

THE CUPOLA



The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital
Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown, New York

Fall/Winter 2006
Vol. IX, No. III

ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Bassett medical Alumni Board held a productive annual meeting in Cooperstown on Oct. 6, 2006. The association's bylaws were updated; check www.bassett.org/edu/alumni.cfm.

The status of the Medical Education Endowment Fund was reviewed by Director of Medical Education James Dalton, M.D. Thanks to continued donations and sound investment practices, the fund continues to grow and is able to support educational endeavors that would not otherwise be possible; for instance, monies can be used to enhance the guest lecture program. Jim also reviewed the status of our residency programs, including changes in program directors for medicine and the Transitional Year as outlined elsewhere in this issue of The Cupola.

Recruitment of house staff continues to be challenging, particularly for the Medicine program, reflecting national trends; Surgery and the Transitional

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Participants at the MacKenzie Lecture: Left to right, Alfred (Moby) Mudge, grandson of George MacKenzie, M.D.; Lecturer Thomas Q. Morris, M.D.; Thayer MacKenzie, M.D., son of Dr. MacKenzie; Allen Dennison, M.D.; Jane MacKenzie, daughter-in-law of Dr. George MacKenzie; Bassett President William Streck, M.D.; and Jane MacKenzie Dennison, M.D., granddaughter of Dr. George MacKenzie and wife of Allen Dennison, M.D.

MACKENZIE LECTURE GIVEN BY DR. THOMAS MORRIS

On Oct. 19, Thomas Q. Morris, M.D., chairman of Bassett's Board of Trustees, delivered the 11th lecture in honor of Dr. George Miner MacKenzie to a packed audience in the ballroom of The Otesaga Hotel.

Titled "Work in Progress: Bassett Healthcare, Renewing Itself

while Preserving Tradition," his remarks outlined his perceptions of the achievements, shortfalls and challenges of medicine over the past 20 years or so, in general and as applied to Bassett. His

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Front row: Randall Zuckerman, M.D.; Sarah Ricketts, M.D.; Jacqueline Bello, M.D.; Karen McShane, M.D.; Merideth Davis, M.D.; Back rows: James Dalton, M.D.; William Mitchell, M.D.; William Streck, M.D.; Steven Ching, M.D.; Doug DeLong, M.D.; John Davis, M.D.; John May, M.D.; Kenneth Wilkins, M.D.; Ted Ruckert, M.D.; Donald Pollock, M.D.; Peter Gray, M.D.; Craig Henson, M.D.; Deborah Sentochnik, M.D.; Alan Kozak, M.D.; and guests Dr. and Mrs. Lowell McClellan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Cooperstown and North Carolina. We all hope this holiday season finds you well and able to be with family and friends.

Some of us alumni were able to be with old friends this October for the annual meeting of the alumni board. We had a fine meeting, and I'm happy to report that medical education at Bassett is going strong. One of the highlights of the weekend was the opportunity to meet with current house staff. We had two informal gatherings of alumni and house staff, and it seems fair to say that both groups benefited from the exchange. We hope this will become an integral part of

the alumni weekend and that it will grow from this fine beginning.

Please enjoy this issue of The Cupola: You'll see some of the many ways that Bassett is growing and striving to meet the challenges of the health care industry in the 21st century. Best wishes for the holidays and for 2007. As always, let us hear from you.

*Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.
President, Board of Directors
Bassett Medical Alumni Association*



Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett 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 Healthcare, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail to <bassett.cupola@bassett.org>.

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MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF A RURAL SURGERY PROGRAM



The Second Annual Rural Surgery Symposium, sponsored by Bassett's Mithoefer Center for Rural Surgery, took place Sept. 17-19, 2006, at The Otesaga Hotel. There were more than 90 attendees from 20 states and representatives from India, East Africa, Australia, Scotland and Canada.

Highlights of the symposium included a look at innovative models that are working to provide surgical care in rural areas, quality-of-care issues in rural surgery and the state of rural surgery in remote international communities. In his keynote address, Guy Maddern, M.D., from the University of Adelaide in South Australia, described the challenges of providing surgical services in remote areas of Australia. Bassett Attending Surgeon Timothy Siegel, M.D.,



Patrick Dietz, M.D.

described Bassett's fourth-year rural surgery elective, where students travel to outreach facilities with an attending surgeon to participate in the clinic and in inpatient and outpatient surgeries.

Drs. Steven Heneghan, Patrick Dietz and Randall Zuckerman served as moderators, and other Bassett presenters were Drs. John Dewey,



Randall Zuckerman, M.D.

Jonathan Richman, Shelby Cooper, Virgilio Centenara, David Borgstrom, John May and Research Coordinator Brit Doty, M.P.H. The outstanding success of the symposium again served to highlight national recognition of The Mithoefer Center. The Third Annual Rural Surgery Symposium will be held in Grand Forks, N.D., in September 2007. ■

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT RESIDENCY PROGRAM ONE OF 10 IN NATION

Consistent with its expanded teaching mission, Bassett recently welcomed the first physician assistant to its new multi-specialty surgical PA residency program. John Moore, RPA-C, joined Bassett in September for a one-year training program during which he will have the chance to rotate through 12 surgical subspecialties.

"Bassett established this program for a few key reasons," explained Department of Orthopedics PA Shari Johnson-Ploutz, director of the new program. "As chief of surgery, Dr. Steven Heneghan, and Dr. Michael Gold before him, supported the idea of post-graduate PA education because of the number of experienced PAs in the Department of Surgery. We also have an excellent setting for a PA residency with our long-established surgical residency for physicians."

In concert with Johnson-Ploutz, Surgeon Eric Mooney, M.D., serves as medical director of the new program. The training consists of 12 one-



Craig Lippitt, RPA-C, left, discusses MRI images with Resident John Moore, RPA-C, during his rotation in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

month rotations, with an optional two- to six-week elective rotation. Each subspecialty has a PA preceptor.

Moore has benefited from Bassett's rural surgical practice environment. "We linked the residency to The Mithoefer Center for Rural Surgery program in that the need for PAs with a broad-based surgical knowledge and skill level is prevalent in rural areas across the country," Johnson-Ploutz said. The residency includes a rural rotation at Bassett Hospital of Schoharie County. "Before coming to Bassett, I didn't understand

what it meant to be a rural practice," Moore said, "but it requires a broad training." He also benefits from the fact that Bassett does not have an orthopedic residency, "so I have been able to be first assistant on some surgeries, which is important to me."

Bassett's is one of only 10 PA surgical residency programs in the United States. PA residency programs are not yet accredited by the American Academy of Physician Assistants, but Bassett has modeled its program after the AAPA's draft standards. ■

Breaking News

STRECK APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR'S TEAM

Bassett Healthcare President and CEO Dr. William F. Streck has been named to the health care transition team of New York Gov.-Elect Eliot Spitzer and Lt. Gov.-Elect David Paterson.

Dr. Streck is one of only four physicians on the 27-member Health Care Policy Advisory Committee, which will advise the governor-elect and lieutenant governor-elect on the major health care challenges facing New York state and otherwise guide the new administration's transition efforts in the area of health care.

"I feel privileged to serve on Gov.-Elect Spitzer's transition team," said Dr. Streck. "New York state faces numerous challenges, and it is encouraging to see the governor-elect looking for input from such a broad array of individuals."

BASSETT TO ADD FOURTH AFFILIATED HOSPITAL

Bassett Healthcare President and CEO William F. Streck, M.D., has announced plans to re-establish a hospital in Sidney with 24-hour emergency services and a limited number of inpatient beds. The plans will lead to an independent, locally governed hospital affiliated with Bassett.

The agreement was reached after months of negotiations between Gov. George Pataki, state Sen. John J. Bonacic and Dr. Streck. The overall

plan provides debt relief to the town of Sidney, transfers ownership of the former hospital building to Bassett, and includes the CON filing by Bassett to re-institute hospital services at the facility, which closed last year as a result of financial difficulties. The agreement was reached after securing \$3 million through state government sources, the money to be used by Bassett to purchase the building. Bassett will also seek additional funding under the state's HEAL NY program, which is designed to address health care restructuring.

Following the closure last year, Bassett established primary care, urgent care, and laboratory and radiology services on the campus of the former hospital. "As we promised last year," said Dr. Streck, "we have evaluated the needs and desires of the community and we now have a plan that largely reconstitutes health services in Sidney."

Bassett will also seek to develop a larger health complex in Sidney consisting of expanded diagnostic imaging, laboratory and outpatient services, all electronically connected to Cooperstown and other components of the Bassett system, which now includes three other affiliate hospitals, a skilled nursing facility and 23 health centers. Regional physicians will be invited to become members of the medical staff and to assist in the design and implementation of the new services, which would also include a site for office-based practices and services.

Located in northern Delaware County, Sidney is a community of 6,000 with two major industries, Mead-Westvaco and Amphenol Corp., as well as other significant business enterprises. ■

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

It is a pleasure to welcome Bassett Chief Medicine Resident **Anush Patel, M.D.**, to the Alumni Board. (Readers should note that the board regularly adds members of the current house staff.)

Dr. Patel was born and raised in Ahmedabad, India, "in a family with high values for education and culture. Being the youngest of three children, I was always spoiled. I was fortunate enough to complete medical school at B. J. Medical College in my hometown. I met my wife in summer of 2000 when she was visiting India. I moved to United States in 2001 to fulfill my craving for medical research and academic medicine. I worked in the Emergency Department in N.J. while preparing for the USMLE exams. Quality and enthusiasm for education thrilled me when I started my residency at Bassett.

"Currently, I am a chief medical resident and applying for a hematology-oncology fellowship. I am very interested in electronic technology,



Dr. Anush Patel

communication technology and electronic medical records. We live in Cooperstown, and my wife works for information technology at Bassett Hospital. In my precious free time I like to walk with my wife and Casey, my 3-year-old yellow lab. I am very fortunate to be trained at Bassett Healthcare and proud to be part of the Medical Alumni Association."

Steven S.T. Ching, M.D., has been a member of the Bassett Alumni Board since 2000. He writes: "I have lived a charmed life



Dr. Steven S.T. Ching

during which a series of accidents and decisions have led to me to a career and journey which has been fun, fulfilling and wonderful. I was raised in Honolulu and went to college at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. While home for Thanksgiving of my freshman year, I met my future wife, Mary Dante of Cobleskill. We were married in 1971 in a field atop Crumhorn Mountain near where her mother's family was from. I decided on a career of medicine and remember being accepted in the same week to

the University of Hawaii, U. C. of San Francisco and the University of Rochester. Of course, I chose Rochester. While there, I had the good fortune to learn in a medical school with George Engel and Otto Thaler. I did not appreciate it then, but found that the greatest lessons of my career came from Dr. Engel!"

Dr. Ching did his Rotating Internship at Bassett (1974-75), followed by a stint in the National Health Service Corps assigned to Boonville, NY. He then did his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Rochester and fellowship in cornea transplantation at the University of Iowa. The Chings live in Rochester, where he has served as the interim chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Rochester on two occasions. Among his greatest joys are patient care and teaching. The U of R ophthalmology residents have twice voted him as the outstanding teacher of ophthalmology. ■

NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSITIONAL RESIDENCY

In October, Eric Knight, M.D., assumed the position of program director for the Transitional Residency program*. Dr. Knight first came to Bassett from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 1990 as an intern in Internal Medicine. He completed his Medicine residency in Cooperstown in 1995, enjoying an even more important life event along the way – meeting his future wife, Cooperstown native Susie Lasher (Knight).

Susie and Eric moved to Boston, where Eric completed an MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health and fellowship training in both geriatrics and nephrology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. In 2003, the lure of Cooperstown was

successful, and Eric, Susie and their children, Margaret and Tommy, moved back to the village. Eric joined the Division of Nephrology in the Department of Medicine and has been an active clinician and teacher since, taking on the development of the evidence-based medicine curriculum for the Medicine residency. In October, he accepted the offer to take the helm of the Transitional Residency, which is jointly sponsored by the departments of Medicine and Surgery. Medical Education is pleased to welcome Dr. Knight; all who have worked with him are excited at the prospect of his expanded involvement in Bassett's mission of medical education.

Dr. Knight takes over the direction of the Transitional Residency



Dr. Eric Knight

from Eric DelGiacco, M.D., who has left Bassett to pursue his career in general internal medicine at the Little Rock VA in Little Rock, Ark. Dr. DelGiacco completed his residency and chief residency at Bassett between 1982 and 1986. Coming

back to Bassett in 1988, he distinguished himself over the last 18 years as a superb clinician and colleague, contributing enormously to the teaching programs at every level. He served at various times as the director of CME, student clerkship liaison in General Internal Medicine, assistant program director in Internal Medicine and Transitional Program director from 1997 until 2006. His residents, colleagues and friends will miss him greatly.

* For an historical perspective, Bassett's Transitional Residency is a one-year general training program that has evolved from the Rotating Internship (1927-74) and then the "Flexible Year" (1975-81). ■

ANNUAL LECTURE IN HONOR OF JOHN E. OLSON, M.D.



The Friends of Bassett hosted the 12th annual John E. Olson Lecture on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at The Otesaga Hotel, given by David Hohn, M.D., president and CEO of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo and also chairman of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Dr. Olson, revered as the founding father of Bassett's Regional Cancer Program and role model for generations of physicians, is pictured after the lecture with Dr. Maureen Killackey, director of Bassett's Regional Cancer Center. Proceeds from the event were designated toward the Regional Cancer Program's acquisition of a new cancer screening coach.

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PowerPoint presentation was made particularly effective by using a series of headlines over the years from The New York Times and other newspapers.

Major themes included the extraordinary advances in the understanding and treatment of disease, societal and economic shortfalls along the way with rising costs and payer complexities, challenges for medical education dictated, in part, by the political process, the emergence of the electronic underpinning of medical practice, the new paradigm of "evidence-based medicine" and problems with ties between the medical profession and the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Morris tied his points to Bassett's accomplishments and challenges along the way and ended with a prescient quote from Dr. MacKenzie: "Is it visionary to think of the hospital of the future and perhaps the not-very-distant future as a socially progressive health center?"

Dr. Morris joined the Bassett Hospital Board of Directors in 1985 and has been its chairman since 1995. His outstanding leadership during this time has been instrumental in helping to guide Bassett's missions of patient care, education and research during a period of phenomenal growth and present far-flung diversity as the region's leader in health care. ■

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

We hear from Bassett alumni that The Cupola is one of the ways they keep up with past colleagues.

To do that well, we need to hear from you.

Contact John Davis with items at bassett.cupola@bassett.org or write to Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, Attn: John Davis, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown 13326.

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

Dear readers: We need more of you to contribute to the Family Album! Please send personal and/or professional updates and photos to bassett.cupola@bassett.org.

1970s

Philip J. (Phil) Dzwonczyk, M.D., (Medicine Resident 1979-81) writes that: "We are in the early stages of building our new Veterans Home here in Oxford (N.Y.), and things are well with Andrea and me at home. I was re-certified as a certified medical director by the American Medical Directors Association in July 2006, and I received a President's Award for Voluntary Faculty Service on Sept. 13, 2006, at the Fall Faculty Convocation of the Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. I remain active here in Oxford in clinical geriatric medicine and in medical administration and clinical teaching — working with medical students from the Upstate Medical University Clinical Campus and with internal medicine residents from UHSH. I hope that all is well with you and my friends in Cooperstown!"

2000s

Julie H. Tsai (Transitional Resident 2000-2001) sends this picture of her wedding at The Otesaga Hotel in September 2006. After leaving Bassett, Dr. Tsai did her residency in Ophthalmology at



Drs. Julie Tsai and Thomas Frederici
Strong Memorial Hospital of the University of Rochester School of Medicine, and then went on to complete her Cornea subspecialty fellowship at the Cincinnati Eye Institute. After completing her second fellowship in Uveitis and Ocular Immunology at the Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles, she and her husband, Dr. Thomas Frederici, now reside in Columbia, S.C., where they are both faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of South Carolina. "Bassett and Cooperstown provided such wonderful memories for both Tom and me. It just felt right to go back to have our wedding at The Otesaga. We wish everyone the best and plan to keep in touch!" ■

IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

Alumni, please send us word about any former Bassett physicians who have passed away.

Robert G. Campbell, M.D., passed away in August 2006. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Bassett Hospital from July 1999 until his death, serving on a variety of committees including Performance Improvement (chairman), Governance, Nominating and Education. A graduate of Colgate University, Dr. Campbell obtained his M.D. from Columbia University. He was dedicated to quality patient care, the advancement of medicine through research and the education of the next generation of physicians. He played an important role in strengthening the relationship between Bassett and Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. He also served for many years as executive vice president and medical director for St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his children, Robert, Susan and William, and many other members of the Campbell family, which has deep roots in Cooperstown.

Dr. G. Donald Whedon, 90, of Clearwater, Fla., died May 4, 2006, in Clearwater. A native of Geneva, N.Y., Dr. Whedon obtained his M.D. from the University of Rochester and did his Rotating Internship at Bassett. He went on to a distinguished 30-year career at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, M.D., where his research in metabolic bone diseases helped in the treatment of osteoporosis. After moving to Florida, he became the scientific manager of Tampa Shriners Hospital's medical research programs. He published approximately 100 scientific articles and received numerous honors, including The Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal from NASA in 1974. He was a member of many associations, including the American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology and the International Society of Gravitational Physiology.

Survivors include a son, David M. Whedon, of Springfield, Va.; a daughter, Karen Green, of Hopkinton, Mass.; two grandchildren; and his companion of two years, Renoir Wisti, of Clearwater.

ALUMNI from page 1

Year have very solid applicant pools. The Osteopathic Internship has been discontinued because of new training rules for osteopaths that Bassett is unable to meet, but we continue to have excellent D.O. candidates to supplement M.D. applicants for Preliminary Medicine and the Transitional Year. The overall result continues to be a very strong resident staff.

CEO William F. Streck, M.D., and newly appointed Research Institute Director John May, M.D., gave updates on the dynamic state of Bassett Healthcare and its refocused research efforts to be centered on evidence-based medicine. The plan is to better link Bassett's medical research to our huge patient data base, now aug-

mented by the unfolding electronic medical record, and thus to have a direct impact on the quality of education for trainees and faculty alike. Kenneth Deans Jr., vice president for Information Services, discussed the details of the exciting strategic plan for Bassett's emerging electronic revolution, which will underpin these institutional efforts in education, research and patient care.

Doug DeLong, M.D., reviewed the career-planning seminar held by the board and members of the house staff the previous evening; the board deemed it as highly successful, and it will be repeated next year. Finally, Anush Patel, M.D., chief resident in Medicine, was introduced as the newest member of the Alumni Board; Dr. Patel presented a potential alumni-resident networking approach using a Yahoo personal chat group.

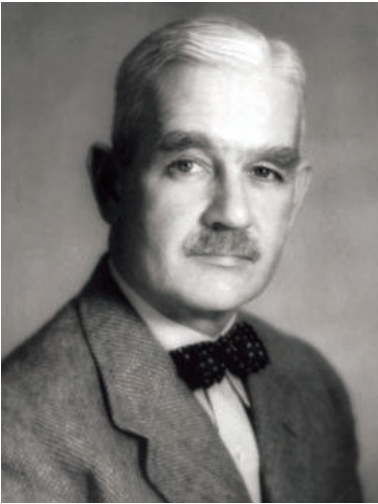
Officers up for re-election were approved, and Ashley Morrison, M.D., stepping down, was thanked for her participation. (See Page 2 for a list of current board members.) The next meeting will be Oct. 7, 2007, in Cooperstown. ■



Drs. Al Kozak, Ken Wilkins and Bill Mitchell

BASSETT LOOKS BACK

From time to time, we'll present a picture or two to capture an event or people in Bassett's past. Enjoy reminiscing!



Dr. MacKenzie, ca. 1934

For this issue, we celebrate George MacKenzie, M.D., Bassett Hospital's director from 1929-1946. It was his vision, intellect and leadership that were largely responsible for re-launching The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital on its tripartite missions of patient care, education and research — all unheard of in a rural hospital that also had a full-time, salaried physician staff. (See story on Page 1 reviewing the 11th lecture in honor of Dr. MacKenzie, delivered by Thomas Morris, M.D., chairman of Bassett's Board of Trustees.) ■



The Bassett physician staff, 1940: Front row, from left, Drs. Monroe McIver, Marjorie Murray, David Kydd, George MacKenzie, Francis Harrison, Floyd Atwell; middle row, second from right, Dr. John Powers; back row, second from right Dr. Charles Kieler.

PHYSICIAN OPPORTUNITIES AT BASSETT

As Bassett expands its far-ranging hospital and clinic network, numerous opportunities continue to open up for the physician staff. Strong applicants bolstered by referral from our alumni will certainly get our attention! Please refer them to Medical Staff Affairs, (607) 547-6982.

- Anesthesiologist
- Anesthesiologist with PM&R or Pain Fellowship
- Cardiologist
- Critical Care Physician
- Dermatologist
- Emergency Medicine Physician
- Family Practitioner (Cobleskill)
- Family Practitioner (Norwich)
- Gastroenterologist
- General/Colorectal Surgeon
- Hospitalist
- Infectious Disease Specialist
- Internist, General
- Medical Director (Delhi)
- Nephrologist
- Neurosurgeon
- OB/GYN Physician
- Oncologist – Director – Bassett Regional Cancer Program
- Ophthalmologist
- Optometrist
- Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Otolaryngologist
- Pathologist, Chief
- Pediatrician, General
- Pediatrician, General (Oneonta)
- Physiatrist
- Plastic Surgeon
- Pulmonologist
- Radiologist
- Urologist
- Vascular Surgeon

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