

# HSC E-NEWS

MARCH 2003

†† STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER †

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

On March 11, the Health Sciences Center with the School of Social Welfare sponsored a conference on Covering the Uninsured as part of a national effort. Its purpose was to raise awareness about the plight of the more than 41 million Americans who lack health insurance and the many additional who are underinsured. The Association of Academic Health Centers (AHC) has been spearheading an initiative to provide universal health coverage. Their project seeks goal-oriented, staged solutions that encompass several principles:

**Affordability:** Priority should be given initially to those for whom affordability is a problem, including those with the lowest income and those with the highest risk.

**Sustainability:** Approaches must be fiscally sustainable, blending meaningful coverage for high quality, affordable care with appropriate incentives for cost constraint and value.

**Patient/consumer orientation:** Priority should be assigned to the interests and needs of patients/consumers while weighing an array of other interests and perspectives, and

**Meaningful benefits:** Coverage must be real for the consumer, financing preventive health care, high quality care, and newly developed innovations.

Part of the problem is that by the time the uninsured arrive at our hospital's emergency room, they are sicker than if they had sought "preventive" or "pre-emptive" care without coverage.

20% of the uninsured do not get help for a serious problem,

20% do not fill a prescription,

30% skip a needed test or treatment, and

13% have trouble getting medical help.

Of the 41 million Americans who lack coverage, African Americans are two times and Hispanics three times more likely than Caucasians to be uninsured. Nearly 85% of the uninsured are in families headed by a person in the workforce. Almost half of the individuals in families with incomes between \$17,720 for a single adult and \$30,030 for a family of three are uninsured. They are too "rich" for Medicaid and too poor to afford access to on-going primary healthcare.

Why should we strive for coverage? First, Academic Health Centers like Stony Brook account for only 6% of all hospitals. Yet, they bear nearly half the burden of the costs of treating the uninsured, \$41 billion nationally. Imagine the relief on our strained resources if our share of that burden was removed.

Much more importantly, as healthcare professionals we know that when the uninsured arrive here for treatment they too often present with advanced disease. Frequently, uninsured

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Norman H. Edelman, MD

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**STONY  
BROOK**  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

# IN MEMORIAM

Dear Campus Community,

It is with deep sorrow that we share the sad news that James Davis, Chair, Department of Neurology, his wife Francie, and his daughter Amanda were tragically killed when his airplane hit a mountain in North Carolina on Friday. Jim was a wonderful leader and good colleague.

Jim joined Stony Brook in 1992; prior to that he was affiliated with Duke University Medical Center from 1972 to 1992. He received his B.A. degree in 1961 from Cornell University and M.D. degree in 1965 from Cornell University Medical College. He completed his internship in Medicine (Pathology) at Bellevue Hospital. He did a residency in



Medicine at Duke University Medical Center followed by a residency in Neurology at Cornell. In 1972, he was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Goteberg, Sweden in the Department of Pharmacology under Dr. A. Carlson.

Jim was an inspired teacher, researcher, clinician, and mentor. Under his dynamic leadership, his department flourished. Upon his arrival at Stony Brook, he aggressively recruited neurology subspecialists. He strengthened the department's clinical practice and grew its research enterprise. Jim's delightful personality drew many people to the department. He created neurology outreach programs through affiliations with community hospitals and clinics.

Jim and Francie are survived by their son Adam and daughter-in-law Tracy, their daughter, Joanna, and a brother Sandy. Our condolences are extended to the surviving members of the family. Jim, Francie, and Amanda will be missed by all of the Stony Brook community who were privileged to know them. A memorial service at Stony Brook for their Stony Brook family is currently in the planning stages.

With deepest sympathy,

Shirley Strum Kenny, President

Norman H. Edelman, Vice President and Dean, School of Medicine

# DEAN'S E-NEWS

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people wait too long so that the prognosis for survival is not good. However, we also know that most times, if early treatment was obtained, it was a preventable crisis. Care without coverage, generally equates to too little, too late. Through our taxes we invest in advances in healthcare and medical research, why not commit to ensure none are excluded from the benefits of our investment.

What can you do? Get involved by signing a proclamation of your support posted on this website <http://covertheuninsuredweek.org/proclamation/>. Join the national effort to enroll eligible, uninsured children and adults in available public health programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) or Medicaid by contacting Covering Kids and Families. Write a letter to the editor of our local newspapers. Demonstrate your concern so that we develop national public health policy options that make sense. No longer should a family face financial ruin due to illness of one of its members.

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## THREE CHANGES IN SOM LEADERSHIP

I wish to inform you of three changes in departmental leadership within the School of Medicine.

Dr. Bernard Lane has decided to no longer serve as Acting Chair, in the Department of Pathology. I wish to thank him for his extended service in this role. We are most fortunate that Dr. Jay Bock has agreed to assume the position of Acting Chair.

Dr. Richard Clark has decided to relinquish the position of Chair, in the Department of Dermatology to pursue an exciting opportunity to develop a tissue engineering program in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. We thank him for his long service to the department. We are most fortunate that Dr. Richard Kalish has agreed to assume the position of Acting Chair.

As we mourn the loss of Dr. James Davis, the department of Neurology must be steady and unwavering in meeting its commitments to personnel, students, residents, and patients. Dr. Patricia K. Coyle has agreed to assume the position of Acting Chair in the Department of Neurology. She will provide strong leadership at this critical time.

They are committed to the maintenance and enhancement of the educational and strong research enterprise in their respective departments. We look forward to their contributions to the School in their new capacities.

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## AFFILIATED FACULTY RECOGNITION 2003

A recognition reception for the affiliated faculty whose voluntary efforts are so important to our continuing educational excellence. After moving the event "to the west" last year, we will hold this 4th celebration at the Old Field Club again this year. Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, May 20th from 6:00-8:30 PM** and plan to attend and introduce faculty in your department. Division chiefs, course directors and other important players should be asked to attend as well.

Questions can be addressed to Dr. Peter Williams or Heidi Campani at 4-3084, or Karen Geyer at 4-1025.

This is an important event for *esprit de corps* among voluntary faculty and your involvement is appreciated.

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# CAREER DAY APRIL 5

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE, YOUR PARTICIPATION OR THAT OF YOUR STAFF IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

The School of Medicine will hold its annual student career program as part of Alumni Reunion Weekend. Career Day is open to all medical students and focuses on both medical specialties and varied topics of interest. Last year almost 100 students participated. This year we expect as many if not more.

Career Day is a unique opportunity for alumni and local physicians to help guide our medical students in making their career choices. There are four half-hour sessions following a catered breakfast. These sessions run from 9:30 am-12:30 pm, with a lunch that follows. Each session will have up to ten roundtable discussion leaders, and up to 9 participating students at each table. The discussions are intentionally informal exchanges that include questions from the students. Discussion leaders are now encouraged to register.

**AT THIS TIME THE FOLLOWING STUDENT REQUESTED TOPICS STILL NEED TO BE COVERED:**

BIOTERRORISM

CARDIOLOGY

COMPLIMENTARY/ALT.MED

CRITICAL CARE

DERMATOLOGY

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ORTHOPAEDICS

PATHOLOGY

RADIOLOGY

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS IF YOU OR AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR STAFF CAN HOST ONE OR MORE TABLE DISCUSSIONS, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE ALUMNI OFFICE AT 631-444-2899**

**The Cody Comedy Festival**

**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

**The Cody Comedy Festival 2003**

**COMEDY NIGHT**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2003**

**Funny Bone Buffet Reception**  
\$150 per person  
Includes buffet, beer, wine, soda and reserved seating  
5:00 - 7:00pm  
Ballroom  
Student  
Activity Center

All proceeds to benefit the Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities  
Stony Brook University

**Tickets & Information**  
**631-444-2899**

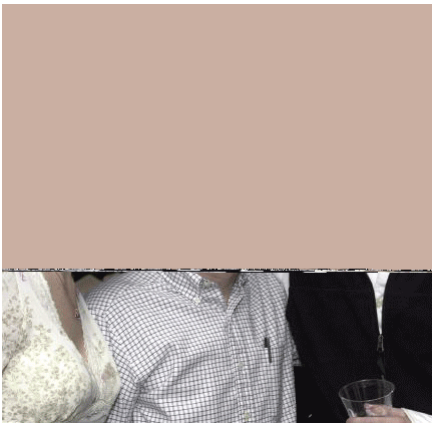
**Comedy Show**  
\$25 per person  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Staller Center

Stony Brook University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educator/employee. A disability-related accommodation may be arranged by calling 631-444-2899.

The fair market value of the Funny Bone ticket is \$40. Your tax-deductible contribution is the amount in excess of the fair market value.

# MATCH DAY

On March 20th our Medical School Class of 2003 received news of the NRMP Match results. This annual tradition, when medical students learn where they have matched, was filled with excitement and high emotions as several students used their cell phones to call their parents and loved ones to let them know where they would spend the next few years of study. Stony Brook students did very well this year. Every student was matched, with 63% entering the Primary Care disciplines of Medicine, Pediatrics, Med/Peds or Family Medicine. 65% will remain in New York State. 17 filled positions at Stony Brook, 4 at Winthrop University Hospital and 1 at Nassau University Medical Center. Our Early Matchers had also done very well; 6 matched in Neurology, 4 in Ophthalmology, 1 in Otolaryngology and 1 in Urology. We congratulate our students, their mentors, and advisors for a very successful Match!



# Kudos

**Robert Katz, Clinical Associate Professor of Anesthesiology**, won the ASA Literary Prize for 2001 for his first novel, "Edward Maret". His second novel entitled, "Surgical Risk" has been published and he is working on the sequel.

**Jane Esteves, Administrative Assistant I of Medicine**, was selected by the Medical Social Workers of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services to receive the "Friend of Social Work" award to acknowledge her efforts in advocating for patients with HIV/AIDS.

**Eva Chalas, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Alumni of the School of Medicine**, has been appointed Coordinator for Cancer Services. She will help achieve the highest quality of care and patient satisfaction with cancer services at University Hospital and work closely with the Director of the Long Island Cancer Center to ensure that the clinical educational and community outreach programs of the Center are supportive of the overall goal of the Health Sciences Center to obtain NCI designation for the Long Island Cancer Center.

The State University of New York Board of Trustees today appointed the following Stony Brook Health Sciences Center faculty to the rank of Distinguished Professor:

**Lorne M. Golub, Professor of Oral Biology and Pathology and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development in the School of Dental Medicine;**

**Arthur Patrick Grollman, Evelyn G. Glick Professor of Experimental Medicine and Professor of Pharmacological Sciences;**

**Rolf Sternglanz, Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology.**

## 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](mailto: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.

## Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



April 3

Stars of Stony Brook Gala  
Info call 212-254-6677

April 5

School of Medicine Career Day  
info call 444-2899

April 26

School of Nursing Alumni Retreat.  
Info call 444-3549

May 6

SOM AOA Induction Dinner

May 7

Grand Rounds with AOA  
Speaker

May 8

M.D. with Recognition Poster  
Session

May 14

Cody Comedy Show

May 20

Recognition Reception for Affiliated  
Faculty. Info call 444-3084 or 1025

May 22

School of Medicine Convocation 2003  
10:00 am Staller Center

May 23

School of Nursing Convocation 2003  
8:30 am Staller Center

School of Health Technology and Management, Bachelor of Science/Health Science 2003, 1:30 pm Indoor Sports Complex

School of Social Welfare Convocation 2003, 3:30 pm Staller Center

School of Dental Medicine Convocation 2003, 4:00 pm Student Activity Center

June 27

School of Health Technology and Management Convocation 2003, 11:00 am Staller 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.