

HSC E-NEWS

OCTOBER 2003

†† STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ††

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

Stony Brook has a major goal of bringing research from bench to bedside. The announcement this month that Paul C. Lauterbur, Ph.D., whose research conducted at Stony Brook University led to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and revolutionized healthcare in the latter portion of the 20th century, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine is validation that we have excelled at this for a long time.



Norman H. Edelman, M.D.

His research began in 1971 when Dr. Lauterbur watched as colleagues used Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to examine tissue cut from a cancerous tumor. "They were getting some NMR signals from the tumor tissues that were different from those in other tissues," he said in a 1996 interview during a campus ceremony celebrating the technology. "But, I thought, it probably was not very important unless you could do it without cutting somebody."

Besides transforming diagnostics, Dr. Lauterbur's discovery helped establish Stony Brook's reputation as a leading research institution that is home to many important discoveries. Stony Brook is particularly proud of its achievements in science. It has made many discoveries in the health sciences, including identifying the cause of Lyme disease, the discovery of ReoPro® (the most commonly used drug to reduce re-stenosis in cardiac angioplasty patients), the discovery of the link between smoking and emphysema, the discovery of multiple usages for the drug Periostat®, and the development of the virtual colonoscopy.

Each scientist has an innate quest for understanding the processes of life and disease. It is this quest that is at the heart of our research for it encourages inspiration and innovation. In a sense, practical application is just a byproduct of this quest. However, it is the generation of new knowledge which then leads to new products and processes that improve the health of our society. Thus, we serve science and society at the same time.

As we face the coming years, it is important to value our past in contemplation of our future. After all, Stony Brook was founded on a commitment to research and scholarship. Dr. Lauterbur's award serves to remind us of our origins and the source of our distinction worldwide. In these times of critical funding, we must not lose sight of this, even as we strive to preserve and enhance our programs of education and service.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**STONY
BROOK**
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

NOBEL PRIZE IS AWARDED FOR MRI TECHNOLOGY

Paul C. Lauterbur, Ph.D., whose research conducted at Stony Brook University led to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and revolutionized healthcare in the latter portion of the 20th century, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in Stockholm, Sweden.

Dr. Lauterbur was a Professor of Chemistry and also a Professor of Radiology in the School of Medicine at Stony Brook when he conducted the research that led to his landmark discovery in the 1970s and early 1980s. His original MRI technology remains on display at the University's Chemistry Building.

The award was hailed by Stony Brook's President, Shirley Strum Kenny, who said: "Stony Brook is rightfully known as the birthplace of the MRI. It is because of Dr. Lauterbur's research done here that millions of lives have been improved due to this breakthrough in healthcare technology."

In 1973, the British scientific journal *Nature* published an article by Dr. Lauterbur describing an NMR technique for taking three-dimensional pictures of body organs and vessels, without the use of ionized radiation or toxic dyes. It was this technique that was used as the basis for the manufacture of MRI equipment. The MRI went on to become a critical non-invasive tool in medical diagnosis.

"On behalf of the entire State University of New York community, I congratulate Paul Lauterbur on winning the Nobel Prize," said SUNY Chancellor Robert L. King. "Thanks to Dr. Lauterbur's genius, physicians all over the world have had an accurate and painless diagnostic tool to assess patient illness. He is directly responsible for the improvement of the quality of life all of us enjoy. We are very proud Dr. Lauterbur conducted his ground-breaking work at the State University of New York."

TWO AAMC EVENTS

For those of you attending the AAMC meetings in Washington, D.C., I want to make you aware of two events that we will be hosting in conjunction with the meetings.

The first is an all HSC-wide Alumni brunch that will be on Sunday, November 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cosmos Club (2121 Massachusetts Avenue). This is the first time we have sponsored an event for all HSC alumni. Ed Pellegrino will be our special guest at brunch. Dr. Pellegrino was instrumental in the development and founding of the Stony Brook Health Sciences Center. He is now Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Medical Ethics at Georgetown University.

The second event will be the annual reception that we co-host with the three other New York schools of medicine. That reception will also be on Sunday, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Georgetown West Room of the Washington Hilton.

I encourage you to join us for both of these events. If you plan to attend the brunch, please let Bill Dethlefs, Director of HSC Alumni Relations know as soon as possible (William.Dethlefs@stonybrook.edu or 4-2899). For those of you attending the brunch, we will send out more information, including a guest list, closer to the date of the event.

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION NAMES NEUROLOGIST PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr. Rahman Pourmand was honored for his contributions to fighting disease and for his service to Myasthenic patients by the New York Chapter of Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America. Myasthenia Gravis is a highly misdiagnosed neuromuscular autoimmune disease in which communication between nerve and muscle is impaired, causing weakness. The most common symptoms, alone or in any combination are: weak arms, hands, neck, face or legs, difficulty chewing, smiling, swallowing, talking, breathing or shallow respiration, droopy eyelids, blurred or double vision or undue fatigue. There is no cure.

Dr. Pourmand not only improved awareness of myasthenia and support of the local chapter, but also organized a support group in Suffolk County. He is a Professor of Neurology in the School of Medicine and Director of the Neuromuscular Disease Center and ALS Comprehensive Care Center


The MGFA, a charitable, non-profit organization, was formed to serve patient needs, promote public awareness and provide for research. The Metro New York Chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America takes the opportunity once a year to honor those who have worked especially hard in the mission of the chapter and MG Foundation. For additional information regarding Myasthenia Gravis, call (516) 509-8420 or (800) 667-9807.

CELEBRATION OF HEALTH LITERACY MONTH

Health Literacy is defined as the ability to read, understand, and act on health information. It refers to a patient's ability to understand common health care communications such as prescription instructions, test results, insurance forms, and labeling. People of any age, income, race, or background can be challenged by an attempt to understand health information. According to the Pfizer Foundation, individuals with low literacy incur medical expenses that are up to four times greater than patients with adequate literacy skills, costing the health care system billions of dollars every year for unnecessary doctor visits and hospital stays.

On Wednesday October 22, 2003 at 11:45 a.m. in Lecture Hall 4, the Stony Brook University Adult Literacy Center presented a lecture entitled "Plain Language Communication: Strategies for Plain-Language Tools of the Trade" by Dr. Linda Simpson Potter, of the Family Health Research, Princeton, New Jersey and a nationally known expert in health literacy. The lecture focused on the issues, challenges, and strategies associated with improving the communication of health information to low literacy patients. The program was made possible by a grant from the Pfizer Foundation in celebration of Health Literacy Month.

Dr. Aldustus E. Jordan, Associate Dean for Student and Minority Affairs received the 2003 "Light of Literacy Award" from the Literacy Volunteers of America, Suffolk County, Inc. for his work in establishing the Stony Brook University Adult Literacy Center and promotion of health literacy in Suffolk County. Dr. Jordan has received grants from the Verizon Foundation, Pfizer Foundation, and Walmart Goodworks Foundation.



eBIOALERT PROTEOMIC CENTER USER NOTICE-NEW LOG IN ACCOUNT

A Helpful Notice to Proteomics Center Users -

The Office of Scientific Affairs has adapted an automated Sample Tracking System to improve client communication, sample status analysis, and billing. The system is a platform-independent (i.e., it can accommodate either Mac or PC), web-based application. This program is accessible from any web-connected computer running Java 1.4 JRE. To initiate and register for your Proteomics E-Account, link to <https://tracking.osa.sunysb.edu:442/samples/track.html>. Principal Investigators seeking the services of the Proteomics Center must register initially onto this system. "Walk in" services will no longer be provided. In order to maintain the best client contact, PIs will need to register those staff or students who will be submitting samples on their behalf. User and billing information is maintained in a secure and confidential environment.

In the event that your computer is not running Java 1.4 JRE, please refer to the Read Me page (<http://tracking.osa.sunysb.edu/samples/OSAReadMe.htm>) for instructions on how to install this free program. This page also contains the Tracking System instruction manual as well as pertinent help files. In the event you have difficulty in installing or running the software, please contact Mr. Jose Salcedo, OSA Data Base Administrator, at 631-444-1288, or salcedo@osa.sunysb.edu.

The OSA is planning to fully integrate this system in all of the SOM cores during the 2003/2004 academic year. A single registration will qualify you for all cores (Proteomics is the first core to go on line and to require the system). Registration capabilities for all the SOM cores are currently available on the tracking link (above). Your registration is confidential, and we thank you for taking the time to input this information designed to improve our ability to provide the best services to you.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

School of Dental Medicine

Since January 2003 the faculty of the School of Dental Medicine has successfully renewed 25 federal and non-federal grants and has received extra-mural funding for 7 new clinical and basic research projects. The sponsors of these projects include the NIDCR (National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research), the Center for Biotechnology, and a number of industrial sources. The new awards will contribute to the research enterprise by increasing the number of active participants and by increasing the research budget by almost \$400,000 per annum.

It is noteworthy that the funds from the NIDCR were in the form of a KO1 award given to one of our young clinical faculty, Richard Oringer for his project entitled: Dendritic Cells in Periodontal Health and Disease. (Mentor: Christopher Cutler, Dept. of Periodontics).

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

CONTINUED

Professor Marcia Simon, Associate Dean for Research (School of Dental Medicine), Director of the Living Skin Bank (University Hospital) received a Waters Corporation HPLC Multisystem refrigerated autosampler to further her research on skin cell metabolism. Dr. Simon's laboratory investigates the regulation of vitamin A (retinol) metabolism and the oxidative status of epidermal cells. Together with the identification of involved genes and gene products, this work is being used to predict differences between normal and cancer cells, and to identify elements critical to epidermal homeostasis and to the resurfacing of wounds. Consistent with the laboratory's mandate this research is being applied towards the development of new therapeutic modalities for the treatment of cancer and aging and for the design of improved burn therapies.

Vice President of Waters Division Mark Groudas '79 (Bio) was compelled to deliver the \$50,000 piece of equipment personally from Massachusetts. "Dr. Simon's work has great potential to improve the recovery of burn victims and I am delighted to have Waters Corporation contribute to that success" stated Mr. Groudas. Waters Corporation is recognized as a leading provider of high performance liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry, thermal analysis and rheology products and services in labs around the world. This was Mark's first visit to the Stony Brook campus since his graduation. He was impressed with the increased building and beautification, but supporting the outstanding research was especially satisfying.

There is one more Stony Brook connection. Ed Aig (Chemist, Waters Corp.) who has provided technical support to Dr. Simon's laboratory for over ten years, is also the parent of an alumna, his daughter, Rebecca '96.

School of Medicine

Eunice Park and Kathleen Jung enjoyed time at Ajou University Medical Center in the Republic of Korea where they participated in respective ENT and Psychiatry rotations. The six week program enriched the students in Korean culture while the Office of International Affairs planned day and weekend trips with other international students.



From left: Dr. Wang, Dean Kim, Eunice, Kathleen, President Khang and Dr. Lee

KEEPING THE HSC CLEAN NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Health Sciences Center Faculty, Staff, Students,

We have made some significant changes over the last few years to improve the appearance and the quality of life here in the Health Sciences Center. We have upgraded all of our lecture halls, a complete renovation of the Library has been done, added new facilities to enhance student programs, such as the Living Learning Center and the Medical Informatics Learning Center, refurbished the Galleria, created the Medical Student Lounge, renovated a number of labs and faculty offices throughout the buildings, and the list goes on.

In an effort to keep the momentum going and establish a greater sense of pride in our facility, we would like to propose that a concerted effort be made to keep the Health Science Center buildings clean. Recently new bulletin boards were added to the main levels on 2, 3, 4 and 5 which were intended to discourage people from hanging flyers on walls, doors, escalators and elevators. While these new boards are utilized, people continue to tack up flyers everywhere and anywhere you look which not only looks unsightly but ruins the paint and woodwork. We are requesting that the following guidelines be adhered to and urge you to pass this information on to any committee or group who generally are involved in planning events. Additionally, "For Sale" flyers, while we understand they serve a necessary purpose, should only be placed on certain designated bulletin boards as noted below. At times, there are so many of these types of advertisements that important University announcements are covered over and lost in the mass of notices on the bulletin boards. Please take the time to review the following guidelines. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

. Notices and/or Announcements regarding HSC/Hospital/University matters may only be posted on designated bulletin boards marked "HSC Announcements". Freestanding stanchion sign holders will be available on levels 2, 3, 4 and 5 for directional sign posting for an event. These sign holders will accommodate 8 ½ x 11 paper only.

. General Notices (such as: Cars For Sale, Houses/Rooms for Rent, Furniture/Equipment for Sale, and all similar type notices) should only be posted on bulletin boards designated "General Notices". These are located in the elevator cores on levels 2, 3 and 5 of the Health Sciences Center and in the Bookends Café area.

. All notices should have a posting date in the upper right hand corner. General information notices are to be removed after a 2 week period. Announcements of an event are to be removed once the date of the event has passed.

. The party putting up this material is responsible for removing it from the bulletin boards within the specified time as noted above.

. Notices and/or Announcements may not be taped, pinned, tacked or stapled to walls, doors, escalators, elevators, and other signage. Materials which are placed in this manner will be removed immediately by the custodial staff.

Kudos

Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



November 9

HSC Alumni Reception (Washington D.C.) info 631-444-2899

November 9

Reception hosted by the SUNY School of Mediciner info 631-444-2899

November 12

Orthopaedics Unit Open House
info 631-444-2899

November 16

Neiman Marcus Fashion Presentation
(to benefit the Cody Center)

November 20

2003 Distinguished Alumni Awards
Dinner, Carlyle on the Green, 6:30 pm
For info call 1-877-SEAWOLF

November 20

Little Miracles Fashion Show (to
benefit the Sunrise Fund) info 631-
444-2899

2004

Alumni Professional Development
Seminar Series:

April 21 - First Session
May 5 - Second Session
May 26 - Third Session

May 14

Cody Comedy Show

Michael Egnor, Clinical Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, has received a Promising Inventor Award from Dr. Robert King, Chancellor of SUNY. Dr. King's letter thanks Dr. Egnor for his outstanding achievements and for enhancing the reputation of Stony Brook University.

Doug Boyer, Graduate Student of Anatomical Sciences has received the John J. Lanzendorf PaleoArt Price of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology for his reconstruction of the Paleogene mammal *Carpolestes*. This is a highly sought after prize that has been won by professional artists. Doug's painting has also been selected to be the permanent cover for the Journal of Mammalian Evolution.

Vincent Iacono, Professor and Chair of Periodontics in the School of Dental Medicine, has become President elect of the American Academy of Periodontics.

Ronald Wender, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Medicine, endowed The Nancy Wender National Dental Board High Achievement Award this year. The \$10,000. endowment will generate a \$500. award annually.

Elizabeth Crutchfield, Clinical Instructor of Dental Medicine, received \$1,000. award from the Long Island Academy of Odontology who promotes the scientific, professional and social advancement of the dental profession.

Gregory Dolin, Medical Student, has been elected to serve a one-year term as the Vice Speaker of the AMA-MSS Governing Council.

Lawrence C. Hurst, Professor and Chair of Orthopaedics, was accepted as a member of the American Orthopaedic Association. The **Department of Biomedical Engineering** received a special award of \$3 million from the Whitaker Foundation to construct a building by June 2006 that will house the Department.

Frank Seifert, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, was honored at the Rotary International Program annual Gift of Life Dinner with a check in the amount of \$4,000. for Stony Brook Hospital. This program brings children from abroad for heart surgery. The RRC for **Diagnostic Radiology** has approved the Abdominal Radiology Fellowship for full ACGME Accreditation.

Our Mixed Team from Stony Brook University tied for Tenth Place in the 2003 JP Morgan Chase Championship Challenge.

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.

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