

# THE CUPOLA



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

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## INNOVATIVE SURGEON LEADS CARDIAC PROGRAM

Bassett Healthcare's Heart Care Initiative moves into high gear this month with the arrival of Robert Lancey, M.D. as Chief of Cardiac Surgery.

A cardiac surgeon at the UMass Memorial Medical Center and Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Dr. Lancey has made frequent trips to Cooperstown over the past two months to coordinate the program.

Chief of Surgery, Michael Gold, M.D., who led the search for a Chief of Cardiac Surgery, believes Bassett has recruited an exceptionally talented and dynamic leader. "He is outstanding"



*Dr. Robert Lancey will become Chief of Cardiac Surgery in mid-August.*

Dr. Gold said. "We had an extremely strong pool of candidates and he stood out."

Hiring for the program continues and construction of a fifth floor on the inpatient building

is about to get underway. In part, the new floor will make room for expanded ICU and step-down units necessary for the cardiac surgery program.

Cardiac surgery will begin in early 2003. Between now and then, it will be practice, practice, practice for the cardiac surgery team. A mock heart operation is planned for November. "We'll go through every step, from the time the patient first comes through the clinic door until he is on the operating table. There won't be an actual incision, but we will bring the patient into the operating room," Dr. Lancey said. "If the

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## GETTING TO HEART OF THE MATTER

Inside this issue of The Cupola you will find an update on some of the many projects going on at MIBH this year.

The spotlight is on the Department of Surgery as it welcomes a new cardiac surgery chief, in preparation for the open heart surgery program slated to start in early 2003. This program should be key in ensuring Bassett's survival both financially and as a teaching institution. The impact should be felt not only in the area of surgery and cardiology but throughout a broad range of subspecialties.



*Maria Mendez, M.D.*

Of special interest to me is the publication of Drs. David Svahn and Alan Kozak's book on the musings of medical students during their Bassett experience — "Let Me Listen to Your Heart."

I was lucky to hear some of the early contributions and was very impressed. They capture the observations and personal interactions which are at the core of medical practice. This human perspective can be all too easily lost in a world of ever shortening length of stays and disallowed days.

Good doctors are good students of human nature. You will find many examples of that in this book. Luckily for all of us Bassett never forgets this aspect of medicine.

My thanks to all of you who contribute to the Medical Education Endowment Fund, which has made this book possible.

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

## ANTHOLOGY CAPTURES ESSENCE OF BASSETT

"Let Me Listen to Your Heart," a collection of reflections by third-year Bassett medical students, has arrived from the printer. Co-edited by **David Svahn, M.D.**, and **Alan Kozak, M.D.**, the book is the fruit of the first project supported by the Medical Education Endowment Fund.

"The Humanities and Medicine program is funded by income generated from the Medical Education Endowment Fund," Dr. Svahn said. "The program ensures that important aspects of training at Bassett are not lost under the pressure of the increasing emphasis on technology, rapid patient turnover, increasingly sick out-patients or financial demands."

The book, subtitled "The Transition from Classroom to Clinic," contains 42 poems and stories that describe the lessons in humanity learned by future physicians as they first venture into the clinic to learn to practice primary

care medicine under the tutelage of dedicated teachers.

"The stories in 'Let Me Listen to Your Heart' are poignant and uplifting, and based on our student's interactions with patients. The col-

*Order copies from the Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326.*

*Attn: Leann Smith. Or call (607) 547-3926. The cost of the book is \$15, plus \$2 a copy for shipping and handling. New York State residents add 7% sales tax.*

lection is a measure of the humanism in our students," Dr. Kozak said. "The book will have broad appeal and will help to dispel concerns held by many that the practice of medicine has become dehumanized."

The collection boasts a fore-

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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.

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## RESIDENTS THANK MENTORS

Golden Apple Awards presented in mid-June honored attending surgeons Eric K. Mooney, M.D., and Bernadette Ryan, M.D., and attending internal medicine physician Deborah E. Sentochnik, M.D. Chosen by Senior Residents, the awards go annually to faculty members for excellence in mentoring, teaching and role-modeling. There was a tie for the Golden Apple Award in Surgery this year.

Dr. Sentochnik joined Bassett in 2000. She received an M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins in 1983. She was a Bassett Medicine Resident from 1983–86.

Dr. Ryan has been affiliated with Bassett since 1992. After receiving an M.D. degree from Indiana University in 1979. She did a one-year flexible Internship, 1979–80; was a general surgery Resident in 1980–81; was Senior Resident in Surgery, 1982–83, and was Chief Resident in 1983–84.

Dr. Mooney came to Bassett in 1997. He received his M.D. degree in 1982 from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. This May, his undergraduate school, Rose-Hulman Institute, honored him as one of four graduates to receive its Distinguished Young Alumni Award. ■



Dr. Sentochnik



Dr. Ryan



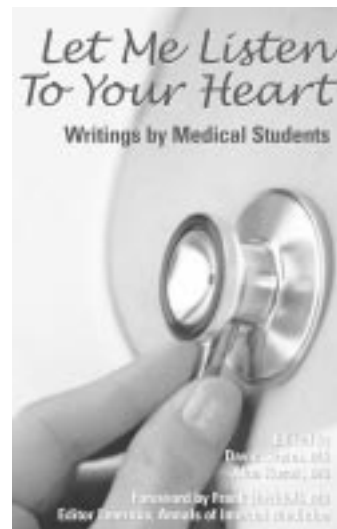
Dr. Mooney

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word by Frank Davidoff, M.D., F.A.C.P., the eminent former editor of the "Annals of Internal Medicine." Among those who have reviewed the work in this 144-page book are Oliver Sacks, who says "...extraordinarily interesting and moving," and Rita Charon, who commends "the trainees'...compassion and idealism." Frank Davidoff advises "...read these accounts, be instructed, be amazed and be comforted."

Progress continues to be made in building a strong Medical Education

Endowment Fund. Proceeds support special educational programs and projects like Humanities and Medicine and "Let Me Listen to Your Heart" that reflect Bassett's humanistic philosophy of health care. Continued support is needed if projects like these are to continue to enrich the educational experience at Bassett Healthcare. ■



## SSSSH. BHCI CAPITAL CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN

The Bassett Heart Care Initiative (BHCI) has placed Bassett Healthcare on the crest of an unprecedented period of growth.

The Bassett Cardiac Registry and the Bassett Community Heart Program, two components of the vertically integrated initiative, already are operational. The Cardiac Registry is a database and registry of patients undergoing interventional procedures and includes patients being monitored and cared for throughout the Bassett primary and specialty care system. The Community Heart Program, launched in September 2001, conducts mobile coronary heart disease risk screening of adults in Bassett's eight-county service area.

Dr. Robert Lancey, the new chief of cardiac surgery, has exciting plans for development of the cardiac surgery program and angioplasty services. In less than a year's time, Bassett's first surgical procedure is scheduled to take place. (See featured article on Page 1)

Construction of the bricks-and-mortar component of the BHCI will begin shortly. A fifth floor, which includes an

expanded Critical Care Complex, and a mechanical pent-house, will be added to Bassett Hospital. Operating Room and Surgery support renovations also will begin.

The Friends of Bassett is leading a \$10–12 million campaign to secure funding for the Initiative's building component. Phase I, the Silent Phase, in which leadership gifts are being sought from members of the Bassett Family, has begun. The campaign is unique in that the Friends will maintain its commitment to raise monies for several projects, some new and some begun in the last campaign. Be assured, the Medical Education Endowment fund remains a primary focus of the Friends' fund-raising.

In the new year, as the campaign broadens into its public phase, you will hear more about its progress. Alumni who express a special interest in the cardiac project will be solicited, while others will be encouraged to continue building the endowment. Some might consider supporting both the BHCI Building Project and the Medical Education Endowment. It's all a matter of giving from the heart. ■

# THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

**1940s David C. Thurber, M.D.**, retired Internist in Rochester, NY, writes that “I enjoy receiving *The Cupola*, creating nostalgia for the 1944-45 period as staff assistant serving under the distinguished physician, Dr. George M. Mackenzie. Also remembrance of Bassett and the fabulous staff and personnel. Remarkable interns at that time include Darcie, Wheedon, Mook and Stryker.” (Editor’s note: The Rotating Interns were Paul H. Darcie, M.D., Donald G. Wheedon, M.D., William H. Mook, M.D. and Henry B. Stryker, M.D. In his 1944 Annual Report, Dr. MacKenzie noted among other negative news that “The reduction of the intern quota by the War Manpower Commission has been another factor which has seriously impaired the functional activities of the hospital. Formerly there were eight interns; now the quota has been cut to four.”)

**1950s Paul D. Parkman, M.D.** (*Rotating Intern 1957-58*) was recently honored by his alma mater, the State University College of Medicine at Syracuse, being featured on the cover and in the main article of the Upstate Alumni Journal, Winter 2001, for his distinguished career in virology.

Following a pediatric residency at the Upstate Medical Center, his research career took off as an army doctor working in the Department of Virus Diseases at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C., where he saw a lot of soldiers with Rubella.

Scientists had not yet isolated the Rubella virus, and “It was quite clear that while we had all those patients it would be a good opportunity to try,” Dr. Parkman recalls. Not only did he try, but he was successful in isolating the virus in 1962. In 1963, Parkman moved to the Laboratory of Viral Immunology at the National Institutes of Health’s Division of Biologics Standards, where he developed the first simple test for Rubella antibodies and the first successful experimental Rubella virus vaccine (licensed in 1969 and patented in 1972). Both were huge advances in public health in this country. While the disease has not been eradicated, its incidence has dropped from upwards of 50,000 cases of congenital Rubella in the United States in 1964 to only a handful now.

For the remainder of his career, Parkman worked at the government’s organization dealing with biologics. In 1972, that organization became part of the Food and



Dr. Parkman

## LET’S HEAR FROM YOU!

We hear from many Bassett Alumni that *The Cupola* is one of the few ways they have of keeping up with their past colleagues.

Won’t you take a moment to share what you’re doing in your career and your personal life?

John Davis edits the Family Album with great care. Contact him at [davisj@telenet.net](mailto:davisj@telenet.net), or by writing to Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, Attn: John Davis, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown 13326.

Pictures are encouraged and welcome.

Drug Administration. When he retired in 1990, he was director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the FDA, as well as the FDA’s AIDS coordinator.

After retirement, Parkman who lives in Kensington, Maryland, formed Parkman Associates and continues as a consultant to the biologics industry, mostly vaccine producers. He remains most proud of his early work with Rubella: isolating the virus, developing the first laboratory test for Rubella antibodies, the first experimental vaccine and the effect it had on public health in this country.

He has received a long list of honors for his achievements, including commendations from Presidents Lyndon Johnson and George Bush, Sr. — but it’s the lives saved that mean the most. Says Parkman, “It’s the thing that makes me feel best when I can’t sleep at night.”

**1970s Charles P. “Phil” Pattison**, (*Intern and Assistant Resident in Medicine 1970-72*), sends word that he is “back in clinical practice after a six-year hiatus. I retired from medicine in 1995 to become Medical Director and later CEO of Tri-Med Specialties, Inc., a medical products company I, along with two partners, started in 1987. We made and distributed CLOtest, the rapid urease test for *Helicobacter pylori*, and developed and brought to market the carbon-14 urea breath test for *H. pylori* after gaining FDA approval. The company was sold to Ballard Medical Products in 1998 (later acquired by Kimberly Clark). I then did research in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and started a baby health care and educational products company.

“I returned to clinical practice in summer 2001 in private practice and as part-time Clinical Professor at the University of Missouri at Kansas City Medical School, teaching endoscopy in the GI Fellowship program. My oldest daughter, Phyllis, started medical school at UMKC in September 2001.” (Editor’s comment to Phyllis: “How

about a student rotation at MIBH?”)

**1980s David M. O’Brien, M.D.** (*Transitional Resident 1987-88*) signs the following note as “Dave O’Brien, Rotating Intern 87-88”. (It strikes the editor as calling it like it was — and still is — despite endless attempts to stamp out the word “intern”!) He notes that “We have been in Illinois for about one year at Scott AFB. We obviously remain very busy with operation Enduring Freedom. There still remains much to be done. Our family is well. Megan starts kindergarten. Matthew will soon be three years old. Lisa is constantly trying to keep out of trouble! Regarding our current medical assets overseas — I am most familiar with our aeromedical evacuation and critical-care transport teams. They have been an extraordinary success. I hope you have a chance to hear their story; if anyone is interested I can forward a power-point presentation. [david.obrien@scott.af.mil](mailto:david.obrien@scott.af.mil).”

**1990s William “Bill” Fike, M.D.**, (*Transitional Resident 1992-93*) relates that “I finished a Family Practice residency at UCSF in San Francisco last winter (2001), and came back to Montana (to recover!). I’m renting/house-sitting in a nice house above Missoula that belongs to one of the University of Montana faculty who’s in England this year on sabbatical. I found a very pleasant job as a staff physician at the student health service at the University of Montana, and I’ve been working there during the last year. The work’s been satisfying, and the job provided the free time and the location to do some great fly fishing during the summer and fall and lots of cross country skiing during this last winter. I’ve still managed to get back to San Francisco an average of one weekend a month to keep up with friends I made during the residency there. I sat the Family Practice Boards last July and am now a board certified FP. It’s been a great year; I’m starting to look for a challenge again, and the work at CDC has always seemed very interesting to me, so I’m applying for a spot there. I still keep in touch with several of my friends from Bassett, but they’ve all slowly moved away from Cooperstown, so my only news from there is now from the Cupola, which I always enjoy receiving.” He also notes that “a Bassett grad is flying in ... to stay with me for the weekend: Bill Krause (**William L. Krause, M.D.**, Medicine Resident 1992-94, Chief Resident 1995-96), who’s now a Pulmonary/Critical Care doctor in New England. He and I have remained good friends; he came to Montana and stayed for a week of great fly fishing and mountain climbing last July, and I’m looking forward to his visit this time.”

**Nathan Jordan, M.D.** (*First-year Medicine Resident 1998-99*) writes from Pittsburgh that he married Eleanor Georgakis on May 19, 2001. He “will complete radiology residency (at Allegheny General Hospital) in June 2003, and then it’s off to Johns Hopkins University Medical Center for a two-year neuroradiology fellowship.” ■

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process isn’t perfect every step of the way, we’ll do another and another until everything goes right.”

Dr. Lancey is recognized nationally and internationally as an innovative surgeon, particularly in “off-pump” coronary artery bypass surgery. This relatively new technique allows the heart to continue beating while the delicate operation is underway. Other clinical interests include endoscopic vein harvesting, aortic valve surgery, arterial conduit use in coronary artery bypass

surgery, heart transplantation, mitral valve repair and replacement, cardiovascular trauma and outcomes research.

A 1977 graduate of Holy Cross, Dr. Lancey got his M.D. from University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1985. He did a general surgery residency at UMass Medical Center from 1985-90, and a cardiothoracic surgical residency from 1990-93. In 1994, he did a Fellowship as Senior Registrar in Heart and Lung Transplantation at Harefield Hospital, Harefield, England. ■

## Clinton V.Z. Hawn

Clinton Van Zandt Hawn, M.D., died March 30, 2002, at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital at the age of 86.

Born in Albany on Nov. 27, 1915, he was educated at the Albany Academy, Williams College, (Phi Beta Kappa), and Harvard Medical School, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha.

Dr. Hawn, known as "Bud", was appointed Pathologist-in-Chief at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital from 1947 to 1950, when he accepted the position of Chief of Pathology at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. The diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis changed his plans, and after a stint at the Trudeau Sanitarium in the Adirondacks, he returned to Bassett Hospital in 1951.

He was Pathologist-in-Chief until 1979, when he stepped down to the role of Attending Pathologist under the new Chief, Harlan Alpern, M.D., until his retirement in 1980. He rose to Clinical Professor of Pathology, later Emeritus, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

Dr. Hawn set and maintained scrupulous academic standards for the practice of pathology and the running of the clinical laboratories at Bassett. In 1949 and the early 1950s he ran summer courses in tissue culture, which attracted international participation in the context of Bassett's growing reputation in immunological studies. He maintained an abiding personal research interest in bacteriology, especially related to staphylococcal pathogenesis, and he strongly supported ongo-

## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS



*Dr. Hawn*

ing Bassett research in tissue immunology and electron microscopy.

He took particular pride in the early training of, and later association with, pathologist Dr. Charles Ashley, who would become Bassett's Director in 1967. In 1958, Dr. Hawn established an accredited residency year in pathology. For more than two decades, Bassett residents in Surgery and Medicine sought out this extra year of training.

He set extraordinary standards for performing autopsies, which reached a maximum of 130 in 1958; in his 1978 annual report for the laboratory, he lamented the fact that autopsies were now rapidly falling off (still 112 for 1979 when he stepped down as Chief, now down to 26 and 18 in 2000 and 2001). Outside of his laboratory domain, he also established himself as the strict hospital grammarian.

A man of many intellectual interests and an avid gardener, for many

years he was President of the Board of Trustees of the Cooperstown Village Library. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth (Betsy) Helms Hawn; four children, Cynthia Hawn Coleman of Potsdam, Van Zandt Hawn of Wayzata, Minn., Gates Helms Hawn of Far Hills, N.J., and Richard Pearsall Hawn of Sherborn, Mass.; and five grandchildren.

## Charles P. Goodnough

Charles P. Goodnough, M.D., 60, Bassett Attending Orthopedic Surgeon, died on Feb. 20, 2002, in Cooperstown, of complications from colon cancer. Known as Peter, Dr. Goodnough graduated from Hamilton College in 1964, began his career as an English teacher and married fellow teacher Nancy Taylor in 1966. He switched gears and obtained his M.D. from New York Medical College in 1969, followed by a residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Vermont.

He served two years in the United States Army. Later, in the Army Reserves, he treated Iraqi prisoners of war during Operation Desert Storm. He practiced orthopedics for 19 years in Elmira and North Carolina. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Called to military duty again in 1997, he treated American soldiers as part of the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

He then joined Bassett Healthcare where he acquired a large following of devoted patients

and inspired his colleagues for his "old school" standard of careful, caring orthopedic practice. He also provided medical care and training in Bangladesh in 1986 and 1993 and in Malawi in 1987. He is survived by his wife Nancy, three children, his mother, and five brothers and sisters.

## Paul D. Nosal

Paul D. Nosal, M.D., of Stevens Point, Wisc., died unexpectedly Sept. 14, 2001, at age 52. Born July 4, 1949, in Bethpage, N.Y., he received a master's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1970. He married Dorie Newmark on May 5, 1974, after which he worked for Bell Laboratories until 1977.

He received his M.D., AOA, from Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine at the University of Illinois in 1981 and completed his residency in otolaryngology, and head and neck surgery at the University of Iowa.

He joined Bassett as Attending Otolaryngologist -Head and Neck Surgery in 1986 and remained until 1998, when he left to join the Otolaryngology staff of the Rice Medical Clinic and associated hospitals in Stevens Point, Wisc. He was a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. He will be remembered for his encyclopedic knowledge of his specialty, and his creative sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife Dorie, of Stevens Point; two daughters, Amy and Kathleen; his parents, Paul and Jane Lee Nosal of Bethpage, and many other family members in New Jersey, Nebraska and Ohio.

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