

THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital
Bassett Healthcare Network, Cooperstown, New York

Summer 2010



A CELEBRATION OF DR. WILLIAM STRECK'S 25 YEARS AS BASSETT'S PRESIDENT

Since its reopening in 1927, Bassett has had only six (all physician) CEOs, Drs. James Greenough, George Miner Mackenzie, James Bordley III, Douglas Damrosch (for less than one year), Charles Allen Ashley and William F. Streck. During this remarkable 83 years of leadership stability, the institution has grown from one hospital to a health-care delivery system composed of six hospitals, over 40 community and school-based health centers, two skilled nursing facilities, a home health agency and a medical supply company.

The bulk of that growth has occurred in the 26 years Dr. Streck has been at the helm as the institution's longest serving leader — a year as acting director and the subsequent 25 years since March 18, 1985, as president of what is now called the Bassett Healthcare Network.

In 1978, Dr. Streck joined the staff of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital as Bassett's first board-certified endocrinologist. During the next six years, he proved to be a clinician teacher par-excellence, and



William F. Streck, M.D.

it was quickly apparent that he had incredible talent, drive and also compassion, all reaching in many directions. Colleagues from the 1970s and early '80s reiterate that he was a highly engaged physician who was loved by his patients, and that it's that compassion and the fact that he's a doctor first that have contributed to his success as an effective and respected leader.

"He is aware of the challenges and struggles staff face. He's been in the trenches and he doesn't forget," observes Dr. Walter Franck, physi-

cian-in-chief emeritus.

From the beginning, it was also clear the young doctor had a keen interest in the course the organization would chart in the years ahead. Dr. Franck added, "I remember Bill as a compassionate physician. I learned from Sue Weaver, public health nurse at the time, that he had made a house call (with his daughter) on a debilitated patient; he found she couldn't access her phone (too high, she was wheelchair bound); Bill relocated the phone himself so she could use it.

He also was, I thought, one of our best, if not the best, teacher we had!"

The editor of this publication was quickly struck by "Bill's amazing ability to prepare a talk late into the night and then carry it off without a hitch and without notes the next day." Gary Hoffman, M.D., former Bassett rheumatologist, also recalls Streck's arrival in 1978: "I remember Bill as a superb clinician. I especially remember talking about one of his patients, on whom he had done house calls, and the impact of rural poverty. It was a great time, with Bill, Dick Reese, Alan Kozak and David Pratt all coming within a few years of each other. Bill and his lovely wife, Karen, were charming, high-energy folks, possessed with a great sense of humor and were wonderful hosts.

"Working with Bill and sharing patients was always rewarding. He had just finished a practical handbook of endocrine care. His skills as an educator and care provider were amply demonstrated in the

STRECK to page 6



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from New Bern, N.C., and Cooperstown, N.Y.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Cupola. I direct your attention to many items of interest, but, of course, the saddest and most poignant are the obituaries. Foremost for me was the death of Jean Davis, wife of our own John Davis. Jean worked for many years at Bassett, and died suddenly in May.

On a happier note, the medical school seems to be on track for success, and the first P & S students are

due to arrive in 2012. Bill Streck has been CEO for 25 years, a remarkable feat of longevity in a politically charged environment.

We always need more news of our alumni, so let us hear from you.

*Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.
President, Board of Directors
Bassett Medical Alumni Association*

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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MEDICAL STUDENTS HELPING TO EFFECT CHANGE



Katie Fuchs and Max Hsia

Katie Fuchs grew up in the Adirondacks, an upbringing that developed her interest in green initiatives. As a high school student, she spent time in a clinically based program at Glens Falls Hospital where she helped organize a movement to reduce Styrofoam usage in the cafeteria. She brought that same mission to Bassett as a medical student from Albany Medical College and worked with Bassett's "Green Team" to reduce cafeteria waste.

As a result of Katie's work, reusable beverage mugs have been introduced to Bassett's cafeterias. "By your first cup, you are reducing waste and helping clean up the Earth," Katie said. "By your 10th cup, Bassett will reward you a free beverage, and by your 41st cup you are actually saving energy."

Katie's work with the Green Team is an example of the unique "systems" training medical students who come to Bassett get as part of their quest to become physicians. One of Katie's colleagues, Max Hsia, worked with the Vascular Surgery team to research options for a hybrid fluoroscopy system for operating room 11. Max explained that many surgeries involving imaging use a portable C-arm on wheels that must be rolled into and out of a procedure. He noted, "This takes up valuable time, introduces an extra piece of equipment into an already cramped operating room, and often results in poorer image quality. The new hybrid systems use a C-arm that stays in the OR and folds out of the way when not being used, resulting in a fully integrated, high-quality imaging system at the surgeon's fingertips."

Both Max and Katie say their projects have provided valuable experience working on the administrative side of a hospital as part of a team to solve problems and achieve desired outcomes. They were among 12 students from Albany Medical College who spent their third year of medical school training at Bassett, finishing in July. This year's class of eight students was scheduled to arrive Aug. 9, closing out a partnership with Albany Medical College piloting the medical school program. ■

News Briefs

RESEARCH PROJECT WINS AWARD

Potjana (Sung) Jitawatanarat, M.D., a second-year postgraduate medical resident at Bassett Medical Center, was presented with the E. Donnal Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award for 2010. Her research project was among 12 recently presented as part of the E. Donnal Thomas Research Day, which was held this year in honor of the late Guy W. Amsden, Pharm.D., a dedicated research scientist and member of the Institutional Review Board at Bassett since 1996.

Dr. Jitawatanarat's research study project, titled "Role of PDK 1 in breast cancer cell proliferation and PCNA expression" examined how important cellular pathways for breast cancer development and growth are turned on when animals are exposed to artificial light at night, and how the information gained from these studies might contribute to future breast cancer prevention and treatment.

The study was conducted under the direction of Bassett research scientist Mike Greene, Ph.D., and Jinghai Wu, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Jitawatanarat's research was done in collaboration with former Bassett research scientist Dr. David Blask, who continues light-at-night studies at Tulane University.

GOLDEN AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The 2010 Golden Apple awards, given by the residents to the faculty members they felt were their most outstanding teachers, were presented to Patrick A. Dietz, M.D., and James Russin, M.D. (Surgery); and to Christian Mulik, M.D. (Medicine).

Bassett residents and students recently honored two of their own with the Golden Stethoscope awards. The Surgery students chose Mark Andres, M.D., as the senior resident they felt was their best teacher. The Internal Medicine residents selected Erin McKay, D.O.

FIRST COLUMBIA-BASSETT CLASS ARRIVES

An agreement was announced in May of last year establishing Bassett as a campus of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Ten students have been accepted to the program and were scheduled to arrive Aug. 16 for a week of orientation in Cooperstown before beginning their medical school experience at Columbia. They will come to Bassett for two and a half years beginning in January 2012.

Members of the inaugural class are:

Blake Alberts, University of South Dakota; Katherine Schwartz, SUNY Geneseo; Mark Harris, Dartmouth College; Allan Guiney, Hamilton College; Krista Suojanen, Williams College; Monika Laszkowska, Harvard College; Haley Masterson, University of Kansas; Andrew Gomez, University of Arizona; Freda Ready, Cornell University; and Dae Woong Lee, Dartmouth College.

FIVE ALUMNI RETURN TO BASSETT



Beth Olearczyk

Beth Olearczyk, M.D. (Prelim Med 2005-2006) has returned as a hospitalist. She recently completed a residency in internal medicine at University of Rochester Medical Center and, prior to that, completed an internal medicine internship at Bassett Medical Center. Dr. Olearczyk received her medical degree at Columbia University College of



Randy Parkhurst

Physicians & Surgeons, and earned her undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, at University of Rochester.

Randy Parkhurst, M.D., (Prelim Med 2004-2005) returned as a radiologist in July. He recently completed a Neuroradiology Fellowship and, prior to that, a Diagnostic Radiology Residency at Upstate Medical University in



Erin McKay

Syracuse, N.Y. He received his medical degree at Upstate Medical University and earned his undergraduate degree at Cornell University.

Erin McKay, D.O., will return as a prime care attending in September. She recently completed an internal medicine residency at Bassett Medical Center. She earned her D.O. from the New England College of



Brandon Miller

Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine, and her undergraduate degree from William Smith College.

Brandon Miller, M.D., (Transitional Year 2009-2010) is staying on as a research assistant, working with Dr. John May. He earned his medical degree at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey/New Jersey Medical School and his undergradu-



Bridget Grant

ate degree at Rutgers University.

Bridget Grant, M.D. (Transitional Year 2009-2010) is staying on for one year as clinical coordinator of the Spine Program, working with Dr. Reginald Knight. She earned her medical degree at Albany Medical College and her undergraduate degree at Ithaca College. ■

RESIDENTS LEAVE FOR NEW ENDEAVORS

Bassett thanks 26 physicians who recently completed their residency programs and wishes them well as their careers unfold:

Thomas Cassidy, D.O., Hospitalist, Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, Maine.

Qi Chen, M.D., M.P.H., Preventive Medicine Residency, Johns Hopkins/Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md.

Natsurang Chongkraitatanakul, M.D., Geriatrics Fellowship, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Tepsiri Chongkraitatanakul, M.D., Nephrology Fellowship, Boston Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

Arkaprava Deb, M.D., M.P.A., Preventive Medicine Residency, Johns Hopkins/Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md.

Joan Delto, M.D., Research Assistant, Irving Cancer Research Center, New York, N.Y.

Elena Eberle, M.D., Rheumatology Fellowship, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Jason Eisenberg, M.D., Radiology Residency, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y.

Bridget Grant, M.D., Clinical Coordinator, Spine Program, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, NY; 2011 will join Dermatology Residency, Tufts University, Boston, Mass.

Weili Gray, M.D., Anesthesiology Residency, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.

Mohini Gurme, M.D., Neurology Residency, University of California-Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, Calif.

Tipton Hartman-Heaney, D.O., Critical Care Medicine Fellowship, Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Mass.

Larson Hsu, M.D., Radiology Residency, North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, N.Y.

Ichiro Ikuta, M.D., Fellow, National Library of Medicine, Biomedical Informatics Research, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Pim Jetanalin, M.D., Rheumatology Fellowship, University of California, San Diego, San Diego, Calif.

Atipon Kangwanpornisiri, M.D., Nephrology Fellowship, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.

Cecilia Loh, M.D., M.P.H., General Surgery practice, Kapsowar Hospital, Kapsowar, Kenya.

Brian McElhinney, D.O., Ph.D., Radiology Residency, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

Erin McKay, D.O., Internal Medicine Practice, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Brandon Miller, M.D., Research Assistant, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Calvin Newman, M.D., unknown at press time.

Gitanjali Patel, M.D., unknown at press time.

Nathan Rieb, M.D., General Surgery practice, Powell Valley Healthcare, Powell, Wyo.

Adams Seigers, M.D., Internal Medicine practice, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare, Utica, N.Y.

Suresh Tammineni, M.B., B.S., Hospitalist, Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, Maine.

Yanjuan Zhu, M.D., Hospitalist, Ohio State University Hospital East, Columbus, Ohio.

IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

(Please forward to us information about former Bassett physicians and trainees who have passed on.)

Charles R. Benton, M.D.

Charles Richard Benton, M.D., 92, of Pensacola, Fla., passed away on Feb. 23, 2010. He earned his M.D. at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons and was an intern at Bassett Hospital (1947-48). He was board certified in pediatrics and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Florida Pediatric Society and the Escambia County Medical Society. A captain in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, he served as base pediatrician at the Tyndall AFB in Panama City, Fla. He then became one of the first pediatricians to practice in Escambia County and also treated adults during the 1952-1953 polio outbreak. He was instrumental in the founding of Sacred Heart Children's Hospital and was a medical teacher through the Pensacola Educational Program (PEP), as a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

After retiring from private practice, he treated children at the Santa Rosa Health Department, Milton, Fla. Dr. Benton's doors were open to all, and he considered making house calls to be a privilege. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ann Caroline Kissinger Benton of Pensacola; a son, Carl Avery Benton of Naples, Fla.; daughter, Ann Caroline Benton of South Kingstown, R.I., and Pensacola, Fla.; a brother, John Joseph Benton, Sr., M.D., of Panama City, Fla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

F. Calvin Bigler, M.D.

Dr. F. Calvin Bigler, 79, passed away on July 16 in Winfield, Kan. After high school in El Dorado, Kan., he attended Yale University on a full academic scholarship,

graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1953. Calvin married Phyllis Jean Riggs on June 27, 1954, in El Dorado. After a Fulbright Graduate Fellowship in pathology research at the University of Munich in Germany, he obtained his M.D., from Yale University School of Medicine in 1957, after which the couple moved to Cooperstown for his Rotating Internship at Bassett Hospital. In 1958-59 he served as a General Medical Officer on the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservation, and in 1960 they returned to Cooperstown where he completed his residency in general surgery at Bassett.

The family then moved to Morehead, Kentucky, where Calvin began a private practice in surgery. After a fellowship in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, the family moved to Garden City, Kan., where Calvin practiced general surgery for over 20 years. In 1990, the couple returned to the Indian Health Service to build a surgical program in Shiprock, N.M. In 1996, Calvin and Phyllis moved to Liberal, Kan., where they remained until his retirement in 2004. He served as president of the Kansas Medical Association and as governor of America College of Surgeons in Kansas. A lifelong student and medical teacher, particularly of surgical residents, he also loved spending time with his family at their cabin in Colorado, which has been in the family for generations. He was known by his grandchildren as "Biscuits," because of the times he would spend teaching them the proper way to make his homemade biscuits. Dr. Bigler also served several years on the Bassett Medical Alumni Board of Directors. Besides his wife, Phyllis, he leaves behind a large family

including his sons, Dr. Carl Bigler and wife, Dr. Jane Bigler of Flagstaff, Ariz.; Ben Bigler and wife, Beckie, of Edmond, Okla.; Jon Bigler and wife, Lori, of Ashland, Kan.; Dr. Mark Bigler and wife, Kathryn, of Bowling Green, Ky.; his daughter, Heidi Bolt, and husband, Curtis, of Chanute, Kan.; and 15 grandchildren. A memorial has been established in Dr. Bigler's name for the Southwestern College William Bigler Scholarship fund and for the Southwestern College Richardson Hall Renovation Fund.



Cal and Phyl Bigler, Bassett Medical Alumni Board meeting, October 2001

Harry C. Bishop, M.D.

Harry C. Bishop, M.D., died suddenly of heart failure at his home in Haverford, Pa., on May 9, 2009, at the age of 88. He was one of the originators of the specialty of pediatric surgery and pioneered many techniques for operating on newborns and very small children. He obtained his M.D. from the Harvard Medical School, and after serving as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Wyoming and Kansas, his surgical training included assistant resident in Surgery and then chief resident in Surgery at Bassett Hospital. In 1954, he came to Philadelphia from Boston's Children's Hospital to join C. Everett Koop, M.D., at

the Philadelphia Children's Hospital. Over the years, Drs. Koop and Bishop partnered in the development of new techniques to correct potentially fatal abnormalities in newborns. Harry estimated that he had operated on over 9,000 children. He was professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania and the author of 78 publications. His reputation was known worldwide, and he was elected to the British Pediatric Society and the German Pediatric Society. A revered member of Philadelphia's famed "Right Angle Club," he was a kind and thoughtful man of many interests. In retirement, Harry was always engaged in one or more continuing "projects," from fashioning boat models to repairing screens at a summer camp in Maine. A skilled electrician as well as a plumber, he was quick to help out in neighborhood emergencies.

Jean Davis

The Bassett community was saddened by the recent unexpected passing of Jean Davis. Jean, wife of Dr. John Davis, and mother of three sons and a daughter, was also a surrogate mother and teacher to a generation of Bassett residents. Jean and John were a true team, both in the Gastroenterology department and at their Pine Boulevard home. Jean was the de facto "GI lab" for many years and assisted in training physicians and other GI technicians in endoscopic procedures. On the home front, many a resident was welcomed into the family for meals and holidays. Jean spent her entire professional career at Bassett, retiring in 1984. All will remember Jean as an enthusiastic hiker, cross-country skier, gardener and classical music fan. Our sympathies go out to her family.

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

**Again, thanks to those who have sent the following news.
Keep your notes and photos coming!**

1980s



Jerrold (Jerry) Vitek, M.D., Ph.D.

We have learned that **Jerrold (Jerry) Vitek, M.D., Ph.D.**, (First-year Resident in Medicine 1984-85), became the new head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Neurology in July. Vitek, an internationally renowned neurologist who specializes in the surgical treatment of movement disorders, came from the Cleveland Clinic, where he directed its Neuromodulation Research Center. Cleveland Clinic recruited him from Emory University in 2004 to expand and improve its program in deep brain stimulation (DBS). At Emory, Vitek was the site principal investigator of the clinical trial that led to the Food and Drug Administration's approval of DBS surgery for Parkinson's disease. He is also the principal investigator of one of only two clinical trials funded by the National Institutes of Health comparing the effect of DBS in two specific areas of the brain, the subthalamic nucleus and the internal segment of the globus pallidus, for the treatment of advanced Parkinson's disease.

Vitek's work has focused on a "bench to bedside" approach to care—turning basic science discoveries into

meaningful new treatments for people who have movement and other neurological disorders. He ran a large, interdisciplinary basic and clinical research program at the Cleveland Clinic and will be developing a similar program at the University of Minnesota. His basic research is directed at understanding the pathophysiology of Parkinson's disease and dystonia as well as the mechanisms underlying the therapeutic effect of DBS. His clinical work is focused on the medical and surgical care of patients with Parkinson's disease, dystonia and tremor and the application of DBS to treat these disorders.

Vitek's move to Minnesota also offers him a homecoming. He grew up on the Iron Range and completed his undergraduate, medical, and doctorate work at the University. "We always wanted to come back to Minnesota," Vitek says of himself and his wife. "More importantly, I'm very excited about the job."

Michael J. Garrity, M.D., (Transitional Intern 1986-1987, Medicine Resident 1987-1989) has been teaching medical students and residents in his Adult Medicine practice at Massachusetts General Hospital's Charlestown Health Center in Boston for 18 years. He has recently been recommended by Harvard medical school students as one of the distinguished faculty members for the 2010 Harvard Medical School Nominee for the American Association of

Medical Colleges National Humanism in Medicine Award. In addition, Dr. Garrity has been nominated for the 2010 Harvard Medical School Charles McCabe Faculty Prize for Excellence in Teaching, considered one of Harvard Medical School's most important commendations for outstanding teaching accomplishments. (Editor's note: Congratulations, Mike, and it's never surprising to hear how well our alumni are doing!)

Howard Perofsky, M.D., (Surgery Resident 1983-87) comments on the recent deaths of Drs. Latham Murray and John Olson: "Latham Murray was my chief resident during my pgy4 and attending surgeon when I was chief resident in 1986-87. He was a good person to work with because of his patience, knowledge, surgical skill, and sense of humor. My condolences to his family and friends. ... Twenty three years after leaving Bassett and Dr. Olson, I still think about how he would manage patients that I see now. I tried very hard to win his approval while I was a resident because I thought then — and still do now — that this would make me a better doctor and surgeon. Dr. Olson, and Mrs. Olson, were very gracious to me and my wife during my residency, inviting us to their home for dinner and introducing us to their family. When I would see him at surgical conferences years later, he always had a warm greeting. I am very sorry about his passing and I know he will be greatly missed!"



Alfred C. Belen, Elizabeth A. Freck and Alfred C. Belen IV

2000s

Alfred C. Belen III, M.D., and **Elizabeth A. Freck, M.D.**, (both were Transitional Residents 2005-06) sent this note and picture: "The new addition to our family, Alfred Christopher Belen, IV, who arrived Sunday June 27th at 4:38 PM EDT." Hearty congratulations!!

Shruti Datta, M.D., (Medicine Resident 2006-09) writes that she and her husband, Ankur Datta, "are blessed with our newborn, baby boy, Adih Suwan Datta, born on July 17th. He is doing well. His elder sister Adya is excited to have him." Congratulations Shruti and Ankur! ■



Adih Suwan Datta

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

Send Family Album items to John Davis at cupola@bassett.org or write to Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, Attn: John Davis, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown 13326.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Bassett Healthcare Network seeks physicians in the following areas, with openings at the Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown and elsewhere in the network as noted. Interested alumni and others you know who might "fit" with Bassett and Cooperstown can contact Debra Ferrari of Medical Staff Affairs at (607) 547-6982 or debra.ferrari@bassett.org.

Cardiac Anesthesiologist	Gynecologist
Anesthesiologist	Orthopedic - Foot & Ankle
Dermatologist	Orthopedist - Joint Reconstruction
Emergency Medicine Physician	Pediatrician
Gastroenterologist	Psychiatrist - Adult
Hematologist/Oncologist	Psychiatrist - Child
Hospitalist - Hamilton	Radiation Oncologist
Intensivist - Critical Care	Radiologist
Internist - Herkimer	Rheumatologist
Internist - Oneonta	Vascular Surgeon
Obstetrician/	

STRECK from page 1

book and in the clinic. His lectures and consultations were crisp, educational, in fact, the best. His patients loved being under his care. Bill's efficiency was daunting. He saw more patients in clinic than most of us, immersed himself in committee and leadership roles and applied the same persona as a runner and on the basketball court."

As Bill Streck himself reflects, "I was here three months and I wrote the chief of medicine and said, 'This is a great place, but is anyone planning for the future? I'm just a little concerned.'" He was then 32 years old. The chief of the Department of Medicine, Dr. Joe Lunn, responded by appointing him chairman of the Goals, Priorities, and Strategies Committee. "It was principally about setting goals and measuring ourselves against some parameters," says Dr. Franck, who was a member of the committee. "We're an institution with multiple missions, but we understand and appreciate



Dr. Streck at the opening of the Bassett Clinic in 1992

ate the fact that we can't be dependent upon external resources for our own survival. We have to generate our opportunity, and that is what Bill helped us achieve."

The decision to grow and regionalize services was a strategic one aimed at ensuring Bassett would not only survive, but thrive. Dr. Thomas Q. Morris, current chairman of the board of trustees, credits Dr. Streck with "developing a carefully designed strategy to facilitate the evolution of Bassett into a fully integrated academic rural health network poised to move forward with confidence in the era of health reform."

"My role has been, increasingly, to understand the environment, politics

*The depth
of talent
in this
organization
is what pushes
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*—William F. Streck,
M.D.*

and trends of health care, and try to make sure we are moving in a direction that would afford us opportunities for success," says Streck, who has done more than simply try to understand it all. He is chairman



Dr. Streck in 1978

of the policy-setting state Public Health Council, a position he's held for eight years, and he is a member of the board of directors for the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS). Dan Sisto, president of HANYS, describes Bassett's president as a "transformational leader."

Streck, however, is the first to say that "the depth of talent in this organization is what pushes it forward. You can have all the ideas in the world, but you have to have the talent to carry them out and Bassett has an amazing talent pool." Furthermore, he says his whole tenure has been "characterized by a very sophisticated, savvy board of trustees that is atypically

willing to innovate."

New York's Health Commissioner Dr. Richard Daines observes, "At Bassett, they look at their responsibility to the population of an area, not simply competing for market share with other health care providers." In 2010, just as in the 1920s, Bassett is viewed as a leader in rural medicine and is now also being offered as a national model for how a health network can deliver good care effectively and efficiently. In fact, the recently passed health reform legislation in Washington calls for the creation of pilot programs for "accountable care organizations" (ACOs), which would be responsible for the care of a designated population and receive incentives to achieve both quality and cost targets. The Commonwealth Fund is actively working on this and has invited Bassett to the table as a likely ACO others could emulate.

Bill, hearty congratulations — with the expectation of your continued superb Bassett leadership! ■

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