

THE CUPOLA

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



LOOKING AHEAD AFTER A SUCCESSFUL YEAR



Maria Mendez, M.D.

I am happy to report that your Alumni Board had a very successful meeting this year. We met in October and developed a number of ideas focusing on closer alumni involvement with current house staff: from an annual cocktail-hour get together with the residents to a formal scheme to help residents looking for fellowship training find a position.

The programs funded by the Medical Education Endowment Fund have been extremely successful, including Dr. Svahn's Humanities in Medicine, which collects the musings of third year medical students rotat-

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CAREER ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

ALUMNI URGED TO MENTOR RESIDENTS

Since its inception the Medical Alumni Association Board has continuously strived to enhance medical education at Bassett. In an effort to assist Resident alumni beyond their Cooperstown years the board enthusiastically endorsed a proposal to develop a career assistance program. The core premise is that alumni at large are an underutilized resource for mentoring.

It is envisioned that residents should be able to easily tap into this resource for reasons as disparate as subspecialty fellowship guidance and assistance to geographic vital statistics. We can envision residents wanting to talk about specific career opportunities, requesting assistance in getting a hard-to-procure interview, having questions about how to get started in private practice, wanting to know about schools/housing in a specific region, and in ways that aren't yet clear.

A board subcommittee has agreed to organ-

ize the current database into a more useable format. House staff members have caught wind of this initiative and are equally enthusiastic. We expect that the 1,000 Bassett alumni "out there" will be pleased to assist fellow Bassett family and are eager to contribute in ways beyond merely financial.

If you have a strong interest in helping mentor and provide career advice for residents, we urge you to contact Leann Smith in the Office of Medical Education. Send an e-mail to leann.smith@bassett.org, or mail your information to Leann at Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown, NY 13326. Be sure that we have your personal information correctly recorded.

At the next board meeting the group plans to make itself readily available to house officers as part of its routine agenda. Thanks in advance for helping to keep medical education at Bassett a strong and dynamic force. ■

BASSETT ALUMNUS FOCUSES ON BIOTERRORISM THREAT

Bassett alumnus and trustee D.A. Henderson heads the new U.S. advisory panel on public health preparedness. Tommy Thompson, secretary of health and human services, announced the appointment on Oct. 3.

Dr. Henderson is one of the nation's leading authorities on bioterrorism and on infectious and communicable diseases. A former dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore, he now heads the Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies at the school.

Dr. Henderson may be best known for his role in heading the World Health Organization's eradication of smallpox in 1977. He

served as senior science advisor to the first President Bush.

He has been a Bassett trustee since July 1995, but his ties are much deeper. He was a medical intern at Bassett in 1954-55, and did Residencies in Medicine, 1957-58, and Pathology, 1958-59.

Dr. Henderson has, for some time, been warning of bioterrorism vulnerability. "The specter of biological weapons use is an ugly one, every bit as grim and foreboding as that of a nuclear winter," he wrote



**Dr. Henderson
on "60 Minutes"**

in 1998. "...We need to be preparing to detect, diagnose, characterize epidemiologically, and respond appropriately to biological weapons and the threat of new and reemerging infections. ... We need at international, state and local levels a greater capacity for surveillance; a far better network of laboratories and better diagnostic instruments; and a more adequate cadre of trained epidemiologists, clinicians and researchers." He made that warning several

years ago. He reinforced it in an appearance before a congressional committee just six days before the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. "We are ill-prepared to deal with an epidemic of any sort," he said.

A large number of Americans got a first-hand look at Dr. Henderson's chilling assessment on Oct. 21, when "60 Minutes" devoted a full segment to a Mike Wallace interview with him on the possibilities of a bioterrorism attack using smallpox.

The New York Times also carried a long article on him in its Sunday, Nov. 18, issue. ■

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's 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.

The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital

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For additional news, including job postings, visit the Bassett Healthcare web page at <www.bassett.edu/alumni>.

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DR. ASHLEY REMEMBERED AS A DETERMINED ADVOCATE FOR BASSETT

Family and friends celebrated the life of Dr. Charles Allen Ashley at Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, on August 24.

Dr. Ashley, who headed Bassett Hospital as Director from 1968 until his retirement in 1984, died July 6 at his home in Ithaca. His tenure as chief executive officer marked a period of intense growth at Bassett. He is remembered as a complex man, an exacting, dedicated leader, and wonderful husband and father. "He could be stubborn and have a short fuse if he thought you were in the wrong, but nobody could be more sympathetic or understanding if you came to him with a problem," his son, Dr. Stanley W. Ashley recalled during the memorial service.

Dr. Ashley's leadership helped Bassett make the transition from a small, country hospital to a multi-county rural healthcare system.

When he took over as Director in 1967, there were only 32 people on the Medical Staff. By his retirement in 1984, there were 80 members on the full-time attending staff providing a full range of clinical services as well as ongoing research programs. Annual admissions to the hospital also doubled over the 17 years he served as Director, and outpatients visits increased from 60,000 to nearly 146,000.



Dr. Charles Ashley

His long relationship with Bassett began soon after World War II. "He and I arrived on the very same day — July 1, 1947," recalled Dr. Clinton V. Hawn. "I was the new pathologist and he was an intern assigned to the lab. It was the beginning of a long friendship and professional relationship. I helped get him interested in pathology."

Dr. Ashley spent two years in a rotating internship at Bassett, followed by a residency in pathology at Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, from 1949-52. He remained there for an additional year as an assistant attending pathologist before going into the U.S. Army Medical Corps for two years as a captain.

He came back to Bassett as a pathologist in 1955, and became Director of the hospital in 1967. As C.E.O., Dr. Ashley concentrated on Bassett's growth. Construction on a new hospital section had just begun, and the 180-bed facility opened in 1970. He also started the first community health centers affiliated with Bassett in outlying communities.

Dr. Ashley and Audrey, his beloved wife of 53 years, have a large family – five children and 21 grandchildren. Moving to Ithaca a few years ago was something of a homecoming. He was a 1944 graduate of Cornell and a 1947 graduate of Cornell University Medical College. ■

LARGE TURNOUT AT ALUMNI BOARD'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association took place on October 6th in Cooperstown.

In attendance were Drs. Joe Bell, Saratoga Springs; Jacqueline Bello, New York City; Calvin Bigler, Liberal, KS; Steven Ching, Rochester, NY; John Davis, Cooperstown; Doug DeLong, Cooperstown; Peter Gray, Glens Falls, NY; James Hastings, Princeton, NJ; Joe Hughes, Cooperstown; Alan Kozak, Cooperstown; Jack Martin, Bryn Mawr, PA; Maria Mendez, Cherry Hill, NJ; Ashley Morrison, Cooperstown; Don Pollock, Cooperstown; Mark Reichelderfer, Madison, WI; Sarah Ricketts, Hanover, NH; Ted Ruckert, Pittsford, NY; Tim Whitaker, Cooperstown and, by conference phone, Ken Wilkins of New Bern, NC. It was a large turnout by a group dedicated to Bassett's well being!

Maria Mendez and Ken Wilkins were unanimously reelected President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively.



Alumni Medical Board members. Front row, left to right: Drs. Ching, Mendez, Morrison, Whitaker, Davis. Back row: Drs. Hughes, Reichelderfer, DeLong, Ruckert, Bell, Gray, Pollock, Hastings, Bigler.

John Davis stepped down after 13 years as Executive Vice President but will remain on the Board; Doug DeLong was elected to succeed him as Executive VP.

A major theme of the meeting was the Alumni Board's desire to be more active in helping residents find positions

beyond Bassett, including in private practice. (See Dr. DeLong's article on Page 1.)

The Board also felt the need to sharpen the reason for asking alumni to donate to the Medical Education

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THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

1950s Charles Greenblatt, M.D.

and his wife Joanne were in Cooperstown 1956-57 for his Rotating Internship at Bassett; they revisited Cooperstown this past October. Following his internship, he had been assigned to the N.I.H. for completion of his military service.

After two years at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, he was sent to El Salvador to serve in the National University School of Medicine. While there he began studies on the metabolism and immunology of trypanosomes and leishmania, work which he still continues. He returned to N.I.H. in 1961 and was promoted to chief of the Section on Cell Biology of the National Institute of Allergic and Infectious Diseases.

In 1967, he went to Israel as a medical volunteer, and he and Joanne immigrated to Israel in 1968. He is professor (emeritus) of parasitology of the Hebrew University. In his long academic career he was the chairman of the Department of Parasitology, founding director of the Kivin Centre for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, and Dean of the School of Public Health.

As a direct lineage from Bassett, he was the head of the first curriculum committee of the School of Medicine of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, a community oriented- general practice school. In 1992, he began a new research effort in Israel in "ancient DNA," with special interest in ancient pathogens. The Greenblatts have four daughters and ten grandchildren.

1980s John Cianca, M.D. (Transitional

Resident 1988-89) relates that he has "very fond memories of Cooperstown and MIB, and I am sure that I will be remembered for the Sugar Shack parties I threw!" He is a Physical Medicine specialist in Houston, Texas, "far from my roots in Rochester, N.Y. I am a full-time faculty member at the Baylor College of Medicine in the Department of PM&R. I have trained about 12-15 fellows in musculoskeletal techniques during the past eight years. I also teach the residents in the department of PM&R.

"I have an outpatient practice for the diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal problems in a wide variety of ages and occupations. My office is in the TIRR Human Performance Center, a large facility that offers physical therapy and occupational therapy as well as being a fitness center. I started this center in January 1994. We plan on additional development and expansion in the future.

"I am trained in acupuncture and use it as treatment for 30-40 % of my patients. Approximately half of my patients are athletes, mostly recreational. I have become recognized as an expert in running injuries. I have been the Medical Director of the Compaq



Fellow 1956-57 Bassett interns John Davis, Chuck Greenblatt and John Olson have a mini-reunion at Bassett in October.

(Photo by Bill Streck)

Houston Marathon since 1998. I remain single; but available, much to my parents dismay. I live in a small, old home in the oldest suburb of Houston. It is called the Heights, presumably due the elevation, approximately 30 feet above sea level, the highest area in Houston. I am looking forward to a visit to Cooperstown sometime and would even consider moving to the area, if the opportunity were available for a practice such as mine."

Tildabeth Doscher, M.D. (Transitional Resident 1985-86) writes that she is currently home full-time as the home-schooling mother of her four children (ages 4 to 11) and has not worked as a physician since leaving her position as Medical Director at Canyon Ranch In The Berkshires) 7 years ago. She has "thought many times about whether I will return to the medical profession at some point, but have many questions as to how, why and in what venue I would do that... I have considered doing another residency... but with my current family commitments, that does not seem doable" right now.

1990s Nels Carlson, M.D. (Transitional

Resident 1992-93) looks "back fondly on our time in Cooperstown; please keep us posted on any future reunions, meetings, etc. that give us the excuse to come and visit. Allison is taking a prolonged leave from research at OHSU to be with the kids and is enjoying this time. We have a 4-year-old boy (Dane) and an 18-month-old girl (Birgitta), who are a real joy.

"Hans (Hans Carlson, M.D., Nels' twin brother and fellow Transitional Resident) and I are both in Portland at Oregon Health Sciences University, and are Asst. Profs. in the Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Dept. We have a fun group of partners and are usually doing something as a group. Hans is married (to a Boston occupational therapist) and has two boys (2 years old and 4 months old). We frequently go down to Corvallis where Mom and an older brother live, and it is nice to be close to family.

"Corvallis is a university town, and we made the trip to the Fiesta Bowl last year to watch Oregon

State trounce the Fighting Irish. While we go to most of the home games, this year's team is not living up to expectations. We are in the process of building a family vacation home on the coast and will be closer to our steelhead rivers. We took a guest speaker from Boston up on the Deschutes River recently and brought home seven fish. We tell our medical students about the Cooperstown experience, but it is the rare one that wants to leave Oregon. We work with a lot of students and are always happy to promote Bassett. I look on that year as a very enjoyable time in a very special place. Say hello to anyone who remembers us!"

Siwaporn Chainuvati, M.D. (Medicine Resident 1998-2000) writes that her GI Fellowship at Yale University is going well,

with intense training that includes some clinical research projects. She emphasizes that Bassett is the place where she started her career and a place full of valuable experience and friends. She and her son will take a trip to her native Bangkok for an international GI conference hosted by her gastroenterologist father, to visit home and be with her husband Kris who is working there.

She has heard that Eddy (**Poonputt Chotiprasidhi, M.D.**, Transitional and Medicine resident 1993-995 who then did his GI training at the University of Wisconsin and Duke) is now on the staff at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She also notes that Krit (**Krit Jongnarangsin, M.D.**, Transitional and Medicine resident 1995-98) is now a 3rd-year cardiology fellow at Mass. General Hospital. She credits all of these positions to initial training at Bassett.

Laurie Duncan (Medicine resident 1994-97) is "delighted to fill you in on the last five years. I work as a locum tenens for Comphealth and provide full spectrum services including urgent and primary as well as hospitalist care. My assignments have ranged from prime care in an HMO setting in Washington DC and Maui, HI to working with the Indian Health Service on the Navajo Reservation, in a county clinic with Mexican agricultural workers in Salinas CA and in a private practice in Juneau AK.

"My research project on sexual dysfunction and hypertension in women which started with an E. Donnal Thomas resident award is finally!!!! finished with publications and presentations well received. I have almost finished my MD dissertation which I will submit to the University of Newcastle early next year.

"Personally I continue to enjoy the outdoors as much as ever. I am still sailing competitively as much as possible. I had a grand sea kayaking trip paddling 70 miles into Glacier Bay in AK last summer. My newest venture is long-board surfing which I am addicted to. In all I am well and have decided to make the move into Integrative Medicine early next year, hopefully here in Hawaii." ■

GIVING TO MED ED IN THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITAS: RESIDENT JAMES MURRAY, D.O.

Communitas, the Latin word for community, reflects the building of communities of interest, of purpose and of opportunity. It's about choices and responsibilities one makes to benefit the many.

Bassett Resident Jim Murray, D.O., exemplifies the concept of *communitas*. He credits his sensibility to his upbringing in Cooperstown. Growing up in this unique community, Jim observed the dedication of physicians and health-care professionals to serve all patients by meeting contemporary societal needs through medical care and education. Jim also was influenced by his mother Maureen Murray, R.N., in medicine, and his father Dennis, a builder and craftsman, in structure and function.

After undergraduate work at Cornell (1989-1993), and a year in Oku, Ghana, at the Catholic Health Clinic, Jim attended Midwestern University's innovative Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (1996-2000).

Two years in the classroom were followed by two years of clinical rotations at both ambulatory and hospital sites. Jim had the opportunity to rotate through many Southwestern hospitals before spending a large part of



Jim Murray, D.O.

his fourth year at MIBH. He recalls being impressed by the primacy Bassett placed on medical education.

"Bassett is truly unique," Jim said. "I have had the opportunity to see how medical education works in a variety of hospitals — and this hospital excels

in comparison. Its mission to foster medical education is both traditional and progressive. Residents here benefit from wonderful and patient teachers."

Jim's faith in Bassett's mission led to a most generous \$10,000 gift to the Medical Education Endowment Fund. The first resident to make an endowment gift at this level, he is recognized by a bronze plaque installed

by the Friends of Bassett on a Clark Medical Education Center chair. Jim joins many distinguished alumni and staff who are also recognized with plaques for making gifts at this level.

"For many hospitals, during a period of financial duress, medical education is the first to suffer," Jim explained. "I didn't want to see that happen here. My hopes are that the endowment will continue to grow through support of the medical alumni at large, the professional staff and others, that it will benefit generations of medical students and residents, and that the true mission of MIBH is never lost."

To learn more about making a similar gift and joining residents like Jim Murray and other medical alumni in building the Medical Education Endowment Fund, please call the Friends of Bassett office at (607) 547-3928, or open the Friends Web site at www.friendsofbassett.org. ■

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ing at Bassett, and the "Tech Med" program organized by Drs. Whitaker, Pollack and Weil which provided PDAs to all residents. It's typical of MIBH to encompass the latest technological innovations with the traditional values at the heart of our profession. My special thanks to all of you who have contributed to this fund; as it grows so do our options for enhancing the educational experience at Bassett. There are a number of other exciting ideas being developed, with details to follow in coming issues.

I am thrilled that one of our board members, Dr. D.A. Henderson, has been given a prominent role in the efforts to deal with bioterrorism. On a sadder note, we remember the passing of Dr. Charles Ashley who was such an integral part of MIBH for so long. I hope you enjoy hearing from us and don't forget to let us hear from you by contributing to the Family Album. Best wishes for 2002!

*Maria Mendez, M.D.
President, Board of Directors
Medical Alumni Association*

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Endowment Fund. Building on the discussions of a recent focus group of Bassett physician staff and local retired alumni, the Board deliberated facilitating third-year student teaching through financial support of faculty time. The intent is to enhance recruiting by allowing skilled clinician-educators maximal opportunity for interaction with potential house officers.

The Board discussed this idea with the Director of Medical Education, Dr. Walter Franck, and the Hospital President, Dr. Bill Streck. It is now in the hands of a committee chaired by Dr. Alan Kozak, who will report back to the Medical Education Endowment Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Franck.

Dr. DeLong will replace Dr. Davis as the member of the Advisory Committee representing the alumni at large.

—John Davis

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