

Faculty News

Henry Pohl, MD

Vice Dean for Academic Administration

and

Steven Stain, MD

Chair of the Department of Surgery

participated as "Test Committee Members" to develop and review the test items from which the United States Medical Licensing Examination is composed. According to the National Board of Medical Examiners, which administers the test, the activities required for development of test materials "are challenging and require talented individuals who are highly respected by their peers. The Federation of State Medical Boards and the NBME choose test committee members very carefully; selection to a USMLE Committee brings honor to the individuals and to his or her institution."

Dennis Metzger, PhD

Professor, Theobald Smith Alumni Chair and Director, Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease

accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Immunity and Host Defense Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, beginning July 1 through June 30, 2013. Members are selected on the basis of their demonstrated achievement in their scientific discipline. Study sections review grant applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations on these application to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in their fields of science. According to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, "These functions are of great value to the medical and allied research in this country."

Jihe Zhao, PhD

Associate Professor, Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research

has received a \$600,000 award from the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Dr. Zhao's award, "Determining the Role of EMT in Metastatic Progression of Breast Cancer," will fund studies designed to identify novel therapeutic targets for the treatment of breast cancer.

Michelle Lennartz, PhD

Professor, Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research

has received a two-year, \$406,556 award from the National Institutes of Health to study the "Role of Macrophage Activation in Carotid Plaque Instability."

J. Andres Melendez, PhD

Associate Professor, Center for Immunology & Microbial Disease

has received a \$168,648 supplement to his existing \$1.6 million, five-year research grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging, in support of his research titled "Redox-Control of MMP-1 and Senescence."

Runners Represent Hospital in Corporate Race



Nearly two dozen staff members participated in this year's GHI Workforce Team Challenge in downtown Albany on May 21. Organized by Steve Jones, RN (top row, third from right), the runners braved hot temperatures to finish the 3.5-mile course along with 3,000 other runners from organizations throughout the Capital District.



Albany Medical Center

43 New Scotland Avenue (Mail Code 125)
Albany, New York 12208

Change Service Requested

Ruth Henderson Brightens Albany Med for 50 Years

In 1997, **Ruth Henderson** retired from Patient Registration (then known as Reservations) with plans to travel and visit family. "At the time, a lot of people were retiring and traveling or playing golf, so I decided to try it," she recalls. But one month later, she was back to work.

"It just wasn't for me. I like to be busy, and I just love the people here."

Fast forward 12 years, and find Henderson celebrating a 50-year career at the Medical Center with no plans for retirement any time soon.

Henderson's career began in 1952 when her sister-in-law told her that the hospital was hiring registration clerks at 98 cents per hour. "I jumped at the opportunity," Henderson says. "Patients were admitted at four wooden desks stationed in the Pillars Lobby. They were just sitting right out there in the open," she says, shaking her head. "My, how it's changed. I can't believe how we've grown."

Aside from her brief stint at retirement, Henderson left only one other time, in the late 50s, to raise her three children, returning full-time in 1961. Throughout her career, Henderson has held positions supporting the service cashier, patient registration for the emergency department and obstetrics and gynecology, before joining bed access where she now works part-time assigning beds and handling transfers, admissions, deaths, and verifications. "We like to call ourselves the hub of the hospital," she says about bed access. "It's a wonderful team of people. We have a very smooth operation."

While Ruth credits her managers and co-workers for her positive work environment, the sentiments are clearly mutual. "I respectfully tell Ruth that she is the 'color of my world'," says **Cathy Pallozzi**, director of patient access. "Pick a color, the brighter the better, and literally Ruth has it a part of her wardrobe with reading glasses and shoes to match. But even more so, Ruth brightens up the room with her personality. She lives each day to the fullest.



Her laugh is contagious, and her compassion and love of her family and co-workers is so apparent."

In fact, some of her co-workers are actual family members.

Daughter **Deborah Dottino**, administrative assistant in the finance department, and daughter-in-law, **Leslie Prior, RN**, nurse manager at South Clinical Campus, are members of Albany Med's 25-Year Club. Henderson also met her late husband, Bill Henderson, while he was working as the hospital's comptroller.

Since her family is so important, it was fitting that Henderson asked to forego a formal anniversary celebration in order to donate the funds to the Children's Hospital in memory of her son, Robert "Jake" Henderson. Henderson was presented with a plaque in her son's honor at a small informal anniversary celebration last month.

"Thank you to everyone," she said. "It's been a wonderful career. "Everyone is very caring. But of course, that's what Albany Med is all about."

Albany Med

TODAY

NEWS AT ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER

Healthcare Watch

The health care reform debate is heating up in Washington. Despite a shared commitment to reform among various stakeholders, and progress on drafting actual legislative proposals, concerns over socialization of the system and costs threaten advancement. Creation of a public health insurance option is at the heart of largely partisan disagreement forcing President Obama and other Democrats to declare it is not "a Trojan horse for a single payer system." At the same time, some factions are complaining that the single-payer option should be on the table.

The House of Representatives released a discussion draft of its health reform package last month. While the house draft does not include reductions in Medicare or Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments, it does provide for cost saving initiatives similar to those advanced by the president that would reduce Medicare and Medicaid spending. These cuts are targeted to reduce hospital payments in addition to expenditures on continuing/long-term care. Efforts to fund reform by reducing already inadequate hospital payments must be disguised, and we will continue to monitor developments closely.



Board Member Pledges \$1 Million Gift

Matthew Bender IV, longtime Albany Medical Center board member and volunteer, has committed \$1 million to the institution to support Albany Medical College. The gift will be used to further support the Bender Endowed Chair in Neurology and the Bender Family Minority Scholarship. This is Bender's second million-dollar gift to the Medical Center in less than a decade.

"Matt is an extraordinary man, who has done extraordinary things for Albany Medical Center and our region," said Albany Med President **Jim Barba**. "His financial generosity to our Medical Center can only be matched by his perseverance and leadership, which has been very influential in paving the path for success for Albany Med. It comes as little surprise that Matt has chosen once again to strengthen our endowment and provide a tremendous

benefit to our physicians, staff, patients and students—the very core of this institution."

South Clinical Campus Notes '10 Years of Progress'

When the former Child's Hospital on Hackett Boulevard was sold to Albany Medical Center in June of 1999, it was requested that the "culture"

when it was clear in the late '90s that the facility would close if it were not sold, Albany Med put in an official bid to buy the 97,000-square-foot

for more operating room space. While it has served that purpose by becoming a regional hub for same-day and other specialized surgery, South Clinical Campus has become so much more.

"We have evolved and added many services over 10 years. When I sat down to document it all, it was very clear how much we have grown," says **Timothy Duffey**, who has been clinical director of South Clinical Campus since it opened.

Key to that growth was the 2006 purchase of the adjacent Child's Nursing Home, which closed its doors in late 2005. The additional space has been modernized and has allowed for the relocation of departments including psychiatry, endocrinology, rheumatology

facility that was accepted after successful negotiations between Albany Med President **Jim Barba** and **R. Wayne Diesel**, who at the time was a senior member of the Child's Hospital Board of Directors. Today, Diesel is Albany Med's chair of the Board of Directors.

Frisch says purchasing Child's was originally considered as a solution to the pressing need remain as it had been from the time the small hospital was founded in 1874 by the Sisters of the Holy Child of the Albany Episcopal Diocese—that being a close-knit, compassionate, patient-centered environment. By all accounts, it has.

"We have a small town feel with all the technical and professional benefits of a major teaching hospital. It's a perfect combination," says **Christine Hunt, RN**, who joined the pre-operative nursing team at the facility shortly after it was purchased by Albany Med.

The sale came as a win-win situation all around, says **Steven Frisch, MD**, executive vice president of integrated delivery systems and hospital systems general director. Albany Med had maintained an affiliation with Child's for many years prior to the sale, and



Wishing South Clinical Campus a "happy birthday" during the meeting of the Board's Hospital Operations Committee on June 23, from left; Mary Ellen Plass, RN, senior vice president/chief nursing officer; Michael Burke, Chair, Hospital Affairs Committee of Albany Med's Board of Directors; John O'Connor, Vice Chair, Hospital Affairs Committee of the Board; Michael Murphy, RN, SCC patient care service director; Timothy Duffey, SCC hospital director; Steven Frisch, MD, executive VP of IDS and hospital systems general director; John Robinson, outgoing Board chairman; and Albany Med President Jim Barba.



Matthew Bender IV

financial assistance to minority students and encourage diversity at the Medical College. During the 2008/09 academic year, eight medical students received financial assistance from the scholarship fund. Since its establishment, 157 scholarships totaling \$525,000 have been distributed to 65 medical students.

Bender is the great-grandson of the founder of Matthew Bender & Company—one of the nation's

Continued on inside

South Clinical Campus Continued from cover

nephrology and breast and endocrine surgery. Plans for renovation of the former nursing home's entry canopy and its fourth floor are in development.

When South Clinical opened in 1999, it offered limited medical imaging and radiology services, six operating rooms, pre-operative and post-operative recovery rooms and a 20-bed overnight monitoring unit. Today, the facility boasts eight upgraded operating rooms along with expanded and renovated pre- and post-operative care units; an extended care monitoring unit; a comprehensive Breast Care Center featuring advanced mammography; radiology and imag-



In the South Clinical Campus pre-operative unit; clockwise from back; Timothy Duffey, Charles Welliver, MD; Michael Murphy, RN; Christine Hunt, RN; Robin Trainor, RN; Rita Tice; Rebecca Baldwin, RN; and Katherine Chesley, RN.

ing services including a new multislice CT scanner, advanced MRI, and a Bone Densitometry (DEXA) Unit; and an expanded pathology frozen section lab. And, recently, plastic surgery and bariatric surgery and clinical nutrition opened up inside the facility.

A number of Albany Med's staff surgeons and affiliated physicians perform outpatient surgery at the campus, including ear, nose and throat surgery, ophthalmology, breast surgery, plastic surgery, eye surgery, podiatry and neurosurgical procedures



Hospital Director Tim Duffey stands in a newly-renovated wing in the former Child's Nursing Home.

including pain management, and a host of pediatric procedures. In 2008, more than 8,000 operations were performed at the facility. In fact, in its 10 years, South Clinical has hosted many of the region's surgical "firsts," including balloon sinusplasty, cornea transplants, and bilateral cochlear implant surgery.

Patient care services are directed by **Michael Murphy, RN**, who is well known as a "go-to" person throughout the facility, supervises a staff of nurses, PCAs and other patient care professionals, about 100 of whom were former Child's employees. One

of those employees, **Rebecca Baldwin, RN**, says it was a smooth transition.

"It's a fast-paced, but very caring environment, and I enjoy meeting new patients and families each day," she says.

Duffey cites a recent NRC Picker Outpatient Surgery patient satisfaction survey. Asked to rate the "overall quality of outpatient care" South Clinical

Campus received a 100 percent positive score. "South Clinical has historically been rated high in patient satisfaction," says Duffey, who attributes the recognition to the staff who strive each day to earn that distinction.

"South Clinical Campus has been a great success for Albany Medical Center," agrees Frisch. "It's allowed us to transition services as well as move with the marketplace when it comes to the services patients need. Especially as outpatient surgery has grown in popularity, we've been able to find that niche in a convenient setting."

New Associate Dean Aims to Instill Sense of Community Service

Ingrid Allard, MD, was recently appointed associate dean for community outreach and medical education, a new position at the Medical College. In this role, Allard is responsible for directing community outreach activities for medical students, assisting in curriculum development, and overseeing diversity, cultural competency, and inclusion initiatives that will aid in the recruitment of students and faculty.

"Albany Medical College has built a strong reputation of providing a culturally diverse, community focused educational experience to enrich students' medical education and instill a sense of compassion and lifelong commitment to community service," says **Dean Vincent Verdile, MD**. "Dr. Allard's unique ideologies and professional background will only enhance this important mission. We are thrilled that she has joined us to devote her energy and leadership to this ongoing educational priority."

As part of her role, Allard is overseeing existing community outreach activities such as the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) and the community medicine elective, as well as cultivating new community partnerships. "The determinants of one's health are not just medical," she says. "It is important to teach medical students to consider all parts of a community that may affect one's health, such as finances, poverty, education and habits, and to address these issues as well."

Additionally, Allard is serving as a mentor to both students and faculty, providing personal guidance to students and career advisement to faculty in accordance with the Sosa Academy of Medical Sciences—a concept unique to the Medical College that encourages and rewards faculty for excellence in educational leadership, curriculum development and reform, and mentorship.

Before coming to Albany Med, Allard was the community and preventive medicine course director and assistant professor of pediatrics at New York Medical College in Valhalla. She received her medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She completed a pediatric residency at the Unified Program of Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



Albany Med Community Pitches in Generously to Help Moms and Babies

Albany Med's six-month "Full Strength Campaign" wrapped up in June, with employees and visitors contributing a total of \$1,376 and more than 250 containers of baby formula in an effort to prevent water intoxication. In times of economic hardship, the concern is that some parents may be tempted to stretch their supply of formula by diluting it with too much water—a practice that can have tragic results for a baby. And, while Albany Medical Center recommends mothers breastfeed, the reality is that many families must use formula. Your generous support helped families in Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga and Rensselaer counties through various organizations, including the Koinonia Clinic, Center City Food Pantry, Ellis Pediatrics, the Franklin Community Center, and Unity House of Troy whose CEO sent the following letter to Albany Med President Jim Barba as a "thank you" to all staff.



Dear Mr. Barba,

On behalf of Unity House of Troy, thank you for your generous donation of baby formula from the Albany Medical Center Full Strength Campaign. It is such a blessing that, thanks to organizations like yours, Unity House can help provide clothing, formula, baby food, diapers, car seats, and strollers to families who struggle to make ends meet. With increasing costs for food and housing, no parent ought to have to choose between formula and paying the rent. Albany Medical Center's incredibly generous donation of baby formula will help reduce the likelihood for parents to make that wrenching decision this year.

Hundreds of families come to Unity House each year seeking help with feeding their infants. Because of your past support, and that of others, we have been able to meet the increasing demand for formula and baby food.

Some parents seeking help at Unity House have Medicaid benefits, but their baby needs a specialized formula that is not part of the Medicaid formulary. Other families may technically be above the poverty line, but struggle to afford \$150 a month for formula. We see more and more "working poor" asking us for help, and newly unemployed people who have yet to qualify for government assistance. Our troubled economy is especially hard for babies.

Thank you again for your support. Please let everyone know how grateful we are.

Sincerely,

*Christopher Burke
Chief Executive Officer*

News Briefs

Albany Medical Center Foundation Announces New Board Member

Daniel Connors O'Brien was appointed to the Albany Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors. He will serve a three-year term.

"Dan is joining the ranks of some of the region's top business and civic leaders who comprise our Board, and will no doubt provide significant contributions in support of the many philanthropic activities that sustain the vital missions of Albany Med," said Terri Cerveny, senior vice president for development. "We are grateful for his dedication and continued support."

As part of his Board responsibilities, O'Brien will co-chair the annual gifts committee, which focuses on enhancing community involvement and philanthropic support and developing a more coordinated volunteer effort via improved communication and education outreach across all annual giving activities.

Medical College Recognizes Faculty's Outstanding Contributions

Three College faculty members were recognized with induction into the College's prestigious Sosa Academy of Medical Sciences—**James Drake, PhD**, professor in the Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease, **David Jourd'heuill, PhD**, associate professor in the Center for Cardiovascular Sciences, and **Ceshi Chen, PhD**, assistant professor in the Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research.

Drake and Jourd'heuill were inducted with the Outstanding Mentor Award, and Chen was presented the New Teacher Award. According to **Vincent Verdile, MD**, dean of Albany Medical College, membership in the Sosa Academy is selective, and is intended to recognize educators' outstanding contributions.

"These three faculty members exemplify the mission of the Sosa Academy through their exceptional efforts in teaching both students and other faculty," said Verdile. "It is our hope that through induction in the Academy, they can continue to provide advocacy and support for fellow faculty educators, ensuring that our students are trained by the very best."

Perrecone Honored with National Award

The American Nephrology Nurses' Association recently presented **Mary Perrecone, RN**, nurse manager for pediatric and adult dialysis (C-2), with the Excellence in Nephrology Nursing Management Award. Perrecone, who was nominated by several of her colleagues for the award, received the recognition at the association's annual conference in San Diego, which was held in April.

Albany Med Staff Has Strong Presence in Annual 'Go Red for Women' Event

Albany Medical Center had a strong presence at the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Luncheon at the Desmond on May 28, which was attended by more than 300 women. During the health expo portion of the event, several staff members provided screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index (BMI) in an effort to raise awareness of heart disease risk.

Rebecca Keller, PhD, professor in the Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research, was chair of the Health and Wellness Committee that put together a lunchtime program that included a panel discussion on heart disease research hosted by **Michelle Lennartz, PhD**, of the Center for Cell Biology and Cancer Research, and graduate student **Katharine Halligan**.

The event is intended to raise awareness of women's significant risk of heart disease, the number one killer of women in the United States. It raised more than \$125,000.

"Weekend of Miracles" Raises Record-Breaking Amount

The "Weekend of Miracles" radio/telethon to benefit the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center raised a record-breaking total of \$2.48 million.

The 24th annual telethon, presented by WXXA-TV (Ch. 23), was part of the International Children's Miracle Network telethon sponsored by the Osmond Foundation, which aired Sunday, May 31. The 11th annual WGY (810 AM) radiothon, which aired May 29-31, alone raised \$322,604 toward the weekend effort—a record for the event.

"Once again, our community has shown its generous support of the programs, services, and the highest level of patient care that is provided by the region's only children's hospital," said **David Clark, MD**, director of the Children's Hospital. "Garnering

\$1 Million Gift Continued from cover

largest legal publishing firms with over 1,500 employees. The Bender family sold the company to the Times-Mirror Co. in 1963 and in 1969, Bender became vice president of Clark Boardman Co.—a New York City-based law book publisher.

Bender immersed himself in philanthropic efforts supporting a number of educational, cultural, and historical organizations in the Capital District—and several New York State land and historic preservation organizations—with the establishment of the Bender Family Foundation in 1997. He and his wife, Phoebe, have generously supported a number of area non-profit organizations, including Albany Med, The Aloha Foundation, Albany Institute of History and Art, and the Albany Academy.

In 2003, Bender was recognized by Albany Med for his ongoing commitment with the Individual Philanthropist award under the Foundation's Partners in Leadership program.

He has spent nearly 40 years championing the critical missions of Albany Medical Center in several different capacities. He first accepted a seat on the Medical College Board of Trustees in 1971, eventually serving as board chairman. He served as chair of the committee which led the successful consolidation of Albany Hospital and Albany Medical College to create Albany Medical Center as an entity in 1982, and served as a member of the Albany Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors from 1998 through 2001. He also was a member of the executive committee for the Pillars Campaign, which ran from 2000 to 2004.

this critical support is made possible by the dedication and enthusiasm put forward by the staff at WGY and FOX23. We are grateful for their partnership, and for their success in pulling community members and business leaders together in support of this vital regional resource."

The Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center is a 125-bed facility devoted exclusively to the medical needs of infants, children and adolescents, and is the referral center for all seriously ill and injured children from 25 counties in upstate New York and western New England. It is staffed by 110 physicians trained in 34 subspecialties and more than 300 pediatric nurses, therapists, social workers and child-life specialists.

All-Star



Kim Dunbrook-Babbie

**Senior Internal Auditor,
Corporate Compliance and Audit**

Learn more about Kim, who received the Excellence in Customer Service All-Star Award for her exceptional work at the Medical Center...

What is your best advice for success on the job?

Love what you do, give your best every day and always go that extra step for someone.

How long have you worked at Albany Med?
Just over 15 years.

What's the most rewarding thing about working here?
The pride I feel for what we accomplish every day at Albany Medical Center.

What makes Albany Med a 'Great Place to Work'?
The awesome people that I work with every day at Albany Medical Center are what make Albany Med a great place to work. I could not be successful without them and their support.

Where do you live?
Latham

Family?
My husband, Bernie, and I have two pug dogs, Daisy and Bandit. We also spend a lot of time with my husband's three children.

What was the last book you read?
James Patterson's *The 6th Target*

What outside groups or organizations are you active with?
St Catherine's Center for Children

What did you do/where did you go on your last vacation?
Bradenton/Sarasota, Florida

ALBANY MED TODAY

Vol. 4, No. 6 • July 1, 2009

Albany Med Today is published monthly by the Public Relations Department for the employees, staff, students, alumni, board members and volunteers of the Albany Medical Center.

Comments and story suggestions can be directed to the Albany Medical Center Public Relations Department, 43 New Scotland Avenue (Mail Code 125), Albany, N.Y. 12208 or by faxing to (518) 262-3880, or by calling (518) 262-3421.

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