

HSC

E-NEWS

JUNE 2002

★ STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ★

INFO-BYTES

Norman H. Edelman, M.D., Vice President, HSC & Dean, School of Medicine

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to share with you my SOM convocation address that I delivered in abbreviated form to the other schools of the Health Sciences Center. The proposal for a national single payor system may seem like wishful thinking, but I believe that time has come to begin the dialogue anew.

“This year I would like to begin by speaking to you about the excitement of the health care professions that is exemplified by the remarkable accomplishments of medical science in the past generation or so, and the prospect of even more remarkable discoveries in the future. Medicine has given much to our society and is likely to give much more. We as health care professionals are privileged to be members of professions that serve society as none other and we have a bright future.



Norman H. Edelman, MD

First let's consider technology. Imaging has revolutionized almost everything we do in modern medicine. CAT scans and MRI's have fundamentally changed specialties such as neurology and cardiology. But, this is just the beginning. The next accomplishment clearly will be to an image based on biochemistry; to image metabolic processes, to identify telltale molecules which signify malignant disease. Much of this exciting work is being done now by Stony Brook faculty at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

There has been a quiet revolution in surgical techniques. So-called minimally invasive surgery has greatly reduced the pain and suffering which accompany operations and have improved results. For example, here at Stony Brook we are a national leader in performing coronary artery surgery which does not involve stopping the heart, with dramatically positive results. But this too, is just the beginning. Robotics will bring about a true revolution in surgery, adding previously unimagined precision to surgical procedures and opening new frontiers to what can be cured by the use of real and virtual knives.

And then, of course, there is genetics and genomics. Just recently it has been announced that for the first time a genetically determined disease, severe immune deficiency, has been successfully treated by gene therapy. It has been a long time coming, but the proof of principle is clear and we now can look forward to treating not only genetically determined diseases, but the more garden variety diseases, by modifying the genetic make-up of cells.

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**STONY
BROOK**
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Pharmaceuticals have transformed the lives of our patients, and indeed our lives. When I trained as a medical student, one of the most common surgical procedures I saw was surgery for peptic ulcer. I suspect that very few of you have been involved in such surgery, peptic ulcer disease having been solved by the development of antibiotics and other drugs. A new frontier in the pharmaceutical approach to the welfare of mankind has been the focus on quality of life, rather than a reversal of clear-cut disease. This area of therapeutics remains controversial, but in my opinion, has had an important positive impact on the people we serve. Anti-depressants, and yes, Viagra, have made the people we serve more fulfilled human beings.

Nonetheless, there is a great deal that we have not done. Despite our legacy of a strong public health movement, our approach to the prevention of disease is woefully inadequate. Vaccines which still are the mainstay of prevention of infectious disease have begun to become unavailable. This is remarkable in our affluent society. Flu vaccine is often late. Vaccines for childhood diseases are frequently not available and the situation is getting rapidly worse. The use of tobacco causes approximately 450,000 unnecessary deaths each year. Nevertheless, only a tiny portion of the recent so-called tobacco settlement money has been used for campaigns designed to prevent smoking and to enhance smoking cessation. And yes, many segments of our society still cannot deal with a simple disease prevention device, condoms.

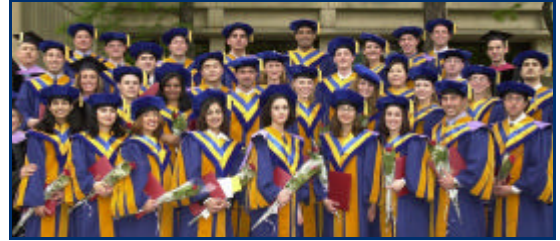
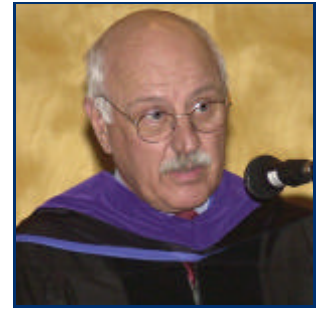
Disease prevention is not all we have abandoned. We have abandoned adequate health coverage for the poor, especially the working poor. Our hodgepodge patchwork system of health insurance leaves out some 50 million people each year and forces them to get only emergency care for serious illnesses, primarily in major teaching hospitals such as ours; and we are becoming increasingly unable to shoulder that burden. It has just been shown that lack of health insurance may cause almost 20,000 unnecessary deaths in the United States each year. What is most extraordinary to me is that despite the business orientation of our society, the current system of financing health care places an unfair and increasingly unmanageable burden upon the business sector, especially small businesses.

Last, but hardly least to you who are just entering the health care professions, our current system of payment for health care delivery places an extraordinary burden on practitioners. Increasingly large segments of our time are spent not in caring for patients but in negotiating the system.

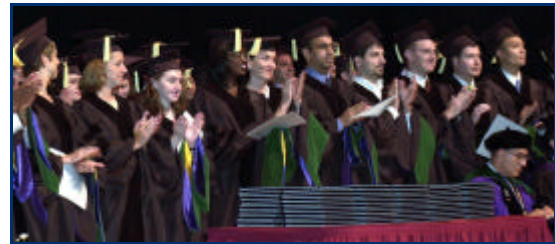
I believe that as improbable as it may seem, we must revisit the issue of a national single payor system for health care. Only a national system can provide health care for all who reside in our land. Only a national system can provide the efficiencies which will return health care professionals back to the care of their patients and away from paperwork. Only a national system will have the vision and motivation to invest in disease prevention, not just in cure of immediate problems. And only a national system can spread health care costs equitably across the entire tax base bringing relief to overburdened small businesses. It is interesting to note that a movement for a single payor system is developing in Maine, and it is led by a nurse.

So I say to our current administration, just as President Nixon was able to open China precisely because he seemed like an unlikely president to do so, our current administration has the opportunity to bring immeasurable health and welfare to the American people by reconsidering the issue of a national health system."

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE CONVOCATION



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CONVOCATION



SCHOOL OF NURSING CONVOCATION



NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT DIARY TECHNOLOGY INCREASES ACCURACY IN RESEARCH DATA

Stony Brook University Study Published in British Medical Journal

For decades, international researchers have assumed that research subjects accurately complete diary entries—and, therefore, that clinical data based on the entries were accurate. But a newly-published study in the British Medical Journal by Stony Brook University researchers shows that patients in clinical trials generally do not complete written diaries when they are directed to, and also shows that patients using an electronic diary achieve extremely high rates of compliance.

The study, which was primarily funded by the National Cancer Institute, is important because clinical trials are the first step in bringing new drugs, therapies, and treatments to market after being developed in laboratories and research facilities.

The improved recording of diary entries will enhance the ability of researchers to measure the response of patients to treatment and ensure the accuracy of what research subjects report, according to Arthur A. Stone, Ph.D., Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stony Brook University, who led the study.

Dr. Stone stated: "Patients still must write their entries, and as a consequence, our data often include extraneous, illegible, or faked information, such as when patients complete a week's worth of diary entries right before a visit to the trial site. These problems introduce bias into the results and could lead to incorrect conclusions." In the study, the researchers asked patients to record details about their pain experiences. Patients were assigned either to an instrumented paper diary or a Palm™-based electronic patient diary designed to promote patient compliance so as to accurately measure the patient's real-world experience in real time. The electronic Patient Experience Diaries are a product of Invivodata, Inc., of Scotts Valley, California, which provided the system and in-kind support for the study.

Patients with chronic pain were directed to complete diary entries three times daily for 21 days. The patients using written diaries returned 90 per cent of their diary cards with proper time and date entries, making it seem like they were very faithful in completing their diaries. However, the electronic records showed that only 11 per cent of the entries could actually have been completed at the appointed times. In contrast, 94 per cent of the entries in the electronic diaries were verified.

Dr. Stone is a leader in the field of research methodology and health psychology and his interests in self-report research led to him chair a National Institutes of Health Conference on the "Science of Self-report: Implications for Researchers and Clinicians," and to edit a book with the same title. He joined the faculty in the School of Medicine at Stony Brook in 1978 and is Associate Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for Invivodata, Inc.

News from the Schools

SCHOOL OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

The AIDS Education Research Center in the School of Health Technology and Management has announced a formal name change. The center will now be known as the Center for Public Health Education. For questions or further information on the center, please call 4-3245 or 4-3209.

Six Respiratory Care students were presented with HSCSA Student Leadership Awards for 2001-02. The six were Margaret Albrecht, Therese Dizon, Maureen Nihalani, Dail Robertson, Laurie Schelling, and Christina Surace.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Mini-Med School has received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for its "outstanding and invaluable service to the community." The certificate was presented by Congressman Felix Grucci. The Mini-Med School was sold out for the second straight year

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, MD, delivered the guest speech at the School of Medicine Convocation last month. The former U.S. Surgeon General addressed the 113 medical school graduates, which comprised one of the largest classes in the history of the school.

On May 7th, the Alpha Omega Alpha Society inducted four junior members from the SOM Class of 2003 and twelve senior members from the Class of 2002 at the University Club.

Class of 2003 AOA Members

Dimitrios Bliagos
Dale Han

Nili Israeli
Laura Price

Class of 2002 AOA Members

Matthew Axelrod
Rachel Boykan
Michael Dunkerley
Albert Fenoy

Yehuda Lebowicz
John McDonagh
Adarsh Mudgil
Mark Papish

Robert Reilly
Maria Skamagas
Konstantin Vasyukevich
Jonathan Zwerling

Honorees

Sara Petruska, M.D.

Daniel Baram, M.D.

The School of Medicine, Stony Brook University Hospital, and the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action were among the chief sponsors of a conference that examined institutional racism on Long Island. The June 5 event, "New Horizons for Long Island: Undoing Institutional Racism and Overcoming Political Inequalities," explored systematic racism in policies, structures, and practices in a variety of arena, including housing and public school education. The conference was presented by ERASE Racism, an initiative of the Long Island Community Foundation. ERASE is an acronym for Education, Research, Advocacy and Support to Eliminate Racism.

News from the Schools

CONTINUED

Seventeen physicians from Stony Brook University Hospital have been named to New York Magazine's 2002 list of "The Best Doctors in New York"-one of the largest numbers from any single hospital in the Long Island region. The Stony Brook doctors were selected from among more than 60,000 practicing physicians in the New York metropolitan area, making them among the top .028 per cent of the doctors, according to the magazine.

The Stony Brook doctors were among 1,500 chosen from among the five boroughs, northern New Jersey, Fairfield County in Connecticut, and Long Island. Criteria for the list include training, clinical skills, interpersonal skills, education, residency, board certification, fellowships, professional reputation, hospital appointment, medical school faculty appointment, and experience. The "Best Doctors" list is a collaboration of the magazine and Castle Connolly Medical, the research and publishing company. The 2002 list is based on the upcoming seventh edition of Castle Connolly's Top Doctors: New York Metro Area.

The physicians chosen were Thomas Biancaniello, who is the Medical Director of the hospital, in the area of Pediatric Cardiology; David Baker (Obstetrics and Gynecology); Eva Chalas (Gynecologic Oncology); Lev Chernobilsky (Pediatrics); Patricia K. Coyle (Neurology); Raymond Dattwyler (Allergy and Immunology); Richard Fine (Pediatric Nephrology); John J. Fiore (Medical Oncology); Marie Gelato (Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism); Brian O'Hea (Surgery); Robert Parker, (Pediatric Hematology-Oncology); John Pomeroy (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry); Lesley Rechter (Family Practice); John Ricotta (Vascular Surgery-General); Gideon Schneck (Ophthalmology); Alan Spitzer (Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine); Thomas Wilson (Pediatrics).

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Five students from the African nation of Eritrea in the School of Nursing became the first graduates in a special program to earn their degrees last month. Winta Araya, Fireweini Ghebresilassie, Samuel Gebreyonas, Yosief Darom, and Daniel Tesfamariam are the first among 13 Eritrean students enrolled at Stony Brook in a variety of degree programs to graduate. Part of a \$2.5 million initiative sponsored by U.S. Agency for International Development, the five attended the School of Nursing for two years and graduated with M.S. degrees in Nursing. Dr. Wolde-ab Yisak, who is the President of Asmara University in Eritrea, was a guest speaker at the Convocation.

Arleen J. Steckel, Ph.D., RN, CPNP, Assistant Dean for Clinical Placement and **Debra Sansoucie, M.S.N.**, Director Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program are pleased to announce that the Kappa Gamma Chapter was selected by the Sigma Theta Tau International Board of Directors as the 2002 recipient of the Region 14 Computer-Based Professional Education Technology Pinnacle Award for Excellence.

This award recognizes the Advanced Practice Nursing Distance Learning Programs. The department would like to recognize and thank Ms. Keri Hollander, Director, Office of Computer Services for her support in our joint application for this award. The award will be presented at the Leadership Conference in Indianapolis on June 14, 2002. This award will bring our Programs well-deserved recognition and even greater credibility in the education community.

Kudos

Kudos

Calendar of Events

Dorothy S. Lane, MD, MPH, was awarded the title of Distinguished Service Professor by the State University of New York. Her accomplishments are many and varied. Dr. Lane has been elected as Chair of the three major national organizations of the preventive medicine specialty and is nationally renowned for her national and local academic contributions to the training of specialists in preventive medicine. She is well known for her scientific research in cancer control and women's health and has also made substantive intellectual and academic contributions to the continuing education of physicians in all specialties.

Jeanne Cavalieri, RPAC, whose article, "Responding Rapidly to Occupational Blood and Body Fluid Exposures," has been awarded the First Place Publishing Award for 2001-02 by the editorial board of the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

The School of Medicine has announced its Excellence in Teaching awards presented by the Class of 2002. Awards were presented to **Michael Ammazalorso, M.D.**, Clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine; **Daniel Baram, M.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine; **Roger Cameron, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics; **Laura Fochtman, M.D.**, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, **Frederick Miller, M.D.**, Professor in the Department of Pathology; **George Newman, M.D., Ph.D.**, Professor in the Departments of Neurology and Radiology; **Jack Stern, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair in the Department of Anatomical Sciences; **David Tompkins, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Medicine; and **Fidel Valea, M.D.**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine, and **Peter Halperin, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry.

GCRC would like to take this opportunity to introduce themselves via electronic newsletter. They offer many benefits to investigators and those interested in participating in clinical research. After reading their newsletter, they hope you will stop by to visit with them and take full advantage of their Center's valuable resources.

GCRC Website URL: <http://news.gcrc.sunysb.edu>

★ PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

- ★ August 19
SOM White Coat Ceremony
Place: Galleria
- ★ September 9
Research Classic Golf Outing
Port Jefferson Country Club
For information call 444-2899
- ★ September 19
University Convocation &
Salute to Stony Brook
- ★ September 26
Long Island State Veterans
Home Golf Classic
LI National Golf Club
For information call 444-VETS

Q & A

Good communication is two way. Therefore, if you would like to comment, respond to any topics, or have news to share, please do so at 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.

The State University at Stony Brook is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. This publication is available in alternative format on request.