

HSC E-NEWS

Norman H. Edelman, M.D., Vice President, Health Sciences Center & Dean, School of Medicine

JUNE, 2005 - Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center

At the end of the academic year, some of our Health Sciences Center students are in the process of packing up and heading for home, while others remain at work, as we are truly a whole year center. Some are setting off on new careers and moving to new locations. Faculty look forward to the summer months to continue teaching but slowdown a bit to fit a vacation in. To all, I hope you have a good summer and enjoy the wonderful weather so that you are ready to return.



I have traditionally shared my Convocation address with you. Since not everyone can attend even one of the multiple ceremonies, I like to share my thoughts as stated in full at the School of Medicine Convocation and abbreviated at the other Schools. The topic, global health, involves all areas of healthcare today. The highest respect we pay our students is to watch them achieve their professional degree and join us as colleagues in our noble professions.

.....Let me begin by extending my congratulations to our graduates who have worked long and hard, and achieved much, and deserve to have this day in their honor... to their faculty and deans, who have also worked long and hard and worried with them and who are exceedingly proud of their product. One of the greatest rewards of the teacher is to see the success of his or her students, and our faculty are indeed richly rewarded. But perhaps most of all, to you in the audience: parents, spouses, other family, friends, a few children here and there, who have formed the support system, the infrastructure. Our graduates, for the most part, could not have accomplished what they have without your help. They have almost literally, stood on your shoulders to get to where they have gotten today. I ask our graduates to stand and salute all those people in the audience who have brought them here today.

I usually talk to graduates about professionalism. I feel it is essential to point out that what distinguishes you from many other people in society who earn their living in honorable ways, is that you are members of professions - not just any professions, but the health sciences professions, among the oldest and most venerated of professions. Being a caregiver means always putting the needs of your patient above your own and always protecting the honor and integrity of your profession. By doing so, we, all of us, are richly rewarded by the high esteem in which society holds us. This esteem is our most precious asset and it is to be protected.

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CONVOCAATION ADDRESS

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I would like to mention something today that I do not usually raise at graduations. That is, global health. I do so in the spirit of encouraging you to become outstanding healthcare professionals. It is no longer possible, or realistic or ethical to think of ourselves on a tight little island. Just as it is essential that we think of the health of each individual patient or client, we must think of the health of our communities, our nation and yes, the world, as being integral to our professional responsibilities.

The reasons for this are all around us and easy to appreciate. The world has shrunk; people move freely throughout it. They relocate in ever increasing numbers. This provides a two-fold challenge - These people may harbor diseases with which we are unfamiliar and, more important, they bring very different cultural approaches to the issue of health.

The international nature of health is evident in other ways. I was privileged last October to attend a meeting at Moscow State University which was a joint initiative of the State University of New York and Moscow State University in celebration of their 250th anniversary. The meeting I attended had as its topic, environment. My colleagues from throughout SUNY and I were indeed impressed by the similarities, the challenges, and the frustrations of environmental scientists of the United States and Russia. We quickly realized that air pollution, for example, knows no national borders. We now know that air pollution is a major cause of premature death throughout both the industrialized and non-industrialized world.

What are we doing at Stony Brook? One of the things we have done over the past few years of which I am very proud, is the development of a Graduate Program in Public Health, offering a Masters in Public Health. An important thrust of the program will be international health. This is based upon the realization that health problems in our current society cannot be localized. An outbreak of a deadly virus in central Africa or a new strain of flu in China are immediate and serious threats to the health of the people you and I care for.

I must point out that an international focus on health is not new to Stony Brook - from studying eye diseases in Scandinavia to breast and prostate cancer in Barbados, to AIDS in children in Africa, to international telemedicine and educational initiatives, to conducting the premier world conference on counseling people of colour, to sending students to Madagascar, Stony Brook, through its Health Science Center is reaching out around the world. We do this not only to aid and assist people throughout the world, but we do it because we realize that global health is essential for national and local health.

All I ask of you as graduates who will soon go on to intensive further training is to remain cognizant of the importance of a global view of health. Remember that your patients and clients may carry with them disease processes or health disabilities from other parts of the world. Remember, too that many of them will have attitudes toward health which are formed and determined in parts of the world where cultures are vastly different from ours. We must be sensitive to these differences in order to serve them properly. Whether we like it or not, we Americans are part of a rapidly shrinking world whose far reaches impact upon us each day... and in many ways, we health care providers are at the forefront of this rapid globalization.

I wish you well. You are superb examples of the contribution to society of a great public university. I know you will do us proud, and I know you will return to society far more than it has invested in you.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGIES

The international conference "Promoting an Enabling Environment: Music, Technology, Culture, and Health Care" took place at United Nations Headquarters, the Economic and Social Council Chamber, on Thursday, June 9, 2005.

The event examined how information and communication technologies (ICT) can improve health care delivery, staff efficiency and effectiveness, and how the power of musical rhythm can be utilized in health care delivery. It addressed applications related to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in terms of creating partnerships and improving the health of citizens worldwide.

Topics included ICT as an enabling tool for rural and urban delivery of health-care services, including the use of telecentres and mobile centres for tele-health, tele-diagnosis and tele-rehabilitation; emerging technologies in music and medicine; the power of music in creating a dialogue among children; and new understanding of the impact of musical rhythms and its utilization as a medical tool.

After opening remarks by Dr. Mathew Lee, Chairman and Medical Director, Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University, the first session focussed on current research. The speakers were Dr. Max Hiltz, Department of Neurology, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; Dr. Yeou-Cheng Ma, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Executive Director, the Children's Orchestra Society; and Dr. Patrick Whelan, Department of Pediatric Rheumatology, Massachusetts General Hospital. Marc Segueira, ICT Department, New Jersey Institute of Technology, will demonstrate a new "ICT drum". The moderator was Maestro Dr. Samuel Wong, Principal Conductor, Hong Kong Philharmonic and President, Global Music Healing Institute.

The second session, on enabling environments, was addressed by Craig Lehmann, School of Health Technology and Management, Stony Brook University; Amir Lahav, The Music, Mind and Motion Lab, Boston University and Harvard Medical School; Alexandre Sidorenko, Focal Point on Ageing, United Nations Programme on Ageing; Sergei Kambalov, Deputy Executive Coordinator, United Nations ICT Task Force; and Sonia Elliott, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Dianne Davis, Founding President, International Council for Caring Communities, gave the closing remarks.

This event is part of a series organized by the International Council for Caring Communities in collaboration with the United Nations ICT Task Force, the Programme on Ageing of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine at New York University and the Global Music Healing Institute.

For further information, please contact Enrica Murmura, ICT Task Force Secretariat, tel.: (212) 963-5913, e-mail: murmura@un.org.

COMPLIANCE CORNER: REVIEW OF SUSPECTED HIPAA VIOLATIONS

by Robert Eaton

Patient trust is at the foundation of everything we do as a healthcare provider. The confidentiality of patient information is integral in generating and maintaining that trust. Trust is also necessary in order to foster open communication between the provider and the patient to ensure quality care. If a patient is hesitant to fully disclose his/her health information out of concern that confidentiality will not be protected, then providers may not receive the appropriate amount of information to provide the best quality care.

April 14, 2005 marked the two year anniversary of the Privacy regulations pertaining to the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act, more commonly known as HIPAA. Compliance with HIPAA requires the Institution to maintain a number of polices and procedures concerning the numerous requirements of the regulations. This article discusses one of the polices, entitled "Review of Suspected HIPAA Violations." The purpose of this policy is to communicate the Hospital's responsibility for the investigation of, and response to, suspected violations of HIPAA, and to provide specific instructions regarding appropriate action in the event of suspected violations.

Suspected violations include, but are not limited to, instances of falsification, unauthorized alteration, destruction, or release of any Hospital record or the improper use of a computer system to access PHI (Protected Health Information). If the matter involves possible employee misconduct, the Office of Employee and Labor Relations conducts an investigation.

Education and training may be provided to address concerns that HIPAA requirements were not being followed. In certain instances of suspected violations, disciplinary actions may be warranted, consistent with applicable agreements and policies. The Organization, through its Privacy Officers, will work to the extent practicable, to address HIPAA matters of concern. If the matter involves actions of agents, contractors, or business associates, the matter will be referred to the federal Office of Civil Rights for investigation. If you have questions regarding this policy, please contact the Hospital's Privacy Officer, Robert Eaton or the Director of Employee and Labor Relations, Elizabeth McCoy.

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NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

Nursing

Bruce Zitkus, Clinical Assistant Professor, in the School of Nursing, was selected by Nursing Spectrum and NurseWeek as the Regional Award winner for the Excellence in Teaching Award. This award acknowledges RNs who have made significant contributions in education, professional development, and/or long term learning of nursing professionals. Nursing Spectrum and NurseWeek have created a national program for recognizing extraordinary contributions nurses render to their patients, each other, and the profession. As the regional category winner, Professor Zitkus is now eligible for the National Nurse of the Year Award.

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS FISHING FOR SMILES

Andy Lee, a fourth year SOM student, initiated the idea of “Fishing for Smiles” when he was introduced to a playroom on the pediatric ward during a volunteering experience. He was amazed at its immediate and positive effect on the children who were suffering from their illness. However, he understood the realities of the world where resources like this were only available to developed countries and not in the lesser developed countries. As a result, he wanted to find ways where we can help provide the same service for those who are less fortunate.

The response for “Fishing for Smiles” has been absolutely overwhelming and beyond his imagination. The project has since raised a total of \$830 dollars, an amount several times of Andy’s initial estimates. During this project, people generously donated to this cause, offered help in assembling the stuffed fish, and students actively spread the word and collected donations on their own. Many thanks to all for a successful effort.

Here are some pictures from Andy’s travels to La Paz, Bolivia, at the del Nino Hospital, where he met Dr. Velasco, the Infectious Disease specialist. The many children are very happy with their new friends.



Latha Chandran, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was awarded the President's Teaching Award.

SAVE THE DATE

Margaret Parker, Professor of Pediatrics, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. It carries a \$1000 award and will be included in the graduation program this year. The award was announced and "given" at the awards ceremony at the Old Field Club, Wednesday, May 18th.

August 22

SOM White Coat Ceremony,
HSC Galleria 11:00 a.m.

Robert I. Parker, Professor of Pediatrics, was awarded the President's Faculty Service Award.

Joy E. Schabel, Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, and **Andrew Wackett, Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine**, are the 2005 winners of the Aesculapius Award. This Award is presented to emphasize the importance of excellence in education, and to recognize the most outstanding teachers throughout the Stony Brook system. The award carries a \$1000 prize. Recipients are honored with their names inscribed on a plaque in the Office of the Dean.

Angela Kokkosis and **Kimberly Lai** of the **Undergraduate Pharmacology Program** have been awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. The award recognizes students who have best demonstrated and been recognized for the integration of academic excellence with extracurricular pursuits such as community service, entrepreneurship, and career achievement. Both students will begin Medical School next year; Angela will be among the first year class of 2005 at Stony Brook while Kimberly will be attending SUNY Buffalo.

David Krause, Distinguished Service Professor of Anatomy, was honored for exceptional contributions in research and scholarship, at a dinner hosted by the Research Foundation of SUNY, in Albany.

Brigitte Demes, Professor of Anatomy, received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Service to Graduate Education by a Graduate Program Director. Dr. Demes was recognized for her superior contribution as Director of the Interdepartmental Program in Anthropological Sciences from 2002-2004.

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Q & A

Good communication is two way. Therefore, if you would like to comment respond to topics, or have news to share: HSC_VP@notes.cc.sunysb.edu. Suggestions for future topics are always welcome, as well. Please feel free to email this publication to others who might be interested in what is happening at the Health Sciences Center.

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