



# THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center  
Bassett Healthcare Network, Cooperstown, New York

Summer 2014

## New CEO Has Strong Educational Commitment

By James Dalton, M.D.



Vance M. Brown, M.D.

Vance M. Brown, M.D., took over the helm at Bassett Healthcare Network as the President and Chief Executive Officer on July 1, 2014. His career has been marked by leadership in many

areas. Among his accomplishments, Brown has demonstrated outstanding dedication and interest in medical education. After medical school training at Yale University School of Medicine, he completed post-graduate training in Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Family Medicine, with board certification in Medicine and Family Medicine. He received the best resident teacher award in his Family Medicine residency at North Carolina.

Following his training, he joined the faculty at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester, where he distinguished himself as a teacher and scholar, and became the program director for the Family Medicine Residency program at U Mass, where he served until relocating to Cleveland in 1999.

At the Cleveland Clinic, he catalyzed the expansion and development of a department of Family Medicine. This growth was in the context of the Cleveland Clinic starting a research-oriented four-year medical school

campus of Case Western Reserve. Here, Brown grew the Department of Family Medicine from 15 to 65 faculty members. Under his leadership, the first Family Medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic was launched.

In 2010, Brown left the Cleveland Clinic to become the Chief Medical Officer at Maine Health. Maine Health includes Maine Medical Center as its primary academic institution. Brown's role at Maine Health did not directly include teaching of residents or students, but his interest in education continued. At Maine Health, he was the architect of a curriculum in physician leadership.

Brown intends to bring his interest in this curriculum to Bassett, and he is dedicated to the education mission at all levels—nursing and ancillary care, undergraduate medical, postgraduate residency training, and continuing physician education and professional development. ■

## Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

On behalf of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association, I wish to welcome Vance Brown, M.D., who became Bassett's new CEO on July 1. It is such a challenging time for the medical profession, especially for primary care and medical education. Fortunately, Dr. Brown has an extensive leadership background in both, and has also spearheaded programs for continuing physician education and professional development.

As I believe you are all aware, the primary mission of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association is to promote and help support the unique medical education experience at Bassett. Those at Bassett who are in charge of medical education have a tricky path to navigate. In a precarious environment of fewer monetary resources, they must deal with



Merideth Davis, M.D.,  
President, Board of  
Directors, Bassett  
Medical Alumni  
Association

overwhelming and ever-increasing mandates and regulations while maintaining Bassett's tradition of innovation, highly personal attention to residents, students, and patients, and commitment to excellence and integrity. A leader who understands these values is essential to keeping Bassett's uniquely nurturing environment.

We are very pleased about Dr. Brown's commitment to medical education. I imagine that there will be a significant learning curve ahead for him, but hopefully he will soon discover some of the characteristics and nuances that make Bassett such a special place. We wish him well during this period of transition, and hope that Bassett continues to rise to the challenges ahead. ■

*The Cupola* is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center. 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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*The Cupola* is published three times a year. Please send comments and news, including change of address information to: Editor, *The Cupola*, Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare Network, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail <cupola@bassett.org>.

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## Residents Leave Bassett to Pursue New Endeavors

Members of the Bassett Medical Center house staff completed their training at Bassett in June and have moved on to new endeavors. Drs. Saeed Ahmed and Ramya Chinnasamy plan to remain at Bassett as hospitalists. Departing residents, their programs at Bassett, and their plans upon leaving are:

**Saeed Ahmed, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

**Nischala Ammannagari, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, N.Y.

**Kevin M. Berry, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency, Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School, Newark, N.J.

**Sharath Bhagavatula, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass.

**Ramya Chinnasamy, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

**Kathleen Coggshall, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Dermatology Residency, University of California-San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.

**Colin M. Ellis, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Mt. Auburn Hospital, Cambridge, Mass.

**Dan C. Filitis, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Dermatology Residency, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N.H.

**Caitlyn A. Foote, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Dermatology Residency, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kan.

**Andrew Griffiths, M.D.** (General Surgery), Plastic Surgery Fellowship, Albany Medical Center, Albany, N.Y.

**Lisa L. Hamilton, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgeon, Mercy Hospital/Allina Health, Coon Rapids, Minn.

**S. Amal Hussain, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn.

**Minji Kim, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Neurology Residency, University of Florida/Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Fla.

**Wonngarm "Jay" Kittanamongkolchai, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Nephrology Fellowship, The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

**Elaine R. McElhinny, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

**Brian J. Miller, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Preventive Medicine Residency, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md.

**Snow Petersen, M.D., M.P.H.** (General Surgery) plans not finalized at press time.

**Anthony Portanova, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, N.Y.

**Chrystal D. Price, D.O.** (Internal Medicine) plans not finalized at press time.

**Supawat "Best" Ratanapo, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship, Medical College of Georgia/Georgia Regents University, Augusta, Ga.

**Narat "Pat" Srivali, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship, The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

**Patompong "Tom" Ungprasert, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Rheumatology Fellowship, The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

**Olivier Urayenzeza, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgeon, Gitwe Hospital, Rwanda, Africa.

**Brian E. Walkowski, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgery Residency, Conemaugh Memorial Hospital, Johnstown, Pa.

**Catherine J. Wei, M.D., Ph.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

**Minhui "Charlie" Xie, B.M.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Crystal Run Healthcare, Middletown, N.Y. ■

## Golden Awards Announced

Bassett residents recently honored two of their own with the Golden Stethoscope awards. The Surgery and Transitional Year residents chose Ross Baldwin, M.D., as the resident they felt was their best teacher. The Internal Medicine residents selected Ramya Chinnasamy, M.B., B.S.

The 2014 Golden Apple awards, given by the residents to the faculty members they felt were their most outstanding teachers were presented to Deborah Sentochnik M.D., (Medicine) and W. Thomas Huntsman, M.D., and David Borgstrom, M.D. (Surgery). ■

### Physician Employment Opportunities In the Bassett Healthcare Network

Thinking of a career move? Do you know another physician seeking a position in an award-winning network of six hospitals and 28 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown.

For more information visit: <http://recruitment.bassett.org/physician-jobs/>  
Or call the Medical Staff Affairs office at 607-547-6982.

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Dermatologist  
Emergency Medicine  
Family Medicine  
Gastroenterologist (Division Chief)  
General Surgery  
Hospitalist  
Internal Medicine  
Neurologist  
OB-GYN  
Orthopedic Surgeon



## Updates from the Columbia-Bassett Medical School



From left to right - Drs. Haley Masterson, Katherine Schwartz, Monika Laszkowska, Andrew Gomez, Henry Weil, Blake Alberts, Walter Franck, Krista Suojanen, Freda Ready, and Allan Guiney.

On May 21st, the first class of Columbia-Bassett medical students attended their graduation in New York City.

Preceding the official graduation in New York City, there was a celebration in Cooperstown on May 18, 2014. This event, held at The Farmers' Museum, was attended by over 100 faculty members and family, and included an address by Dr. David Hirsh, Dean of Harvard's Cambridge Integrated Clerkship, and brief talks by Drs. Franck and Weil. Columbia-Bassett certificates were presented to each student by a Bassett faculty member.

During the prior week, all Columbia-Bassett students in the class of 2016 and three members of the graduating class took performance improvement certification training in a "Lean Six Sigma Green Belt" program designed for this purpose. Initially developed in the corporate sector, this methodology teaches participants how to analyze and solve quality problems to improve performance, increase customer satisfaction, and reduce work variations. The students and graduates found it to be an amazing learning experience.

On June 6th the Senior Associate Dean of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Lisa Mellman, and the Director of the Center for Education and Research, Dr. Boyd Richards, visited Bassett and gave a talk to over 150 faculty members. They spoke highly of the curriculum and the knowledge they gained from their visit. ■



Dr. Mellman and Dr. Richards are shown here with members of the Columbia-Bassett class of 2016 and the Deans of the Program Dr. Weil, Dr. Franck and Dr. Brennan. Front row (l-r): Dr. Megan Brennan (Assistant Dean for Education at Bassett Healthcare), Maeve O'Neill, Dr. Boyd Richards, Dr. Lisa Mellman, Joanna Tu, Katie Williams, Anna Zuckerman, Dr. Walter Franck (Associate Dean at Bassett Healthcare) and Dr. Henry Weil (Assistant Dean for Education at Bassett Healthcare) Back Row (l-r): David Drouillard, Laura DiCola, Wilson Sui, Nick Feinberg and Sam Porter



Guest speaker, David Hirsh, M.D., Co-Director of the Harvard Medical School-Cambridge Integrated Clerkship, addressed the graduating class.

### A reminder: Who are the members of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association?

You are past and current interns, residents and fellows.

You are former and current members of the senior doctoral staff.

And you are students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program or students who spent your final two years of medical school at Bassett.



Graduates jumping for joy.

# THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming! Editor

## 1970s

### Anthony Cabot, M.D.

(General Surgery Resident 1973-74) has spent the last 37 years “in a busy but rewarding general orthopaedic practice in Smyrna, Ga.” He recently wrote an article for his hospital newsletter called “Back in the Day” about the experience of being a resident in the 1970s. He adds, “The year that I had at Bassett was one of the most memorable and pleasurable of my life.”

### Elliot Goldberg, M.D.

(Medicine Resident 1977-79) writes he is retiring from his present healthcare system (Allegheny General Hospital – Allegheny Health Network) in October. He adds, “For the past 15 years, I have served as Senior Associate Dean of Temple University School of Medicine in Pittsburgh, running the branch regional campus. I am still undecided whether to retire completely or work in the Dean’s office in Philadelphia.”

### Douglas DeLong, M.D.

(Medicine Resident 1979-83) was recently appointed vice-chair of the American College of Physicians Health and Public Policy Committee.

## 1980s

### Cathy Sandstrom, M.D. and C. Scott Smith, M.D.

(Transitional Year Residents 1980-81) are alive and well in Boise, Idaho. Cathy practices pediatrics in one of the few small private groups left in Boise. Scott is a University of Washington professor of medicine and medical education, the residency associate program director, and the co-director of one of VA’s centers of excellence in primary care education (a pilot of inter-professional training in the

medical home). They shared the update, “We have been married 35+ years and have two kids. Tynan (26) is a software engineer for Google. Devin (28) is a graduate student in architecture at the University of Oregon.”

### Eric J. Del Giacco, M.D.

(Medicine Resident 1982-86 and attending internist 1989-2006) had an article published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*. He served as site principal investigator and senior author for the article, “Multifaceted Intervention to Improve Medication Adherence and Secondary Prevention Measures After Acute Coronary Syndrome Hospital Discharge.”

### Rocco G. Ciocca, M.D.

(Surgical Resident 1986-1991) reports that he moved to Seattle to become the Chief of Vascular Surgery for the Swedish Medical Group and Executive Medical Director for Vascular Surgery at Swedish Medical Center, a five-hospital system in the Seattle and the surrounding Puget Sound area. “We have a very strong general surgery residency and several surgical fellowship programs. We are actively working toward the development of a vascular surgery fellowship.” He looks forward to hearing from any and all Bassett alumni if and when they visit the Seattle area.

### Gerald B. Kolski, M.D.

(Attending Physician Pediatrics/Allergy-Immunology 1986-93) writes, “I continue to work part-time as an allergist in Huntsville, Texas. My son Brian is an interventional cardiologist in Salt Lake City, daughter Melissa is active as a PT and director of medical education courses for Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and

daughter Andrea is practicing as a criminal defense attorney in Conroe, Texas. Sue and I are going to Hanover for my 50th Dartmouth Reunion in June.”

### Lawrence Gaul, M.D.

(Medicine Resident 1987-90) continues to volunteer as the head physician for the U.S. Nordic ski team and to represent the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association on the Medical Committee of the International Ski Federation. He adds “This winter, I spent three weeks in Sochi at my fourth Olympics in addition to lots of other international travel...I no longer practice full-time cardiology, but rather have returned to my roots as an internist.”



Lawrence Gaul, M.D. in gear at Olympics in Sochi

## 2000s

### Alfred D. Belen III, M.D.

and **Elizabeth Freck, M.D.** (Transitional Year interns 2005-2006) are pleased to report that they have moved back to New York and they welcomed a new baby, Zachary Thomas Belen, on 8-23-2013. Alfred is now working as a psychiatrist at The Dent Neurologic Institute in Amherst while Elizabeth will be home with their son for a while. Prior she was practicing at Johns Hopkins Hospital where she was an assistant professor of Regional, Obstetric Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Management.

They both achieved board certification in their specialty areas in 2012.



Photo: Glenn Groat, M.D. and Anne Marie Tremaine, M.D. on their wedding day

### Glenn Groat, M.D. and Anne Marie Tremaine, M.D.

(Transitional Year Residents 2006-07) were married in Southern California in November. Anne Marie is finishing a Laser and Cosmetic Dermatology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is excited to move back to California in July to begin working in a private practice and rejoin Glenn who has been practicing radiology in Orange County.

### Brian McElhinney, D.O.

(Transitional Year Resident 2009-10) writes to share that things are going well in Philadelphia. His wife, **Kristina McElhinney, D.O.**, finished her residency in family medicine at UPenn last year and now she is a faculty member in the family medicine residency at Crozer Keystone Healthcare. Brian is finishing up his residency in radiology at Pennsylvania Hospital and then has a one-year fellowship in neuroradiology at UPenn. Their children, Dylan will be five soon and baby Nora just turned one.

**FAMILY to page 5**



## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

*Alumni: Please send copies of obituaries of former Bassett trainees, faculty or other members of the "Bassett Family" to [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org)*



*Alfred Jaretzki, III, M.D., 1960*

### **Alfred Jaretzki III, M.D.**

Alfred (Fred) Jaretzki, M.D., a former Bassett Hospital physician whose work on the thymus gland won him an international reputation, died May 29, 2014. He had homes in New York City and Essex, Conn.

At the time of his death, he was professor emeritus of clinical surgery and special lecturer at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center where he moved after a decade at Bassett. He retired in 1992.

Jaretzki was recruited to Bassett Hospital from Columbia University in 1955 as Associate Surgeon with special training in thoracic and vascular surgery. At the time, there was a plan was to establish pulmonary and even cardiac surgery for Bassett patients. Working with Surgery Resident David Blumenstock, M.D. and others, he established a surgical cardiopulmonary research lab that soon segued into canine organ transplantation studies, particularly of the lung and heart. The work dovetailed with the Nobel-prize winning research on bone-marrow transplantation led by E. Donnall Thomas, M.D. and colleagues in the Department of Medicine. While Jaretzki's plans for human mitral valve surgery at Bassett didn't get off the ground, his work was a decided forerunner of Bassett's cardiac surgery program begun over half a century later.

Jaretzki returned to P&S in 1964, where he continued a distinguished career, notably involving the thymus gland and its relationship to myasthenia gravis. At age 85, he was appointed co-investigator of the clinical research undertaken by the Myasthenia Gravis Task Force funded by the NIH. As Professor Emeritus of Clinical Surgery, he continued contributing until near the time of his death.

His sister Josie Lipman, his children Alfred IV, Lasell Bartlett, Alexander and Sumner, his stepson Adam Isles and his wife Hannah and their children Nina and Peter, and his wife Alexandra survive him.



*Alberta Anna Bowes, C.N.O., 1960s-1970s*

### **Alberta A. Bowes, R.N.**

Alberta Anna Bowes, retired Director of Nursing at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital and Army Nursing Corps veteran of World War II, died on June 16, 2014, at Bassett Medical Center. She was 91.

Miss Bowes began her nursing career at Oneonta's Fox Hospital in 1943. From 1944-46 she had a distinguished career in Europe as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps, which included two battle stars. After obtaining a Master's

Degree in Nursing Education in 1948 she worked as a Nursing Instructor at the Hartwick College School of Nursing. With a 1949 teaching contract between the School of Nursing and Bassett Hospital in force, she came to Bassett as Assistant Director of Nursing in 1956, and became Director at the retirement of Miss Elizabeth Wilcox in 1968.

Physician staff and trainees of her era will remember her as a very capable, no-nonsense administrator who worked tirelessly to enhance education for nurses and to improve nurse-doctor working relations. In an era when the attending physician was not to be challenged, there were numerous instances when she refused to back down, such as when a certain doctor asked her to take a tray to the kitchen. "What do you want me to do with it?" He said, "well, put it in the kitchen; I want to see this patient." I said, "We don't have a kitchen here any more; the doctors did not put one in. So I can't take care of it." "What do you mean?" he said. I said, "You were on the committee that had no nurse member. You never even thought about a kitchen so we don't have one on this ward." (Quotations from an interview of Miss Bowes in 2009 by Dr. John Davis.)

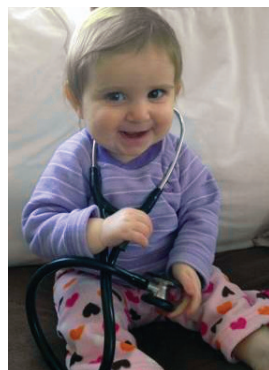
Alberta Bowes retired in 1982 and as a passionate explorer traveled around the world, among many other activities. In 2004, she moved into Cooperstown's Thanksgiving Home. She is survived by her brother, William Morris Bowes of Cooperstown, and several cousins. ■

### **FAMILY from page 4**



*Here is a picture of "Dr." Dylan McElhinney at the children's museum!*

### **Azadeh Farokhi, M.D. and Aren Giske, M.D. (Internal Medicine Residents**



*Ellie Giske*

2009-10) Azadeh completed a Preventive Medicine residency at the University of Michigan in 2012, and is now finishing another residency in Occupational Medicine at the University of Utah. Aren is completing an Occupational Medicine residency at the University of Utah also. They are excited to share the news that they have a nine-month-old baby girl named Ellie!

### **2010s**

#### **Brandon Miller, M.D.**

(Transitional Year Resident 2009-10) and **Dawn Piarulli, M.D.** (Transitional Year Resident 2010-11) are moving to Los Angeles to work at USC/Keck School of Medicine. Brandon will be a teaching attending/assistant professor of medicine and Dawn will be a rheumatology fellow. ■

**Send updates to:**  
**[cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org)**

## Dr. Ahmed Wins Outstanding Research Presentation Award

Saeed Ahmed, M.B., B.S., chief internal medicine resident in his fourth year of training at Bassett Medical Center, was presented with this year's E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award. Ahmed's research project and poster were among seven recently presented as part of the E. Donnell Thomas Research Day. Ahmed's research study project was titled, "Hyperdynamic Left Ventricle on Radionuclide Myocardial Perfusion Imaging: A Marker of Diastolic Dysfunction."

"Our study highlights that elderly female patients with a normal nuclear stress test and elevated ejection fraction (pump function of the heart) have impaired relaxation of the heart. The higher the ejection fraction the more likely there is impaired relaxation. Relaxation is as important as contraction in heart function. Impaired relaxation can cause a different type of heart failure, which may be ignored by a clinician, especially in a patient with normal nuclear stress test." Echocardiography forms the cornerstone of diagnosis of this type of heart failure. "In the coming years this particular heart dysfunction will become more common—with the aging population and rates of obesity," notes Ahmed. "The study shows the added value of performing an echocardiogram even when other tests are normal."

Ahmed worked on the study project with interventional cardiologist Dhananjai Menzies, M.D., at Bassett Medical Center. "Patients with exertional shortness of breath frequently undergo nuclear stress testing. A normal test result may prompt the ordering physician to seek a non-cardiac cause," said Menzies. "While reading nuclear stress tests, I had noticed that patients with extremely forceful cardiac contraction also had stiffening of the heart muscle, called diastolic dysfunction, an under-diagnosed cause of shortness of breath. This study proved this hypothesis, particularly in elderly women."



Saeed Ahmed, M.B., B.S., is the 2014 winner of the E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award.

Ahmed earned his medical degree from King Edward Medical University in Lahore, Pakistan. He plans to join Bassett Healthcare Network in June as a hospitalist at Bassett Medical Center. His prize-winning research was also published in the *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography*, in the issue of June 2013.

The E. Donnell Thomas Award is given annually to a Bassett trainee who has conducted exceptional research while at Bassett Medical Center during residency. The award is named in honor of E. Donnell Thomas, who served as Bassett's physician-in-chief from 1955 to 1963. He was awarded the 1990 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his pioneering work in bone marrow transplantation, which he began at Bassett. Thomas performed the world's first human bone marrow transplant at Bassett in 1956. ■

## Research Day Generates Compelling Projects

The following research projects were completed and submitted by residents and medical students for consideration in the 2014 E. Donnell Thomas Research Poster Day. The range of topics and quality of work was of such a high caliber that the faculty wishes to share these with alumni. These are a sampling of the many research projects ongoing at Bassett.

***The Effect of Glucomannan Soluble Fiber on Glucose Homeostasis in Patients with RNY Gastric Bypass Surgery***  
**Ramakrishna Gorantla, M.B., B.S.**

***Bacterial Overgrowth Symptoms in Morbid Obesity: Effect of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass***  
**David Fredenberg, M.D.**

***A Pilot Study to Assess Anticoagulation Appropriateness in the Obese, Non-acute Coronary Syndrome Patient Population***  
**Chrystal Price, D.O.**

***Fentanyl Challenge: Improving Post-Op Pain Scores in Opioid Tolerant Patients***  
**Ross Baldwin, M.D.**

***Hyperdynamic Left Ventricle on Radionuclide Myocardial Perfusion Imaging as a Marker of Diastolic Dysfunction***  
**Saeed Ahmed, MB., B.S.**

Winner of the 2014 E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award

***Does Completing a MOLST Prior to Terminal Admission Reduce Length of Stay and Lead to Earlier Institution of Comfort Measures?***  
**Saeed Ahmed, MB., B.S.**

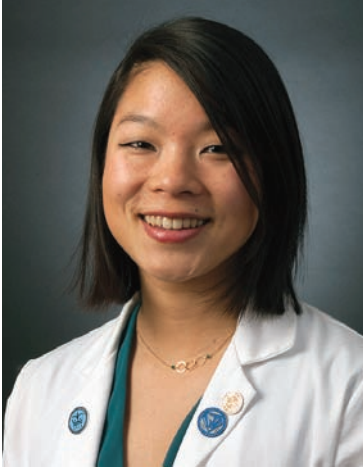
***Obesity Impairs the Efficacy of Colon Cancer Treatment***  
**Nischala Ammannagari, MB., B.S.**  
Winner of the 2013 Outstanding Research Poster

***Variations in Delivery Room Resuscitation Practices Across California Hospitals***  
**Joanna Tu**  
Columbia/Bassett Medical Student

# Meet Two Columbia-Bassett Medical Students

By Alan Kozak, M.D.

January marked the arrival of the third Columbia-Bassett class of medical students, eager to commence the unique longitudinal training experience. Consistent with classes that preceded, the makeup of this year's group of nine is truly remarkable and speaks to the highly competitive nature of the program. To provide biographical summary of each member and his or her accomplishments would require more space than available in this edition of *The Cupola*. We therefore chose to showcase two members of this class, selected by lot.



Joanna Tu, Columbia-Bassett Class of 2016

## Joanna Tu COLUMBIA-BASSETT CLASS OF 2016

Joanna Tu was born and raised in Los Altos, Calif. Prior to entering the eighth grade, she moved with her family to Singapore, where she continued school, engaging in both music and sports, and traveled to nearby countries. She returned to California to attend Stanford University, graduating in 2010 with a degree in Human Biology. While in college, she spent time in Washington, D.C., working at a health policy think-tank with a former U.S. Surgeon General. Following graduation, her interest in medicine was further supported by working for DaVita, a renal dialysis company. This two-year experience nurtured interests in chronic disease prevention and quality care improvement. She expects that these will grow while at Bassett as she develops better understanding of health systems. Her leisure activities include baking, traveling, and exercise, with intention to compete in some of the athletic events in Cooperstown this spring and summer.



Samuel Porter, Columbia-Bassett Class of 2016

## Samuel Porter COLUMBIA-BASSETT CLASS OF 2016

Having spent his earlier years in northern New York, Sam Porter attended St. John's College to participate in a course of study entitled the "Great Books" program. Curriculum embraced a broad array of topics, including philosophy and history of science, and provided him ample opportunity to work as an assistant in the classical physics lab. *Moby Dick* provided the basis for his Senior Thesis. After college graduation, he spent time with AmeriCorps and a network of community health centers in the Adirondacks. His focus of attention was improvement in the quality of diabetic health care delivery. He was inspired by the commitment of the rural primary care physicians he met and decided to choose medicine as a career. This required entry into the Bryn Mawr post-bacc program, where he completed necessary basic science requirements for medical school entry. During this time, he was a Hospice volunteer and helped

run a rural medicine focus group. Before medical school entry he worked in Swaziland for the Clinton Health Access Initiative, helping the Ministry of Health track anti-retroviral commodities with data systems. His extra-curricular activities through college were theater and music. He has sung in a barbershop quintet, played in a rock band, and has been working on a sound track for a documentary. He writes poetry and enjoys cooking as well as hiking.

While on the main campus in New York City and immersed in their 18 months of preclinical studies, Joanna and Sam remained energetically involved in a wide array of extra-curricular activities spanning a range that includes community service, the arts, and athletics. At this early stage, Joanna's career goals are yet uncertain, and Sam is contemplating residency in Emergency Services.

## Alumni Joins Bassett Staff



Saeed Ahmed,  
M.B., B.S.

Saeed Ahmed, M.B., B.S., has joined Bassett Healthcare Network as a hospitalist and will provide inpatient care at Bassett Medical Center. Dr. Ahmed completed internships in Cardiology and Internal Medicine

at Mayo Hospital Lahore, King Edward Medical University, and fulfilled his residency at Bassett Medical Center where he also served as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine for the past year. He has published many articles and participated in research projects while at Bassett.

Dr. Ahmed earned his medical degree at King Edward Medical University in Lahore, Pakistan.

We are pleased to have Dr. Ahmed remain in Cooperstown. ■



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## Alumni Can Help Secure the Future of Medical Education at Bassett

*"I believe that it is the obligation of every alumnus to preserve medical education at Bassett by supporting the program for those presently here and others to come."*

Douglas DeLong, M.D.

To grow the medical education endowment and the Columbia-Bassett Medical School scholarship fund, the Friends of Bassett and the Bassett alumni group are asking those who have benefited from medical education here to help support its viability for the future.

### Medical Education Endowment Fund

The medical education endowment was established in 1997 through the generous contributions of alumni to provide support for enhancements to the medical education program. The endowment currently has \$3.5 million in assets. The goal is to increase that asset base to at least \$10 million within the next 10 years in order to provide financial resources for this critical Bassett mission.

A well-funded education program can give Bassett an advantage in attracting high-caliber students and residents as well as clinicians and medical administrators who serve as faculty. A larger endowment will provide the income to enable Bassett to bring in specialists to help design curriculum and to help create objective measurements to demonstrate competencies. Ongoing faculty development will ensure that Bassett's medical education programs will continue to be sophisticated and in-demand.

### Medical School Scholarship Fund

Education at Bassett has evolved from a fourth-year elective program for a few students to a sophisticated joint medical school program with Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program recruits students with an interest in providing care in underserved rural communities and in learning how to manage health care systems that promote both quality and cost-effective delivery of care. The program provides a longitudinal curriculum and course of study focused on ethics, evidence-based medicine, health care system management, and leadership for 40 exceptional medical students.

Bassett Medical Center underwrites the cost of education for the students, providing \$30,000 in scholarships per year per student. The scholarship fund supports Bassett's goal of offering financial aid to every student in the Columbia-Bassett program.

### Your Contribution Makes an Impact

Make a gift to the medical education endowment or the medical school scholarship fund and support the continuation of education excellence at Bassett. Contact the Friends office at 607-547-3928, or make a gift online at [www.friendsofbassett.org](http://www.friendsofbassett.org). ■