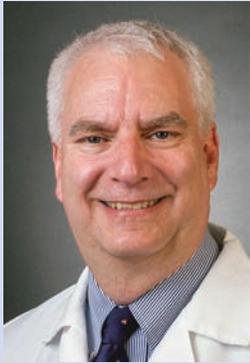




# THE CUPOLA

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

Summer 2015  
Vol. XIX No. 2



Vance M. Brown, M.D.,  
President and CEO

## Dr. Brown Shares Perspectives on First Year at Bassett

*Dr. Vance Brown marks his first anniversary as Bassett's President and CEO on July 1, 2015. In recognition of this milestone, the editorial board of The Cupola asked him to share some of his perspectives on the organization and his vision for its future.*

Q Now that you've had a chance to look around, would you share some of your impressions of Bassett?

A It has been most surprising to witness Bassett's incredibly complex mission (to advance the health care of rural populations by providing excellence in patient care, educating physicians and health care professionals, and pursuing health research), in action every day. As a rural academic medical complex, Bassett is a genuine outlier in the realm of modern health care. I see the challenges inherent in this complexity—how can we balance each branch of the mission and provide the financial support for each to flourish.

There are many outstanding programs that immediately come to mind when I am asked what makes me proud to be at Bassett. Our School-Based Health program is a national model and the state's largest provider of school-based health care in rural communities. Concurrently, we have a full medical school campus with a unique curriculum and many innovative dimensions. The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH), is another of Bassett's programs with national impact, enhancing agricultural and rural health by preventing and treating occupational injury and illness. It is remarkable that all these praiseworthy activities and so much more spring forth from the same organization.

It is becoming increasingly challenging to provide for all Bassett's complexity within the operating margins possible in New York State. Yet, it is a transformative time for the institution. Bassett is moving towards being a provider of population care. We are asking how we can take care to the next level and become more proactive in the care of patients and the population that are not under our immediate care. How we can engage community members in preventative care and healthy lifestyles? Bassett's rural location, strong market share, employee-practitioner model, and advanced IT capacity position the organization well to take on these broader responsibilities but obviously these transformative efforts take human and financial capital to execute.

**Dr. Brown to page 7**

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

I have frequently written about the special culture at Bassett in *The Cupola*, and after previewing this issue's interview with Vance Brown, M.D., on the occasion of his first anniversary as Bassett's President and CEO, I was again reminded of Bassett's truly unique place among academic medical centers. Dr. Brown refers to Bassett as a "genuine outlier", and I think this is an especially fitting term.

It is refreshing to view Bassett through Dr. Brown's eyes, and for me to reconsider and review some of Bassett's remarkable achievements. During recent years, Bassett has created a continuously expanding, comprehensive, community-based health care network; a school-based health care program for students from pre-kindergarten through high school; a medical school campus and a curriculum that integrates leadership, management and clinical



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

skills; and the New York Center for Agricultural Management and Health, one of only seven agricultural health and occupational centers in the country. Though its location is somewhat remote, it attracts medical residents from several continents, and faculty and medical students from all over the country. In the midst of ever-increasing governmental regulations and a recent focus on population management, Bassett has managed to retain its cozy and friendly environment. And despite decreased financial reimbursements, excellence in patient care and medical education continues to be its priority.

In the interview, Dr. Brown was asked how he would respond to some of the current challenges facing Bassett. His responses are thoughtful and interesting, and I expect that you will enjoy reading his interview as much as I did. ■

*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'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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*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 Medical Center, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org).

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## Departing Residents Announce Plans

Members of the Bassett Medical Center house staff completed their training in June and are moving on to new endeavors. Departing residents, their programs at Bassett, and their plans upon leaving are:

**Mushfique Ahmed, M.D.** (General Surgery), Anesthesiology Residency, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Paterson, N.J.

**C. Ross Baldwin, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgery Practice, Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage, Alaska.

**Ramakrishna S. Gorantla, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Case Western University/University Hospitals, Cleveland, OH.

**Cristina R. Ionescu, M.D.** (General Surgery), plans not finalized at press time.

**Ian J. Kendrick, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgery Practice, Evanston Regional Hospital, Evanston, Wyo.

**Pongsathorn "Phil" Kue-A-Pai, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Nephrology Fellowship, University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, Ala.

**Gillian E. Lavik, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgery Practice, Trinity Hospital, Minot, N.D.

**Napat "Lee" Leeaphorn, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Nephrology Fellowship, Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

**Camille A. Lorica, D.O.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Albany Medical Center, Albany, N.Y.

**Lucy X. Lu, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.

**Ankit Modh, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Radiation Oncology Residency, Henry Ford Health Science Center, Detroit, Mich.

**Perry Myrick, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

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

**Zachary M. Nuffer, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, N.Y.

**Shalin P. Patel, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Diagnostic Radiology, Hershey Medical Center/Penn State, Hershey, Pa.

**Nitipong "Nate" Permpalung, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Infectious Disease Fellowship, Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

**Saira Rashid, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), plans not finalized at press time.

**Krzysztof Rus, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Internal Medicine Residency, Winthrop University Hospital, Mineola, N.Y.

**Sheikh Abdul Salam Saleem, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

**Jorawer Singh, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

**Kamalpreet Singh, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pa.

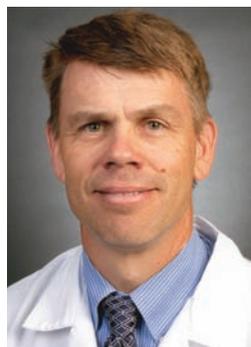
**Qing Wang, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, University of California-Los Angeles/Jules Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, Calif.

**Kenneth M. Weinlander, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, University of Florida-Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Fla.

**Jason C. Zhang, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn. ■



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BASSETT MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



*Kai Mebust, M.D.,  
F.H.M., Division Chief-  
Hospitalists*

## Hospitalist Program Receives National Recognition

*The Hospitalist*, a publication of the National Society of Hospital Medicine, featured Bassett's program in March. Author John Nelson, M.D., M.H.M., applauded the organization for its practice of "geographic care," assigning a single nurse to care for five patients in adjacent rooms. His commentary was especially praiseworthy of Kai Mebust, M.D., F.H.M., who was the principal engineer of the geographic assignment of nurses. Bassett's Division of Hospitalist Care was initiated in 2004 with a handful of alumni including Charles B. Howarth, M.D., Rosemary McCabe, D.O., Kai H. Mebust, M.D., Christian Mulik, M.D., and Edward F. Bischof, Jr., M.D.

The article is available online at: <http://www.the-hospitalist.org/article/geographic-rounding-of-hospital-nurses-challenges-unit-based-theory/> ■

## Columbia-Bassett Medical School Graduates Second Class



(Left to right:) Robert “Mack” Brickley, Mark Harris, David Chapel, Bryan Block, and Seth Mathern

The second class of medical students in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program attended their graduation in New York City, on May 20, 2015.

Preceding the official program at Columbia, there was a ceremony to honor the graduates held on May 17th at The Farmers’ Museum. Henry Weil, M.D.,

Senior Associate Dean, opened the ceremony with welcoming comments. Remarks were made by Dr. Timothy Pedley, Henry and Lucy Moses Professor of Neurology, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Bassett Medical Center. The keynote

speaker was Robert Whitaker, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Public Health and Pediatrics at Temple University, who moved the audience to a standing ovation with his thoughts on relationships and healing. Individual faculty were joined by Megan Brennan, M.D., Assistant Dean for Education, in awarding graduation certificates as well as a commemorative, engraved baseball bat from the Cooperstown Bat Company.

The 2015 Columbia-Bassett Class Match Results are:

Bryan Block: Internal Medicine residency at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, Texas

Robert “Mack” Brickley: Emergency Medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.

David Chapel: Pathology residency at the University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Ill.

Mark Harris: Anesthesiology residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Seth Mathern: Family Medicine residency at University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, Colo.

\*This year’s graduating class was few in number due to many students taking off time for research. ■

## E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Award Presented



Kulothungan Gunasekaran, M.B., B.S., with his award-winning poster in the background

Kulothungan Gunasekaran, M.B., B.S., internal medicine resident in his second year of training at Bassett Medical Center, was presented with the 2015 E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award. Gunasekaran’s research project and poster were among

six recently presented as part of the E. Donnell Thomas Research Day. The award-winning research study project was titled *A Pilot Study to assess anticoagulation appropriateness in the obese, non-acute coronary syndrome patient population*. The study explored the management of anti-coagulation in the obese population with non-acute coronary syndrome.

Gunasekaran worked on the study project with mentors Kelly Rudd, Pharm.D. and Anush Patel, M.D., at Bassett Medical Center. “This study aimed to improve safety and patient treatment, as well as improve the way these treatments are conducted by Bassett clinicians,” states Rudd.

“Additionally, the E. Donnell Thomas Research program allows us the opportunity to mentor the next generation of medical researchers, propagating advances in patient safety and care well into the future.”

Gunasekaran earned his medical degree from Stanley Medical College, Chennai, India. After completing his PGY-3 year, he hopes to pursue further study in a Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship.

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. ■

# THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

*Please keep your notes and photos coming!*

## 1950s

**John “Jack” Chamberlain III, M.D.** (Rotating resident 1957-58) was recently honored with a Chairman’s Special Award for his leadership of the Children’s National Medical Center Emeritus Board in Washington, DC.



*John “Jack” Chamberlain III, M.D.*

## James E. Shepard M.D.

(Rotating/Internal Medicine resident 1959-61) Attended the University of California San Francisco Renal Transplant Annual Conference at Silverado. He was pleased to get there in time to play 18 holes of golf before the meetings started! The sessions reminded him that during his residency, Bassett’s **E. Donnell Thomas, M.D.** proposed (and subsequently proved) a cure for leukemia with bone transplants, research for which Thomas was awarded the Nobel Prize.

## 1960s

### David Svahn, M.D.

(Rotating/Internal Medicine resident 1965-67 and Attending Physician 1972-2007) and his wife Karin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Sweden last fall. He writes, that he is keeping busy with various history projects. They reside in Bucks County, Penn. but return to their Otsego lake-side camp each summer. He is also celebrating the 50th anniversary of his graduation from P&S and the start of his Bassett internship this year. Karin and kids are all doing

well, including Jennifer and Jonathan, P&S '91 and '97 respectively.

### Bruce McClennan, M.D.

(Rotating Intern 1967-68) recently retired from Yale School of Medicine [now Professor Emeritus] and the Department of Diagnostic Radiology where he was Chair and attending radiologist at Yale New Haven Hospital. He moved to Chicago and is having great fun since all his children and grandchildren live there. He writes, “My internship year at the Bassett was a career shaping and enhancing year for me. We were a great team, the 10 of us, and had wonderful instruction and supervision.”

### Rene Cormier, M.D.

(Rotating/Internal Medicine resident 1967-68 and Attending Physician 1972-73) encountered more recent Bassett alum **Supawat “Best” Ratanapo** (Internal Medicine resident 2011-14) when attending a Cardiology Grand Rounds at the Medical College of Georgia/Georgia Regents University, Augusta, Ga., where they are both affiliated. Although retired from the Medical College of Georgia, Cormier has a part-time appointment teaching Physical Diagnosis to first and second year medical students and to physician assistant students. Other alumni in Augusta include **Malcolm Page, M.D.** (Hospital Epidemiologist on assignment from Communicable Disease Center, US Public Health Service 1959-60, Internal Medicine resident 1960-62, Physician-in-Chief 1965-72) and **Joseph Lunn, M.D.** (Attending Physician 1969-72, acting Chief of Medicine 1972-74, Chief of Medicine 1974-80) and **Joseph Hillson, M.D.** (Transitional Year/Internal Medicine

resident 1975-78). This summer, Cormier and his wife Brenda will be in Seattle, where they plan to visit two other Bassett alums, **G. Thomas Ruebel, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1969-70), and **John Atkinson, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1972-73).



## 1970s

**James Young, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1970-71) reported on the mystery photo that appeared in the spring issue of *The Cupola*. “That’s me in the sweater (and, yes, I still have that Norwegian sweater). Two of the additional unnamed people in the row in front of **Jim Bordley, M.D.** (General Surgery resident 1970-75 and Attending Surgeon 1978-present) are **Gordon McClaren, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1970-71) with the beard and **Melvin Yarlott, M.D.** (Rotating resident 1970-71) with his hand on forehead.” Young is busy with travel, projects for his daughters and grandkids, some volunteer work, both medical and otherwise and even the occasional day of “pinch-hitting” in clinic. He visited **Jeff Crandall, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1967-69) while in Tucson this winter.

## H. Jack Myers, M.D.

(General Surgery resident 1970-73) also commented on the mystery photo. He found it “interesting to see the number of surgeons in the group. Given the people at the meeting there is a high probability that I was presenting that particular talk—admittedly speculation on my part.” Myers reported that 40 years of practicing general surgery in Dover, N.H., was enough and acknowledged that “Mother Bassett provided a broad, tough training that left little to be desired.”

## Gary Hoffman, M.D.

(Attending Rheumatologist 1974-84) is enjoying the life of a retiree but continuing a modest agenda of teaching, research, and consulting. He reports that, “The Cleveland Clinic had a marvelous retirement bash for me, inviting my extended family, former trainees in vasculitis, and collaborators from around the globe. It was quite unexpected and a great joy.” The event included a

**FAMILY to page 5**



*(L to R) Herbert Marx, M.D. (Attending Physician Cardiology 1971-97), Fred Rath, Cooperstown resident, Emery Herman, M.D. (Attending Physician 1961-94), Peter Arquin M.D. (Attending Physician Cardiology 1978-07) and Gary Hoffman M.D. (Attending Physician Rheumatology 1974-84).*

surprise photo review of his life including this one from his time in Cooperstown at the ritual "Sunday-service tennis games."



William Meisler, M.D.

**William Meisler, M.D.** (Rotating Intern 1978-79) sends warm greetings to the Bassett Medical Alumni Association and the entire MIBH staff. He is enjoying life in the Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania. He writes, "I simply wish to mention that 36 years after completing my rotating internship at MIBH I can still say that choosing to do my internship at MIBH was one of the smartest decisions that I ever made."

### 1980s

**Neal Barney, M.D.** (Transitional Year resident 1983-84) is a professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His research interests have centered on human conjunctival mast cell mediators interaction with the epithelium of the ocular surface. His clinical practice focuses on

Immune mediated diseases of the eye: basically, any red eye that is not better in three weeks. For 10 years, **Thomas Farrell, M.D.** (Attending Ophthalmologist 1970-83 and Ophthalmologist-in-Chief 1975-83), whom I met when at Bassett, also was a member of the department until his retirement. He mentioned his "Best Bassett memory: shutting down **Bill Streck, M.D.** (Attending Endocrinologist 1978-86 and CEO 1985-14) in the basketball league."

**Rocco Ciocca, M.D.** (General Surgery resident 1986-91) and his wife Lauren will be moving to Cleveland, OH, where he accepted the position of Director of Vascular Surgery at MetroHealth Medical Center, the only Level I trauma center in Cleveland and a major teaching affiliate for Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He will be an Associate Professor of Surgery at Case. He adds, "On a family note, our older daughter, Caroline (Bassett born), is completing her first year of her MPH program at Boston University School of Public Health and our younger daughter, Margaret will be graduating from Trinity College in May."

### 2000s

**Jeffrey Friedman, M.D.** (General Surgery resident 2001-06), recently took a new job as director of bariatric and minimally

invasive surgery division at the University of Florida Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Fla.

**Brian McElhinney, D.O.** (Transitional Year resident 2009-10) and his wife **Kristina McElhinney, D.O.** (UNECOM student 2007-08) are moving from Philadelphia to Winston Salem, N.C. this summer. Kristina will be joining Wake Forest University as a fellow in Hospice and Palliative Care after two years as a faculty member and associate residency director in the department of Family Medicine at Crozer Keystone Health System. Brian is finishing up his final year of training as a neuroradiology fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and will be joining Triad Radiology Associates in Winston-Salem.

where she started a job as a medical director for a managed care company. She was excited to be named as one of Birmingham's "Top 40 Under 40" by the Birmingham Business Journal.

**Nischala Ammannagari, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine resident 2011-14) and Satish Kodali announce the April 7th birth of their baby girl—Aadya Kodali.



Aadya Kodali

### 2010s

**Sylvie Stacy, M.D.** (Transitional Year resident 2011-12) and husband, Scott, moved to Alabama last year,

### 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.

- Dermatologist
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
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- Internal Medicine
- Interventional Cardiologist
- Neurologist
- Psychiatry
- OB-GYN
- Orthopedic Surgeons
- Rheumatology
- Urology

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

### 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.

## Bassett Physician Is 2015-2016 Chair-elect of the Board of Governors of National Doctors Group



*Douglas DeLong, M.D., F.A.C.P.*

Douglas DeLong, M.D., F.A.C.P., is the 2015-2016 Chair-elect of the Board of Governors of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the national organization of internists. DeLong also currently serves as Governor for the New York Hudson Valley chapter of the ACP. His term began in early May at the ACP annual scientific meeting in Boston, Mass.

His term as Governor of the New York Hudson Valley Chapter will end in 2016. Governors supervise ACP chapter activities, appoint members to local committees and preside at regional meetings. They also represent members by serving on the ACP Board of Governors.

DeLong is the chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at Bassett Healthcare Network, and an assistant clinical professor of medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. He currently serves as vice-chair of ACP's National Health and Public Policy Committee. He has been a member of various committees and councils within the College, including ACP's New York Chapter's Public Health and Policy Committee, a participant in the New York Chapter's Leadership Day and ACP's Leadership Day of Capitol Hill in D.C.

Board certified in internal medicine, DeLong received his medical degree from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University. He completed an internship and residency at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, and was named chief medical resident. DeLong took a sabbatical in geriatric medicine at UNC at Chapel Hill.

DeLong was named a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP) in 1994. FACP is an honorary designation that recognizes ongoing individual service and contributions to the practice of medicine. ■

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## Golden Awards Announced

The 2015 Golden Apple awards, given by the residents to the faculty members they felt were their most outstanding teachers, were recently presented. The internal medicine residents selected Edward Bischof, M.D. and Anush Patel, M.D. The surgical residents chose John Russin, M.D. and Luis Ocegueda, M.D.

Golden Stethoscope awards, given by medical students and residents to a senior resident for excellence in teaching, were presented to Sheikh Abdul Salam Saleem, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine) and Jessica Carlson, M.D. (Surgery). ■

## Hellenthal Appointed Chief of Surgery



*Nicholas Hellenthal, M.D., Chief of the Department of Surgery*

Bassett Medical Center announced the appointment of Nicholas Hellenthal, M.D., as Chief of the Department of Surgery. Hellenthal had been serving as acting chief since April of 2013 when the position was vacated by Steven Heneghan, M.D., who took on the role of chief clinical officer at Bassett.

In announcing the formal appointment, Bassett's President and CEO Vance M. Brown, M.D., said, "In the two years since assuming the interim role, Dr. Hellenthal has demonstrated outstanding natural leadership skills and earned the respect of colleagues

across the organization for his commitment to patients, the department's quality of care and to staff. We are fortunate that he has accepted this appointment."

Hellenthal came to Bassett in 2010 after completing minimally invasive urology surgery fellowship training at Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo. He received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, at Santa Clara University and his medical degree, magna cum laude, at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in urology at the University of California/Davis Medical Center, and was chief resident between 2008-2009.

Hellenthal is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Association of Clinical Urologists, the American Urological Association, the Endourological Society and the Society of Urologic Oncology. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. ■

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## Returning Alum Named Director of Surgical Residency Program



*Theodor I. Kaufman, M.D., F.A.C.S., Director, General Surgery Residency Program*

Theodor Kaufman, M.D., F.A.C.S., returns to Bassett to join the Bassett Medical Center in the Department of Surgery as an attending surgeon. He comes to Cooperstown from State College, Penn., where he was affiliated with Mount Nittany Physician Group.

In addition, Kaufman has been named Surgical Residency Program Director to replace David C. Borgstrom, M.D., who has accepted a position in West Virginia.

Kaufman was a General Surgery Resident at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital (1993-99). He earned his medical degree at State University of New York, Health Science Center at Brooklyn, College of Medicine, Brooklyn and his undergraduate degree in biology at the State University of New York, New Paltz, N.Y. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery. ■

## Dr. Brown from page 1

**Q** In this new world of health care in America, how sustainable is a rural academic medical education program?

**A** Bassett has a long and proud history of undergraduate and graduate medical education. Frankly, if Bassett (and its few rural peers) didn't do this work, where would rural training be offered? Where would young providers be exposed to the challenges of providing and accessing medical care in rural communities? How would these trainees develop empathy for the rural populations of this country?

Bassett is a natural learning lab. Medical education enriches our ability to attract providers and patients. The presence of the Medical School has the added benefit of providing us with the cross-fertilization of new ideas, innovative tools, and skill building for organizational development.

I am hopeful that Bassett's tradition as a learning organization, will prove useful as we require new skill sets to adapt to caring for whole populations and ensuring standardization of care.

**Q** Are you ready to suggest changes or new directions relating to medical education?

**A** Of course! I envision a few programmatic directions that might strengthen our medical education efforts. First, I would like to see the extension of the SLIM (Systems/Leadership/Integration/Management) curriculum from the medical school to the graduate medical education program here. This curriculum provides the development of skills that will serve both our residents and medical students as they influence the delivery of health care in the future.

Also, I would like us to think further about a more collaborative education with other graduate medical education programs. For example, I would like to see Bassett host other residents for elective rotations and send some of our residents elsewhere to gain experiences we can't provide. Likewise, we could host fellows for short-term experiences. And I foresee future

opportunities to offer our own fellowships in areas specific to the mission, such as a fellowship in Rural Health Delivery Systems or a Quality and Process Improvement fellowship.

Finally, with an academic partner, Bassett is ideally suited to train family physicians. It is a natural fit. It closely aligns with the mission and it could help the organization grow its own future practitioners. We have a potentially great environment here for a Family Medicine Residency.

**Q** Have you had any surprises here?

**A** I have been pleasantly surprised at how many people are incredibly passionate about Bassett—those who work here, train here, present and past patients, or those who have other history with the institution. It has provided me with the realization that we are all standing on the shoulders of those who molded and shaped this singular organism. I am grateful that I can follow in their footsteps and carry on the mission.

I also have been surprised by how space challenged we are as an organization!

**Q** Any message you wish to share specifically for our alumni audience?

**A** I've learned from those who've trained here that there is something special about Bassett. Its setting, scale and temperament, and the faculty it attracts, heighten the residency and educational experience offered, making it very memorable. There is a degree of intimacy and warmth here that is missing from most other organizations that I believe is in part related to our location and environment. Bonds among faculty, students, practitioners, and even patients, grow beyond those commonly shared in training. These acquaintances become good neighbors, mentors, and life-long friends. I hope our alumni continue to be passionate about their experiences here and that they will be strong supporters for decades to come. ■

## 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)*



*Shep J. Friedman, M.D.*

### **Shep J. Friedman, M.D.**

Shep J. Friedman, M.D., passed away over Memorial Day weekend following a courageous battle with cancer.

Dr. Friedman was a valued member of the Division of Orthopedics at Bassett for 13 years. In that time, he accomplished a great deal on behalf of patients and the orthopedic surgery profession. He was a tireless worker and tremendously dedicated clinician who was thorough and

compulsive in his care of patients. Friedman was director of the Tissue Committee at Bassett Medical Center, and just last year was appointed to the Biological Implants Committee of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

The family asks that anyone wishing to make a memorial contribution please do so to Temple Beth El in Oneonta, 83 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820. ■

## What Is SLIM?

SLIM, which stands for Systems/Leadership/Integration/Management, is a component of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School curriculum that is intended to prepare students to be future leaders.

Substantial training in these areas is achieved by a unique collaboration between Bassett faculty and the faculty of the Columbia Schools of Business and Public Health.

In addition to their immersion in a broad range of experiences, the students have benefited from a distinguished list of guest lecturers.

For more information about the Columbia-Bassett Medical School, visit the website at: [www.columbia-bassett.org](http://www.columbia-bassett.org). ■



**Bassett Healthcare Network**

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## Four Easy Ways to Make a Big Difference

*Support medical education at Bassett with a planned gift*

Maybe you thought you couldn't afford to make a significant gift to Bassett's medical education endowment. Maybe you thought that a meaningful gift was something that "other people" do.

Not anymore. Here are several ways that you can make a gift that not only helps Bassett's education programs but could help you, your estate, and your heirs.

### **Charitable Gift Annuities**

#### ***Fixed income for the rest of your life***

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the Friends of Bassett. You make a gift of at least \$10,000 and we send you a payment each quarter for an amount depending on your age. You can designate the annuity's remainder to support Bassett's medical education endowment.

### **Bequests**

#### ***Popular for a good reason***

Giving through your will is one of the most significant ways donors can benefit Bassett and our medical education endowment. Through a provision in your written and executed will you can make a gift in the form of cash, securities, real estate, or personal property.

Consider this sample language:

I give and devise to Friends of Bassett Healthcare Network (Tax ID #23-7041610), located in Cooperstown, NY,

all (or state a percentage) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund, program, or designated local affiliate hospital).

### **Insurance**

#### ***An easy way to make a gift***

Do you have a paid whole life policy that you no longer need? Does your employer provide you with life insurance that you haven't included in your estate plans? Consider designating the Bassett medical education endowment as the policy's beneficiary.

### **Retirement Plan Assets**

#### ***Getting full value to the very end***

Tax-deferred retirement assets are great for you and your spouse. Unfortunately your heirs will never see the full value of what remains because of taxes that become due. Designate the Bassett medical education endowment as the beneficiary instead, and the asset will pass from your estate free of all income and estate taxes.

Your planned gift will have a lasting impact on the educational programs at Bassett.

For more information contact the Friends of Bassett at 607-547-3928. ■