

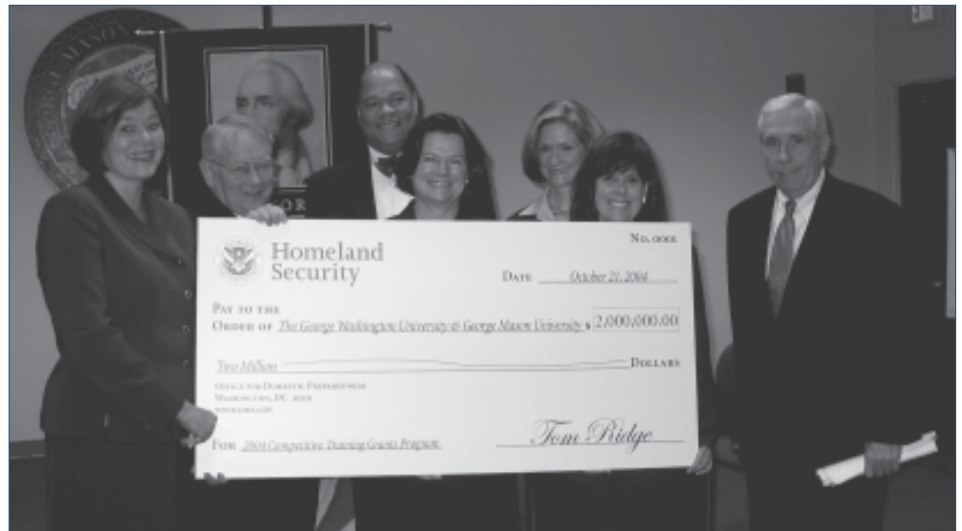
GW PROGRESS

DHS Awards \$2 Million for WMD Response Training for Nurses

THE DEPARTMENT OF Homeland Security (DHS) presented The George Washington University and George Mason University (GMU) with a \$2 million competitive grant to develop and deliver training sessions for nursing professionals across the country. The goal is to prepare them to respond to victims of an event involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and increase their awareness of WMD risks, vulnerabilities and response requirements.

“In targeting nurses for training, this program will address a sector of the community that really hasn’t been addressed adequately before,” said Suzanne Mencer, director of the Department of Homeland Security Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (LGCP). Mencer presented the grant to GW and George Mason officials on Mason’s campus in Fairfax, Virginia.

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On hand to receive the latest grant to support emergency preparedness efforts for nurses were, from left: Jean Johnson, GW senior associate dean of Health Sciences; Peter Stearns, provost, George Mason University (GMU); Dr. John F. Williams, GW Provost and VPHA; Ellen Dawson, associate professor, College of Nursing and Health Science, GMU; C. Suzanne Mencer, director, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness; P.J. Maddox, professor, College of Nursing and Health Science, GMU; and Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA).



Surgeon General Richard Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS, receives a special award from MSII Gerardo Solario, left, and MSI Vanessa Salcedo commemorating his recent visit to GW Medical Center. (Story on page 4.)

Hospital Taps Silva as Medical Director

CARLOS A. SILVA, MD, FACS, was appointed medical director of The George Washington University Hospital effective October 1. Additionally, Dr. Silva continues to hold the position of director of the Surgical Trauma Service at the hospital.

“We are delighted to name Dr. Silva as our new medical director. Through his years of service as the director of the Surgical Trauma Service, we’ve shared a long and productive relationship

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Provost Perspective

LET ME FIRST take the opportunity to wish you and your families a very warm holiday season. As members of the GW Medical Center community, your work is what makes this such a special place to be. To all the first year students who are gearing up for a break after a grueling term, I say: Congratulations, you made it through a semester; relax, and get ready for more excitement in January.

As I look back at all the accomplishments of the past year, it's hard to know where to start. Obviously, the presidential campaign dominated headlines this past year, and I'm proud that the Medical Center played such a strong role in helping keep medical and public health topics in the political spotlight during this time. GW experts appeared in publications and in the news to help explain the issues we all face in healthcare and health policy. Thanks to organizers at SPHHS, we even had senior representatives from the Bush and Kerry campaigns come to campus to debate some of these issues.

I was proud to see community service continue to grow as a theme among our students. In fact, the entire incoming medical school Class of 2008 spent a full day of orientation fanning out into the community to do everything from weeding flower beds to painting lockers at a dozen public schools in the District of Columbia. All told, our students worked more than 1,000 hours on that single day. They were in-

spired by the Class of 2007's total of 10,000 community service hours performed during their first year at GW.

By now, we're all familiar with statistics showing there may be a shortage of doctors in the future. GWUMC is doing its part to counter that trend. Through programs like AHEC and Upward Bound, we are reaching out to high schools and elsewhere to help create a pipeline of students to fill the ranks of the next generation of doctors and healthcare workers.

GW continues to make advances on several fronts in the fight against cancer. Our Tumor Registry at GW Hospital received reaccreditation, GW's mammography secured additional funding to continue operations and the GW Cancer Institute's recent Cancer Disparities Conference was a huge success. The two-day conference brought together researchers, public health professionals and policy leaders from around the country to hear more than two dozen experts at an array of presentations and panel discussions. This year's topic was prostate cancer, and organizers doubled the attendance from last year's conference, which focused on breast cancer.

As for homeland security, GW continues to bring our expertise and dedication to bear on the policy issues and practical challenges that we all face in making our nation's preparedness and response systems the best that they can be. In late November, we hosted an organizational meeting of the Department of Homeland Security's General Counsel's office. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge joined other government and GW experts to hammer out some of the legal and procedural issues that arise in the homeland security arena.

Not long ago, we also hosted what's called an "interoperability demonstration." Hundreds of specialists came to campus to test out systems that would allow diverse agencies to communicate with each other. Law enforcement officials, first responders, physicians' groups, hospitals and local health departments likely have different information systems in place; it is critical

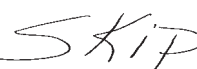
that they be able to have a common standard from which to operate. That is what interoperability is all about. It is incumbent upon us to look at the technological advances that can make this happen so we can seamlessly work together when a crisis occurs.

And let me share some particularly impressive figures about our Response to Emergencies and Disasters Institute, or READI. In the year and a half since READI became operational at our Virginia Campus, the Institute has trained more than 7,000 first responder students over the course of nearly 200 training sessions. These are remarkable numbers! READI is fast becoming a nationally known resource for first responder training, with participants coming from across the country. I applaud all those who have helped grow this important Institute into the national model that it is today.

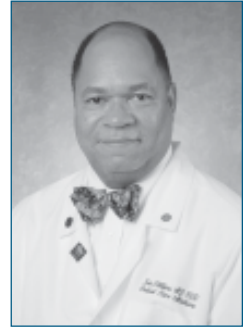
Finally, a word about technology. This past semester we unveiled to students the newly renovated Ross Hall room 201. Thanks to a \$1 million-plus overhaul, students can now use a computerized imaging system in place of light microscopes to study slide samples and other data. It is a revolution in both learning and teaching that now allows for an unprecedented level of collaboration in learning and efficiency in teaching. Look for more on this in future issues of *Progress* and the next *GW Medicine & Health* magazine.

Holiday preparations and the family gatherings await, so I'll simply leave you with my best wishes for peace and happiness. See you in January!

Sincerely,



John F. Williams, MD, EdD, MPH
Provost and Vice President for Health Affairs



GW PROGRESS

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For those who marked five-year milestones in their employment at GW University, Provost and VPHA Dr. John Williams, back center, along with SPHHS Dean Ruth J. Katz, and SMHS Dean Dr. James Scott hosted a ceremony in their honor. From left, back row, Katz, Berhane Selassie, Laura Violand, Adejoke Ogundiran, Mark Seeger, Venise Lewis, Dr. Williams, Marybeth Preisel, Richard Sheehee, Deborah McIlwain, Catherine Harris and Dr. Scott; front row, Farrell Hartigen, Debbie Goldstein, Barbara McGowan, Barbara Porter, Florezel Jose, Diane McQuail, Robert Kunst, Hellen Olumilua, Mary Lynn Povanda and Dr. Scott.

5 Years of Service

Emmanuel Agbottah, Gerald Bass, Caren Calamita, Pamela Godwin, Debbie Goldstein, Joetta Harty, Florezel Jose, Robert Kunst, Venise Lewis, Deborah McIlwain, Hellen Olumilua, Sanket Patel, Barbara Porter, Richard Sheehee, Monna Shalna and Patricia Wilson.

10 Years of Service

Charles Carpenter, Farrell Ann Hartigan, Johanna Inglis, Lisa Knox, Lea Nolan, Adejoke Ogundiran and Marybeth Preisel.

15 Years of Service

Berhane Selassie and Elizabeth Walker.

20 Years of Service

Catherine Harris, Barbara McGowan and Elizabeth Walker.

25 Years of Service

Donna Embersit, Mary Lynn Povanda, Mark John Seeger, Laura Violand and John Williams.

30 Years of Service

Diane McQuail and Jesterelden Porter.

Silva Named as GW Hospital's Medical Director

Continued from page 1



Carlos Silva, MD

with him. He was the natural choice for us," said Richard Becker, MD, CEO/managing director of GW Hospital.

Dr. Silva has been a part of the medical staff at the hospital since 1961 and has been an instructor in surgery since 1964. He has held an appointment at the Medical Center as a clinical professor of Surgery since 1973. His private practice activities include general surgery, with an interest in burn treatment and rehabilitation.

He is a graduate of The George Washington University School of Medicine and residency programs and is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery

Dr. Silva also has been an active participant and member of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of General Surgeons.

Dean Katz Elected to CDC Foundation Board

SPHHS DEAN AND Walter G. Ross Professor of Health Policy Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH, has been elected to the board of directors of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation.



She will serve a five-year term on the board of the Foundation, an independent, non-profit enterprise established by Congress to help build partnerships between CDC and others to fight threats to health and safety.

Dean Katz, who served for more than a decade as counsel to the Subcommittee on Health and Environment of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the U.S. House of Representatives, played an instrumental role in shaping the Foundation's authorizing legislation.

After leaving Capitol Hill, she was director of Public Health Programs at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. She then joined Yale University's School of Medicine, where she was associate dean for administration and assistant professor in the departments of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology and Public Health. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University and a law degree from Emory University.

Dean Katz brings "a wealth of expertise and wisdom to our board of directors," says Charles Stokes, CDC Foundation president and CEO. "We look forward to her active involvement in setting the future direction of the CDC Foundation."

Says Dean Katz of her election, "The Foundation does important and creative work that supports CDC's mission—to help improve and sustain the public's health. I am honored and proud to be a part of this very special organization."

GWUMC Dedicates Garden in Memory of Beloved GW Professor

THE WALKWAY BETWEEN Ross Hall and the GW Hospital is one of the most heavily traveled areas of the Medical Center. Thus, it was the most fitting place to create a garden in memory of Steven M. Dixon, MD '83, Res '87, clinical professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, whose untimely death more than two years ago shocked and saddened the GW community.

On November 5, a brisk autumn Friday, family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Dixon gathered to pay tribute to his life and to dedicate the Steven M. Dixon Memorial Garden in his honor. Said John



Members of the Dixon and Akman families gather next to the new memorial garden and plaque for Dr. Steven Dixon.

F. Williams, MD, EdD, provost and vice president for Health Affairs, "Steven Dixon

was beloved by his patients. He was an outstanding teacher who was active in medical and community groups. Today, I am pleased to officially dedicate this garden in his memory. Each spring, when the dogwood tree—Steven's favorite—blossoms, we will be reminded of him."

Allan Weingold, MD, who was dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences when Dr.

Dixon was a student at GW, and also served as his teacher and mentor, shared his memories of Steven. In the true spirit of GW, Dr. Dixon learned the most important lesson from Dr. Weingold, that of giving back. In turn, Dr. Dixon became a teacher and mentor, and one of his former students, Nancy Gaba, MD, who is now a faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology herself, shared her reflections on Dr. Dixon, whom she described as "physician, mentor, teacher, colleague and friend."

The dedication concluded with remarks from Jeffrey Akman, MD, Dr. Dixon's partner and The Leon Yochelson Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Following the reading of the poem "In Time of Silver Rain," by Langston Hughes, Dr. Akman said, "Steve would be immensely proud of being memorialized here at the Medical Center. He embraced the doctor-patient relationship and unselfishly gave back to the community. He cherished his patients, who adored him. And, he learned obstetrics and gynecology the GW way—with a personal commitment and pride in passing on his knowledge. He loved to teach and actively participated in the education of many students and residents. Steve lived fully, made a significant difference in the lives of many people and truly left this world a better place."

Surgeon General Outlines Healthcare Goals

SURGEON GENERAL RICHARD Carmona paid a visit to GW in October to mark Hispanic Heritage Month, sharing a riveting account of his own upbringing as a child of Puerto Rican parents and how his early experiences helped shape his current outlook as the nation's top medical officer.

"Much of what I bring to the table I learned as a child," he told a packed audience. Dr. Carmona talked of growing up "running the streets" of Harlem and, like his three siblings, dropping out of school. He was homeless for a time, eventually landing in his grandmother's apartment, which was a haven for virtually anyone who came by in search of food or shelter.

"Really, what I saw in my grandmother was the embodiment of community service," said Dr. Carmona, "even though I didn't know it at the time."

Fast forward to today: After an Army career, a high school equivalency degree, a medical education, and a career in law enforcement and emergency medicine, Dr. Carmona became the nation's 17th Surgeon General in 2002. But he still retains some of those early lessons.

"Those times weigh very heavily on me as I look at diverse populations and under-

stand the health issues they face," he said, adding that this awareness has made its way into some of his priorities as surgeon general.

Dr. Carmona is a big advocate, for instance, of so-called "health literacy." He has included a jargon-free "people's" section in surgeon general reports that distills long-winded analyses and recommendations into brief and accessible language written for the lay audience. He also names health disparities among minority and underserved populations as one of his top three priorities as surgeon general.

"We'll never remove the inequities in healthcare unless we understand the diversity," he said.

His other top health priorities are public health preparedness in a post-9-11 world and a focus on disease prevention, not just treatment. Dr. Carmona's appearance was sponsored by GW Medical Center's Office of Community-Based Partnerships, the SMHS' chapter of the National Boricua Latino Health Organization and the DC Area Health Education Center. National Hispanic Heritage Month is a national observance that spans a period from September 15 until October 15.

SPHHS Alumni Re-connect at APHA Convention Featuring GW Presentations

MORE THAN 100 GW School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) alumni, students and faculty mingled at a reception hosted by Dean Ruth Katz following a full day of presentations at the American Public Health Association Convention in Washington. It was an evening of networking and trading work stories for SPHHS alumni. It was also an evening to reconnect with former teachers and mentors. For many of the alums, the reception was their first opportunity to meet the new SPHHS dean.

Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes, chair of the Department of Prevention and Community Health, embraced some of his former students who have gone on to successful careers in public health. Alis Marachelian, MPH '01, had a big smile for her former classmate Jelili Ojodu. Marachelian runs an HIV program in Adams Morgan that soon will be expanded to include health promotion activities. "We started this project three years ago to prevent perinatal exposure. And it has grown from there."



Alumni attending the APHA convention gathered for a reception hosted by SPHHS Dean Ruth J. Katz at the Renaissance Hotel. Pictured above, from left, Class of 2003 graduates Sona Patel, Poy Nandi, Samata Kodollikar, Elizabeth David, Julia Pekarsy and Heather Doyle catch up during the evening of food and networking.

Ojodu is the program manager for newborn screening and genetics for the Association of Public Health Laboratories. Dr. El-Mohandes also beamed at former student Khadyah Aly Mohamed, MPH '96, one of the early graduates in SPHHS who is now the HIPPA officer for the Office of Children and Families for the Department of Health. "I love what I do because I know it makes a difference."

Founding SPHHS Dean Dr. Richard Riegelman got a chance to catch up with Paul Anthony, MD, MPH '96, who was in the first group of students to complete the MD/MPH program. "The joint degree program

has served me very well. Public health is now an integral part of medicine." Dr. Anthony recently left the White House, where he was senior medical officer aboard Marine One, to become the chief medical officer for PhRMA. "In this position I will be a patient advocate in the pharmaceutical industry."

Bretannia Walker flew in for APHA from Oslo, Norway, where she is working for the Wildlife Fund. At the reception, she reconnected with her former Environmental and Occupational Health professor, Dr. Rebecca Parkin, now SPHHS associate dean. Walker credits her EOH track with preparing her for her current role as toxics officer studying the impact of pollution in eight arctic countries. "I got a strong background in toxicology and also statistics. I learned policy and how to present information to different audiences." Walker's work also encompasses policy for the European Union, where they are considering new guidelines to "completely reverse the way chemicals are regulated in Europe."

Also joining the evening's festivities were 2002 alumni Barbara Kaplan, who works for the American Lung Association; Rob Braun, who is now working at the Blue Point Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; and LaJeana Howie, who is employed by the National Center for Health Statistics.



The American Public Health Association (APHA) convention in Washington, DC afforded the School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) the opportunity to staff a booth during the proceedings. Several current students took turns dressing up as GW mascot George Washington while answering questions about the School. The booth, with newly designed materials on SPHHS, won second place overall at the convention. Students and faculty also presented papers and SPHHS hosted an alumni reception.

Gibbs Orator Outlines Strategy for National Dialogue on Healthcare

THE 13TH ANNUAL Gibbs Oration for alumni and students in the Health Services Management and Leadership department in the School of Public Health and Health Services took place two days after the presidential election. Analyzing the results and what a second term for President George Bush would mean for healthcare was Dick Davidson, EdD '77, president of the American Hospital Association, in a talk titled "Healthcare, the elections and the future, what now?"

Dr. Davidson thinks there is an anxiety over healthcare that didn't show up in the end result of the presidential election voting. "Everyone is feeling stretched, from employers to employees. The affordability issue keeps coming up. The American public really does care about the uninsured."

Dr. Davidson says healthcare remains one of the great unresolved social issues of our time. "Ten years after the Clinton ad-

ministration tried to launch healthcare reform, we are the richest nation in the world. Yet, we still have 45 million of our citizens who are uninsured and 10 million of them are children. We can and must do better."

What can America expect in terms of healthcare changes in the second four years?

Dr. Davidson expects to see more competition for the healthcare market of the future, which doesn't bode well for consumer-driven healthcare strategies. "We will see more health savings programs introduced, a greater push to privatize Medicare and tax credits to help pay for health coverage." In addition, Dr. Davidson foresees a greater push for community health centers in rural and poor communities, a model he says worked well for President Bush when he was Governor of Texas.

Dr. Davidson sees more struggles over the issues, especially now that the makeup of Congress includes fewer moderates and more conservative Republicans in both houses. "I'm not convinced the votes are there in the new Senate to pass medical liability reform."

Even if the electorate didn't dictate a mandate on healthcare reform, Dr. Davidson says it must happen. "If we don't have the will to fix this, we could



SPHHS Dean Ruth J. Katz and Gibbs Oration keynote speaker Dick Davidson, president of the American Hospital Association.

have a serious public health crisis on our hands in the future with a healthcare delivery system unable to meet the demands of our communities."

The Gibbs Oration is given annually on behalf of the Health Services Management and Policy Alumni Association in honor of Professor Frederick H. Gibbs, who was the first appointed to chair the program in 1958.

School of Public Health and Health Services Dean Ruth Katz told the alumni and students in attendance, "You are heirs to the Gibbs legacy. You are where you are, in the top positions in this field, because of him."



Dennis Kane, SPHHS alumnus and president, Health Services Management and Policy Alumni Association, presents SPHHS student Elizabeth McNamara with a gift from the Association. McNamara was the first annual distinguished student lecturer at the Gibbs Oration; she addressed "Enhancing the Healthcare Team." Charlotte Collins, JD, was the first annual distinguished faculty lecturer. Distinguished alumnus John Ferguson, president and chief executive officer of Hackensack University Medical Center, closed the lecture series.

Faculty, staff, alumni, students ... have you published (or are you in the process of publishing) a book targeted for laymen? Let us know ... we always are looking for timely topics to share with readers of *Progress* and *GW Medicine and Health* magazine. Email: mcmladb@gwumc.edu.

HSPI Hosts Emergency Interoperability Drill; Work to Develop Common "Language" Among Responders

ROSS HALL CLASSROOM 201, once home to wet labs and now a state-of-the-art computer-equipped classroom, showcased an emergency interoperability drill hosted by The George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute (HSPI) with the ComCARE Alliance and the Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC). The

demonstration focused on new common emergency data interoperability standards that will improve information sharing among the first responder communities and enable seamless application compatibility.

"During an emergency," explained Dr. John F. Williams, GW Provost and vice president for health affairs, in his welcoming remarks, "I need to share data with other doctors and other hospitals in addition to local health departments. It is critical that we have a common standard for this communication."



Steve Cooper, chief information officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The event demonstrated how a common data language, specifically the new Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL), can help ensure that critical information related to disasters and daily emergencies can be quickly delivered to the right emergency response agencies to help save lives.

"Sharing data is crucial to any response efforts," said Frank Cilluffo, director of HSPI and associate vice president for Homeland Security at GW. "This data-sharing will enable us to act as one team in a crisis because the time to be sharing is now and not on the day of a crisis."

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chief Information Officer Steve Cooper agrees that working out the protocols of interoperability now is essential. "Where you have different members

of the response community coming together, there is always the question of who is in charge and how the information flows. This needs to be determined ahead of time. In establishing the process and the common language, you then have the template for interoperability training. DHS has provided grants to facilitate this public/private standards development process."

Multi-agency scenarios, including a HAZMAT truck hijacking, illustrated how this common data language and technologies can better link the responders during a real crisis.

First responders throughout the area convened in Ross 201 to work on "common speak" to be used during crises and disasters.



Steven Patierno, executive director of the GW Cancer Institute, recently received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Breast Cancer Resource Committee (BCRC). Dr. Patierno was recognized for his leadership with the GW Cancer Institute. Dr. Patierno is pictured above with Zora Brown, chairperson of the BCRC.

SAVE THE DATE
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER'S
ANNUAL
CANCER INSTITUTE
G A L A
 APRIL 8, 2005
 THE ANDREW W. MELLON AUDITORIUM
 GRAND BALLROOM
 6:30 - 11:30 PM
 PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE GW CANCER INSTITUTE
An Urban Oncology Center Dedicated to
 Understanding Cancer Disparities
 WWW.GWCANCERINSTITUTE.ORG
To sponsor a table or for more information,
 contact Stephanie Komen at 202-994-7511

SPHHS, SMHS Students Rally for Healthcare for DC's Neediest

TO THIS DAY, official signs in the nearby Metro station still point the way to DC General Hospital. But they lead to an empty shell of a building. Closed for lack of funds in April 2001, DC General has since become a focal point for much of what is wrong with a national healthcare system that often ignores critical segments of the population. Now, GW students are helping renew calls for DC General's re-opening and an overall improvement in the state of healthcare in the nation.

Several SMHS and SPHHS students joined dozens of residents and activists outside the DC General site on a recent blustery afternoon in November to declare a "People's State of Emergency" for healthcare. They used homemade signs and placards to amplify their message that DC is a symbol of a nationwide healthcare crisis.

"We need to get this back on the radar," said Kat Ogle, a first-year medical student who helped organize the rally through the GW chapter of the American Medical Student Association. "We need to bring public hospitals back into the picture because the system as it is now is just not sufficient to meet the people's needs."

Fellow organizer Lacy Fehrenbach-Marosfalvy, a second-year MPH student and president of the GW chapter of the Public Health Student Association at SPHHS, said residents in this section of the District are left with few options.

"People say Greater Southeast Community Hospital is still open, but the truth at

GW students, many in white coats, joined a crowd of dozens who turned out to rally for better healthcare in the District of Columbia and in the nation. At right, Kat Ogle, left, a first-year SMHS student, and Lacy Fehrenbach-Marosfalvy, a second-year MPH student at SPHHS, put up signage in advance of a rally in front of the old DC General Hospital.



Greater Southeast is that it's partially open, partially closed and extremely unstable," she said. "It's really a shame," said first-year SMHS student Ghedem Solomon as he looked toward the chain link fence and the weed-dotted parking lots that surround the now-dormant hospital. "It's a

shame to see a perfectly viable facility that's just not functioning because of politics or economics."

Other sponsors of the rally included the DC Health Care Coalition and the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association.



Back to Campus: From H Street to Eye Street and Beyond

Colonials Weekend - October 15-17, 2004

Close to 200 family, friends and alumni converged on GW's campus for Colonials Weekend for activities, tours, lectures and more. At left, Dr. Gene Cohen offers input on creativity and aging. Dr. Christina Puchalski, MD '94, talks with MPH alumna Soná Patel '04, about her lecture on spirituality in caring for chronically and terminally ill patients. More photos on page 9. Colonials Weekend 2005 will be October 21-23. Medical School classes celebrating anniversaries will be 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995.





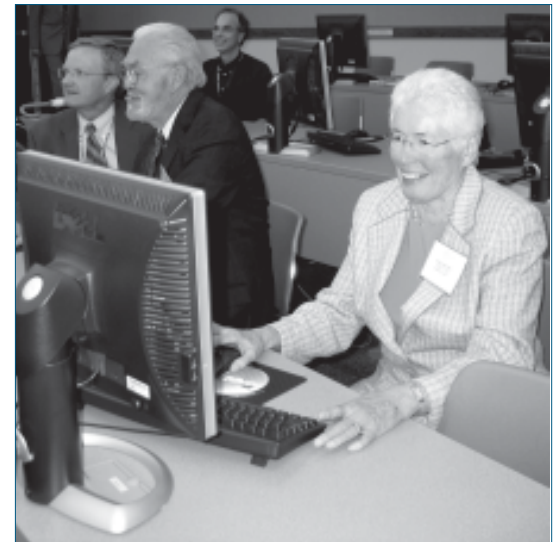
A hearty greeting between F. Turner Reuter, MD '44, and Jack Kleh, MD '44, at the 60th Class reunion held at the GW Luther Brady Gallery. Seymour Lifschutz, MD '44, center, and Phyllis Lifschutz lent diverse paintings and furniture from their collection, as well as a selection of atmospheric watercolors by Phyllis Lifschutz, for the show, "GW Community Collects." Above right, members of the Class of 1994 celebrate their 10 years with enthusiasm and spirit.



Back to Campus: From H Street to Eye Street and Beyond



Above, the Class of 1979 was awestruck with the equipment, technology and space offered at the new GW Hospital during a tour headed by classmate Dr. John Williams; while, at right, the Class of 1954's only female student Dr. Ruth Ortel gets a chance to try the new technology available in Room 201.



"What a difference 25 years make, as yearbook cover students compare the then and now; from left, are GW Provost and VPHA Dr. John F. Williams and his classmate, Dr. Deborah Bernstein.



Above, renewing old acquaintances are Shirley and William Kane, MD '54, and Daniel Seckinger, MD '54.

Faculty Development

Faculty Development is a regular **Progress** item. It features useful tips, book reviews and guest columns focusing on trends and issues in academic medicine.

Improving Our Teaching: The Facts, Perceptions and Challenges

I WROTE AN article on reflection in a previous edition of *Progress*, pointing out that the best practitioners are those that reflect in and on action. Well, keeping with my recommendations in that article, it is time for personal reflection four years after I was hired within the Office of Faculty Affairs to improve and enhance the teaching at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences and School of Public Health and Health Services.

During my tenure here we have done the following: offered monthly educational conferences that have addressed teaching and learning at the bedside, chair side and classroom; facilitated and planned a one-and-one-half-day educational workshop for the School of Public Health; facilitated workshops for residents, fellows, AHEC healthcare professionals, physicians at the VA and numerous departments on the main campus; worked with the neurosurgical residents over six months to improve their lecture and feedback skills; established a monthly Collaborative Medical Education Initiative to review ACGME competencies; coordinated and often wrote a monthly educational article for *Progress*; consulted with individual faculty around

educational issues; and worked in the CLASS center to develop simulations and promote research in medical education.

Let's explore some **facts** that are in evidence around education at GWUMC and other academic health centers.

Faculty are very busy with patient care, research and administrative responsibilities and find it difficult to find time for personal enrichment, specifically faculty development.

Junior faculty are having trouble getting promoted because their main area of scholarship is teaching and they have not evaluated this well, resulting in cynicism and tension in the environment because educational activities don't often result in promotion. The message is that teaching doesn't count and isn't valued.

Evaluations of teaching reveal that some faculty receive high marks and others lower.

The change process is difficult, especially when we have been doing something the same way for years and assume that nothing is broken.

Perceptions are that:

Faculty seem to assume that upon graduation from medical school or PhD

programs they are qualified to teach without any formal training;

Faculty are skeptical about how one's teaching can actually improve through learning and applying these new educational techniques; and

Faculty have trouble justifying time away from patients and the classroom when they perceive that the returns from faculty development efforts might not be great.

Why do faculty, whose primary focus is teaching, need exposure to educational theory? Is it not a parallel issue that those of us with children certainly would not entrust our children's education to teachers who have not received adequate educational training and theory? Not surprisingly, we know from the literature that learning evidence-based educational techniques can actually make faculty more efficient and effective teachers in a hectic environment. It's that first step in attending a workshop to learn new techniques and theory that seems to be the barrier for many. Faculty need to be aware that they are content experts and this fact is not in question ... it's the process of how they transmit content that is the problem.

So as part of the **challenge**, I publicly ask that faculty make an effort, in this new academic year, to come to one of the monthly workshops or Collaborative Medical Education Initiative (CMEI) meetings before deciding whether or not evidence-based education can make a difference in the way one teaches and interacts with learners. If you can't make this a priority on your schedule, I will come to your department instead. The idea is to make us all better teachers.

Everyone can improve his/her teaching. We all should strive to make this a priority to be the best educational academic health center in the region and the country. Are you willing to take a chance and do this together? I'm committing myself. Are you?

Larrie Greenberg, MD

Internal Consultant, Faculty Affairs

Among those attending the recent Emergency Medicine Board Review were Robert Shesser, MD, GW professor and chair, Department of Emergency Medicine; Mary Palmer, MD, assistant professor of Emergency Medicine and



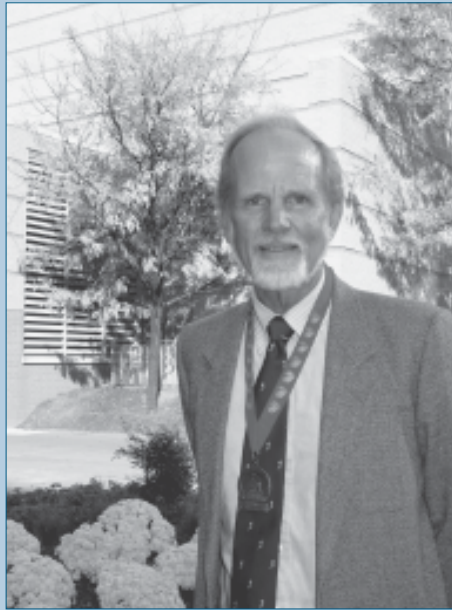
Medicine Board Review Program co-chair; Jennifer Krueger, PA-C, president-elect, Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants; Amy Keim, PA-C, associate clinical professor of Emergency Medicine; and Cecile Silvestre, MD, assistant professor of Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medicine Board Review Program co-chair.

Going Global This column is a regular feature of *Progress*, detailing efforts at GW Medical Center to reach beyond U.S. borders to share our medical and healthcare expertise throughout the world.

GWUMC Professor to be Inducted into Medical Mission Hall of Fame

MEDICAL MISSION HALL of Fame Foundation voted GW Professor Dr. Glenn W. Geelhoed as the 2005 recipient of the Medical Mission Hall of Fame Award. The award was given to Dr. Geelhoed in recognition of his continued distinguished and voluntary service to medically deprived men and women throughout the world.

Each year, Dr. Geelhoed spends several months on international medical mission trips to provide healthcare services to some of the world's neediest populations. He recruits students to join him on his adventures with the offer of "gifts from the poor: a spiritual richness that they come back with and are forever changed," says Dr. Geelhoed. Dr. Geelhoed is quick to divert the attention from himself to his students and the people whom they travel thousands of miles to help. "Never have we been able to do so much and keep people so satisfied. Our missions have created a funda-



Glenn W. Geelhoed, MD, pictured above with recent marathon medal, will be inducted into the Medical Mission Foundation's Hall of Fame in February for his continued and extensive work in underserved countries.

mental change in what the students have gone on to do. It is highly rewarding. We try to never do anything alone; we want to teach others and leave behind a skill that they can use."

Dr. Geelhoed's travels have taken him to Somalia, the Philippines, Haiti, Brazil and Nepal, among others. He is most pleased that his students continue to travel to underserved countries on medical missions—"no one has not gone back"—and that they are able to leave behind skills for healthcare providers to continue their work.

Dr. Geelhoed will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in February—upon his return from a medical mission trip. "If I can keep bridging barriers, then I shall continue my travels and my work." The 2004 inductees included The Albert Schweitzer Institute and Kathleen and William Magees, cofounders of Operation Smile.

GW Hosts Japan Delegation

SMHS DEAN DR. James Scott recently met with delegations from universities from Japan to review the American Medical School Curriculum. Dr. Scott also provided information on GW's innovative approach to medical education and the relationship between the school and GW Hospital. Tours also were provided. The delegations included representatives from Nippon Medical School, Toho University, Tokyo Medical University Hospital, Tokyo's Women Medical University, Juntendo University Hospital, Hyogo College of Medicine, Kanazawa Medical University Hospital, Dokkyo University



Members of a delegation from Japan listen as SMHS Dean Dr. James Scott outlines medical education at GWUMC.

School of Medicine, Koshyaga Hospital, Tokai University Hospital, Fukujin Company LTD, TOHO Pharmaceutical Company LTD, JTB Corporation and the Green Hospital Supply Company.

SPHHS Faculty to Author Unique Book Series for Undergrads

THE DEMAND FOR public health education continues to grow, fueled by the public's interest in a wide range of issues, among them bioterrorism, AIDS, SARS and the cost of and access to healthcare. With most schools of public health now offering either undergraduate majors or minors in public health, there has been a particular interest in public health education expressed by those students. In addition, graduate-level health professional schools, including medical schools, are increasingly recognizing that undergraduate public health education is an excellent background for graduate education. As a result, the Institute of Medicine, in its report, *Who Will Keep the Public Healthy? Educating Public Health Professionals for the 21st Century*, has recommended that, "All undergraduates should have access to education in public health."

The GW School of Public Health and Health Services has taken the lead in finding ways to implement this recommendation, teaming up with Jones and Bartlett Inc., one of the largest publishers of public health books, to produce a comprehensive new series, the Essential Public Health

Book Series. Together with existing Jones and Bartlett publications, this coordinated set of books is intended to serve as the complete set of textbooks for an undergraduate major in public health.

"This book series is another major step in GW's quest to become recognized as one of the nation's premier schools of public health," says Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH, dean and Walter G. Ross Professor of Health Policy, SPHHS. "We are once again at the forefront of undergraduate public health education, creating a comprehensive book series where none currently exists and increasing visibility for our program and its expert faculty."

The book series will be released in two phases. The first phase will be submitted in 2006; the second phase, currently in the planning stages, will be published a year later. One of the factors that makes this book series unique is that all of the books will be authored by expert members of GW's public health faculty who have been teaching at the undergraduate level and who are working together to implement an undergraduate major in public health.

"This book series will have a national impact on public health education at the undergraduate level," explains Richard Riegelman, MD, MPH, PhD, founding dean of the SPHHS, chair of the Association of Schools of Public Health Task Force on Undergraduate Public Health Education and editor of the book series. "In addition, it will contribute to the professional development of our faculty. All of the authors are exceptional educators who are committed to undergraduate education and have been recognized for their teaching excellence."

Another unique feature of this book series will be an accompanying Web site designed to provide faculty with access to interactive teaching materials, test questions and tips on teaching. It will also provide student access to "hot topics" and sources of additional information.

To ensure that each book in the series is relevant to an undergraduate audience, the series and the individual books will be reviewed by GW undergraduate students in public health who have volunteered to be members of an Essential Public Health Student Advisory Board.

Phase 1 will include the following five books:

Essentials of Disease Prevention through the Life Cycle, authored by Professor James Cawley, MPH, PA-C

Essentials of Health Law and Policy, authored by Professors Joel Teitelbaum, JD, LLM and Sara Wilensky, JD, MPP (cand.)

Essentials of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, authored by Professor Manya Magnus, PhD, MPH

Essentials of Health Behavior, authored by Mark Edberg, PhD

Essentials of Global Public Health, authored by Professor Richard Skolnik, MPA

Coming issues of *Progress* will feature information on the books as well as those in Phase 2 of the series.



Hundreds of seniors jammed GW Hospital in mid-October for the Senior Health Expo. The event featured free health screenings and topic-driven seminars during the all day-program.

GW, George Mason Awarded \$2 Million Emergency Preparedness Grant for Nurses

Continued from page 1

“This training will help bring nurses into the critical response loop in dealing with a WMD crisis,” said John F. Williams, MD, EdD, MPH, GW’s provost and vice president for Health Affairs, at the ceremony.

The Competitive Training Grants Program provides funding for training initiatives to further the Department’s mission of preparing the nation in the event of a terrorist incident. GW completed a rigorous application process for this grant. More than 217 applications were received and the Department selected 14 programs for funding, totaling \$33,645,997 to be awarded.

Congressman Frank Wolf, who represents Virginia’s 10th Congressional district and who helped secure the funding, said the issue of terrorism preparedness and response has personal resonance.

“More than 30 people from my own Congressional district died on 9-11,” he said. “The kind of training that we are helping fund today will make an important difference in dealing with future crises, not only for this region, but for the country.”

The training will target nurses in hospitals, clinics, assisted living facilities and elsewhere; the training will also include a web-based component designed to further increase the program’s reach to potential trainees.

“We’re going to be trying to reach nurses in virtually every setting,” said Jean Johnson, PhD, FAAN, GW’s senior associate dean for Health Sciences.

For more information on the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP), please visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/>.

Winning the Challenge

PA students captured first place at the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants Annual Medical Challenge Bowl. At left, with the winning trophy are, PA Program Director Dr. Jeffrey Heinrich, Michael Jacobson, Patrick Farley and Michael Thompson.



Grant Awarded to Study Legal Barriers to Disparities

RESEARCHERS AT THE Center for Health Services Research and Policy (CHSRP) in the Department of Health Policy will undertake a year-long study looking at legal barriers to using quality and disparities data thanks to a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The award is part of the Foundation’s initiatives to improve the quality of care, including efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare.

“The project’s overarching purpose is to thoroughly analyze the ways in which the legal system may impede efforts to collect, evaluate and publish data on health quality and racial and ethnic disparities in health and healthcare,” said Professor Sara Rosenbaum, JD, Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy, and Chair of the Department, who co-directs the study with Professor Phyllis Borzi.

Experts agree that better data collection and dissemination efforts can help purchasers, providers and consumers understand what quality health care is and how to achieve it. This type of leverage could be especially helpful in areas where the recommended standard of care has been established by reliable evidence but is not being uniformly applied. However, real and perceived barriers to better data collection,

including civil rights and discrimination, questions of privacy and confidentiality, liability risk and access to liability insurance, and issues of competitiveness and antitrust liability, continue to impede these efforts.

The project will be guided by legal and other expert advisors drawn from the fields of healthcare management, consumer protection and civil rights, health information, and other key areas of healthcare and health law. It is expected to produce two major reports over the next 12 months. The first report will focus on the nature, extent, and interaction of legal barriers to information collection for quality improvement and disparities reduction. The second report will lay the foundation of a conceptual framework for removing or mitigating barriers to data collection and reporting.

“We are extremely grateful that the Foundation has sought our involvement in this important initiative,” noted Ruth J. Katz, dean and Walter G. Ross Professor of Health Policy, SPHHS. “We are thrilled that the Department of Health Policy has been selected to be part of this seminal undertaking.”

Grant Awarded to GW's *Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems* to Study Employer Leverage and Quality of Depression Care

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON University Medical Center, through *Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems*, has received a \$213,347 grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support research to determine whether a coordinated effort by businesses to link financial incentives to health plan performance on treating depression improves the quality of mental health care.

"This is the first study of its kind to investigate the link between coverage and quality in the field of depression, a major public health concern closely related to alcohol and substance abuse that affects employees everywhere" said Eric Goplerud, PhD, director of *Ensuring Solutions*.

The research team will gather data from the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) Request of Information depression modules and National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) HEDIS standardized performance information, as well as the National Association of Insurance Commissioners database. NBCH and NCQA each will devote resources to the project.

"We know that when businesses set performance expectations of their health plans and reward high quality non-behavioral healthcare, care improves," said Dr. Goplerud. "This study looks at those effects on the behavioral side, specifically on quality of care for depression among large businesses and regional business coalitions."

Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems is a nationally recognized organization within the Medical Center (www.ensuringsolutions.org). Among its activities, *Ensuring Solutions* provides authoritative research and tools on problem drinking to regional business coalitions seeking increased coverage and quality of care for alcohol treatment.

"Even though there is mounting evidence that employees everywhere suffer from depression, there has not been focused attention on quality of care for depression among large businesses," said Andrew Webber, President and CEO of NBCH. "We are pleased that our eValue8 Request for Information data helps to make this important study possible. To make good decisions about the value of the health care options they provide, businesses need consistent, standardized information about the health plans they use."

"The quality of depression care in the U.S. isn't very good and it's not getting better," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "And it's been this way for the last five years. This takes an enormous toll not just on patients, but on employers as well — this study will help show how employers can drive improvement and become part of the solution."



Maria Elena Bottazzi, PhD, associate research professor, Microbiology and Tropical Medicine, and project manager for the Human Hookworm Vaccine Initiative, recently led a site visit of a molecular parasitology research capacity building as part of a grant to the Peking Union Medical College (PUMC). The visit was sponsored by the China Medical Board of New York. The Rockefeller Foundation donated \$45 million to build PUMC in 1921; it was the first western-style medical school built in China.

CME Office Receives HPV Series Grant

THE GWUMC OFFICE of Continuing Medical Education has received a grant from Merck and Co. to launch an integrative educational program on the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Tentatively titled "Human Papilloma Virus Vaccines: Building Awareness to Change Practice," this CME-certified program will be a multimedia approach to examining the recent findings and clinical developments affecting the prevention and treatment of patients with, or at risk for, contracting HPV.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the United States. Nearly 20 million Americans are already infected with nearly 5.5 million new cases diagnosed each year. HPV can be especially difficult to diagnose because there are no outward symptoms. Yet, untreated this virus can be a precursor for cervical cancer. The grant comes as a promising and potentially important breakthrough is on the horizon—a vaccine in development that will not only prevent HPV but reduce the incidence of related cervical cancer.

The learning objectives of the CME series will be to create an awareness first of the prevalence of HPV and then to understand the pathophysiology of HPV while looking at the profile of at-risk patients and discussing available treatment options.

In order to reach the greatest number of professionals, the program will be designed in different formats including audio/web courses offered in the spring, summer and fall and an eight-page quarterly newsletter for Primary Care Providers and one specifically tailored for Gynecology. The target audience is primary care practitioners, pediatricians and OB/GYNs who treat patients at risk for contracting HPV.

GW, AHEC Mark Primary Care Week Through Community Stroke Screenings

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON University School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the District of Columbia Area Health Education Center (AHEC) hosted a “Serious About Stroke” campaign to mark their weeklong activities held in conjunction with National Primary Care Week. The special program was a collaborative effort between Howard, Georgetown, Catholic and The George Washington Universities’ Academic Health Centers. Students and faculty from the participating schools also teamed up to provide stroke screenings at local churches on October 17. The outreach activity was also supported by the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and the DC Department of Health.

“The stroke screening is just one way that we can emphasize preventive healthcare and educate patients in our city who are at the highest risk of stroke. Patients must be educated so that they can take steps to prevent what is often times a life-changing event,” says Dr. Lisa Alexander, assistant dean for Community-based Partnerships at GW and director of the DC AHEC program office.

Approximately 75 students and 15 volunteer clinicians conducted the stroke screenings. Dr. Alexander says she anticipates that these events will take place bi-monthly for the next year, in an effort by the DC AHEC to develop stronger relationships with faith-based organizations who can serve as a vehicle for healthcare education and prevention.

National Primary Care Week (NPCW) highlights the importance of primary care and brings healthcare professionals together to discuss and learn about generalist and interdisciplinary healthcare, particularly its impact on and importance to underserved populations. NPCW 2004—“Caring for the Underserved: Careers in Community Health,” October 17-23, focused the attention of health professional students from all disciplines on primary care careers in community health centers

and other organizations with similar missions. The DC Area Health Education Center (DC AHEC) is a federally funded program sponsored by HRSA. The program is a collaborative public-private partnership whose mission is to provide clinical training opportunities for health professional students in community underserved settings. Additionally, AHEC works with the DC Public School system to prepare students of all ages to enter healthcare careers.



Physician assistant (PA) students literally gave a piece of themselves back to the community through a blood drive hosted by GW's PA students during National PA Week. Above, Jo Hollis of the American Red Cross draws blood from PA/MPH student Gerald Huang.

Faculty Appointments—October 2004

~Full-time Faculty~

Medicine

Joanna B. Rosen, MD, assistant professor

Pediatrics

Elliot Stephen Gersh, MD, assistant professor

Dina J. Zand, MD, assistant professor

Radiology

Zarir P. Khademian, MD, PhD, MS, assistant professor; secondary appointment: assistant professor, Pediatrics

Surgery

Susan E. Pearson, MD, MS, assistant professor; secondary appointment: assistant professor, Pediatrics

~Part-time Faculty~

Health Care Sciences

Evan Applequist, DDS, MS, adjunct assistant professor

Mary Ellen Conklu, MPH, adjunct instructor; secondary appointment: adjunct instructor, Exercise Science

Craig Matthew Neitzke, DDS, MS, adjunct assistant professor

Barbara Porter, adjunct assistant instructor

Leo Prusinski, DDS, adjunct assistant professor

Sarvesh Rajan, MBBS, associate clinical professor

Richard Sheehe, adjunct assistant professor

Health Policy

Katherine Jett Hayes, JD, adjunct assistant professor

Tasmeen Singh, MPH, adjunct instructor

Medicine

Ghassan N. Atiyeh, MD, assistant clinical professor

Roma Edoo-Sowah, MB, assistant clinical professor

Dawn McQueen Estabrook, MD, assistant clinical professor

Abdul Nayeem, MD, associate clinical professor

Round of Applause

Awards and Recognition

Glenn W. Geelhoed, MD, DTMH, MPH '93, PhD '98, professor of International Medicine in the Office of the Dean for Academic Affairs, was the keynote speaker at Penn State's World Food Day.

Jerrold Michael, MPH, ScD, DrPH, adjunct professor of Global Health, received the Founder Award from the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) for his vision, leadership and humanity in creating and building the APACPH. This award was presented at the 35th APACPH Board Meeting and International Conferences on "Nutrition and Public Health" and "SARS Control and Prevention" held in Shanghai, China.

William Weglicki, MD, professor of Medicine and professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received the Seelig Magnesium Award at the 45th Annual Meeting of the American College of Nutrition in Long Beach, Calif. His acceptance lecture was titled, "The Neuronal Role in the Cardiovascular Pro-oxidant Response to Magnesium Deficiency." This research received \$1.2 million in funding from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH through 2008.

Academia

Harry B. Burke, MD, PhD, associate professor of Medicine, has spoken at the following conferences: National Cancer Institute's Early Detection Research Network; College of American Pathologists/University of Pittsburgh's Advancing Practice, Instruction and Innovation through Informatics Conference; and WHO Collaborating Centre for Urologic Tumors Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. Dr. Burke has also published the following articles and book chapters: "Predicting prognosis and the future of the TNM staging system," in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* and "Risk Assessment"

and "Prognosis," in the American Cancer Society's book *Prostate Cancer*.

Christopher Cassirer, ScD, MPH, associate professor and director of Experiential Learning, Department of Health Services Management and Leadership, signed his first publishing agreement with Jones and Bartlett Publishers to write a book titled, "*Abusive Behavior in the Healthcare Workplace: Strategy and Action for Culture Change*." The book is based on Dr.

Cassirer's work with Respond2, Inc., a research and consulting organization in St. Paul, MN that has helped more than 55 healthcare organizations nationally, including health systems, hospitals, clinics and groups of health professionals, to implement a five-stage process for changing healthcare workplace cultures. Dr. Cassirer and his business partner Deborah Anderson's work on this topic has been cited and reported nationally by NIOSH, the JCAHO, the AMA and the VHA, among other organizations. According to Dr. Cassirer, this book is important because survey data he has gathered from more than 20,000 healthcare workers nationally indicates that: 95 percent of healthcare workers report experiencing some form of abusive behavior during their careers; 62-96 percent of healthcare workers report experiencing more abuse at work than at home; and 3-25 percent of healthcare workers report experiencing some form of abusive behavior at work on a daily basis. In addition, the work of Dr. Cassirer and his colleague indicates that the experience of abusive behavior at work directly impacts on performance, including patient safety.

Tsung O. Cheng, MD, FACP, FACC, FCCP, professor of Medicine (Cardiology), was the author of a chapter in John B. Barlow's recently published book, *Profiles in Cardiology*. Dr. Cheng also authored

a chapter on mitral valve prolapse in *Conn's Current Therapy 2004*.

Kurt Darr, JD, MHA, DSc, professor of Hospital Administration, Department of Health Services Management and Leadership, recently authored the fourth edition of *Ethics in Health Services Management*. This book follows the fourth edition of *Cases in Health Services Management*, which was co-edited by Dr. Darr and released in mid-2003.

Edward De Fabo, MEd, PhD, research professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, was one of 250 scientists working on the ACIA report, "Arctic Feeling the Global Heat," for the past four years. The report explained how the permafrost is melting at an alarming rate as global warming heats the Arctic. It also discussed newly released warnings that if steps are not taken to remedy the situation, there will be a disaster. Dr. De Fabo contributed to the chapter on the increase in UVB rays due to ozone depletion and the effects this increase has on human health.

James L. Griffith, MD, professor of Psychiatry and Neurology, recently provided a series of workshops and lectures at the University of Dundee in Scotland for United Kingdom National Health Service primary care and mental health clinicians on responding to patients' and families' spiritual needs in the context of professional practices.

Muhiddin Haider, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Global Health, went to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to speak about HIV/AIDS prevention and education. His audience included: soldiers and officers at the Central Military Hospital, the Military Commissariat of Kurgon-Teppe, and students and professors at Tajik State Medical University and Tajik-Slavonic University in Dushanbe. He also spoke with representatives from the re-

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Round of Applause

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gional health department and visited the Khujand HIV/AIDS Center to talk with medical workers and employees from the City Interior Affairs Department. He also presented "At the Crossroads: Risk Communication and Global Health" at Michigan State University.

Mandana Hashefi, MD, assistant clinical professor of Medicine, has been moderating "Bone Health Update: Clinical View-points on Osteoporosis," a series of live webcast/teleconferences for physicians and medical professionals who treat patients who have or are at risk for osteoporosis or osteoporotic fractures. The program was sponsored by GW and the American Medical Women's Association.

Brian E. Huber, PhD '83, assistant professorial lecturer of Pharmacology and Physiology, was named chief scientific officer by Adherex Technologies, a biopharmaceutical company that produces oncology products.

H. George Mandel, PhD, professor of Pharmacology and Physiology, co-authored the report, "From Progress to Regression: Biomedical Research Funding." The report was published in the October 2004 issue of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

Richard Riegelman, MD, MPH, PhD, professor of Epidemiology-Biostatistics, Medicine and Health Policy, and Founding Dean, SPHHS, was invited by the Department of Medicine and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Einstein Medical School to give a Grand Rounds lecture in the Department of Medicine on Meta-Analysis. He also gave sessions on "Clinical Prevention and Population Health" for their Curriculum Committee as well as a session on Undergraduate Education in Public Health titled "Pub-

lic Health Education—Not Just for Graduate Students."

Eliot Sorel, MD, DFAPA, clinical professor of Global Health, and of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, recently chaired the "Ethics in Medicine, Psychiatric Medicine and Public Health" symposium at the XVIII World Congress of Social Psychiatry, "Globalization and Diversity." As part of the symposium, Dr. Sorel presented "Validity, Specificity and Reliability of Informed Consent." Dr. Sorel was also a part of the Kobe Declaration work group, an historic document addressed to all UN member states and unanimously adopted by the World Association for Social Psychiatry, the World Psychiatric Association, the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, World Federation for Mental Health and Japanese Society for Social Psychiatry in October 2004. Dr. Sorel was selected as an Objective Reviewer for the first cycle of the Global AIDS Fellowship Program organized by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Association of Schools of Public Health.

In The News

David Borenstein, MD, clinical professor of Medicine, was quoted in an *ABC News* story on the difference between arthritis and artery disease.

Fred Brody, MD, assistant professor of Surgery, was interviewed by *WAFF TV* and *WBAL TV* for stories on a study being conducted at The GW Hospital on Gastric Stimulators and their connection to helping obese patients lose weight.

Frank Cilluffo, associate vice president for Homeland Security, was quoted in a *Federal Computer Week* article on first responders all using the same lingo for technical terms. This consistency is necessary to make emergency response across multiple areas easier. Cilluffo was also quoted

in a *Seattle Times* article on the scale of terrorism being small when looking at the other leading causes of death in the U.S.; this viewpoint is one that concerns many experts.

Joshua Cohen, MD, associate professor of Medicine, was quoted in a *McClatchy Newspapers* article on Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist being treated for thyroid cancer.

Edward C. De Fabo, MeD, PhD '74, research professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, was quoted in a *Reuters Health* story on his research on Ultraviolet B, Not A, triggering Melanoma. His research was also published in the September 15 issue of *Cancer Research* magazine as well as on the American Association for Cancer Research's web site.

Jason Engel, MD, assistant clinical professor of Urology, was quoted in a *Washington Times* article on robotically assisted prostate cancer surgery and its growing trend in hospitals.

Arthur Frank, MD, assistant clinical professor of Medicine, was quoted in a *Springfield News-Leader* article on what nutritionists eat for breakfast and what they would want to eat if they could.

Tee Guidotti, MD, MPH, chair and professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, served as chair of the review committee for the American Thoracic Society's updated report, "Diagnosis and Initial Management of Nonmalignant Diseases Related to Asbestos," which was featured in a *Yahoo Financial News* article. The last statement on this topic from the society was back in 1986. Dr. Guidotti was also quoted in a *Washington Post* article on the DC Water and Sewer Authority's (WASA) plans to replace 2,800 lead pipes over the next year. WASA has also planned to replace all 23,000 lead pipes in the District by 2010 at a cost of \$300 million.

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Round of Applause

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Juel Janis, PhD, adjunct associate professor, SPHHS' Institute for Mental Health Initiatives, was interviewed by *ABC Radio* on how to deal with holiday stress. The interview will be aired over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Daniel Kaniewski, deputy director of the Homeland Security Policy Institute, was quoted in a *Federal Computer Week* article on making homeland security a regional rather than congressional initiative. Kaniewski was also quoted in a *Global Security Newswire* article regarding the difficulty that could be faced in establishing a regional imperative for homeland preparedness, as well as in an *MSNBC* story on what the next president will face with regard to domestic security.

Jeanne Lambrew, MSPH, PhD, associate professor of Health Policy, was quoted in a *San Francisco Chronicle* article on both presidential candidates' healthcare proposals. Dr. Lambrew was also quoted in a *Newsday* article on the same issue.

Julia Graham Lear, PhD, associate research professor of Prevention and Community Health, was quoted in a *Miami Herald* article on schools' concerns over the flu shot crisis.

Paul Manner, MD, assistant professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, was interviewed in a *Washington Post* article on a new knee surgery procedure.

Tim McCaffrey, PhD, associate professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and director of the Catherine B. McCormick Genomics Center, was quoted in a *NewScientist Magazine*, article in the October 9, 2004 issue. The article, titled, "Do you believe in miracles?," was about stem cell research and referenced Dr. McCaffrey's research.

Thomas Moore, fellow, Center for Health Services Research and Policy, was quoted in a *Reuters News* article on the recall of the arthritis drug, Vioxx.

Michael Olding, MD, associate professor of Surgery, was quoted in a *Virginian-Pilot* article on cosmetic surgery performed on members of the military and their families at a discounted price. Dr. Olding was also quoted in a *Washington Post* article on people doing facial expression exercising to decrease wrinkles and the effects from these exercises.

Jerrold Post, MD, clinical professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, was quoted in a *Christian Science Monitor* story on looking at the minds/psychology behind member's of al Qaeda. Dr. Post was also quoted in a *Kansas City Star* article on his profile of Osama bin Laden. Dr. Post described bin Laden's personality as one of a "malignant narcissist."

Christina M. Puchalski, MD, director of GWish, was spotlighted in *The Connection* (Va) article, "Getting to Know... Dr. Christina Puchalski."

Jonathan Reiner, MD, associate professor of Medicine, was quoted in various articles on Vice President Cheney coming to the GW Hospital on Saturday, November 13 after experiencing shortness of breath. The articles appeared in the following publications: *The NY Times*, *TurkishPress.com* (Turkey), *The Weekend Australian* (Australia), *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *The Winnipeg Sun* (Canada), *The Seattle Times*, *News 24* (South Africa), *New York Post*, *The Miami Herald*, *iafrica.com* (Africa), *The Washington Times*, *Knight Ridder Newspapers*, and *The Guardian* (UK).

Sara Rosenbaum, JD, chair, Department of Health Policy and Hirsh Professor of Health Policy, and **Katalin Eve Roth, JD**,

MD, assistant professor of Medicine and assistant professor of Health Care Sciences, were mentioned in a *Gazette* (MD) article for their service on a committee to advise the County Council regarding ways to purchase less expensive prescription drugs. Rosenbaum was also quoted in a *Star-Ledger* (NJ) article on the flu vaccine.

James A. Simon, MD, clinical professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was lead investigator for a study on BioSante Pharmaceutical's LibiGel, (a transdermal testosterone gel). The results from the study, which were announced at the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health Annual Meeting in Atlanta, were reported on the *Yahoo Finance* and *Business Wire*. Dr. Simon also was quoted in a *PRNewswire* press release on the drug Actonel and its affects on bones in postmenopausal women.

Howard Straker, MPH, PA, assistant professor and director of Community Medicine, had his article, "Diversify the PA Profession: A Call to Action," published in the September 2004 *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*.

Suzanne Stutman, MA, MSW, BCD, assistant research professor of Prevention and Community Health, was interviewed on *CNN* on October 10 for World Mental Health Day. Stutman was interviewed about the greatest mental health challenges in the world today. She spoke about the need for taking a public health approach to mental health.



Michael Akin, above center, of GW's Government Relations Office and a GW alum was recently appointed to the post of Director of DC and Foggy Bottom/West End Affairs, a new GW office to improve neighborhood relations.

GW Continues to Assist DC's WASA on Water Issues

WITH CONCERNS LINGERING over the safety of the District of Columbia's drinking water and whether the water's lead content is too high, GW Medical Center recently hosted a two-day workshop to get at some of the questions surrounding the issue.

The seminar, "Managing Drinking Water in the 21st Century: The DC Experience," featured numerous presentations and panel discussions, including remarks from GW experts and key officials in the District.

"There are important lessons to be learned from our experience," said DC Water and Sewer Authority General Manager Jerry Johnson.

Tee Guidotti, chair of SPHHS' Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, has been leading a WASA task force on the issue since the spring. He high-

lighted several elements unique to Washington DC, including the fact that, since no state agency is involved, regulation comes directly from the federal government.

"The Washington Aqueduct is owned by the government," said Dr. Guidotti. "And the Environmental Protection Agency essentially serves as 'the state' in directly regulating the water supply in the District."

Beyond the science and regulatory issues, public communication was another theme that emerged from the workshop.

"We have to do a better job of keeping the public informed, of not underestimating or overestimating the risk," said Dr. Thomas Calhoun, interim senior deputy director for Emergency Health and Medical Services at the DC Department of Health. "This has become a daily priority for us."

Cancer Researcher Slamon Headlines Distinguished Lecture

The GW Cancer Institute, in conjunction with the Department of Medicine and Medical Grand Rounds, hosted a special Distinguished Lecture welcoming Dennis J. Slamon, MD, PhD, from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Dennis Slamon directs the Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program. His pioneering laboratory and clinical research laid the foundation for the breakthrough drug Herceptin, approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in September, 1998, for use against advanced breast cancer. Dr. Slamon's research established the relationship between a gene called HER-2/neu and a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer. That discovery led to Herceptin, an antibody that can help up to 30 percent of women (60,000 cases) each year who develop breast cancer. Development of Herceptin has been cited as the first triumph in an emerging wave of new, more effective therapies designed to fight cancer at its genetic roots. Dr. Slamon, for the first time, proved the theory that if researchers could figure out what was broken in a cancer cell, they could fix it. In addition to conducting the initial research that led to Herceptin, Dr. Slamon also served as principal investigator for the worldwide phase

III clinical trials, the final round of testing prior to FDA approval.

Dr. Slamon discussed how his team utilized human tumor specimens and determined that, compared to HER 2 negative tumors, age- and stage-matched HER 2 positive tumors had significantly greater growth and metastatic potential of the cells. In addition, the HER2 negative tumors became steroid independent, no longer needing estrogen to grow, and became resistant to tamoxifen. Subsequent in vitro and in vivo studies showed that an antibody the HER2 receptor protein had a dramatic effect in suppressing the growth of tumor cells and could act synergistically with certain chemotherapy drugs. These basic science studies ultimately led to clinical translation. In the first Phase 1 trial to determine safety HER 2 positive breast cancer, patients who had failed multiple treatment regimens received the antibody (Herceptin) in combination with chemotherapy treatment. Dr. Slamon described the "poster child" pa-

tient, who, after being given 12 weeks to live, volunteered for the study and, following two nine-week courses of combined

therapy is now alive 11 years later with no further treatment. The study confirmed a 53 percent increase in response rate, a 58 percent increase in response duration and an 11 percent increase in survival, as determined by time to progression. Following this remarkable study, Herceptin



Dennis J. Slamon, MD, PhD

(Genentech) was approved by the FDA in record time, for first-line treatment of advanced metastatic breast cancer. The adjuvant use of this antibody must still be evaluated in a randomized, controlled trial.

Dr. Slamon stated that the future of this research is extremely exciting in terms of the advances it will make in the treatment of breast cancer. He emphasized the importance of looking at data derived in the lab and developing clinical trials accordingly; for the best information, he concluded, "let the biology tell you what drugs you should be combining."



This is the final issue of *Progress* for 2004. Best wishes for a happy and peaceful holiday.

Reminder: Inclement weather information is available from www.gwumc.edu.

Through the generous support of the Amgen Foundation and the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, the GW Mammovan will receive more than \$800,000 to purchase and operate a new state-of-the-art van that will continue to serve the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. It is anticipated that the new van will begin operations during 2005. At left, are Dr. Rachel Brem, director, Breast Imaging and Interventional Center; Jean Lim, vice president, Amgen Foundation; and Carolyn "Bo" Aldige, president and founder, Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation.

GWUMC Mission

As a leader in education and research, The George Washington University Medical Center strives to set standards of excellence by:

- Valuing a diverse and dynamic community that encourages lifelong learning
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- Providing exemplary and innovative teaching programs that produce astute, highly competent, and compassionate health professionals and scientists trained and prepared for the future
- Generating and expanding health knowledge through superior research programs
- Enhancing the delivery of compassionate and high quality health care through our education and research activities
- Improving the health and well-being of our local, national and international communities

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