

C L A S S NOTES

NINETEEN SEVENTY-ONE

Charles Baldwin writes: “Remember me to the second class at Rutgers Medical School with Jackson and the other 14.”

NINETEEN SEVENTY-THREE

Neil Calman is the president and CEO of the Institute of Family Health. He is also the principal investigator of a \$2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Minority Health and Disparities, to support its ongoing work to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes in the southwest Bronx.

NINETEEN SEVENTY-FOUR

The National Committee for Quality Assurance announced that *Robert Eidus* received recognition from the Physician Practice Connections Program for using information systems to measure practice-wide quality and improve clinical outcomes at the point of care.

NINETEEN SEVENTY-FIVE

Kris Parnicky writes: “I have retired from family practice. Looking for another career.”

Susan Rosenthal reports: “I am associate dean for student affairs for the clinical years at RWJMS. My daughter, Rebecca, is a student at Mt. Sinai Medical School, where

I spent 1975–1977. My son Aaron works for Google in New York City, in technical sales, and my son Jonathan is a junior at Rutgers Preparatory School. My husband, George Karp, is a volunteer faculty member at RWJMS and a member of Central Jersey Oncology Group.”

NINETEEN SEVENTY-SIX

Cadrin Gill writes: “I was appointed to a diplomatic position by the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as ‘honorary consul general.’”

NINETEEN SEVENTY-SEVEN

Orthopaedist *Eldridge Anderson* joined the medical staff of Auburn Memorial Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y.

Ernie Biczak joined EKR Therapeutics Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company, as senior vice president of marketing.

NINETEEN SEVENTY-EIGHT

Keith Calligaro is president of the Eastern Vascular Society (2008–2009).

Villi Enders writes: “Best regards to my classmates!”

NINETEEN SEVENTY-NINE

Patricia O’Connor Dreyfuss writes: “Meghann, the oldest of my three daughters, who was born during my senior

year at Rutgers Medical School, is a member of the original Broadway cast of *Mamma Mia*.”

Winston Scott is chief of the Department of Ophthalmology at East Orange General Hospital.

NINETEEN EIGHTY

Steve Bloomfield and his wife, Jody, have four children: Isaac, Zoe, Orion, and Talia.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-ONE

Linda Meloy was promoted to professor at Virginia Commonwealth University.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-TWO

Lynn Helmer and her family announce the birth of her grandson, Aaron Samuel, on October 14, 2008.

Gary Moak was the president of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry for the 2007–2008 term.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-THREE

Nancy Ferguson writes: “I retired from full-time emergency medicine in 2005 and was recently deputy medical director for the Americas Region for International SOS, based in Treviso, Pa. We provide medical assistance services to an international clientele. . . . While travel is part of my practice, I am able to spend

more time with my partner of 15 years, Beth Wetterskog, and our children, Deven (5) and Chloe (6). . . . Someday I’ll make that Reunion.”

John Gallagher reports: “I completed a term as president of the Mercer County Medical Society and currently serve on the executive board of PAMPAC, the Pennsylvania Medical Society’s political action committee.”

Michael Miller writes: “I am co-author of the *AMA Guide to Cardiovascular Disease Prevention*. My oldest daughter, Avery, is a sophomore at Penn.”

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FIVE

Thomas Gross writes: “I haven’t seen anyone from RWJMS in 20 years. Stayin’ alive.”

NINETEEN EIGHTY-SIX

John Agens was appointed associate professor of geriatrics at Florida State University College of Medicine.

John Capo reports: “I am currently an associate professor and chief of hand and microvascular surgery at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. We recently started an accredited hand and upper extremity fellowship. This year, I presented papers at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in San Francisco and edited a textbook, *Minimally Invasive Hand and Wrist Surgery*.

Leonard Zawodniak is currently serving as vice president of the medical staff at Jersey Shore University Medical Center.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-SEVEN

Nathaniel Holmes is vice president and chair of the Department of Surgery at Jersey City Medical Center.

Grace Yang, is a professor of clinical pathology and laboratory medicine at Weill Cornell Medical Center. In 2007, she published a book titled *Transabdominal Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy: A Color Atlas and Monograph*.

NINETEEN EIGHTY-NINE

Kelly McMasters, Sam and Lolita Weakley Professor of Surgical Oncology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, serves as a member of the corporate board of directors at Provectus Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Jamie Ullman writes: My husband, Mark Nearenberg, and I welcomed our beautiful daughter, Sara, into the world on August 23, 2007.”

NINETEEN NINETY

Laura Simai writes: “I was appointed the state breast-feeding coordinator of the American Academy of Pediatrics in North Carolina. I am very busy giving lectures on breast-feeding all over North Carolina.”

NINETEEN NINETY-ONE

Sabine Hack writes: “I practice child and adolescent psychiatry in New York City and live in South Orange with my husband and four children: Aidan (8), Calliope (5), Elodie (5), and Holden (3).”

NINETEEN NINETY-FOUR

Tamara LaCouture writes: “I have two beautiful sons: Brendan and Kieran. I am director of women’s services and acting chief of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Cooper University Hospital.”

Richard Leone is a cardiothoracic surgeon at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Wash. He is also director of the Mechanical Circulatory Support Program.

Andrew Olshen writes: “My wife, Audra, and I are living in Muskogee, Okla., where I am in solo practice in physical medicine and rehabilitation.”

Michael Steinberg is an associate professor of medicine at RWJMS and medical director of the Tobacco Dependence Program.

NINETEEN NINETY-FIVE

Nicole Stassen reports: “Aaron and I were proud to add twins, Noah and Hannah, to our family this past August. They join big brother Nathan. I am an associate professor of surgery at the University of Rochester and run the third-year clerkship.”

NINETEEN NINETY-SEVEN

Ian Leber writes: “I was named director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel. I previously practiced at Capital Health System in Trenton as vice chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine. I live in Freehold Township with my wife, Elizabeth, who is also an emergency physician.”

Suzanne Lind was named chair of the Department of Psychiatry at St. Peter’s University Hospital.

NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT

Romy Drapkin received the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UMDNJ-Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He serves as an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School, associate pathologist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and principal investigator at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.”

Stella King writes: “My husband, **Brad Turner ’97**, and I welcomed twins, Alyssa and Benjamin, on January 17, 2008. Brad is completing his training at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He will complete his second residency in pathology in June 2009 and start a surgical pathology fellowship. I am still working as the family medicine clerkship director of Florida State University College of Medicine and part

time in the Fast Track Section of the Emergency Department.”

Hitesh Patel reports: “My wife, **Kanchan Govil Patel (SPH ’99)**, and I are proud to announce the birth of our daughter, Tara, on August 25, 2008. She joins her two big brothers, Rohan and Aryan. I continue to run my private practice in Edison.”

NINETEEN NINETY-NINE

Nicholas Di Prospero is associate director of experimental medicine at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development. He joined the students in the RWJMS/Rutgers/Princeton MD/PhD program to talk about his career experiences, his research, and the opportunities and challenges of clinical research.

Tushar Patel practices at the Plastic Surgery Center in Shrewsbury.

Daniel Stewart is co-director of residency training at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

TWO THOUSAND

Mahalia Desruisseaux, a research fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is the recipient of a five-year Burroughs-Wellcome Fund Career Award for Medical Scientists. Funding from the award will support her investigations of a mouse model of cerebral malaria.

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TWO THOUSAND

Jonathan Dunham is an assistant professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine/Rheumatology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Clarissa Febles Henson was appointed chair of radiation oncology at Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center. She served as chief resident at Thomas Jefferson University Medical Center and was awarded the A. Robert Kagan Fellowship in Palliative Care from the American College of Radiation Oncology.

Anish Nihalani writes: “After completing my residency in general surgery, which included a research year at Columbia University, I did a bariatric surgery/laparoscopic surgery fellowship at Princeton Regional Medical Center. Currently, I am in private practice based out of JFK, Muhlenberg, and Somerset hospitals. I am pleased to announce my marriage to Shubhamvada Nihalani, a physician specializing in family medicine/geriatrics.”

TWO THOUSAND ONE

Guri Bronner writes: “My wife, Jill, and I celebrated the birth of our second son, Elliott Michael. Elliott’s big brother, Joshua, welcomed the new addition! I am a vitreo-retinal surgeon at Retinal and Ophthalmic Consultants in southern New Jersey.”

Shayma Kazmi writes: “It’s great to read about some of my classmates through Class Notes. Sorry I had to miss Reunion; I was on call. I finished my fellowship in hematology/oncology and joined a private practice, Hope Community Cancer Center in Marmora, and I love it! I got married and have a baby boy, Ameen (6 months old). Life is great, and I always wonder what happened to some of my classmates.”

Jeffrey Schulman reports: “Last year I completed my fellowship in orthopaedic traumatology at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center. I have since joined the Orthopaedic Trauma Division at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Va. I live in Alexandria with my wife, Lessica Lazerov, MD (pediatrician), and our son, Max (2).”

Adarsh Verma and his wife, **Deepa Bogle Verma ’02**, write: “We are in Palm Harbor, Fla. Adarsh completed his interventional radiology fellowship at Baptist Cardiac Vascular Institute in 2007 and joined Radiology Associates of Clearwater. Deepa has been working part time as a family practitioner since completing her residency in 2005. We have two boys, Saahil (3) and Milan (1).”

Johanna Vidal-Phelan writes: “After living in Seattle for six years, our family recently relocated back to beautiful New Jersey. I married my husband, engineer Edward J. Phelan III,

in 2002 and became the mother of a very special little boy named Eduardo Sebastian Phelan-Vidal in 2005. We love our new home in Collingswood. I am currently working as a general pediatrician for Maria de los Santos, a Hispanic community health center in North Philadelphia. I greatly enjoy the challenges of working with a minority population, as I use my Spanish skills and my upbringing experiences from Puerto Rico.”

TWO THOUSAND TWO

Jonathan Marcus reports: “I completed a fellowship in pulmonary and critical medicine last July. I joined a private practice in West Palm, Fla., and moved to Boca Raton with my wife and five kids.”

In addition to being an emergency medicine physician at Cooper University Hospital, **Anthony Mazzealli** hosts *1210 Tonight* on WPHT (1210 AM), Mondays through Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Satyan Shah writes: “My wife and I have relocated to Albuquerque, N.M. I am working at the University of New Mexico as director of robotic surgery and minimally invasive urologic surgery.”

TWO THOUSAND THREE

Grant Cooper is an interventional spine and joint pain medical specialist. He is co-director of the Princeton Spine and Joint Center. He complet-

ed his fellowship at Beth Israel Medical Center in interventional spine and musculoskeletal rehabilitation.

Christina and **Mark Reiter** report: “We are pleased to announce that Cara Ann Reiter has joined our family. Her big sister, Jenna, is now 2. Christina is working as an anesthesiologist at St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa. Mark is also at St. Luke’s, as an emergency physician. He recently launched Emergency Excellence, an emergency medicine benchmarking and consulting company.”

TWO THOUSAND FOUR

Lasanta Horana is assistant director of the Emergency Department at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton. He and his wife, Carmen, are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Kayla Angelina, on January 10, 2008.

Lee Kubersky married Robin Naples, MD, on October 7, 2006. He is doing a fellowship in movement disorders at the University of Pennsylvania’s VA Hospital.

TWO THOUSAND FIVE

Christopher Gentle completed his residency in emergency medicine at Christiana Care Health Services and is an attending emergency physician at Washington County Hospital in Hagerstown, Md.

Nichole Eftychiou Post and *Robert Post* report: “We are currently residing in Charleston, S.C., where I am chief resident in psychiatry and Rob is a junior faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine. We welcomed our son, Robert Post III, on August 6, 2008. It is a very exciting and busy time for us, but we are doing great.”

TWO THOUSAND SIX

Anu Lala and *Arvind Trindade* were married in August 2008 at Tavern on the Green in New York. The *New York Times* published an article and photographs.

FORMER RESIDENTS

Celia Padron writes: “Taking care of pediatric gastroenterology in South Jersey for the last 18 years. I am division head of pediatric gastroenterology at Virtua Health System.”

WHAT'S NEW?

Please send your professional and personal news for

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Recently, the National Cancer Institute launched the cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG) project (<https://cabig.nci.nih.gov>). The mission of the caBIG project is to develop a collaborative information network that accelerates the discovery of new approaches for the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer, with a stated objective of improving patient outcomes. caBIG is just one of many examples of new projects that are currently under way creating opportunities for stimulating and sustaining cross-disciplinary collaborative research and training.

Another high-profile national project is the Biomedical Informatics Research Network (BIRN) initiative (<http://www.nbirn.net>), which focuses on support for collaborative access to and analysis of the massive data sets generated from neuroimaging studies. MammoGrid is an example of an international, multi-institutional project; it is funded by the European Union, with the primary objective of developing grid-based tools to promote standardization in medical image databases for mammography.

Recently, our own Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ) led the Help Defeat Cancer project, using IBM's World Community Grid (www.worldcommunitygrid.org) to analyze more than 100,000 imaged cancer tissue core specimens. In an NIH-funded collaboration established with investigators at CINJ, Arizona State University, Emory University, the Ohio State University, and the University of Pennsylvania, the team is now developing software to

perform high-throughput comparative analysis of the expression patterns of immuno-stained histology specimens, including tissue microarrays. These tools and a growing reference library of expression signatures are being developed as deployable, caBIG-compliant resources that will be made accessible by the clinical and research communities.

In spite of the progress that has been made thus far through the increasing number of collaborative projects currently under way, the NIH Roadmap working committees emphasize the fact that while “the opportunities for discoveries have never been greater, the complexity of biology remains a daunting challenge.” The next generation of advances in the biomedical sciences will require a new breed of investigators who are cross-trained in several disciplines and who can integrate well with physicians and scientists in order to identify and resolve challenges that require highly complex solutions.

In the team science model, it remains the responsibility of the PI to provide the vision and leadership for any given project, but in this new paradigm the vision represents only the planned destination. For many undertakings, it will be the strategic alliances that are forged with other investigators that will actually make it possible to reach the target.

— *David J. Foran, PhD*
Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Radiology,
Director, Center for Biomedical Imaging and Informatics,
The Cancer Institute of New Jersey

P A G E L A S T E

Team Science: A Cornerstone of Modern Research and Discovery

“The scale and complexity of today’s biomedical research problems increasingly demands that scientists move beyond the confines of their own discipline and explore new organizational models for team science.”
— National Institutes of Health (NIH) Roadmap for Medical Research

In the recent past, it may have been accurate to view the fields of computer science, engineering, and medicine as distinctly separate pursuits, with their respective practitioners often possessing totally different skills, interests, intellectual inclinations, and research objectives. Today, these pursuits are becoming inextricably interwoven.

Evidence of this trend can be found throughout practically every area of sub-specialization in medicine. Collaborative efforts between the clinical and research communities are giving rise to an increasing number of innovations and new technologies, ranging from high-resolution diagnostic imaging to minimally invasive robotic surgery and high-throughput molecular analysis. Together, they are providing unprecedented insights regarding the underlying mechanisms of disease progression while propelling advances in drug discovery.

The need to integrate new technologies into the study and practice of medicine is driven by financial incentives to reduce costs while maintaining or improving the quality of care deliv-

ered to patients; there is also a need to identify improved methods for organizing and assimilating a growing volume of information. As the level of complexity for many research efforts exceeds the resources and expertise of any one institution or facility, multi-institutional collaboration is quickly becoming

indispensable. In many cases, these collaborative efforts are conducted with investigators and resources spread out across several campuses, cities, and states.

For investigators working in the areas of medical imaging, proteomics, and clinical outcomes, for example, it is sometimes necessary to make use of advanced computing technologies to evaluate the vast amount of data that is generated. Grid technologies offer a possible solution for addressing the computational complexity of large-scale collaborative applica-

tions, by allowing execution of algorithms on computer and storage clusters even when they are distributed across multiple geographic locations.

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JOHN EMERSON

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