



# THE CUPOLA

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

Fall 2023  
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## Leadership Transition in School-Based Health

After nearly 30 years of leading Bassett's School-Based Health Program, Dr. Chris Kjolhede is retiring from his administrative position in December. Together with Jane Hamilton, R.N., Practice Manager, Kjolhede has worked tirelessly to build Bassett's School-Based Health Program. Although he will be stepping away from his administrative leadership role, he will continue to work in both Bassett's School-Based Health Centers and the Cooperstown Pediatrics clinic until he plans to retire fully in June 2024.



Dr. Chris Kjolhede

Bassett's first school-based health clinic opened in Delhi in 1992. Today, Bassett has the largest rural school-based health program across New York state operating 21 clinics across 17 school districts. The 22nd clinic at Cherry Valley-Springfield Central School district is slated to open at the end of 2023.

Kjolhede has been recognized for his vision and advocacy for equitable healthcare access for all children. He was awarded the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the national School-Based Health Alliance which recognizes "luminaries in the school-based health care field who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the mission of school-based health care, who embody the spirit of innovation, dedication, and collaboration, and who go above and beyond to manifest the vision of quality school-based health care for all young people." This

recognition is perhaps the pinnacle for one of school-based health's staunchest proponents.

In addition, Kjolhede is a past recipient of Bassett's Walter A. Franck Physician's Excellence Award and was named as a Visionary for Children's Health by New York School-Based Health Alliance. His leadership has improved the lives of thousands of families.

Kjolhede shared: "As I transition to retirement, I have many fond memories of our very dedicated school-based health team. I am deeply indebted to all these colleagues and friends throughout Bassett who have been so supportive over the years."

Bassett has announced that Dr. William Fredette accepted the position of co-director of Bassett's School-Based Health Program. Fredette will co-lead the program with Dr. Kerri LeBlanc beginning in December. Fredette, senior attending physician at Fox Pediatrics, has been practicing in the Oneonta community for 14 years. He is deeply respected by patients, families, and colleagues alike.

Fredette shared this reflection: "While there is certainly no replacing Dr. Kjolhede, I am honored to have a role in carrying the mission of Bassett's School-Based Health Program forward. I am also looking forward to seeing many of my patients in their 'native habitats' at school when I visit our school-based health centers." ■

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



Dr. James A. Murray

Greetings alumni. I hope that our readers had a chance to enjoy some lovely autumn weather and scenery this year. Earlier this month I had an exquisite trip to Cooperstown for the annual board meeting of the Medical Alumni Association. It was wonderful to be back in Cooperstown with my former colleagues and mentors.

Perhaps my words will inspire warm recollections of your days in Cooperstown and encourage you to return in October of 2024 for the Bassett Family Reunion we are planning.

This event provides time to visit with friends and other alumni and enjoy everything that Cooperstown has to offer. It offers a blend of learning opportunities and plenty of socializing. There are more details to come in future issues.

Also, I want to thank my colleagues who serve on the Alumni Board and express my appreciation for their time and

commitment to the organization. I want to especially thank Dr. Anush Patel, who in addition to his work as the Bassett chief of Hematology-Oncology, organized much of our board meeting, and is hard at work on the reunion for next fall. It was only after I returned home that I learned that he also just received the Laureate Award from the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Congratulations Anush, I am proud to be your former resident.

There's much to read about in this issue. I want to share that I came away from our annual meeting with continued pride in Bassett's clinical services to the region and especially the continued dedication and quality in the training. Bassett remains a special place. On the back page of this issue please take time to read how to support the training of future physicians via contributions to the Medical Education Endowment Fund. It is a great opportunity for alumni to connect directly to the learners at Bassett in a real and tangible way.

Remember to join us next October for the Bassett Alumni Reunion and look for more information in next Cupola. ■

The Cupola is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett's Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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

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## Dr. John Davis Visiting Professor Offered Insightful Program

The 2023 John S. Davis Visiting Professor was Dr. Andrew Dunn, professor of Medicine at the Ichan School of Medicine and chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine at Mount Sinai Health System, New York City. He received his medical degree at the New York University School of Medicine. He performed his internship and residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center and stayed on as faculty after completion.

Dunn is recognized as an expert in anticoagulation and thrombosis, most specifically in venous thromboembolism, atrial fibrillation, and the perioperative management of warfarin.

Dunn presented a Grand Rounds on Friday, October 6, 2023 on the topic, Clot Controversies, which was well-received by an audience of physicians, residents, and members of the alumni board. While visiting Bassett, Dunn also conducted rounds with residents. ■



*Drs. John S. Davis and Andrew Dunn at the annual Davis Visiting Professor Lecture*

## Student Joins Alumni Board

The Alumni Board welcomes a new member, Carina Sirochinsky, who is a student in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School. She is currently spending her major clinical year (MCY) at Bassett and was appointed during the October meeting.

Sirochinsky was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., and completed her undergraduate degree in chemistry at the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College. With an undergraduate experience focused on basic science research, she became an Amgen scholar at Columbia, engineering synthetic cartilage for potential use in the future treatment of osteoarthritis. Following college graduation, she worked at a small biotech start-up where she helped develop a bi-specific antibody and a CAR-T cell treatment for acute myeloid

leukemia. She also worked to set up a humanized mouse model of systemic lupus erythematosus.

She describes herself as a "city kid" who grew up in a Russian-speaking household. She enjoys hiking as well as cooking and baking. She has worked along the way to put together plant-based recipes to perhaps one day publish. Despite the demands of medical school, she has been involved in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Although previously "urbanized," she has been very happy with her medical school experience and Cooperstown. She looks ahead to a career in internal medicine and possibly oncology. Perhaps one day she will wend her way back to our pastoral village, where she will be greeted with open arms. ■

## The Columbia-Bassett Class of 2027



*Front (L-R): Dr. Maeve O'Neill, Hasan Salim, Lekhya Sathi, Frances Morris, Nicole Kormendi, Dr. Henry Weil. Back (L-R): Annah Chollet, Sarabesh Natarajan, Collin Else, Jesse Pollens-Voigt, Camille Torfs-Leibman, Eleanor Miskovsky*

## Alumni Board Meeting Wrap-Up

Beautiful, unseasonably warm weather provided the backdrop for this year's October Alumni Board meeting, attended by nine Board members in person and nine by Zoom. Dr. Patel introduced and welcomed Carina Sirochinsky as a new member and representative of the Columbia-Bassett class of 2025.

Dr. Ibrahim provided the first formal presentation. To lessen hospital staffing shortages, partnerships have been further developed with Hartwick College and the State University College in Oneonta with an aim to keep more graduates in health care fields in the area. In the face of national shortages, efforts at recruitment of professional staff have been enhanced by financial incentives and salary adjustments. He ended his presentation by endorsing the need for alumni support to help with the quest for new staff members. He reaffirmed Bassett's commitment to graduate medical education, and he anticipates programmatic growth over the coming years.

Departmental reports followed. Department of Medicine Chief, Dr. Kai Mebust, reported the addition of three physicians in Primary Care, where the need has been particularly acute. Dr. Michael Holmes, chief of Cardiovascular Services, reported continued growth with 16 physicians and advanced care practitioners. There has been a growing number of interventional



Members of the Alumni Board who attended the meeting in person: L-R: Drs. Michael Foltzer, David Newman, Kenneth Wilkins, John Davis, Alan Kozak, James Murray, Douglas DeLong, and Anush Patel (absent from photo was Dr. Sally Ricketts)

procedures with outcomes among the nation's best. In Surgery, Dr. Luis Ocegüera, newly appointed departmental chief, reported acquisition of another da Vinci device which will be especially useful in resident teaching. He reported that Dr. Brian White has been named chief of the Division of Physiatry and Rehabilitative Medicine. Looking ahead, he anticipates further use of operating room space at Fox Hospital to relieve the congestion currently experienced in Cooperstown.

Dr. Henry Weil, together with Dr. Allan Guiney, ER attending and medical school ER course director, provided updates on the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program. Student satisfaction remains high, and the program remains highly competitive.

Program directors' reports followed. Dr. Joon Shim indicated that the surgical program remains in excellent standing with the ACGME. Approval has been granted for expansion in the number of residents, and approval has also been granted for inclusion of a one-month elective rotation in Togo. The Board pass rate remains among the highest in the nation. Dr. Russ Moore reported that medicine residents have also demonstrated an outstanding Board pass rate. The possibility of expanding the size of the medical house staff is under consideration. Dr. Erik Riesenfeld reported stability in the Transitional Year Program and described the introduction of a new sim lab experience shared with Hartwick College nursing students. Finally, Dr. Dan Katz, program director for the Cardiology Fellowship, reported the addition of two more fellows this year, with now a full complement of six for the three-year program. The program remains highly competitive, and fellows have done extremely well not only in their clinical function but also in their roles as teachers and researchers. Careful attention has been directed to feedback from the trainees and adjustments made in the structure of the program as appropriate.

A brief business meeting followed. The Board provided full support to plans for an alumni reunion in conjunction with the 2024 October Board meeting. Further information will be forthcoming. ■

# Save These Dates:

October 4 and 5, 2024



Bassett Healthcare Network  
Bassett Medical Center

**Celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Medical Alumni Association and spend a weekend in Cooperstown. Reconnect with friends and meet current faculty and residents.**

**To volunteer to help with the reunion, contact Mary Wiswell, Office of Medical Education, 607-547-3764, [mary.wiswell@bassett.org](mailto:mary.wiswell@bassett.org)**



### 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!*

## 1970s

**William “Bill” Samuels, M.D.** (Rotating intern 1971-72, Psychiatry resident 1972-73) reports, “I retired from psychiatry 10 years ago; Beth and I live in Beaufort, S.C., and Fitzwilliam, N.H. Both of our kids are M.D.s: Eve (born at Bassett), a psychiatrist, is head of integrated care for the state of South Carolina; Aaron, an epidemiologist, was head of malaria research for the CDC, and principal investigator of study that established the first ever malaria vaccine. Presently, he is CDC head of influenza programs and research for sub-Saharan Africa. We have four grandsons and spend much time traveling.”

**Douglas M. DeLong M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1979-83, Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine 2000-21, Attending physician (per diem) 2023-present) appears with colleague Tom Cooney, M.D., from Portland Ore. after their fellowship induction ceremony into the Royal College of Physicians in London.

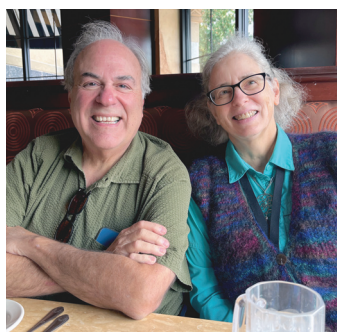


## 1980s

**G. Robert Thompson, M.D.** (Medicine resident 1980-83) reports that he is nearing the

end of his practice years. He’s worked 32 years with the Greenbrier Clinic in White Sulphur Springs, W.V., and for the past five years has been working part-time at a state prison. He shared, “Music has been my most important avocation. I am married to a beautiful person (Mary) and have wonderful children and grandchildren. I am well and reasonably happy. You know, an old guy wondering what the hell happened?”

**Joseph Bertino, Pharm.D.** (Co-director Clinical Pharmacy Research Center 1982-2004) and **Anne Nafziger, M.D.** (Transitional Year resident 1984-85, Medicine resident 1985-88, Attending physician and Clinical Research Scientist 1990-2004) have been in the Albany area since 2005. After several years doing Addiction Medicine, Anne is currently working at IMA Group, which does human based research. She is still knitting (has a weekly knitting group) and spends time with our grandchildren (they have 3, two of them live nearby). Joe is finishing up a 10-year term as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Clinical Pharmacology. He also does consulting work for drug companies as well as expert witness work. Their hobbies include grandkids and thoroughbred horse racing. No retirement for them yet!



*Joseph Bertino, Pharm.D. and Anne Nafziger, M.D.*

## Rocco Ciocca, M.D.

(Surgery resident 1986-91) started a new position as the Medical Director for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine at Maine General Medical Center in Augusta, Maine. He shares, “As a vascular surgeon I have dealt with chronic wounds throughout my career. Now, I am at a point in my career where I can focus solely on managing chronic and complex wounds.”

## 1990s

### Francis Nolan, M.D.

(Transitional Year resident 1990-91) has recently published “The Mountain Hunters”, his second book on Amazon/Kindle worldwide. It’s a semi-autobiographical novella set in the worlds of Emergency Medicine and wilderness hunting. It explores topics such as wilderness survival,

teamwork psychology while under duress, and male friendship and bonding during a wilderness hunt in coastal Alaska. The book has been described as, “a timeless tale of bravery, sacrifice and ultimately the suddenness and finality of death, as understood over the passage of time.”

## 2000s

### Brian White, D.O.

(Transitional Year resident 2004-05, Attending physiatrist 2010-present) enjoyed a moment of fame as the top winner in the category of Masters Men 55-59 of the New York State Bicycle Racing Association Time Trial. White is flanked by second-place finisher Ronald Malone of Long Beach (left) and Michael Morris of Manlius, who finished third.

**Family to page 5**



## Alumni Join Bassett Staff



*Dr. Anamm Polani*

Dr. Anamm Polani joined Bassett Healthcare Network on September 5, 2023.

Polani joined Bassett Healthcare Network as an Attending physician in Medicine and Hospitalist Medicine. She will be working in two locations, Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown and A. O. Fox Hospital in Oneonta, N.Y.

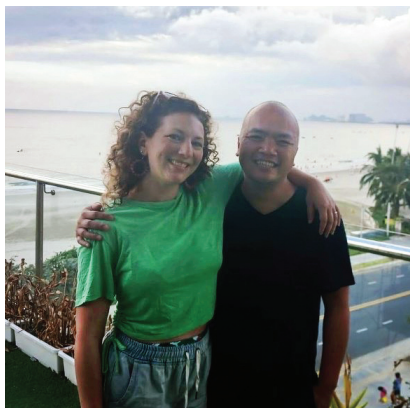
She earned her medical degree at Ziauddin Medical College, in Karachi, Pakistan and completed her residency in Medicine at Bassett Medical Center. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine. ■

**Family from page 4**

**2010s**

**Sarah Smith, M.D.** (Surgery resident 2014-19) and Du Nguyen, M.D. (Surgery resident 2014-19) met as interns in 2014 at Bassett Medical Center. Sarah shared, "Our Surgical residency was a challenging experience...and it brought us close as we navigated long hours and difficult situations. Du's family came to visit several times during residency, and I got to see how proud they were of their son who grew up in a small village in Vietnam and was now becoming an accomplished surgeon."

They stayed close despite his working in New York and her working in Alaska. This summer they travelled together with Du's family back to his home village in the Quang Ngai province in Vietnam to participate in a special ceremony honoring the anniversary of the death of his grandfather. Sarah adds, "It was a very special experience I will always treasure, just as I will treasure the bond that we formed back in our days together at Bassett."



*Here is a photo of us in Vietnam, and a photo of us as interns at Bassett."*

**Maryam Khavandi, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 2017-20) and **Mehdi Mofidian, M.D.** (Attending hospitalist 2018-20) are pleased to share an update and photo of their little Ariana who entered the world in the midst of COVID times at Bassett! "Life's an adventure, and we've since moved to Northern Virginia, where we're now working as hospitalist physicians at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and MedStar Montgomery Medical Center. New place, new challenges, but we'll always cherish the good times we had in Cooperstown and remain ever grateful for the nurturing community at Bassett that has supported us every step of the way and enriched our lives immeasurably. " ■



**Dr. Anush Patel Honored with Laureate Award**



*Dr. Anush Patel*

Dr. Anush Patel has received the prestigious Laureate Award from the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (NYACP). The award honors fellows and masters of the College who have demonstrated, by their example and conduct, an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research, and service to their community, their chapter, and the ACP.

"It means a lot to be recognized with this incredible distinction, as I know my fellow members and colleagues are working equally hard to advance the specialty of Internal Medicine and improve patient care in New York State. I am incredibly honored and humbled." said Patel.

Congratulating Patel on this honor, Dr. Tommy Ibrahim, President and CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network said that Patel is a "fine example of what it means to work tirelessly on behalf of the patients."

Patel is chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology and assistant clinical professor of Medicine at Bassett Medical Center. He is director of Bassett's Anticoagulation Clinic and director of Bassett's Low-Dose Lung Cancer Screening Program. He also serves as co-chair for both Bassett's Retention and Engagement Committee and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. He is the past president of Bassett's Medical Staff. ■

**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.

- |                                                    |                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Anesthesiologist</b>                            | <b>Neurologist</b>                   |
| <b>Cardiologist - Interventional</b>               | <b>Pediatrician - Herkimer, N.Y.</b> |
| <b>Family Medicine Physician - Sherburne, N.Y.</b> | <b>Psychiatrist</b>                  |
| <b>Hematology Oncologist</b>                       | <b>Rheumatologist</b>                |
| <b>Hospitalist</b>                                 | <b>Urologist</b>                     |
| <b>Internal Medicine Physician</b>                 | <b>Vascular Surgeon</b>              |

For more information visit:  
<https://www.bassett.org/careers/physicians-and-advanced-practice-clinicians> or call Medical Staff Recruitment at 607-547-6982.

## Chief for the Department of Surgery Appointed



Dr. Luis Ocegüera

After a national search, Dr. Luis Ocegüera has been named to the position of Service Line Chief for the Department of Surgery. He has been serving as the interim chief of Surgery since Dr. Hellenthal stepped down in June of 2022.

Ocegüera has been a part of the Bassett family for 15 years. He received his medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in Calif. He then completed his general surgery residency here, graduating in 2011. After a fellowship in Colorectal Surgery at the

University of Indiana, he returned to Cooperstown as an attending General and Colorectal Surgeon in 2012. He is clinically active at numerous locations throughout the network

including Cobleskill, Fox, Oneonta Specialty Services, Little Falls, Herkimer, and Hamilton.

While he maintains a busy clinical practice, he has also been involved in both education and leadership in the organization, serving as the General Surgery clerkship director, Medical director of the P.A. Residency, Medical director of Little Falls Hospital and assistant director of Surgery.

In his capacity as interim chief of Surgery, he worked very closely with the Department of Anesthesia and OR leadership to increase access to inpatient surgery and move ambulatory surgery to other network locations. He helped to build the Oncologic Surgery Program, adding a second oncologic surgeon, coordinator, and support staff. He has been integral in Bassett obtaining a new daVinci robot with teaching console and providing access to robotic surgery at A.O. Fox Hospital in the near future. ■

## Oral History Project Collects Bassett Memories

Since 1964, students of the Cooperstown Graduate Program (CGP) have conducted fieldwork and collected interviews with individuals in Cooperstown and the surrounding region. As part of this ongoing oral history project, now called CGP Community Stories, many Bassett Hospital staff members, including doctors, nurses, and administrators, have been interviewed.

These interviews, alongside other narratives from area residents, illustrate how Cooperstown, and with it, Bassett Hospital, has grown and changed over the years. The value of collecting oral histories rests on the belief that everyone has a story worth preserving. Oral history narratives fill in gaps left by traditional historical records, where recollections of everyday life tend to vanish over time.

The CGP Community Stories archive contains accounts of the formation and growth of Bassett Hospital and the Bassett Healthcare Network. Interviewees, for example, comment on significant developments in medical practice and discuss what makes Bassett's approach to medical education different from other hospitals and training programs.

In his 2014 interview, Dr. William (Bill) Streck, President and CEO of Bassett from 1984-2014, spoke about Bassett as a teaching institution, saying, "The soul of Bassett, I've always said, is its education, the willingness to teach...that's really [what] makes Bassett as good as it is." A 2019 interview with Jeanne-Marie Havener, former Bassett nurse and Director of Nursing at Hartwick College, revealed the philosophy that shaped her practice. She said, "We're talking about looking at people as human beings, as a whole being. It's not deconstructing them into their parts; it wasn't sort of that Cartesian dualism: mind, body, or soul—it was mind, body, and soul."

The oral history project complements Dr. John Davis's 2016 book *Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, NY: 200 Years of Health Care in Rural America*. Davis, who served as Bassett's first gastroenterologist, contributed two oral histories to the project, one recorded in 2010 and another in 2022. In his most recent interview, he explained the importance of recording all of Bassett's history in one place. CGP Community Stories similarly creates a common place to preserve the history of Bassett Hospital—and the region—and to recognize the people

who have dedicated their lives and efforts to bringing medical care to rural areas.

Among the alumni members who have been interviewed are:

Dr. Dennis Savoie, Dr. Emery Herman, Dr. John Davis, Dr. Charles Hudson, Dr. William Streck, Dr. Patrick Dietz, Dr. Walter Franck, Dr. Carol Beechy, Dr. Marc Heller, Dr. Herbert Marx, Dr. Carolyn Wolf-Gould, Dr. James Dalton, Dr. John Dier, Dr. Reginald Knight, Dr. Bruce McClennan, Dr. James Murray.

Recorded interviews and transcripts of these and other individuals can be found at:

<https://exhibits.library.oneonta.edu/s/cgpcommunitystories/page/welcome> ■

### **Endowment from page 8**

converted into a cardiovascular fellowship workroom. This new workspace reflects Bassett's commitment to Medical Education as well as assisting Bassett in meeting accreditation requirements from the ACGME. Resources like these make the Medical Education Endowment so beneficial not just to Bassett residents but to our patients, our staff, and our programs.

Bassett remains committed to the education of broadly trained physicians with the knowledge and skills that will take them in the direction of their choosing. The graduates of the Columbia-Bassett program and the residents training here are good prospects to continue making important contributions as future leaders and problem solvers in the increasingly complex arena of patient care, medical education, and research. With your help our medical education programs will be there to support these efforts well into the future.

Learn more about ways to contribute by visiting [www.friendsofbassett.org](http://www.friendsofbassett.org). Contact Friends of Bassett by emailing [friends.office@bassett.org](mailto:friends.office@bassett.org) or call 607-547-3928. ■



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Bassett Medical Alumni Association

## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

### David Sohmer Svahn, M.D. (1939-2023)



David Sohmer Svahn, M.D.

David Sohmer Svahn, M.D. died in Bucks County, Penn., in September 2023 at age 84. David, the son of David Holmfrid Svahn and Erna Sohmer Svahn, was born in Englewood, N.J. in 1939 and he was raised in West Nyack, N.Y. He obtained a Bachelor of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1960) and his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1965. He came to Bassett Hospital for his entire career including training (1965-66). He was an attending physician and a member of the Internal Medicine faculty from 1972 to his retirement in 2005, and then as a member the Bassett Emeritus staff.

He was a founding member of the Glimmerglass Opera chorus and performed in several roles with the Leatherstocking Theatre Company. He also wrote a book about W. W. Lord, a Civil-War era Episcopal priest who served at Cooperstown's Christ Episcopal Church. He was co-editor of the book, *Let Me Listen to Your Heart, Writings*

by Medical Students.

David was co-editor of a Svahn family history, about which he was passionate. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Karin Elmquist Svahn, his three children, Anna and Jennifer of New York City, and Jonathan of Orinda, Calif. David also leaves behind four beloved grandchildren and his younger brother, C. Peter Svahn and family.

The following excerpts are from accolades offered by his fellow physicians:

"David was an outstanding individual – a beloved physician, colleague, friend, teacher, and pillar of the Bassett family."

"David was passionate about the role of humanities in medical education."

"He made an immeasurable impact on Bassett, our patients, and our surrounding communities." "

As a practicing internist, he was a friend to his patients and a charismatic teacher to both students and residents in training."

"He was one of the pillars of Prime Care when I was a resident."

"I will miss the laugh filled chats over a cup of coffee or lunch at the Stagecoach." ■

## BASSETT LOOKS WAY BACK

**In the items below, we look back at news coverage of a pioneering husband and wife team who worked at Bassett in the 1940s and 1950s.**

### New York Times Recognizes Bassett Pediatrician

The New York Times recently republished its 1973 obituary notice for Dr. T. Campbell Goodwin, Bassett Hospital's first pediatrician and pediatrician-in-chief. He and his wife, pediatrician Dr. Mary S. Goodwin, joined Bassett's staff in 1947, retiring in 1968. Both of the Goodwins became nationally noted for their pioneering work at Bassett using a "talking typewriter" to help children with what is now called autism spectrum disorder to read. Here it is:

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y., May 1, 1971 — Dr. T. Campbell Goodwin, a pioneer in the use of a computerized "talking typewriter" to teach children who were considered hopelessly autistic, died yesterday in Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, of which he was emeritus chief of pediatrics. He was 71 years old and was also emeritus professor of pediatrics at Columbia University.

Dr. Goodwin was born in Richmond, Va. He graduated from the University of Virginia and received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University, where he later taught pediatrics. In World War II he served in the Army Medical Corps and became a lieutenant colonel.

He joined the Bassett Hospital staff in 1947, and established a school for rural children with learning difficulties in 1952 that led to his new approach to teaching them.

On retiring he joined the John F. Kennedy Institute for Handicapped Children at Johns Hopkins. In 1968 he was appointed an assistant commissioner of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, serving until 1971.

### Washington Post Prints Tribute to Dr. Mary Goodwin

In April 1979, reporter Kathy Sawyer wrote an article for The Washington Post about the work of Dr. Mary Goodwin in which she provides the following account of the "talking typewriter."

She (Dr. Mary Goodwin) remembers a five-year-old boy named Eddie who arrived at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, in Cooperstown, in the mid-1950s. "Eddie was a head-banging, screaming mute, totally unmanageable," she said. Several psychiatrists had decided that he was autistic and had recommended that he should be put into a state institution.

A strange contraption awaited Eddie at the special program operated by the Goodwins. Known as the "talking typewriter," it was a keyboard attached to a computer that could "talk back" to a child when he pressed the keys. It has been used elsewhere in reading experiments with normal children. The Goodwins has decided to try it with handicapped children.

"Eddie hit a key and heard a voice (the computer's loudspeaker) answer. Then he sat down and started typing madly," Goodwin remembers. "He had typed a strange litany of words such as Clorox, Ivory, Mr. Clean, Arrid deodorant. Words from television commercials!"

People had presumed, as they almost always did with autistic children, that he had not been able to learn anything at all, Goodwin said. "With the typewriter, he demonstrated that a lot of learning had been taking place... It was a turning point in all our lives."

In the 28 months they used the "talking typewriter," the Goodwins took in 150 children, half of them with learning disabilities and 65 of them considered autistic. The Goodwins saw many of them advance in their reading skills. ■



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## The Importance of Bassett's Medical Education Endowment and How You Can Help

Medical education has been a cornerstone of Bassett Medical Center's mission since it opened as a small rural hospital in 1927. During the past eight decades, medical education has evolved from a fourth-year elective program for a few students to residency program offering Internal Medicine, Surgery and Transitional-Year residencies, to a sophisticated joint medical school program with Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, and now the addition of a three-year Cardiology Fellowship Program.

Since that time, our residency programs have resulted in hundreds of alumni who have gone on to offer humanistic care to patients around the world. They have made significant contributions to the field of medicine ranging from the development of health care policy to conducting important medical research and caring for underserved populations.

Ten years ago, the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program began with a longitudinal curriculum and course of study focused on ethics, evidence-based medicine, health care system management, and leadership. While students and residents undergo their training here, they provide experiences, challenges, and new perspectives that enrich the Bassett experience for patients, physicians, and staff.

As important as medical education is for Bassett Medical Center, it is under threat. External pressures are creating new demands on clinicians who teach and on teaching hospitals as state and federal funding streams that could be relied on in the

past are no longer available. Medical education programs are losing public support. Clinicians are now expected to develop skill sets beyond those of their disciplines of medicine. To offer support to its medical faculty, and to ensure that medical education retains its importance as an element of the Bassett mission, the Friends of Bassett and the Bassett Medical Alumni Association are partnering to raise funds for the existing Medical Education Endowment. The Friends of Bassett and the Alumni Association are asking those who have benefited from medical education in the past to help support its viability for the future.

The goal of the endowment is to increase that asset base to at least \$10 million within the next 10 years. A well-funded program will help secure Bassett's future by ensuring that Bassett remains attractive to high-caliber students, residents, and the clinicians who serve as faculty. With a strong endowment, Bassett will be able to continue its tradition of excellence in education and patient care.

Thanks to the Medical Education Endowment and its supporters, Bassett Medical Center has been able to design and open a new space for residents to study, socially engage, and recharge. It opened in June 2023 providing a comfortable and productive area for our residents. Resident wellness is also a requirement area of focus of the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Another space was

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