



# THE CUPOLA

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

Spring 2022  
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## Bassett Launches Subspecialty Fellowship Program

By Dr. Daniel Katz, Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program Director



Dr. Daniel Katz

The Bassett Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program, which commenced in July 2021, is three-year program certified for two positions per class accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The mission of the fellowship training program in cardiovascular disease is to provide a well-rounded academically and clinically rigorous experience and teach the trainees outstanding skills in general cardiology

The program is designed to provide basic and clinical knowledge, procedural skills, clinical judgment, research skills, systems-based practice, professionalism and interpersonal skills required as accomplished specialists in the discipline of cardiovascular diseases primarily in a rural-based healthcare network.

The fellowship program has attracted overwhelming interest from a broad range of diverse applicants. Our inaugural fellows, Dr. Bishesh Shrestha and Dr. Tarun Bathini completed their Internal Medicine training at Bassett. Their performance this academic year has been outstanding. Both physicians particularly excel in domains related to professionalism, interpersonal and communication skills. We are excited for our second class of fellows, chosen from 520 applicants, who will begin their fellowship in July. Dr. Ankur Panchal is currently a hospitalist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Jameson, and Dr. Shwetha Gopal who is completing her residency at Saint Barnabas Hospital in New Jersey. These Bassett cardiology fellows are the stars and the foundation for our future success.

The Bassett Cardiology Fellowship Program will elevate patient care, house staff education and research activities to new heights.

Fellows will receive outstanding clinical and research training in the rural setting of Bassett Healthcare Network, as well as experience additional training at New York-Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia Campus), one of the nation's best urban academic medical centers. Since 1947, there has been a formal partnership of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital and Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. A program letter of agreement was signed to permit our fellows to spend up to two months per academic year at New York-Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia Campus) to complete rotations such as advanced heart failure and transplantation not offered at Bassett. The opportunity to complete cardiology fellowship at Bassett is unique in enabling fellows to care for socioeconomically diverse patients here at a rural hospital and interact with an ethnically/racially diverse patient population while training in New York City.

We will train our fellows to be first rate clinicians, educators and researchers. A detailed curriculum was created to provide expectations for both learners and faculty on all rotations. Rotations at Bassett include inpatient care, echocardiography, nuclear cardiology, advanced imaging, cardiac catheterization, electrophysiology and research. Fellows have weekly continuity clinic supervised by Dr. Mun Hong and Dr. Jaswinder Virk. Daily fellowship lectures have been conducted to discuss topics in noninvasive cardiology, interventional cardiology, cardiac surgery, electrophysiology and interdisciplinary themes in an atmosphere of scholarship and collegiality.

**Katz to page 2**

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

We are very pleased to share another *Cupola* newsletter with our alumni in the U.S. and around the world.

In this issue, you will find news that demonstrates that Bassett remains dedicated to excellence in medical education. The main article is about the new cardiovascular disease fellowship program. It is groundbreaking since this is the first ACGME accredited fellowship program established at Bassett. It reflects continuity and change, and those are traits that have kept Bassett going over its many decades.

In addition, you will see that we have a full roster of the incoming residents as well as the placements for the 2022 graduates of the Columbia-Bassett



Dr. James A. Murray

Medical School. I hope you will enjoy the notes from our alumni, too.

We are saddened to share the obituaries of several alum and especially that of long-time member of the Bassett community Dr. Emery Herman. The contributions and influence he has dispensed to patients, students, colleagues, and Cooperstown cannot be overstated. I never overlapped with him at Bassett, but it was on his tennis courts that I learned that I had better focus on academics, because sports were not in my future.

Despite the distress around us these days, I hope that the onset of spring brings renewal and lifts our spirits. ■

*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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Left to right: Daniel Katz, M.D.; Bishesh Shrestha, M.B., B.S., fellow; Tarun Bathini, M.B., B.S., fellow; and Mun Hong M.D., associate program director

**Katz from page 1**

Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery colleagues as well as the fellows have delivered an excellent series of lectures. Hong, associate program director, leads the interventional cardiology lecture series. Weekly fellowship meetings with the Bassett Research Institute, including clinical research nurse supervisor Jennifer Victory and statistician Melissa Scribani, are organized to develop investigator initiated research projects. The fellows participate in joint virtual educational sessions with fellows from Columbia Presbyterian as well as the University of Rochester.

There are few rural hospitals that offer diverse pathology, cardiac surgery, cutting edge 3 Tesla cardiac MRI, advanced ablation, TAVR and a Watchman Program. We have the support of the Bassett Research Institute led by Dr. Anne Gadomski to promote fellow-driven projects.

The inspiration for building a cardiology fellowship was rooted in the academic efforts of our dedicated Bassett internal medicine residents, Dr. Randolph Hutter and me to work with residents to develop cardiology research with outstanding support from the Bassett Research Institute. Our residents received four E. Donnell Thomas awards from the Bassett Research Institute to complete our research. Our translational research, to evaluate novel biomarkers, has been nationally recognized and presented by Bassett residents

at the scientific sessions of the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, The Society of Cardiovascular MRI and the European Society of Cardiology.

We are indebted to Jill Stoecklin, administrative director of Medical Education, and Teri Musser, program coordinator for their support of the fellowship program. Musser has assisted the program in numerous ways including managing the ACGME application process, preparing documents for the ACGME site review, coordinating interview sessions, and developing policies to maintain compliance with regulations. She is an integral member of the fellowship Clinical Competency, Program Evaluation and Graduate Medical Education Committees.

Establishing the Bassett Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship has helped to attract outstanding candidates for faculty positions. Our goal is to develop a national reputation in clinical care, education and research by recruitment, as well as in retention of faculty and in developing our own nationally recognized physician clinicians, educators and researchers. The fellowship program offers trainees the potential of a permanent attending position to build on the success of their cardiology fellowship. Our fellowship will develop physician leaders who will establish a high standard for collegiality, teamwork, patient care, teaching and research. ■

**Welcome to New Fellows**

Shwetha Gopal, M.D. is a graduate of Davao Medical School Foundation College of Medicine in The Philippines. She will complete her internal medicine residency at Robert Wood Johnson/Barnabas Health in West Orange, N.J.

Ankur Panchal, M.B., B.S., is a graduate of S.B.K.S. Medical Institute and Research Center in Gujarat, India. He completed his internal medicine residency at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (Elmhurst Hospital Center) in Elmhurst, N.Y. ■

**Correction:** The article in the fall issue of *The Cupola* welcoming new members to the board of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association misidentified the institutions at which Dr. Beth Olearczyk studied and trained. She completed her medical degree at Columbia University and was a preliminary Internal Medicine resident at Bassett Healthcare in 2005-06, before completing an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Rochester.

# 2022 Residency Match Results Announced

All of Bassett's residency programs had success in the 2022 Match through the National Resident Matching Program. The following is the roster of the first post-graduate year appointments for the 2022-23 academic year.

## GENERAL SURGERY

**Rahima Khatun, M.D.**, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine  
**Ashleigh Martinez, M.D.**, University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
**Prince Morkeh, M.D.**, Morehouse School of Medicine  
**Sean Morton, M.D.**, Washington State University  
Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

**Tina Walsh, D.O.**, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine

## INTERNAL MEDICINE:

**Mohamed Abugrin, M.B.B.Ch.**, University of Tripoli (Libya)  
**Navar Almama, M.D.**, Russian 'People's Friendship' University (Russia)  
**Rakel Emma-Okah, M.D.**, University of Debrecen, Medical & Health Sciences Centre (Hungary)  
**Rida Fatima, M.B., B.S.**, Punjab Medical College (Pakistan)  
**Sagar Ghimire, M.B., B.S.**, Nepal Medical College (Nepal)  
**Luis Guinand, M.D.**, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

**Roudabeh Kiani, M.D.**, American University of Antigua College of Medicine (Antigua)

**Kunjal Luhadia, M.B., B.S.**, Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital (India)  
**Timur Otajonov, M.D.**, Tashkent Medical Academy (Uzbekistan)  
**Thanmay Sathi, M.B., B.S.**, Andhra Medical College (India)  
**Bishnu Singh, M.B., B.S.**, Kathmandu Medical College (Nepal)  
**Prejin Upadhyay, M.B., B.S.**, Kathmandu Medical College (Nepal)  
**TRANSITIONAL YEAR**  
**Alvin Chang, M.D.**, SUNY-Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine

**Hashim Ejaz, M.B., B.S.**, Army Medical College (Pakistan)  
**Arjumand Fatima, M.D.**, Chicago Medical School  
**Sean Karott, M.D.**, SUNY-Upstate Medical University  
**Nadav Mortman, M.D.**, University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
**Shayann Ramedani, M.D.**, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine  
**Wajeeh Rehman, M.B., B.S.**, Khyber Medical College (Pakistan)  
**Dylan Therwhanger, M.D.**, University of Colorado School of Medicine  
**Jacob Van Vorst, D.O.**, University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine

*"There were always students here, always interns, always residents. That made it possible to attract a higher quality of senior staff persons because of the opportunity to teach and to do research."*

**Dr. Charles Ashley**  
Director of Bassett Hospital, 1967-1984

## Program Director Named



Dr. Russell Moore

After a nationwide search conducted by an outside firm, Dr. Russell Moore has been appointed as the director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Moore brings to the role clinical experience and excellence as a Bassett hospitalist, a passion for teaching, palpable energy, and a record of being an effective team builder, leader, and organizer.

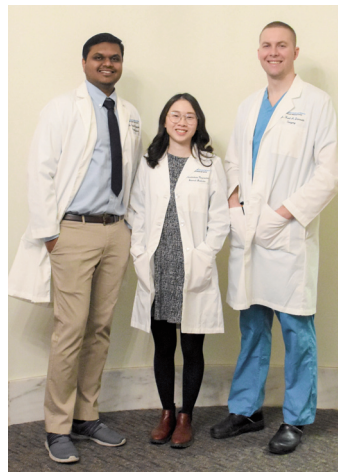
In announcing the appointment, Dr. Kai Mebust, chief of the Department of Medicine stated, "I am confident that he is going to be a strong advocate for the residents and a successful Program Director."

In addition, Mebust recognized the tremendous contributions of Dr. Edward Bischof who served as the interim program director since the fall of 2021, [we are] "thankful that someone with his experience, excellence, and passion for our residents was available and willing to shepherd the program through this crucial time period."

Moore officially assumed his new role on March 1. He will continue to work clinically as a hospitalist. Bischof will resume his former role as associate program director. His wealth of experience and expertise will be of invaluable assistance to Moore.

Mebust added "Congratulations Russ, and thank you Ed. You are both a credit to our institution." ■

## Bassett Residents Match in Fellowships



Harshith Thyagaturu, M.B., B.S.; Panadeekarn Panjawatanan, M.D.; and Karl Damroth, M.D.

Three doctors completing their residency training received the following fellowship appointments:  
Karl Damroth, M.D., (General Surgery) Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.  
Panadeekarn (Natty) Panjawatanan, M.D., (Internal Medicine), Endocrinology Fellowship, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N. H.  
Harshith Thyagaturu, M.B., B.S., (Internal Medicine), Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV. ■



### 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.

# THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

*Please keep your notes and photos coming!*

## 1950s

**Charles Greenblatt M.D.** (Rotating intern 1956-57) provides the following update on his previous message to *The Cupola* regarding the old TB vaccine BCG in the prevention of Alzheimer's. "Since then, our work has been confirmed by Harvard and Montefiore and at this time the anti-flu, anti-pneumonia, DPT (diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus), are all showing a significant reduction in the risk of Alzheimer's. Our little lab is trying to find the common mechanism. So, I have become a fanatic on adult vaccination's off-target effects. We take childhood vaccination for granted, but adult vaccines, other than their specific effects are far less known. Any of you who want to join us in these studies, please let me know at charlesg@ekmd.huji.ac.il."

## 1960s

**Alan Ames M.D.** (Rotating intern 1960-61) After leaving Cooperstown, he joined the Army Medical Corps and was sent to Germany, landing on the day the Berlin Wall went up. He spent three years in Augsburg before returning stateside to settle in Portland, Ore. into an internal medicine residency and then a cardiology fellowship. He reports, "From 1968-2000 I practiced interventional cardiology, which I really enjoyed. Since then, I like retirement but miss seeing patients. Here in Portland my favorite occupation is walking and running in the neighborhood with our malamute."

**David Svahn, M.D.** (Rotating/Internal Medicine resident 1965-67, Attending 1972-99) Shared these thoughts, "On balance I consider myself fortunate to have spent the bulk of my

career as part of Columbia and Bassett and have raised my children in Cooperstown (two of whom are Columbia physicians, one at a Bassett-like program, both with academic appointments.) I am proud that Bassett has forged a medical school program, one that is unique as far as I know. It's all about education and mentorship. I hope that Bassett can continue leadership in this critical aspect of medicine."

**Roger MacMillan, M.D.** (Surgical resident 1966-70, Attending surgeon 1977-2004) Many area residents, including MacMillan are appearing in an independent film due out later this year. The movie is based on the life of Eva Coo, a woman who ran a roadhouse that offered "ladies of the night" and illicit booze during the depression. After she murdered a local handy man for his life insurance funds, Coo was tried in Cooperstown's courthouse and convicted of murder in the first degree. MacMillan plays the role of the jury foreman who rendered the guilty verdict, and his Model A Ford was used by Coo to transport the victim's body in one scene.

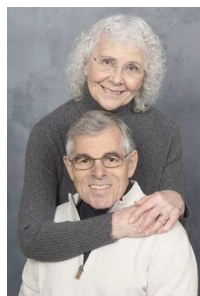


*Dr. Roger MacMillan and his Model A Ford*

## 1970s

**Gary Hoffman, M.D.** (Attending rheumatologist 1974-84) retired in 2015, at age 73, from the Cleveland Clinic. He writes, "I enjoyed my role as Chairman of the Department of Rheumatic and Immunologic Diseases and having been the

founder and PI of our Center for Vasculitis Care and Research. While our Center investigators are proud to have established the first multicenter collaborative network in the U.S. to perform randomized controlled studies for the vasculitis, I am much more pleased to have trained more talented physicians than I, who are now leading research initiatives and improving the care that all can provide for these difficult patients with rare diseases." He and his wife Diane remain in Cleveland and would welcome visits from Bassett family.



*Gary and Diane Hoffman*

**Douglas DeLong, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1979-82; Chief medicine resident 1982-83; Internal Medicine attending 2000-21) received the Dr. Larry Zaroff Man of Good Conscience Award on March 26 from the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). This award is presented annually to a man who has been a champion and supporter of women in medicine. DeLong has been a coach, mentor, and sponsor of women through his career. He has worked to create a just and equitable environment as an advocate in a variety of important areas that have had significant impacts for patients and healthcare professionals. DeLong recently retired as chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine.

## 1980s

**Lewis Zulick, M.D.** (Surgery resident 1984-89) is still doing general surgery in the Finger Lakes near Rochester, but a few years ago he started working every other week in Carthage, N.Y., so he can spend more time at their cottage in Thousand Islands Park on Wellesley Island. Cheryl is doing well working as a realtor in the Thousand Islands and the Rochester area. He recalls that he has worked with several Bassett folks over the years including **Kitima Boonvisudhi, M.D.** (Surgery resident 1994-2000) and **Charlie Stackhouse, M.D.** (Surgery resident 1979-84).

## 1990s

**Manuel Chaknis, M.D.** (Transitional Year resident 1992-93) sends greetings from Atlanta! He's looking forward to seeing everyone from the 1992-93 Bassett residency classes (and attendings/staff from then, too) at the next Bassett Reunion in 2023. He writes, "I contacted a good number of us during the Summer of 2020, but everything's been on hold due to Covid. I will try to remind everyone again in about 6-9 months so that we have a big turnout then! In the meantime, please feel free to contact me and spread the word! Until then, I'll continue my LASIK and eye laser practice coupled with general ophthalmology here in the "great Southern megalopolis".

**Theodor Kaufman, M.D.** (Surgery resident 1993-99, Surgery Residency Program Director 2015-20, Attending surgeon 2015-20) reports that he left Bassett in 2020, to take a position as Chief of Regional Surgery for University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC).

**Family to page 5**



Andrew Powers, M.D. (left), Bassett Surgical resident (2015-20) shown with Tim Reidlinger, M.D. (right) a URMC surgical resident as they worked together with Kaufman on a case in Canandaigua, N.Y. Photo by Theodor Kaufman, M.D.

#### Family from page 4

He shares, "I work with eight surgeons across four rurally located hospitals and love the job and the Finger Lakes region, which is where I live. I have always enjoyed rural living and the organization is fully supportive of empowering our regional practitioners."

#### Bora Gumustop, M.D.

(Internal Medicine resident 1994-97) has been named 2021 Physician of the Year by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Upstate Northeastern New York. He was celebrated at the foundation's annual gala, "An Evening to Remember" in November. Gumustop's principal area of interest is clinical/research outcomes and endoscopic technology development. He currently



Dr. Bora Gumustop and his children Selin and Derin

serves on the board of St. Peter's Surgery and Endoscopy Center, is chief of Gastroenterology at St. Peter's Hospital and a member of the board of Innovative Health Alliance of New York.

#### Jeffrey LaCourse, M.D.

(Internal Medicine resident 1998-2001) reports that Alecia and he live in Charlotte, N.C. They get together with **Rich McIncrow, D.O.** (Internal Medicine resident 1997-2000, Attending hospitalist 2000-07) and his wife Debbie quite frequently.

#### 2000s

##### Dave Prakash, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 2003-04) left the U.S. Air Force in 2017 to attend Stanford Graduate School of

Business. He joined a newly formed team at Anthem in Palo Alto that is using artificial intelligence to improve healthcare. He was involved in product design,

development, and clinical validation for Digital Health solutions. He also worked on the ethical and regulatory issues related to AI in healthcare. He reports, he and his family recently, "moved to the VA/DC area to be close to family and continue WFH full time. I still stay connected to aerospace by working for Northrop Grumman part-time."



Prakash boys at Stanford

#### Melissa (Lukose) Kreso, M.D.

(Transitional Year intern 2007-08) was named the Chief of the Obstetric Anesthesia Division at University of Rochester Medical Center.

#### Kelly Currie, M.D.

(Surgery resident 2008-13) was named the associate program director of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residency Program at Washington University.

#### 2010s

##### Wisit Cheungpasitport, M.D.

(Internal Medicine resident 2010-2013) has been recognized by the Mayo Clinic Department of Medicine and Internal Medicine Residency Program as one of the highest rated educators (among 635) in resident education.

#### Natanong "Ten" Thamcharoen, M.D.

(Internal Medicine resident 2014-17) finished all her specialty trainings (Nephrology and Palliative Care) and she is back home in



Natanong "Ten" Thamcharoen, M.D. enjoying vacation time in Phuket, Thailand

Bangkok, Thailand, working at King Chulalongkorn Hospital where she graduated. She states, "I am where I want to be. Bassett is the place where it all started, and I cannot thank you enough."

#### Kanjit Leungsuwan, M.D.

(Internal Medicine resident 2017-20) sent this update: It's been almost two years since I left Bassett and I miss Cooperstown very much. I've been a hospitalist at University of Kentucky (UK), and I am going onto a cardiology fellowship at UK this upcoming July. I miss the four-season weather in the northeast and have plans to move back after my training. In any case, Bassett will always have a special place in my heart.

#### 2020s

##### Mark Travor, M.D.

(Columbia-Bassett graduate 2020, Transitional Year resident 2020-21) "We're doing well! My wife Jessie and I are all settled in Lebanon, N.H., where I'm doing my ophthalmology residency and where she is working in the Mohs surgery division of Dermatology. Being up here feels a lot like being in Cooperstown, though we miss the lake and the people. In other exciting news, we added a goldendoodle puppy to our family." ■



See our latest news and updates at Bassett Medical Alumni Association

## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

### Emery C. Herman, Jr., M.D. (1929-2022)

Dr. Emery C. Herman, Jr., 92, died in his Cooperstown home on February 26, 2022 following a stroke in December 2019, nearly 63 years after he began his career at Bassett Hospital in 1959.

Born July 24, 1929, in La Grange, Georgia, Herman was a graduate of Emory University and The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (M.D. 1953). His education was followed by an internship at Hopkins, two years of assistant residency at Grady Hospital in Atlanta, two years in the National Heart Institute and another year in hematology at Hopkins.

In 1955 he married Margaret (Peggy) Whitaker, and in 1959 after a stint at the National Institutes of Health, he and his young family came to Cooperstown. He was a research physician with Drs. E. Donnall Thomas and Joseph Ferrebee, working in the field of bone marrow transplantation. He soon transferred to clinical medicine and spent his entire Bassett career as a practicing internist, retiring in 1994. He was beloved by his patients as a caring physician who understood and dealt with their general lives, in addition to providing his outstanding medical expertise. Board-certified in Internal Medicine, he was an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

Herman and his wife Peggy raised five children together in Cooperstown until her untimely death in 1975. In 1978, he married Nancy Frazier Freehafer and they shared a



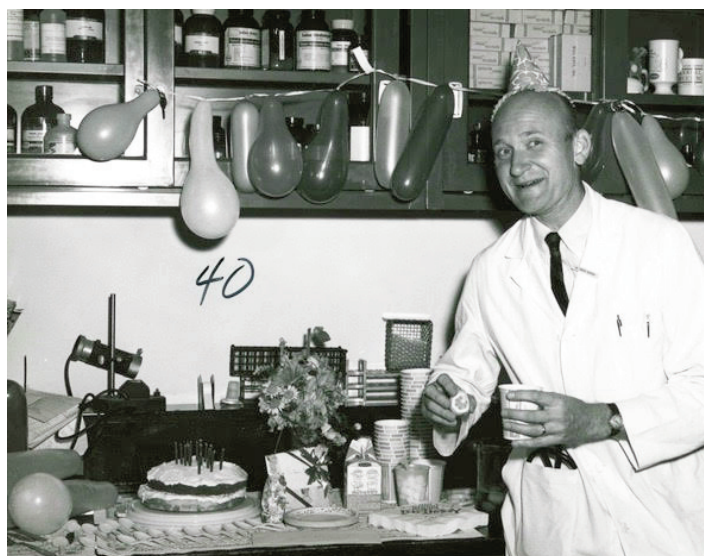
44-year marriage.

In addition to his professional commitment, Herman was involved in multiple community focused activities, including serving on the Village Board of Trustees and as mayor of Cooperstown in 1970-72. He was actively involved in the greater Cooperstown community, believing strongly in a life of service, volunteerism, and charitable giving. The host of volunteer activities that engaged him included serving as treasurer of the Catskill Symphony Orchestra and long-standing work with Habitat for Humanity.

Many community members also recall that Herman had a lifelong passion for tennis, and he played ping pong into his 90s. In the mid-1970s, he built two tennis courts on his

property, and enjoyed playing on them and seeing them used by family, friends, and the local community. Not a regular practitioner of any organized religion, he gave the name "Sunday Services" to the group who would join him for doubles matches most Sunday mornings. He was known as much for his lively banter and questionable calls as he was for his superior racquet skills! Since his death, multiple accolades from Bassett physicians have included: "He was one of those people who made the world a better place simply by being there." and "He was a true giant, a true representation of what Bassett stands for and who we are today." He is survived by his wife Nancy, 5 children and 3 stepchildren, 14 grandchildren, 2 sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. ■

## BASSETT LOOKS BACK



*In further celebration of Dr. Emery Herman's life, we go back to a photo taken at his 40th birthday party in the Fieldstone Building in 1969.*

### 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 30 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown.

**Cardiology  
Non-Invasive and EP**

**Radiology Dx and IR**

**Chief of Psychiatry**

**Neurology**

**Family Medicine -  
Dolgeville**

**Rheumatology**

**Critical Care**

**Anesthesiology**

**Pulm/CC**

**Urology**

**General Surgery - Breast**

**Pediatrics - Herkimer**

For more information visit:

<https://www.bassett.org/careers/physicians-and-advanced-practice-clinicians>

or call Medical Staff Recruitment at 607-547-6982.

## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS



Dr. Thomas Brasitus

### **Thomas A. Brasitus, M.D. (1945-2022)**

Dr. Thomas A. Brasitus died in Cooperstown on January 2, 2022, at age 76. After a nationally distinguished career, he joined Bassett as the Chief of Digestive Diseases in 2001, retiring in 2015. He received his M.D. at Jefferson Medical College and served his internship at Duke University Medical Center and his residency in medicine at The New York Hospital (Cornell). He was a Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School and completed his Gastroenterology

Fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Tom spent two years in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of Major. For 15 years, Brasitus was the Director of the Gastroenterology Section of the University of Chicago Hospitals as the Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine. In 2000, he became the president of the American Gastroenterological Association. Under Brasitus' leadership, Bassett's Division of Digestive Diseases continued to develop and maintain a strong impact throughout Bassett's expanding eight-county presence, combined with active GI research and teaching. He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Christine Brasitus, and daughter, Christine Whittaker and grandchildren, Nicholas, Oliver and Sophie.

### **John D. George, M.D. (1939-2021)**

Dr. John D. George III, 82, died March 1, 2021, at his residence in Verona N.Y., following a brief illness. A lifelong resident of the area, he was a graduate of Colgate University with his M.D. from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1965, followed by a rotating internship at Bassett. He also served for two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He married Sharon Mercuri in Hamilton, N.Y. in 1965. George practiced in Verona from 1967-2014 and established the group Verona

Family Practice. He was a president of the Madison County Medical Society, a member and past president of the Four County Medical Society and served as the school and team physician for the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill schools. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, three daughters and an extended family.

### **John W. Severinghaus, M.D. (1922-2021)**

Dr. John W. Severinghaus, 99, professor emeritus of anesthesiology at UCSF and resident of Marin County, Calif., died June 2, 2021. A graduate of Haverford College with a degree in physics, he obtained his M.D. from Columbia University in 1949, followed by six months as a medical missionary on a remote Navaho Indian reservation and then a two-year rotating internship at Bassett which included working with Research Physician, Dr. Joe Ferrebee. He went on to a career in anesthesiology, achieving worldwide renown for his invention of the blood gas analyzer and other achievements in the study of blood gasses. He is survived by his children, Ed, Jean, Wendy (Milton), and Jeff (Lynne); grandchildren Sarah and Alex; and many nieces and nephews. For a fascinating writeup of his storied life and career, see <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/marinij/name/john-severinghaus-obituary?id=14412812>. See also his Family Album entry in *The Cupola*, Volume XI, No. VI, Winter 2008-2009. ■

## Columbia-Bassett Class of 2022 Match

The 2022 class of the Columbia-Bassett program entered the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Main Residency Match this year. Please join us in congratulating these graduates on their success. The residency results are:

**Matthew Adan, M.D.**, Internal Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

**Jamie Aron, M.D.**, Emergency Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

**Devin Beecher, M.D.**, Family Medicine, Keck Medicine of USC, Los Angeles, Calif.

**Alexander Bulteel, M.D.** Internal Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

**Samuel Burnim, M.D.**, Pediatrics, Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, Calif.

**Kelsey Clayman, M.D.**, Emergency Medicine, Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, N. Y.

**Joseph Cornett, M.D.**, Internal Medicine-Pediatrics, University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Kerry Filtz, M.D.**, General Surgery, Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, R.I.

**Liam Gallagher, M.D.**, Otolaryngology, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minn.

**Liam Heneghan, M.D.**, Internal Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Penn.

**Kenneth Hubbell, M.D.**, Internal Medicine, University of California-San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.

**Julie Huff, M.D.**, Family Medicine, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Lawrence, Mass.

**Martha Renn, M.D.**, Family Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y.

Deferred: **Adam Richter** and **Kathleen Yu**

## New Administrative Appointments Announced

Dr. Henry Weil will be adding responsibilities as chief clinical officer in addition to his current duties as chief academic officer. In this role, Weil will take on additional responsibilities to improve clinical performance, quality, safety, and the patient experience. He will serve as a dyad partner to Jeff Joyner, executive vice president, chief operating officer for Bassett Healthcare Network. He will have both Bassett Medical Center and network responsibilities for clinical performance.

Dr. Reginald Knight will move from his role as chief physician executive to provide focused leadership as the chief hospital executive at A.O. Fox Hospital. Knight has a long history with Fox Hospital. He remains on the Executive Leadership Team and will continue to work alongside the team on important strategic integration efforts across the region. ■



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## “A More Excellent Way” – a Part of Bassett’s Past and Its Future

*By Dr. Subashini Daniel*

Eight years ago, I was given the privilege of joining the Bassett Healthcare Network staff. As I reflect on that decision, and the approaching 100th anniversary of Bassett Medical Center, it is still that intangible aspect of Bassett, the strength and caring encompassed in the community-caretaker partnership, that drives me and remains the core of the organization.

Philanthropy is idealism in action. It’s that combination of idealism and hard work, coupled with a critical underpinning of faith in our potential, that brought this place to life 100 years ago and has allowed it to thrive since. The foundation?

A relationship built between a community benefactor, Edward Severin Clark, and a natural-born physician leader who embodied an unwavering commitment to “a more excellent way”, Dr. Mary Imogene Bassett. Following in those footsteps, Bassett teams have achieved clinical excellence while maintaining a deep understanding of what it means to truly care for a community, to care for one another.

The philosophy of a “more excellent way” holds within it not only pride for successes, but simultaneously engenders humility, and reinforces the acknowledgement that we cannot stand still, that there is always room for growth, for learning, for improvement in every facet of our work and interactions. It is with that in mind that we embrace the challenges inevitably



*Dr. Subashini Daniel*

facing us in the next 100 years—continuing to innovate, and to coin a phrase from a colleague, continuing to fight to “be pioneers, as that’s in our DNA”.

Our task as the collective Bassett community is to continue to hold sacrosanct our dedication to refining the art and science of medical care—to not be forced into a construct shaped by others, or by industry drivers that do not share our most fundamental values. Rather, our obligation is to use our strengths, history, intellect and innate dedication to service, to define our own future.

As we further cultivate our relationships with the communities we serve, as well as with the leaders that serve them, we will find innovative solutions to the problems facing health care delivery in a competitive, strained, and under-resourced environment.

By embodying Dr. Bassett’s philosophy of boundary-less thinking I have no doubt that we will succeed, and I look forward to making that journey with all of you.

*Dr. Daniel is serving as the Vice Chair of the Friends of Bassett Board of Directors. She is Medical Director of Systems Improvement and a Senior Attending in Cardiac Surgery at Bassett. If you are interested in making a gift to support Bassett, please contact the Friends of Bassett by emailing [friends.office@bassett.org](mailto:friends.office@bassett.org) or call 607-547-3928. Thank you!* ■