



THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center
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Residents Make A Positive Impact in Research

A very intentional effort to encourage the pursuit of medical research in addition to the development of clinical skills, has enabled Bassett residents to advance their knowledge in a wide range of disciplines and to achieve professional recognition at national meetings and in publication of their research.

A formal program designed to stimulate interest in research among the residents was established at the Bassett Research Institute (BRI) in 1992. It is named in honor of E. Donnall Thomas, M.D., who received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work in bone marrow transplantation begun at Bassett in the 1950s. An endowment fund established by a gift from The Clark Foundation provides ongoing financial support for this effort. The program offers three-year medicine and surgery residents an opportunity to pursue research under a Bassett physician or scientist, selecting from either a variety projects or opting to design his/her own project. Participation is voluntary, and these investigators have access to the extensive resources of the Bassett Research Institute.

Completed research projects are displayed and presented at the annual E. Donnall Thomas Research Day. Residents whose projects demonstrate proficiency to the Resident Research Committee are recognized for their excellence in research with a certificate and have their names inscribed on a plaque. These residents are encouraged and supported to present projects at national and international meetings.

According to Anne Gadomski, M.D., M.P.H., Director of the BRI, who chairs the E. Donnell Thomas Research Committee, the research staff at the BRI is actively involved in offering

critical review of proposed research projects to help fine-tune their design to ensure high-quality outcomes and publishable results. In addition to the hands-on training and educational value of the experience for the residents, Gadomski notes, "one of our goals is to incorporate as many attendings as mentors and resources as possible. By fostering collaborative partnerships, these research experiences enrich the work lives of our professional staff too."



Anne Gadomski,
M.D., M.P.H.

Research opportunities offered to medical and surgical residents have proven to be successful in luring highly-qualified candidates to Bassett's residency programs. For example, the 2018 winner of the E. Donnall Thomas Research Award, Karn Wijarnpreecha, M.D., was attracted to Bassett not only because of research support but also because of its rural setting. He described this setting as a

safe haven lacking in distractions to take him from his interest in pursuing medical research while here. "I knew I wanted to undertake research that would contribute to advancing the care of patients. Bassett's program offered me exactly what I wanted," said Wijarnpreecha.

His training began with a month-long research elective at Stanford University with Donghee Kim, M.D., Ph.D., in the division of gastroenterology and hepatology, who helped him get started and guided him in the selection of a study topic. Wijarnpreecha asserts he would not have been successful without the "strong support of Dr. Bischof, Program Director of Internal Medicine, and the staff at the BRI. I found the BRI staff to be very helpful, and I am especially grateful to

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Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors



Kenneth Wilkins,
M.D., President,
Board of Directors

Research, medical education, patient care. These are the three pillars upon which Bassett Healthcare rests. Excellence in patient care and marvelous teaching are simply parts of the culture in Cooperstown, and I like to think that this has produced generations of excellent clinicians and will continue to do so.

This issue of *The Cupola*, however, emphasizes the research mission of Bassett, and well it should. From its roots over a half-century ago in the early research of E. Donnell Thomas, M.D., who

went on to receive the Nobel Prize in Medicine, to a recent case report of thunderclap headache caused not by

a subarachnoid hemorrhage but by eating a Carolina Reaper pepper, research has helped define Bassett Healthcare. I hope you'll catch up on the work of the Bassett Research Institute under the leadership of Anne Gadomski, M.D., and find out about other programs and activities at Bassett from the articles here.

And of course, please don't forget the Alumni Reunion in October. We want you to be here, and it's not too late to make arrangements to attend. Finally, even if you can't come in October, let us hear from you. The "Bassett Family Album — Alumni News" on pages 4 and 5 of *The Cupola*, is a perennial favorite. Tell us what you're up to and we'll spread the word.

Again, we hope to see you in October. ■

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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Alan J. Kozak, M.D.

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Awards Announced

The 2018 Golden awards are given by the residents to the faculty members they felt were their most outstanding teachers.

As this year's recipients of the Golden Apples, the internal medicine residents selected

Travis Hodgdon, D.O., Attending Physician in critical care. Surgical residents chose **Theodor Kaufman, M.D.**, Attending General Surgeon and Surgical Residency Program Director and **Nicholas Hellenthal, M.D.**, Attending Surgeon Urology and Surgeon-In-Chief.

Golden Stethoscope awards, given by medical students and residents to a senior resident for excellence in teaching, were presented to

Rajasekhar Sanapala, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine) and **Sarah Smith, M.D.** (Surgery).

Columbia-Bassett Students Present Awards to Residents of the Year

Students of the Columbia-Bassett (C-B) Medical School presented the Cupola Award for the C-B Resident of the Year in recognition of the residents who best exemplify dedication to teaching, mentorship, and patient care. Selected by the Class of 2018, the residents recognized are **Ethan Talbot, M.D.** (Surgery Resident) and **Benjamin Dao, M.D.**, (Internal Medicine Resident). ■



Medical resident Kanramon Watthanasuntorn, M.D. (left) shared her research project in poster format with Anush Patel, M.D. (right) and other staff members on the 2018 E. Donnall Thomas Research Day.

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statistician Melissa Scribani, M.P.H. Her assistance and approachability made my project possible." (see article on page 7 to learn more about *Wijarnpreecha's* project.)

Erin Gillaspie, M.D., a surgery resident from 2009 to 2013 and another recipient of the Thomas Research Award, concurs with Wijarnpreecha. "The research opportunities I had during my residency at Bassett were invaluable to my education and inspired me to incorporate research as a significant part of my career. Over the last two years as I began my clinical practice, I concomitantly pursued a master's in Public Health to further expand my skills and begin a surgical clinical trials program at Vanderbilt," stated Gillaspie. She is now a thoracic surgeon at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and continues to be active in research, presenting throughout the U.S. and internationally.

In addition to the E. Donnall Thomas Research Program, the faculty has devised other activities to encourage scholarly pursuit among the residents. The Resident Research Committee comprised of faculty members and chaired by

Edward Bischof, M.D, Program Director of Internal Medicine, offers residents guidance in conceptualizing, designing and executing a variety of scholarly activity including case reports, quality improvement projects, and retrospective research. These activities help residents combine their academic training with patient experiences and/or prepare them for assessing and designing organizational systems. According to Bischof, "It's important to acknowledge less formal research opportunities such as case reports and QI projects undertaken by the residents, many of which have direct patient impact." In 2018, two residents were recognized by the Resident Research Committee for their

activities. On behalf of the faculty, Eric Bravin, M.D., presented awards to Kristin E. Baker, M.D., for her work relating to resident wellness and to Maryam Khavandi, M.D., for a case report on polyarteritis nodosa.

Former Director of Medical Education John S. Davis, M.D., asserts that research has always been a critical part of Bassett's academic mission. "Now more than ever, the pressures of the current health care climate challenge institutions. We must be aggressive in supporting research for students, residents and senior staff," said Davis. He expressed the hope that Bassett will continue to provide the time needed for attendings and residents to participate in mentoring, teaching, and fulfilling their clinical commitments.

The Department of Medicine endorses the belief that a resident who participates in the research program will develop enhanced understanding of the medical literature, bring a unique expertise to practice and teaching, and develop special skills likely to make that individual more effective after completion of the residency whether as a clinician or researcher. ■

CEO of American College of Physicians To Address Alumni Reunion



Darilyn V. Moyer, M.D.

The first female Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer in the 101-year history of the American College of Physicians (ACP) Darilyn V. Moyer, M.D., will present the keynote address at the 2018 Family Reunion, Saturday, October 6. Moyer will offer her appraisal on “Why Health Is More Than Healthcare” and provide some insights into the issues surrounding health advocacy.

Moyer will visit Cooperstown for several days and will share her insights with residents and staff on Friday, October 5 at the annual Dr. John Davis Lecture on the topic of “Women In Medicine: Creating An Inclusive Healthcare Environment,” a presentation drawing upon a recent position paper co-authored by Moyer.

Reunion Chair, Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., encouraged alumni to take advantage of this opportunity to meet Moyer. He adds, “I am very pleased to welcome Darilyn to Bassett for this event. At this juncture in health care, it’s critical to share ideas with a leader in the field whose perspectives are sure to enliven and enlighten.”

Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Moyer has been a Fellow of ACP (FACP) since 1995. She has served on ACP’s Board of Regents, which manages the business and affairs of ACP and is the main policy-making body of the College. She has also chaired ACP’s Board of Governors.

Previously, Moyer was a Professor of Medicine, Executive Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Medicine, Internal Medicine Residency Program Director and Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education at Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. She received the Temple University School of Medicine Women in Medicine Mentoring Award in 2012.

She received her B.A. in the Biological Basis of Behavior, Biology and Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and attended medical school at Temple University School of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine residency at Temple University Hospital and served as a Chief Resident/Clinical Instructor of Medicine. She went on to complete an Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, Calif. ■

Reunion Marks 30th Anniversary of Bassett Medical Alumni Association

The Medical Alumni Association invites all its members to participate in a weekend of conversations, social events and reminiscences, October 5 and 6, 2018. President of the Association, Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D. (Medicine Resident 1980-84) encourages alumni to come back for a Cooperstown weekend. He adds, “I love returning to Cooperstown to reconnect with colleagues and friends from my early years of training. I encourage others to make time to participate and urge classmates to meet up at the reunion.”

The fun will get started Friday evening with an informal gathering at Cooperstown’s Red Shed Brewery Taproom, which offers traditional small-batch brews. The evening’s festivities will include food and music.

In addition to the keynote address by Darilyn V. Moyer, M.D., “Why Health Is More Than Healthcare” offering insights into the issues surrounding health advocacy, (see article above) Saturday’s schedule features a range of presentations including updates on the status of the Bassett Healthcare Network, the residency programs, and the Columbia-Bassett Medical School. A half-dozen “IMY Talks” (Innovative Mostly Medical Yarns) modeled on the concept of TED Talks, will showcase succinct creative idea-sharing on diverse topics.

A luncheon hosted by the Friends of Bassett will be provided on Saturday at Bassett Hall for participants and family members.



In addition to the keynote address, the afternoon will allow time for tours of Bassett’s facilities. The evening will conclude with a barbecue at the Sugar Shack.

If you didn’t receive a brochure with the schedule and registration information, please visit the Medical Education Alumni Affairs section of the Bassett Healthcare Network website or contact the Medical Education Department at mary.wiswell@bassett.org or 607-547-3764.



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 Internship 1956-57) lives with his family in Motza Illit in the Judean Hills near Jerusalem. He is a professor emeritus with a lab doing bio-remediation—at age 87 that must be some sort of record! He and his wife Jo-Anne are well and have 4 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and 2 more on the way. He's been doing research relating to the development of a vaccine for tuberculous disease and animal immunization with an oral BCG. He writes, "The concept of 'One Health' now views human TB together as a complex with bovine TB. If your animals are sick, it's hard for you to be well. I organized a workshop in Jerusalem in February, since the annual global losses in sick bovines is estimated to be billions of dollars. In India, diagnosis and culling is not possible, so immunization would be an important step forward, and maybe one might advance towards oral boosters in already primed humans in the developing world. Any of you people with ties to tuberculosis, Bill Gates, or Temple Grandin, please let me know."



Charles Greenblatt, M.D. with wife Jo-Anne (right) and daughter Sara (left) who was born in Cooperstown during his internship 61 years ago.

1960s

Bruce McClennan, M.D. (Rotating Intern 1967-68) had the privilege of delivering a lecture named in his honor at the spring meeting of

the American Roentgen Ray Society. He writes, "I have been active in that society for several decades and I am a past president and past gold-medalist. This recent meeting was a great one for me."



Bruce McClennan, M.D.

1970s

Terry Zumwalt, M.D. (Rotating Intern 1971-72; Obstetrics-Gynecology Resident 1972-75) continues her work training medics to treat PTSD and chronic pain issues. A veteran of Operation Desert Storm, she has a website www.operationfirehawk.org that features rapid treatment for combat stress reaction.

1980s

Dinah Farrington, M.D. (Obstetrics/Gynecology Resident 1983-86) who has the honor of being the last individual to finish an OB residency at Bassett, is hopeful she will be able to attend the reunion. She is doing lots of volunteer work these days particularly for her church, where she teaches Sunday School.

1990s

S. Patrick Kachur, M.D. (Transitional Year Resident, 1990-91) recently retired from Centers for Disease Control where he was honored with the agency's William C Watson Jr. Medal of Excellence for "exemplary leadership and scientific

contributions to prevent and control malaria worldwide." In June he was appointed as a professor at Columbia University Medical Center where he directs a global platform of health systems implementation research projects at the Mailman School of Public Health.

Francis Nolan, M.D.

(Transitional Intern 1991) has relocated with his family to Cooperstown after working in Emergency Medicine in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia for the last six years. He's enjoying the relaxing pace and beautiful landscape of the area, while completing his first book, working title *Doc Down Under* about his many exotic adventures in Australia and New Zealand. Nolan will be working in the Emergency Department at Bassett on a per diem basis and is happy to reconnect with old friends and colleagues. He's also keen to discuss working overseas in the Australian healthcare system with anyone who has an interest.



Francis Nolan, M.D.

2000s

Tepsiri and Natsurang Chongkraitatanakul, M.Ds. (Internal Medicine Residents 2006-09 and 2007-10, respectively) Tepsiri was also the Medicine Chief Resident 2009-10) recently had twin daughters, Alyssa and Araya. They have been at the Medical College of Wisconsin since 2016. Natsurang is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Endocrinology Division.

Tepsiri is a transplant nephrologist, Associate Program Director of Nephrology Fellowship, and Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Nephrology Division.

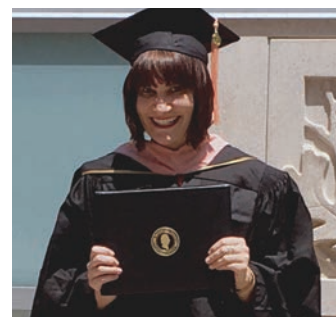


Tepsiri and Natsurang Chongkraitatanakul, M.Ds. with daughters Alyssa and Araya

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

(Transitional Year Residents 2006-07) relocated to Naples, Fla., two years ago to be closer to family and start their own family. They welcomed their son Francis (Frankie) Peter Groat on April 27, 2018. Both are working in private practice.

Erin Gillaspie, M.D. (Surgery Resident 2009-13) finished her masters of Public Health degree from Vanderbilt. Her degree had a special focus on biostatistics, decision analysis, and clinical trial development. She wrote, "I successfully defended my thesis in March (I analyzed the clinical predictors of response during treatment with immunotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer) and graduated this May."



Erin Gillaspie, M.D.

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Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program Holds Graduation



L-R Front Row: Stephanie Harris, Executive Assistant, Columbia-Bassett Medical School; Stephanie Colello; Justin Spring; Donald Bordley, M.D.; Henry Weil, M.D.; Lauren Onofrey; Sarah Harney; Rachel Criswell. L-R Back Row: Eric Bland, Jemma Benson, Brandon Garcia, Surbhi Agrawal, Rachel Severin.

On May 12, preceding the formal graduation ceremony in New York City, there was a graduation celebration at The Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown. This event was attended by faculty members and families, and included an address by Donald Bordley, M.D., Associate Chair for Education and Professor of Medicine, University of Rochester Medical Center, and a brief talk by Henry Weil, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Education. Columbia-Bassett certificates were presented to each student by a Bassett faculty member.

Each year the graduating class recognizes one faculty member who most exemplifies the traits that students hope to embody in the future. These traits might include dedication to teaching, patient care, scholarship, and probity. The 2018 recipient of the Cupola Award to the Columbia Bassett Teacher of the Year was Megan Brennan, M.D., Attending Psychiatrist and Assistant Dean for Education of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program. ■

2018 Streck Fellowships Awarded to Bassett Physicians



Caroline Gomez-DiCesare, M.D.



Ricardo Lundi, D.P.M.

The William F. Streck Fellowship in Health Policy and Management has been awarded to Caroline Gomez-DiCesare, M.D., and Ricardo Lundi, D.P.M. Each will use the award to attend an educational conference.

Established in 2014, the fellowship honors Bassett's CEO, William F. Streck, M.D., and enables one or two Bassett Healthcare Network employees chosen to receive the award to pursue non-degree educational opportunities in health care management and policy that will help them to advance health care in rural populations.

Gomez-DiCesare specializes in internal medicine and pediatrics and sees patients at the Middleburgh

Health Center. An upstate New York native with a Ph.D. in neuroanatomy, Gomez-DiCesare is developing a collaborative program to combat burnout among physicians and nurses at Bassett by cultivating curiosity and creating a culture that emphasizes wellness, safety, and a supportive workplace to help all staff provide the best possible patient care. Gomez-DiCesare will attend the International Conference on Physician Health (ICPH) in Toronto, Ontario in October 2018. She will study strategies for preventing burnout among physicians and health care workers and improving resilience among clinicians and health care staff.

Lundi was raised in New Jersey and attended the Podiatric School of Medicine at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine. After a residency at Englewood Hospital, he joined the medical group at Bassett in 2014 as a podiatrist. He sees patients at Cobleskill Regional Hospital, O'Connor Hospital, and the Wound Center, as well as Bassett Medical Center.

Because he is interested in leadership opportunities, Lundi used his fellowship to attend "Leading in Health Systems: Integrating Effort, Improving Outcomes"

at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health in Cambridge, Mass. There, he studied how to effectively lead, motivate, and inspire health care stakeholders, how to leverage people and resources to attain shared goals; and how to improve negotiation and conflict resolution skills to solve complex problems.

Family from page 4

2010s

Satish Kumar Boddhula, M.B., B.S.

(Medicine Resident 2015-present),

Sowmya Boddhula, M.B., B.S.

(Medicine Resident 2013-16, Chief Medicine Resident 2016-17; Attending Physician 2017-present), and

Kulothungan Gunasekaran, M.B., B.S.

(Internal Medicine Resident 2013-16) had a case report published by BMJ Case Reports about the "unusual cause of thunderclap headache after eating the hottest pepper in the world," which was picked up by the national media. Gunasekaran, now at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, was interviewed by National Public Radio, The New York Times and other media outlets. ■

DeLong Poised To Lead National Physicians' Society



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

Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., F.A.C.P., Division Chief, Primary Care at Bassett Hospital, has been named chair-elect of the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the national organization of internists. His term began during Internal Medicine Meeting 2018, ACP's annual scientific meeting held in New Orleans from April 19-21. The Board of Regents is the main policy-making body of the College.

Prior to his term on ACP's Board of Regents, he served as Chair of ACP's Board of Governors. He has been a member of various committees and councils within the College, including the New York Chapter's Public Health and Policy Committee and participated in the New York Chapter's Leadership Day, and ACP's Leadership Day of Capitol Hill in D.C.

Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. 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 in Cooperstown and was named Chief Medical Resident. DeLong is also an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. He has been a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP) since 1994. ■

Bassett Looks Back



Reunion Memories: Alumni reconnected and made new friends at the Reunion 2013. Shown here (l. to r.) Peter Hoffmeister, M.D. (Internal Medicine Resident 1998-2002), Emery Herman, Jr., M.D. (Attending Physician 1961-94), and David Svahn, M.D. (Rotating/Internal Medicine Resident 1965-67 and Attending Physician 1972-2007) enjoying the gathering at the Ommegang Brewery.

Residents Announce Future Plans

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

Mathhar Aldaoud, M.D. (Internal Medicine), Cardiology Fellowship, St. John Providence Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

Tarun J. Bathini, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

Saeeda Fatima, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

David A. Fredenberg, M.D. (General Surgery), General Surgery Practice, Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage, AK

Steven Hawkins, M.D. (General Surgery), General Surgery Residency, University of California-San Diego, San Diego, Calif.

Umair Iqbal, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Geisinger School of Medicine, Danville, Penn.

Ayesha Jameel, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine), Endocrinology Fellowship, Lahey Clinic, Burlington, Mass.

Christopher C. Johnson, M.D. (General Surgery), General Surgery Practice, Mayo Clinic Health System, Red Cedar, Menomonie, Wis.

Stephen Kwak, M.D. (Internal Medicine), Radiology Residency, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.

Emily Lefkowitz, M.D. (Transitional Year), Dermatology Residency, Roger Williams Medical Center, Providence, R.I.

Sarah C. Mader, D.O. (Internal Medicine), General Internist, Finger Lakes Health, Geneva, N.Y.

Zachary Mendelson, M.D. (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School, Newark, N.J.

Cyril M. Rosenfeld, M.D. (Transitional Year), Radiology Residency, Jacobi Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y.

Rajasekhar Sanapala, M.B., B.S. (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, St. Joseph's Medical Center, Stockton, Calif.

Tina V. Sankhla, M.D. (Transitional Year), Interventional Radiology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

Zachary T. Skabelund, M.D. (Transitional Year) Dermatology Residency, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.

Samuel H. Tesfalidet, M.D. (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, University of Colorado, Aurora, Colo.

Charat Thongprayoon, M.D. (Internal Medicine), Nephrology Fellowship, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

Joanna Tu, M.D. (Transitional Year), Dermatology Residency, Stanford University Program, Stanford, Calif.

Sina Vahedi, M.D. (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, Va.

Karn Wijarnpreecha, D.O. (Internal Medicine), Gastroenterology Fellowship, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education-Florida, Jacksonville, Fla.

Benjamin D. Wilson, M.D. (Transitional Year) Ophthalmology Residency, SUNY-Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.



See our latest news and updates at Bassett Medical Alumni Association

E. Donnell Thomas Award for Outstanding Research at Bassett Announced

A doctor completing his medical training at Bassett hopes the results of a recent research study project will enhance the knowledge about nonalcoholic fatty-liver disease (NAFLD) and NAFLD-related advanced fibrosis (scarring) of the liver. Karn Wijarnpreecha, M.D., conducted research to try to determine whether sarcopenia (progressive loss of muscle mass and function) is associated with NAFLD (nonalcoholic fatty liver disease) and advanced fibrosis (scarring in the liver.) The study indicated sarcopenia is associated with increased risk of NAFLD and NAFLD-related advanced fibrosis in NAFLD patients and the associations are consistent across all ethnicities.



Karn Wijarnpreecha, M.D., with Anne Gadomski, M.D., M.P.H., Director of the Bassett Research Institute, holding the plaque inscribed with the names of those residents who have been recognized for their excellence in research.

Wijarnpreecha worked on the study project with Donghee Kim, M.D., Ph.D., division of gastroenterology, Stanford University, and Bassett mentor Pascale Raymond, M.D.; and was also supported at Bassett Medical Center by Edward Bischof, M.D., Program Director, Internal Medicine, and Melissa Scribani, M.P.H., statistician.

Wijarnpreecha earned his medical degree from Chiang Mai University, Thailand. After completing his residency at Bassett in June, he will start a gastroenterology fellowship training at Mayo Clinic Florida and after that begin a hepatology fellowship. During his residency training at Bassett, his work has been

published more than 75 times, and he was selected to be one of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Emerging Liver Scholar and Ambassador recipients.

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. ■

Wijarnpreecha is an Internal Medicine Resident in his third year of training at Bassett Medical Center and his research earned him the 2018 E. Donnell Thomas Research Day Outstanding Research Presentation award. His research project and poster were among the 12 presented. Moreover, this project helped him to achieve Young Investigator Bursary from the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) in 2018.

"Understanding the pathophysiology or associated risk factors that may prevent NAFLD or NAFLD-associated with fibrosis may help patients," said Wijarnpreecha. "We can tell patients that they may have a higher risk of NAFLD if they have low muscle mass; and that also in NAFLD patients, if they had low muscle mass, they have higher chance to get scarring in the liver, which is a poor health indicator. So, interventions to strengthen muscle mass may reduce the burden of NAFLD and advanced fibrosis."

Alumni from page 8

Then he was lured to General Electric Power Systems, based in Schenectady. General Electric wanted Pratt to work for them doing something similar to what he'd done for Hershey, but on an international scale. He spent 12 years traveling the globe managing occupational medicine, travel medicine, and health insurance for U.S. employees.

In 2007, Pratt decided to do something different. He retired from GE and returned to school, earning a master's degree in public health. He then completed a residency in preventive medicine that provided him with opportunities to study genomics, inborn errors of metabolism, and gene sequencing. He enjoyed it all.

By 2009 Pratt had completed his M.P.H. and passed the board exam in preventive medicine. He became Commissioner of Public Health for Schenectady County. In this position, he wrote and received grants to study diabetes among Guyanese immigrants who develop that disease at an unusually high rate.

Most recently he agreed to serve on the board of directors at MVP and continues in that role today. He also volunteers on the Ellis Hospital Institutional Review Board, or IRB, to make sure that human subjects are protected during experimental trials.

Pratt remembers Bassett as a place where young physicians could find opportunities to innovate and explore new ideas.

It's what allowed him and John May to start NYCAMH and do the ground-breaking research that moved farm safety forward. "There's enough energy and room for young men and women to pursue their ideas at Bassett," Pratt said, and that is part of what moves him to support Bassett now. ■

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.

Anesthesia	Gastroenterology
Emergency and Trauma Services	OB/GYN
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An Amazing Career and a Deep Appreciation for Bassett

By Jill Maney



David Pratt, M.D.

Part of what convinced David Pratt, M.D., to study medicine was his childhood exposure to polio and the devastation caused by that disease. He remembers lining up for the Salk vaccine when it first became available. An image of a female classmate with polio who had to be carried into class imprinted itself on his mind.

At seven years old, Pratt was already impressed by infectious diseases.

Years later, having been wait-listed at three medical schools and planning to pursue a Ph.D. at Yale, Pratt was surprised and delighted when he received an acceptance letter from Tufts Medical School, where he gained a profound appreciation of biological complexity and eventually graduated with honors. He went to the University of Michigan for his internship and residency, as the Vietnam War grew worse.

He expressed an interest in public health, received a deferment, and was assigned to be a public health officer in the Hawaiian Islands. He and his wife moved there to support the state health department and do research on the measles vaccine.

While doing this work, Pratt learned of the global effort to eradicate smallpox, then happening in India. He volunteered to assist those efforts, and was present in India when the virus and disease was fully controlled. To Pratt, participating in the successful eradication effort “was like getting to play on the winning team in the Super Bowl.”

He decided to specialize in pulmonology when he returned to the U.S. and got a fellowship to the University of Colorado. They had just opened a pulmonary intensive care unit, and he was among the earliest to work there.

By 1978, he was looking for a place where he could use his training and start a program. Bassett was the place he and his family chose. They moved to Cooperstown and stayed until 1992. At Bassett, Pratt built a pulmonology lab, expanded respiratory care, and hired John May, M.D.

Pratt said, “John May was the best hire I made in my entire career, hands down.”

The two were “simpatico,” as Pratt put it. Together Pratt and May wrote and published many articles, won numerous grants, and founded the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, or NYCAMH.

In 1992, Hershey Foods contacted Pratt and asked if he would consider working for them as their Corporate Medical Director. This was a dramatically different job, one that involved managing a large corporate medical group, as well as overseeing occupational medicine.

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