ovarian cancer, cells from blood and ascitic fluid. This process captures metastasis-initiating cancer cells alive and enriches them one million-fold. The captured cells can be readily cultured and analyzed for specific mutations, gene expression and drug resistance. Dr. Margaret McNurlan’s lab in the Department of Surgery is investigating the role of inflammation in the metabolic dysfunction associated with obesity, particularly in the development of endometrial cancer. In the past five years, the members of the Gynecologic Oncology DMT have presented numerous abstracts at national meetings and authored or co-authored over 35 peer-reviewed papers in leading national journals.

**Study Totals**

![Graph showing study totals](image)

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY:**

The members of the Gynecologic Oncology DMT provide didactic, clinical and research education for medical students, resident physicians, Selective Pathology fellows, nurses, and physician assistant students in the hospital and ambulatory settings. By participating in local, regional, national, and international Grand Rounds, the members of the Gynecologic Oncology DMT provide continuing medical education for physicians in many specialties. They also provide valuable information to the community on prevention, diagnosis, and management of gynecologic cancers through a range of support groups and lecture series.
The Office Of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development Presents:
Faculty Development Workshops 2014

These workshops are specifically designed to help advance the careers of faculty, improve their involvement in undergraduate and graduate medical education and to enhance scholarship and research.

The overall goals of the sessions are:
1. Improve the understanding of teaching and learning based on adult learning theory and medical education research
2. Enhance the faculty’s skills in areas of research and educational leadership so they will prepare and support their learners for the practice of medicine over a lifetime of learning
3. Provide guidelines for career advancement

All workshops are from 4:30 until 6:00 pm in the HSC Dean's Conference Room 4-180, unless otherwise noted.

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC OF WORKSHOP</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 12, 2014</td>
<td>Mid-Career Professional Development: The AAMC Perspective</td>
<td>Allison J. McLarty, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26, 2014</td>
<td>Navigating the Appointments and Promotions Process for Early Career Faculty</td>
<td>Meenakshi Singh, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10, 2014</td>
<td>Minority Faculty Development: The AAMC Perspective</td>
<td>James Davis, MD</td>
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Certification Statement
The School of Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook, is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The School of Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook, designates this activity for a maximum of 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

For more information and to register, please contact Ryan by e-mail at Ryan.Himpler@StonyBrookMedicine.edu

Appointments, Promotions and Tenure

Professor
February 2014
Anat Biegon, PhD (Neurology)
Professor
Frank Darras, MD (Urology)
Clinical Professor

March 2014
Joseph Laver, MD (Pediatrics)
Clinical Professor

Associate Professor
March 2014
Syed Azim, MD (Anesthesiology)
Clinical Associate Professor
Brian Bronson, MD (Psychiatry)
Clinical Associate Professor
Roman Kotov, PhD (Psychiatry)
Associate Professor with Tenure

Voluntary Appointments
Jonathan Haas, MD (Radiation Oncology)
Clinical Assistant Professor
Kaleem Rizvon, MD (Medicine)
Clinical Assistant Professor
Christian Sheline, PhD (Neurology)
Research Associate Professor
Steven Shelov, MD (WUH-Pediatrics)
Clinical Professor

Stony Brook School of Medicine Welcomes New Faculty
Who Have Joined Us from February - April 2014

- Agnieszka Bialkowska, PhD Medicine
- Lori Bright-Long, MD Psychiatry
- Richard Bruckner, MD Pediatrics
- Chia-Hsin Chan, PhD Pharmacology
- John Haley, PhD Pathology
- Nicholas Kolanko, MD Radiology
- Gretchen Mockler, MD Family Medicine
- Laura Monahan, MD, MPH Pediatrics
- Regina Muir, NP Pediatrics
- Jessica Michelle Perrone, MD Preventive Medicine
- Samuel Ryu, MD Radiation Oncology
- Tracey Lynn Spinnato, MD Medicine
- Michael Stratemeier, MD Emergency Medicine
- Rebeka Sultana, MD Medicine

Data compiled by
Virginia Desposito and
Karen Wilk, CPA, MBA, Assistant Dean for Faculty Personnel and Virginia Desposito.
One of the main missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is “To discover knowledge and create innovations that advance the health and care of Veterans and the nation.” As such the VA houses the largest Intramural Research Program in the world. VA research is connected directly to the nation’s largest health system. Over 70% of investigators in this program are clinicians. This system links researchers directly to Veterans’ needs and facilitates implementation of research results. The VA research program is a broad and extensive research portfolio that balances the needs of all Veterans. There are over 2100 projects with approximately 100 that are funded by VA research at any time. 116 VA medical centers (VAMC) have the capacity for research, with. The VA has 3000 researchers with a long history of significant accomplishments and over 65,158 articles published in last 9 years in top journals.

The VA research program has produced 3 Nobel Laureates, 6 Lasker Award Winners. It has also fostered many important discoveries and inventions including: Cardiac Pacemaker; the first liver transplant; radioimmunassay; the CT Scanner; the first large scale clinical trial on TB and the 1st multisite RCT of antihypertensive treatment to mention a few the VAs amazing accomplishments.

VA Research Opportunities include several funding mechanisms. The first is the Merit Review Awards funding mechanism to support investigator-initiated research conducted by eligible VA-ORD investigators at VA medical centers. It is the principal mechanism for funding basic biomedical, preclinical, clinical and behavioral studies of disorders and diseases of importance to the health of veterans. The Merit Reviews come with the added benefit of VA employment.

The Career Development Program: which is for clinicians and non-clinicians. These are mentored research awards that are very similar to the NIH K-awards, however, the VA award salary support is much more generous.

The Cooperative Studies Program which is a great opportunity for translational research. This program allows investigator to study procedures or drugs across the whole VA system. The VA will also support these proposals with administrative and statistical support.

Other funding opportunities offered by the VA include Rehabilitation Research & Development; Health Services Research & Development and Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) –Implementation research in which VA is the pioneer.

Further advantages of VA research is access to the massive and robust VA electronic medical record and the huge VA patient base both at Northport (e.g. 35,000 primary care patients, ~ 3500 diabetics, ~ 4000 COPD), and nationwide to answer important clinical questions. Shared Equipment grants (ShEEP) for equipment over $250,000.

Recently the VA started the “Million Veteran Initiative” to collect genetic information from 1 million veterans and link this information to their electronic medical record, thus providing the nation with a wonderful and unique research opportunity.

The Northport VAMC first established a research program in the 1940s to conduct clinical and biochemical research in neuropsychiatric disorders; contributing to a nationwide standardization of diagnostic and treatment methods. The research program at Northport continues to be successful. We now offer Seed Grants, to support VA patient relevant research that would be used to generate data to support proposals for VA funding. Northport continues to have availability of research space and a fully staffed animal facility.

Eligibility for VA Grant Funding: Clinicians defined as a licensed practitioner with a doctoral degree (MD, DO, DDS, etc), are eligible to submit proposals. If approved, these clinicians will then be required to have 5/8th FTEE appointment before the funding can start. It is assumed, but not required, that these clinicians will care for patients at the VA medical center. For non-clinicians, they must first be accepted into the VA intramural research program. To be accepted they will need to submit a very short proposal and their CV to the VA research office in Washington which will then determine eligibility and invite the candidate to submit proposals.

In summary the VA research program offers our faculty a tool to help them in recruiting, developing clinician scientists and in finding spots or salaries for our PhDs. If you have any questions or are thinking of applying please don’t hesitate to call me at 631 261 4400 ext. 2865 Or 2851 or emailing me at Hussein.foda@stonybrookmedicine.edu or Hussein.foda@va.gov
Bravo!
We congratulate the following faculty and leaders who have recently received awards:

**Dr. Brooke Ellison Named “Young Global Leader”**
Brooke Ellison, PhD, MPP, a Stony Brook University professor, stem cell research advocate and public speaker, has been selected by the World Economic Forum as a 2014 Young Global Leader. This honor is bestowed each year by the Forum to recognize the most distinguished leaders under the age of 40 from every region in the world because of their achievements and contributions to society.

**Dr. Aldustus Jordan recognized as 2014 Long Island “Man of the Year” by the Suffolk Community Council**
Aldustus Jordan III, Ed.D. Associate Dean for Student and Minority Affairs at Stony Brook University School of Medicine was awarded “Man of the Year” for his work in the field of medicine. Dr. Jordan also affiliated with SBU’s public health program, teaches courses about connecting with the community, cultural competency and health literacy. Dr. Jordan also won this award in 2006.

**Dr. Margaret Parker Named a Master of Critical Care Medicine by National Society**
Margaret Parker, MD, FCCM, a pediatric critical care specialist at Stony Brook Medicine, has been selected as a Master of Critical Care Medicine by the Society of Critical Care Medicine. The honor is bestowed upon the society’s long-standing fellows for their achievements in critical care medicine, leadership, and outstanding contributions to research and education in the field.

**Dr. James H. Simons elected to the National Academy of Sciences**
James H. Simons, Ph.D., research professor and former chair of the Department of Mathematics at Stony Brook University and chairman of the board of the Simons Foundation, has been named a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He is among 84 new members and 21 foreign associates from 15 countries that were elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research, and brings the total number of Stony Brook University’s NAS membership to 24. Dr. Simons is the founder of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics at Stony Brook University. The Simons Center is a research center devoted to furthering fundamental knowledge in mathematics and theoretical physics, especially knowledge at the interface of these two disciplines.

Information and images from the Media Relations web site forwarded by Greg Filiano, Media Relations Manager, Stony Brook University, School of Medicine and Dr. Jordan.

Please notify the Office of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development if you would like to acknowledge a faculty member.

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**Conferences and Seminars**

**AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar**
July 12-15, 2014
The Inverness Hotel and Conference Center, Englewood, Colorado
https://www.aamc.org/

**National Medical Association (NMA) Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly**
August 2-6, 2014
Honolulu, Hawaii
http://www.nmanet.org/

**AAMC Minority Faculty Career Development Seminar**
September 5-8, 2014
Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown, Vancouver, British Columbia
https://www.aamc.org/

**AAMC Mid-Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar**
December 6-9, 2014
AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
https://www.aamc.org/

Please Note: The Office of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development will reimburse up to $2,000.00 for one faculty member to attend each one of these conferences/seminars. Those interested need to apply for the seminars to the sponsoring organizations and get accepted. For support from the Office of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development, interested faculty should submit to Dr. Meenakshi Singh: a CV along with a personal statement and letter of support from their Chair or Division Chief. These need to be submitted well in advance of the session.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

5/28/14 Leaders in Medical Education Commencement Program
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
HSC Galleria

**TWENTIETH ANNUAL ORTHOPAEDIC SYMPOSIUM**

**JUNE 18, 2014**

If you wish to contribute to one of our future issues please contact

Office of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development • HSC Level 4, SOM Dean’s suite • (631) 444-7207 • http://medicine.stonybrookmedicine.edu/faculty-affairs