

From Israel to Hong Kong

Jefferson Doctors Abroad

by John J. Gartland S'44

The current Jefferson Alumni Directory lists 79 Jefferson graduates and postgraduates as practicing medicine in 32 foreign countries. Of this total, 28 are graduates of Jefferson Medical College and 51 are Jefferson postgraduate alumni/ae. The *Alumni Bulletin* believes it would be of interest to the readership to know something of the practice of medicine in some of these countries, and the advantages and disadvantages of medical practice encountered by alumni who practice and live in these countries. We present the stories of four such foreign based Jefferson graduates. One is a director of radiology in a 600 bed hospital, one is a volunteer professor of surgery in an 800 bed hospital, one is in the private practice of plastic surgery, and one is a family practitioner working as a medical officer in her government's Department of Health. The one thing this disparate group shares in common is that all are graduates of Jefferson.

Israel

Norman Loberant '70 is board certified in radiology and has lived and practiced in Israel since 1980. He tells us that he grew up in an ethnically mixed neighborhood in the Bronx, went to medical school in an ethnically mixed Center City Philadelphia neighborhood, and now finds himself in the Western Galilee city of Nahariya in Israel. He describes himself now as being associated with an ethnically mixed hospital staff whose patient population consists of Jews of all descriptions, Moslems, Christians, Arabs, Druze, immigrants, and "local old timers." He admits to finding this diversity a very stimulating and exciting mix in which to live and practice medicine, but does wish this volatile and excitable mix of patients would sometimes turn down their volume of sound.

Dr. Loberant is Director of Radiology at Western Galilee Hospital, a 600 bed hospital in Nahariya. His professional staff consists of seven attending radiologists and six radiology residents to handle more than 160,000 examinations per year for the full spectrum of pediatric, medical, and surgical patients. He reports that his principal administrative duties involve juggling the various activities of a busy radiology department with not quite enough time, doctors, technicians, nurses, and secretaries, and with vacations and reserve Israeli military duties thrown in.

One major problem for him in fulfilling his duties is his lack of autonomy in determining staffing and equipment needs. He points out that in Israel he can not just go ahead and hire staff or purchase needed new equipment. These arrangements are dependent upon the number of staff positions and equipment needs as determined by government allotments. Any decision to purchase more sophisticated radiology equipment, for example, requires the approval of the government's Health Minister. As a consequence, his hospital presently has one CT machine but has no MRI machine to service their patient load. However, Dr. Loberant admits that because he has little in the way of bureaucratic constraints (except on staffing and equipment), he is fairly free to concentrate on practicing

medicine, on teaching, and on writing. Because he and his staff are hospital employees they have few dealings with the bureaucracy which means they have little paperwork, no billings, and no collections to worry about.

Israel has national health insurance. All citizens pay a five percent payroll tax and all citizens are included under this safety net. In general, physicians are employees of hospitals, be they government, private, or health maintenance organization hospitals, or they may receive salaries from HMOs. Most Israeli medical care is a combination of HMO and government control, although a relatively small sector of private practice medicine does exist in Israel. Patient complaints against doctors or hospitals are heard and decided upon by special hospital committees. At Dr. Loberant's hospital, for example, a special committee adjudicates all complaints by patients against staff members or the hospital. At present, medicine seems to be a popular career choice in Israel. The country has four medical schools which supply the majority of Israeli physicians, but some Israelis do go to Italy or Hungary to study medicine. Dr Loberant also points out that over the past 10 to 15 years Israel has had to absorb many emigrating Russian physicians.

As far as teaching is concerned at his hospital, groups of Israeli medical students rotate through the hospital clinical departments and hear lectures from the staff. In addition, many interdepartmental meetings are held mainly for resident teaching. Dr. Loberant also has maintained his contacts with Jefferson's Department of Radiology, having visited both Jefferson's ultrasound and MRI units. He is active in the Israeli Society for Diagnostic Ultrasound as an organizer of the Society's annual conference. This includes the annual Barry B. Goldberg Lecture (named after a noted member of the Jefferson faculty) which frequently is given by Jefferson radiologists, the most recent being Ethan Halpern MD, Associate Professor of Radiology at Jefferson. Dr. Loberant believes Jefferson provided him with a solid basis in anatomy, physiology, and the techniques of proper physical examination, in addition to exposing him to highly motivated doctors. He is proud to point out that his daughter, Leslie, is a Jefferson graduate in the Class of '98 and practices family medicine at Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, Pennsylvania. Her husband, Edwin King, also Jefferson '98, is a pediatrician at Jefferson and at the duPont Hospital for Children.

Dr. Loberant believes medicine and health care in Israel now seems to be in a fairly stable state. He admits that some Israeli physicians now believe that an unfortunate disparity exists in the country's health care system between public demand for health care and the resources currently allotted to medical care by the government. He also points out that, in Israel, ambulatory medicine and inpatient medicine are two separate and different worlds. Local physicians care for ambulatory patients and hospital physicians care for hospitalized patients. This two tiered system, he believes, will continue in Israel for the foreseeable future.

Hangzhou, China

Robert K. Finley Jr. '48, board certified in general and head and neck surgery, retired as Professor of Surgery at Wright State University of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio in 1993. He then began a new career by serving as a volunteer surgeon abroad. Between 1993 and 1996 he volunteered his surgical services in Jamaica, American Samoa, Kenya, and Rwanda. Since 1996 he has served as a volunteer surgeon in China. He is associated with the 800 bed Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in the Chinese city of Hangzhou in Zhejiang province. The hospital was built in 1995 by Sir Run Run Shaw, a Hong Kong philanthropist, who was born in the Zhejiang province. Hangzhou, a city of six million people and one of the seven ancient capitals of China, now is the capital of the province. It is the location of Zhejiang University and Medical College of which Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital is one of the five teaching hospitals. Dr. Finley usually spends six months per year in China and the other six months at home in Oragonia, Ohio.

Sir Run Run Shaw is a demonstration hospital for China to practice western medicine and is operated with the sanction of the Chinese government. It is the only hospital in China to have an American president and to function with American policies of operation. The hospital was administered by the Seventh Day Adventists through Loma Linda University in California for its first five years of operation so that, with the cooperation of the Chinese government, western style medicine could be demonstrated. Since beginning his duties here in 1996, Dr. Finley has helped the hospital establish an American style surgical residency program for Chinese doctors. Occasionally, surgical residents from Wright State University, where Finley previously taught, come to the surgical program at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital for two month rotations.

Dr. Finley functions as a volunteer Professor of Surgery at Zhejiang University and Medical College and interacts with medical students, residents, and surgical attendings. He also has a hospital based surgical practice and says he operated on patients regularly when he began his volunteer service in 1996 but now his main duties are consultation and teaching. He does scrub in occasionally when the situation warrants it. He reports that there are 11 Chinese medical students on their service at the time of this writing. In addition to surgical residents and fellows, there are four Chinese surgeons on the service who also practice in Zhejiang and in other provinces. Most Chinese doctors now have been educated in China, though a few have taken postgraduate studies abroad. A small number of Chinese doctors have obtained all their medical education abroad, mainly in the U.S., the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand.

As a volunteer in a mission project, Dr. Finley has no financial collection problems. He describes the patients he encounters as plentiful, cooperative, generally poor, and mostly grateful for the surgical efforts made on their behalf. Dr. Finley points out that although most of the patients are poor, they usually have helpful and supportive family members who undertake much of the routine home care after surgery. He admits there is a language problem which often adds an extra layer of difficulty to teaching and surgical efforts. The range of surgical diseases he encounters is interesting and Dr. Finley finds his volunteer work to be gratifying. He is able to make sufficient time available for academic pursuits. He finds the

country to be beautiful, the people to be pleasant and friendly, and the local food to be good. Among the problems Dr. Finley encounters in China is that medical books and journals are hard to obtain. Their arrival, or non-arrival, seems to be dependent upon an inconsistent and irregular mail delivery system. Like his patients, Dr. Finley travels around town on a bicycle.

Dr. Finley reminds us that China is a socialist country that seems to be making tentative efforts to move toward more of a market economy. In 2001 there were 1.9 million doctors in China to care for 1.26 billion people who are both self-pay and insurance patients. All patients in China must pay for medical services but their medical costs are much cheaper than in the U.S. All workers in Chinese industry have health insurance but their policies differ widely in coverage from complete to minimal coverage. Shop owners, farmers, and small business people must pay for their own medical care. Understandably, Chinese people worry a lot about medical costs. Separate provincial hospitals are maintained to care for the large number of Chinese poor.

Dr. Finley believes complaints against doctors and hospitals in China are increasing gradually. In the province where he is stationed, patients take their medical complaints to the bureau of health in Hangzhou. This bureau acts as both judge and jury and can mete out fines and, sometimes, even dismiss doctors from medical service. Dr. Finley acknowledges that hospitals tend to abide by these provincial health complaint decisions because, in reality, Chinese hospitals are controlled by the government.

Medicine in China, Dr. Finley believes, is slowly moving toward privatization and the Chinese government now is considering covering all citizens with health insurance. The unanswered question now is whether this contemplated initiative will be a success or a failure in the long run. Chinese hospitals realize that their future financial success or failure will be closely tied to this proposed government health insurance initiative because the hospitals are controlled by the government. Amid the present confusion about the future of the Chinese health care system, Dr. Finley keeps reminding himself that the purpose of his Chinese service is teaching. He tells us that recollections of his Jefferson role models such as John H. Gibbon Jr. '27 and Hobart A. Reimann MD encourage him to continue his mission and to stick with the sound principles he learned as a medical student.

Hong Kong

Otto Y. T. Au '57 is board certified in plastic surgery and practices in his native Hong Kong. He is in the private practice of cosmetic plastic surgery and tells us the majority of his patients are Asian females. He operates in a private Hong Kong hospital and says that, for the most part, he has a free hand in managing his own practice. He believes one advantage for him in Hong Kong is that there are few malpractice suits and taxes are still low. One disadvantage he recognizes is that many Hong Kong patients are not well informed about medicine and, as a result, many superstitions persist about health and local folklore. He feels that, in general, his practice environment remains relatively free of stress. Since June 30, 1997 Hong Kong has officially been known as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Dr. Au says he has noticed no discernible change in Hong

Kong's medical care system since the city reverted to China, after being a British colony for so long.

Although Hong Kong does not have mandatory health insurance, its citizens are used to having the government provide universal health care, which is paid for by a 15 percent income tax on all wage earners, plus income from the sale of public lands, real estate taxes, and fees on stock transactions. Three types of hospitals and clinics exist in Hong Kong: government, government assisted, and private. Hong Kong physicians may serve in public hospitals as well as in private hospitals. Government and government assisted hospitals are directed by the Department of Health which implements health care policy. A government-independent Hospital Authority, however, manages and controls all public hospitals and clinics. Physicians own many of the private hospitals.

At present the government's Health Authority is beginning to show a substantial financial deficit and Hong Kong citizens are being encouraged to buy more health insurance coverage. Private hospitals and private physicians also are beginning to have a harder time from a financial standpoint, because the success of the public health care system to date has come at the expense of the private hospitals and private physicians. Private practitioners continue to lose hospital patients to the public health care system, which is run with a fairly high degree of efficiency. Private practice physicians, however, continue to care for about 85 percent of the ambulatory patients in the city. Dr. Au believes it is fair to say that the future well being of the medical care system is closely tied to the future economic outlook for Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has two medical schools, the University of Hong Kong Medical School and the Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical School, both established and funded by the Hong Kong government.¹ Leadership of the two medical schools is Chinese and is principally of Hong Kong origin. Both medical schools teach in English but patient medical histories, for example, are obtained in Cantonese. Instead of individual specialty board examinations, all applicants for fellowship or specialty status in Hong Kong take examinations sponsored by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The two Hong Kong medical schools produce about 330 new doctors each year and most of them remain to practice in Hong Kong. Presently, there are about 8100 physicians practicing western style medicine in Hong Kong to care for a population of about 6.8 million people. By contrast, about 836,000 physicians serve about 280 million people in the United States.

Dr. Au is proud that he received the foundation of a "superb" medical education at Jefferson. He admits to having had some initial difficulty after returning to Hong Kong to practice, because the majority of Hong Kong physicians stay at home for their medical education. Undergraduate medical education in Hong Kong is based on the British model, while graduate medical education is based on the American model. Differences between the two models can cause some initial difficulties for Hong Kong residents who get their medical education in the U.S. However, as time passed, Dr. Au found this to be only a minor stumbling block and he continues to

view the American medical education system as thorough, well planned, and appropriately standardized.

Bermuda

Cheryl Peek-Ball '86, board certified in family practice, lives and practices in Hamilton, Bermuda, a former British Crown Colony that achieved internal self government in 1968. Dr. Peek-Ball works exclusively for the Bermuda government as a medical officer in the Department of Health. Her particular area of focus is maternal and child health. Although she also treats government workers for occupational health problems, the major part of her medical effort is with children of school age and with women of childbearing age. She points out that Bermuda is a small and intimate community which makes it easy to access colleagues and support services for patient care. Such a small community also makes collaboration with social agencies, schools, and other health professionals easy and convenient.

She describes her principal duties within her practice situation as providing clinical services to child health clinics and family planning clinics across the island. She usually cares for 15 to 30 patients per day in one of five government clinics scattered across the island. In addition, she plans for and implements health education in schools and public venues, which entails a good deal of administrative work. Among her work disadvantages she lists generally substandard facilities and an inadequate amount of time for planning and implementing her public health initiatives. Dr. Peek-Ball observes that her present lifestyle is very conducive to balancing family responsibilities with work responsibilities. She says she has no concerns with the business of practice management because the government operates the clinics in which she works. She believes other advantages of her medical practice situation include a wonderful link with the social aspects of medicine, opportunities to learn, and being able to practice public health principles.

Dr. Peek-Ball reports that most of the medical care in Bermuda is provided by private physicians on a fee-for-service basis, but the fees, however, are set by Bermuda's Insurance Commission. This method of physician payment currently is under review by the Minister of Health, partly because the Bermuda physicians recently took the Insurance Commission to court over the fee structure and, at this writing, the case is still pending. Dr. Peek-Ball points out that Bermuda's small and limited population can support only a few medical specialists. Complaints against physicians and hospitals are reported to the Medical Society by the affected patients. The process of adjudication evolves from this initial step.

Government health insurance is provided to all full time government employees. Other working adults get their health insurance through private insurers and are reimbursed, in part, by their employers. Children under age 16 have government subsidized hospital insurance. Indigent clinics exist for outpatient and inpatient care for those who are economically eligible. All adult full time workers have health insurance. However, large numbers of part time or irregularly employed workers either are uninsured or have inadequate medical coverage. The government does sponsor free health clinics which focus on the health care of schoolchildren, on women of childbearing age, on antenatal care, and on family planning services.

There are no medical schools in Bermuda and most of the physicians

¹Chan, E.L.P., Chan, J.C.M. *Medical Education and Health Care in Hong Kong. The Pharos*, 66(1): Winter 2003, 10-18.

who practice in Bermuda received their medical education in England, Canada, the United States, or Jamaica. Once every year or two a medical student from one of these countries will come to Bermuda for a clinical rotation. Dr. Peek-Ball says these visiting students often are assigned to her for one week of their rotation. She finds it quite interesting to interact with medical students from different countries. It is during these interactions with students that she realizes that Jefferson prepared her well for the work she now does. She does wish, however, that she had been able to bring a better background in public health to her present duties.

Dr. Peek-Ball notes that Bermuda continues to have significant health care service gaps, mostly resulting, she believes, from economic and social factors. However, she believes that the future holds promise for improvement in this situation because an increased social awareness seems to be awakening in Bermuda. As a consequence, she believes, increased social and economic justice eventually will become a reality. She is convinced that Bermuda's physicians and patients together will play a leading role in bringing this hoped for result into being. She believes that such changes in the social and economic fabric are destined to strengthen the Bermuda health care system so that, ultimately, better medical care can be provided to all of its citizens.

Jefferson thanks these graduates who practice medicine abroad for sharing their medical experiences with us, and providing us with insight into the advantages and disadvantages of practice in environments far removed from Philadelphia's. *JMC*

'44

John Gartland of Wynnewood, PA is the recipient of the Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania's Sir John Charnley Award, presented at a ceremony in May. Sir John was an English orthopaedic surgeon who invented the modern total hip replacement in 1962—a master surgeon and bioengineer whose techniques have been studied by surgeons around the world. The Arthritis Foundation and a committee comprised of peers chose John Gartland to receive this award recognizing his "contributions toward excellence in the field of orthopaedics." Dr. Gartland is past Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Jefferson and continues to be very active at the medical college, particularly in medical editing. He is also serving on the committee to select the next President of Thomas Jefferson University (to succeed Paul Brucker MD who will be retiring, see page 16).



'46

David G. Simons of Covington, GA gave a major presentation at a symposium in Heidelberg in February 2003, on muscle pain, which will be published in German in *Der Schmerz*, the German Pain Society's official journal. In March he gave an invited presentation at an international meeting in Orlando, FL, and in May another to a select HHHH-sponsored research group in Columbus, OH. The latter was a state-of-the-

art symposium on the cause and control of musculoskeletal disorders. In September he is giving four one-hour presentations in four days in New Zealand as a keynote speaker along with a neurophysiologist colleague from Heidelberg. Together they wrote the core of a book on muscle pain published in 2000. A basic neurophysiology article on an animal model for myofascial trigger points of which Dr. Simons was second author was recently published in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*.

Dr. Simons's work has inspired five research projects on myofascial trigger points among therapists at DeKalb Medical Center where he goes weekly in nearby Atlanta. David's wife Lois helped write volume two of his book *The Trigger Point Manual* and coauthored the revision of volume one. The manual has been published in six different languages.

Dr. and Mrs. Simons are enthusiastic Jeffersonians and have even found a creative way to combine their keen interest in Dr. Simons's alma mater with their philanthropic support for the Myofascial Pain Caused by Trigger Points Program. This project is overseen by John Melvin MD, Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Jefferson. In their will, Dr. and Mrs. Simons have specified that a portion of the royalty payments generated from several of their publications be used to support education, training, research, and/or research investigator(s) within this program.

This exciting way to benefit Jefferson demonstrates that there are many ways to use assets to build a testamentary gift that is long term and meaningful. According to Dr. Simons, "Lois and I are hoping that this is a wise and valuable investment in the future of Jefferson, and helps provide relief for unnecessarily suffering humanity."

'50

William Holman of Norwalk, OH continues to enjoy his retirement, and remains active in local hospital affairs. In May he was elected Chairman of the Board of Norwalk Area Health Systems, Incorporated, which is the parent board of the Fisher-Titus Medical Center in Norwalk. Dr. Holman is also Vice Chairman of the Board of the Fisher-Titus Foundation.

'52

Jerome Cotler of Haddon Heights, NJ, who is the Everett J. and Marian Gordon Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at JMC, has been honored by the American Spinal Injury Association with its Lifetime Achievement Award. In May he received the Alumni Award from Ursinus College, the institution from which he graduated in 1948. Dr. Cotler continues to teach in the Department of Anatomy at Jefferson but has discontinued the active practice of orthopaedic surgery.

'53

James Hunter of Birchrunville, PA designed a Dacron-reinforced silicone rubber tendon which acts as a permanent tendon when placed in injured hands. It has been used successfully in over 300 patients to date.

'54

John M. Patterson of Pontotoc, MS has retired after 48 years of service. The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians honored him with its highest honor, the Family Physician of the Year award, in 1992, and last year the Pontotoc Chamber of Commerce recognized him with the Professional Business Award. He has been described as "the consummate Southern gentleman."

'56

Joseph Bering of Lebanon, PA has retired from Good Samaritan

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Edward J. Halton '38 died May 5, 2003. He practiced otolaryngology in Yarmouth, MA. He is survived by his wife Eleanor.

M. Boyd Brandon '42 died July 11, 2003. He practiced family medicine in Reynoldsville, PA. He is survived by three sons. Son Jeffrey is Jefferson '79.

John S. Liggett '42 died April 5, 2003. He was the first board certified surgeon to serve at Sewickley Valley Hospital, Sewickley, PA. He also served as Chief of Staff at Sewickley Valley Hospital. He is survived by his wife Mary Annette, two daughters, and a son. Son John S. Jr. is Jefferson '76.

Frank J. Veve '42 died March 25, 2003. He practiced family medicine and obstetrics-gynecology at the Fajardo District Hospital, Puerto Rico, before relocating to San Antonio, TX. He was on staff at the San Antonio Chest Hospital. He is survived by his wife Juanita and three sons. Son R. Ted is Jefferson '75, grandson Kevin Johnson is Jefferson '99, and granddaughter Kathleen Settle is Jefferson '03.

James S. D. Eisenhower Jr. '43 died July 5, 2003. He practiced in Wildwood and in Dias Creek, NJ. He served as President of the Staff, Burdette Tomlin Hospital, Cape May Courthouse, NJ, as Director of the Lutheran Home, Ocean View, and as School Physician for the City of North Wildwood. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, two daughters, and a son. Daughter Susanna Eisenhower-Turner is Jefferson '77.

Walter M. Uhler '43 died April 25, 2003. He was a pediatrician who served for three decades as Medical Director of the Devereaux Foundation for children and adults with

emotional, psychiatric, developmental, and neurological disorders. He is survived by his wife Marian, three daughters, and two sons.

Joseph T. Zukoski '47 died June 21, 2003. He was a Charter Member of the American Academy of Family Practice. He practiced in Pottstown, PA and was on staff at the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. There are no immediate survivors.

Stephen B. Vassalotti '48 died June 4, 2003. He was an obstetrician-gynecologist on staff at Nazareth Hospital, Philadelphia. He is survived by two sons.

George Popp '49 died May 12, 2003. He served as an anesthesiologist at Peekskill Community Hospital, Peekskill, NY. He is survived by his wife Martha and two daughters.

Matt L. Kirkland '52 died February 9, 2003. He was a general surgeon on staff at the Ohio Valley Hospital, Wheeling, WV. He is survived by his wife Dolores and son Matt III who is Jefferson '83.

Lyle D. Vincent Jr. '52 died May 26, 2003. A member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, he was an internist in Parkersburg, WV. He held staff appointments at Camden-Clark Memorial and St. Joseph Hospitals, Parkersburg. He also served as President of the Staff at both hospitals. He is survived by his wife Patricia, two sons, and a daughter.

Harry W. Weller '54 died April 12, 2003. A family practice/sports medicine physician at Hershey Medical Center of Pennsylvania State University, he was also a team physician at Penn State's campus in State College, PA. He is survived by wife Jean and three sons.

Joseph W. Schauer Jr. '55 died April 2, 2003. He was on staff at Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune, NJ. He served as Deputy Examiner for Monmouth County and as an attending family practice physician at the Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center in Neptune. He is survived by his wife Helen, two daughters, and two sons. Son Joseph W. III is Jefferson '81.

Charles F. Schultze '55 died May 23, 2003. He practiced obstetrics-gynecology in Santa Barbara, CA. He is survived by his wife Charlotte, two daughters, and a son.

Paul M. Selfon '55 died April 10, 2003. A Major in the U.S. Army Reserves, he practiced occupational and administrative medicine at the Board of Veterans Appeals, Washington, DC for over 30 years. He also served as Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine, and was the author of several articles on military medicine. He is survived by his wife Nathaline and two sons.

James B. Lee '56 died February 2, 2003. He served as Professor of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo. A noted researcher and student of hypertension, he was a prolific author of scientific articles. He directed the hypertension program at SUNY Buffalo and was highly regarded in this field. He is survived by his wife Audrey and four sons.

Vincent P. Blue '59 died May 27, 2003. He was internist on staff at Lower Bucks Hospital, Bristol, PA and St. Mary's Hospital, Newtown, PA. He is survived by his wife Mary, three daughters, and two sons.

Robert D. Deitz '63 died November 30, 2002. He practiced

in Riverdale, MD. He was on staff at Prince Georges Hospital, Cheverly, MD where he was Chief of Cardiology. He is survived by his wife Jacqueline, three daughters, and a son.

Russell J. Stumacher '68 died June 10, 2003. He was Chief of Infectious Diseases at Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia. He also served as a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania where he won a teaching award. He is survived by his wife Sharon, a son, and a daughter.

Ann O. Shigeoka '69 died March 17, 2003. A graduate of the Penn State-Jefferson accelerated program, she became an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City. She was married to her classmate John W. Shigeoka, who survives her, as do the couple's two daughters.

Howard G. Hughes '74 died April 19, 2003. He spent his professional career at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA, serving for 10 years as an emergency room physician. He also served as Medical Director, Chief Executive Officer, and Senior Vice President of the Geisinger Health Plan. He is survived by his wife Bonnie, a son, and a daughter.

Postgraduate Alumni

Walter H. Snyder Jr. PUD '76 died June 30, 2003. He was a pulmonologist in private practice in Levittown, PA.

Faculty

Roger B. Thomas Jr. died March 20, 2003. He was Associate Director of the Department of Medicine, Christiana Hospital, Wilmington, DE where he taught and mentored Jefferson medical students.

Family Practice and the teaching of residents from Penn State School of Medicine. He recently returned from a medical mission to the Dominican Republic with the World Blindness Foundation, which he found very rewarding.

'57

Francis Bartone was inducted into the University of Pennsylvania's Athletic Hall of Fame on May 10. He was the first captain of a National Intercollegiate Championship team in Penn's history, fencing on the 1953 national championship team. He was also the first to be named an All American Intercollegiate fencer in two different weapons: saber in 1951 and foil in 1953.

'58

Julian Feldman has retired from the practice of obstetrics and gynecology. After 40 years of solo practice, he and his wife are enjoying the good life in Philadelphia and at their beach house in Ventnor, NJ.

'62

Clark McKeever and **Grant McKeever** of Houston, identical twin orthopaedic surgeons and owners of Lone Star Bone and Joint Clinic, have spent more than 30 years sharing their love of people and orthopaedics while raising families and making time to pursue different interests. Clark served as a volunteer reserve officer for the Harris County Sheriff's Department for 16 years. He is a detective in the narcotics division because of his knowledge of drugs. He performs almost 50 research studies on new drugs and investigates people suspected of forging prescriptions.

Grant has spent much of his spare time making use of his sailing license as a mate on the *Elissa*, a 420-ton iron sailing vessel built in Scotland in 1877. Today he devotes time to

May 2003 was a reunion time for the Class of '48 who gathered for the seventh time at the famous Skytop Lodge in the Poconos. Norm Quinn '48 (far left in the photo) reports, "unfortunately the three day affair had to endure rainfall which limited the golf, mountain climbing, and cross country teams—but the indoor pool was active. Coming the greatest distances were Bud Schwartz of San Mateo, California, and Robert Laning of Virginia. A highlight was the party at the beautiful Skytop home of Marie and Rudy DePersia. A meeting was held about the Class of '48 Scholarship Fund, which over the years has become a very significant endowment for future JMC students. Details will be sent to Class members and reviewed when the Class meets on Saturday evening, October 11, 2003 during Reunion Weekend at Jefferson Alumni Hall. University President Paul C. Brucker MD will be the speaker and guest on this occasion. See you in October!"



helping injured and orphaned native Texas wildlife.

'64

John Riffle of Martinez, GA retired from the Army Medical Corps in 1994 and since then has served in a combined position as Chief of the Ophthalmology Department at the Augusta VA Medical Center and Associate Professor at the Medical College of Georgia. He was honored with the graduating residents' faculty teaching award in 2002.

'70

William Peters of Bozeman, MT was elected Treasurer of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists at its 51st Annual Clinical

Meeting. He is in private practice and is the President of Ob-Gyn Associates in Bozeman. Dr. Peters is a past recipient of ACOG's Outstanding District Service Award and has served as Chair of the Montana Section.

'71

Donald Bergman was elected President of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists at its congress in San Diego in May. Dr. Bergman is in private practice in New York City and is board certified in both internal medicine and endocrinology and metabolism. He has authored several papers and contributed to several books including *The Mount Sinai School of Medicine*

Complete Book of Nutrition.

Dr. Bergman completed his medical residency and endocrine fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital. He also completed an internship in obstetrics and gynecology at Mount Sinai.

"This year AACE is launching a new initiative called the Power of Prevention," Dr. Bergman notes, "which will provide patients with guidelines for healthy living and healthy aging." The AACE, founded in 1991, has 4,300 members in the United States and 73 foreign countries.

James Dooley is now a staff anesthesiologist at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, NJ.

James McBride of Bethlehem, PA has been elected President of the Lehigh Valley Bee Keepers Association.

Edward Ruby of Fort Washington, PA continues his practice of endocrinology at Jefferson and Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Darby. He recently was presented with a teaching award from the residents at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital. He will be serving as President of the Philadelphia Endocrine Society for 2003-2004.

'72

Paul Dainer of Evans, GA, founder of the first Raft Debate at Jefferson,

*Remember the New Date
for Alumni Weekend:
October 9–11, 2003
October 21–23, 2004
October 2005
Watch for the December Bulletin which
will include photos from Alumni Weekend
with the annual giving report.*

has used his position as a faculty advisor to interest students at the Medical College of Georgia in establishing a similar event, sponsored by the MCG Alumni Association.

'73

Ben Bradenham of Midlothian, VA has been practicing gastroenterology in Richmond since 1978. He and wife Judy have two sons who are now in college.

'74

D. David Dershaw of New York City has been elected for a two-year term (2003-2005) as President of the Society of Breast Imaging, the subspecialty society of radiologists. He is presently Director of the Breast Imaging section in the Department of Radiology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and Professor of Radiology, Weill College of Medicine, Cornell University.

John Lubicky has been appointed to an endowed professorship at Rush University and Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago: Dr. Lubicky is the inaugural holder of the Ronald DeWald MD Chair in Spinal Deformities. This chair was established in 1996 to honor DeWald, a pioneer in the field of modern spine surgery. Lubicky received his fellowship training under DeWald, and has been on the Rush faculty since 1988, advancing to full Professor in 1994. He is the chief of staff at Shriners Children's Hospital in Chicago. A frequent presenter at national and international spine meetings, Lubicky has published more than 50 articles and 20 book chapters.

Marvin Nielsen Jr. of Easton, MD was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology at the ACR's annual meeting in Washington, DC. He is affiliated with Memorial Hospital in Easton and Dorchester General

Hospital in Cambridge, MD.

'78

Joseph Matthews II, after four years in private practice at the Hughston Clinic in Columbus, GA has joined the orthopaedic staff at the Kaiser facility in San Jose, CA. He and wife Anne have moved to Morgan Hill, CA, a town of 33,000 about 20 minutes to the south.

David Schutzman of Newtown Square, PA has been appointed Chairman of the Division of Neonatology at Albert Einstein Medical Center, a member of the Jefferson Health System. He comes to Einstein from Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital where he served as Director of Nurseries for 18 years and Acting Director of Pediatrics for the last four years. Prior to these positions he served as a staff neonatologist at TJUH. Dr. Schutzman completed his pediatrics residency and neonatology fellowship training at TJUH and is board certified in neonatology-perinatal medicine.

'79

Peter Choyke of Bethesda, MD was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology at ACR's annual meeting in Washington, DC. Peter is Chief of Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the National Institutes of Health Warren G. Magnusson Clinical Center, and a Professor of Radiology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

'81

Victor Onufrey of Sewickley, PA has returned from a six week deployment to Europe for Operation Iraqi Freedom with his Air National Guard unit. He continues to practice radiation oncology in Pittsburgh at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital.

'83

Andrew Curtin of Abington, PA is Chief Radiologist at Lankenau

Were You in the Public Health Service?

Max Koppel '57 would like to hear from anyone who is or was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. Please contact him at mkoppel@osophs.dhhs.gov

Hospital and has been elected President of the Medical Staff. "We plan to stay and fight for Pennsylvania quality medicine and tort reform."

'84

Jay Duker of Newton, MA has been named Tufts-NEMC Ophthalmologist-in-Chief and Director of the New England Eye Center as well as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Tufts University School of Medicine. Dr. Duker has been at Tufts-NEMC for 12 years and has served as acting head of the Eye Center for more than a year. He has also served as Director of Vitreoretinal Diseases and Surgery Services. He completed his postgraduate training at Wills Eye Hospital, which serves as Jefferson's Department of Ophthalmology. He has over 90 publications in print and is co-author of *Ophthalmology*, one of the nation's leading ophthalmic books.

'85

Larry Dashow is now residing in Burgaw, NC with his wife and daughter. He is on the general surgery staff at Pender Memorial Hospital.

'86

Robert Robles and **Donna DiCenzo '85** of Orinda, CA are "comfortably ensconced" in northern California. Donna works for Kaiser Permanente as an ob/gyn and Bob is in a private hematology/oncology practice.

'87

Michael Sernyak of West Haven, CT was promoted to Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine. He currently serves as Chief of

Psychiatry in the VA Connecticut Healthcare System.

'88

Mark Brezinski MD PhD of Malden, MA has been promoted to Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. He currently holds five NIH grants to perform work on a new method of optical imaging, and has won a multitude of awards including one from President Bill Clinton.

'89

William C. McGarvey of Katy, TX was recently elected to his first term as a board member of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society. Dr. McGarvey is currently an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Texas. He is also the Director of Foot and Ankle Surgery for the Foundation for Orthopaedic, Athletic, and Reconstructive Research in Houston.

McGarvey's past awards include the Commander Achievement Award from the U.S. Army in 2002, the Physician of the Year Award from Hermann Hospital, and the Dean's Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Texas Houston Medical School in 2001. McGarvey continues as an Associate Editor of both the *Foot and Ankle International Journal* and the *American Journal of Sports Medicine*, and as an editorial board member of *Techniques in Foot and Ankle Surgery*.

Tom Morales of Golden, CO has been with Rocky Mountain Gastroenterology Associates in suburban Denver for five years. He and wife Melody ran their first marathon recently.

'90

Amber Stein of Mechanicsville, VA and husband Ethan are proud to announce the birth of their third child, Joshua Roland, on April 22, 2003. Amber is a part-time anesthesiologist at Chippenham Medical Center in Richmond.

'91

Benigno Federici and wife Shannon of Suffolk, VA are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Valerio James. He is named after his grandfather, **Valerio Federici '48**.

Pamela Franz of Schwenksville, PA announces the arrival of her daughter Jane Charlotte, born December 2, 2002.

David Weismiller of Greenville, NC has been promoted to Associate Professor as well as Vice Chair of Family Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

'93

Daniel Perlin is the Director of obstetric anesthesia services at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. He oversees the anesthetic management and care of four to five thousand laboring patients per year. He and wife Annette live in Potomac, MD with daughter Joelle.

Pavika Saripalli of Lawrence, KS and her husband announce the birth of their second child, Daniel.

Greg Viehman has completed a fellowship in Mohs Micrographic surgery at Duke University Medical Center. He founded the Cary Skin Center in Cary, NC. He and wife Ruth have two sons.

'95

Nemishh and **Shilpa Mehta** are practicing together in Vineland, NJ. They are enjoying their work with the indigent population

Alumni Spotlight: Marvin Rotman

Marvin Rotman graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1958. He says that both Central High School, in Philadelphia, and Ursinus College prepared him well for Jefferson Medical College and its traditions, its world famous professors, and its emphasis on clinical medicine and medical ethics. During a radiology residency at Montefiore Hospital, Bronx, NY, Dr. Rotman was influenced favorably by Dr. Charles Botstein, Chief of Radiation Oncology, and decided he also should become a radiation oncologist. Board certified in radiology in 1966, Dr. Rotman accepted an appointment as Director, Division of Radiation Oncology, New York Medical College, in New York City in 1967, and rose to Professor of Radiology by 1975. He became a Fellow of the American College of Radiology in 1976. Since 1979 he has been Professor and Chairman, Radiation Oncology, State University of New York Health Science Center, Brooklyn, NY, and Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology, Kings County Medical Center, Brooklyn. Recently, the Board of Trustees at SUNY-Downstate appointed him a Distinguished Service Professor.

During the 1970s Dr. Rotman revived the use of the Cobalt 60 ophthalmic applicator for treatment of intraocular melanoma which soon became the treatment standard for the time. He later developed the use of Iodine-125 to replace Cobalt 60 to reduce eye complications and to offer more protection to eye surgeons.

His work in gynecological cancer is equally noteworthy. He is one of only two U.S.



radiation oncologists to have served as a principal investigator in the Gynecology Oncology Group (GOG). Dr. Rotman's work on the use of extended field para-aortic irradiation for the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) was the first gynecologic study to be statistically significant, as was his protocol for the need of post-hysterectomy irradiation in cervical cancer. His earlier finding of the need for irradiation for treatment for a bulky cervix also was proven correct by the GOG. He further is considered an authority in the field of concomitant infusion chemotherapy and irradiation. Dr. Rotman's work in bladder malignancies, paranasal sinus tumors, and soft tissue sarcomas using a variety of drugs such as 5FU, cisplatin, or adriamycin as a continuous infusion along with irradiation were all original studies.

Dr. Rotman has served as Chairman of the New York Roentgen Society, as President of the American Radium Society, as Second Vice President of the Radiological Society of North America, and as President of the Society of Academic Radiation Oncology Departments. He served on the Executive Committee of the RTOG and the Choroidal Ocular Melanoma

Study Group of the National Eye Institute. He served on the Residency Review Committee for Radiology (Radiation Oncology), 1982-1986, and as an oral examiner for the American Board of Radiology on and off for 25 years. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the American Board of Radiology in 2000, and the 2002 Gold Medal from the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology (that organization's highest award for clinical research and service). Dr. Rotman joins the late Simon Kramer MD (who was Chair of Radiation Oncology at Jefferson) as the two Jefferson recipients of this coveted award.

Dr. Rotman has over 175 scientific publications, four books, and a monograph in his field. He was selected to give the Annual Oration in Radiation Oncology for the Radiological Society of North America in 1991, and the Ruvelson Lecture at the University of Minnesota in 1994. He has been a visiting professor across the United States, Europe, and Asia. He is a senior member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics* and the *American Journal of Clinical Oncology*. He has an active resident education program in radiation oncology and his residents have gone on to serve as chiefs of radiation oncology departments in hospitals throughout the country. He admits to still becoming excited when research ideas prove to be of clinical significance. Dr. Rotman and his wife, Marsha, have two sons and two daughters. Jefferson congratulates him on his distinguished career and thanks him for bringing distinction and honor to Jefferson Medical College.

including migrant farm workers. Most of all they enjoy raising their two children, Nikhil who is now three years old and Shreya who is one.

'96

Christian and **Tanja Adonizio** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Maria Elaine, on May 7, 2003. Chris is a member of Hematology and Oncology Associates of Northeastern Pennsylvania and Tanja is an emergency medicine physician at Mercy Hospital of Scranton. They reside in Clarks Summit.

Kevin Biglan, wife Sherri, and daughter Elena are proud to announce the birth of Cassandra on October 20, 2002. Kevin has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, where he will specialize in movement disorders. The whole family is excited about moving to Maryland.

Ryan Gallivan, wife Julie, and their four children are now living in Bend, OR. He joined the ENT practice in town and enjoys central Oregon very much.

'97

After completing six years of service in the army, **Jay Joseph**, wife Robin, and children Seth, age six, and Grace, age three, have moved to Elysburg, PA. He will practice family medicine at Bloomsburg Hospital.

Mark Lund has joined Central Maine Pulmonary Associates in Auburn, ME. Mark performed his residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and remained there for his fellowship training in pulmonary and critical care medicine. He pursued an additional year of advanced fellowship specialization in interventional pulmonology and bronchoscopic laser surgery. His professional

interests include the diagnosis of early lung cancer, airway laser surgery, palliative treatment of advanced lung cancer, occupational lung disease, and mechanical ventilation.

'98

Jason Lichten, wife Rachel, and son Sam have moved to Columbus, OH where he has started a plastic surgery fellowship at Ohio State University. Jason completed his general surgery residency at Beth Israel Medical Center in NYC in June.

Patrick Mooney has joined Aphton Corporation as Chief Medical Officer. Aphton is a biopharmaceutical company, developing products using targeted immunotherapy for neutralizing hormones that may be involved in cancer and non-cancer diseases of the gastrointestinal system and reproductive system.

'99

Meg Franger is now in her second year of a fellowship in nephrology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Cooper Hospital in Camden. Husband **Frank Urbano IM'98** practices general internal medicine in Mount Laurel. They live in Riverton, NJ with daughter Madison Rose.

'00

Christopher Vagnoni and wife Anita had a son in April. First son Benjamin, now two years old, is doing well, and so is his baby brother, Dominic. Chris is in his fourth year of a combined

residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at West Virginia University. The family resides in Frostburg, MD.

'01

Keith Grim of Philadelphia will be serving as Speaker of the House for the Emergency Medicine Residency Association.

Scott Hammer and wife Sara Kate of Kannapolis, NC are excited to announce the birth of their first child Kirk Ellis, born May 21, 2003. Scott is currently finishing his last year of residency in family practice.

Jennifer King of Charlottesville, VA has been selected a Co-Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine at the University of Virginia, while **Merritt Van Pelt** has been chosen Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine for 2003-04 at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

'02

Ethan Wasserman and wife Michelle of Highland Park, NJ announce the birth of their second daughter, Eliana Devora, on July 7, 2003.

'03

Kathleen Settle, after doing a year of medicine-preliminary training at George Washington University in Washington, DC, will be going to the University of Maryland Medical Center for postgraduate training in radiation oncology.

Postgraduate Alumni

Doris Bartuska END'58 of Philadelphia was inducted into

the International Women in Medicine Hall of Fame, of the American Medical Women's Association, this past June in Washington, DC. This year's event celebrated women physicians who were among the first to be board certified in their specialties and subspecialties. Doris was one of the first certified in endocrinology when that specialty's boards originated in 1972.

For almost 50 years, Dr. Bartuska has been an advocate for women pursuing positions of leadership in medicine and the sciences. "I came from a small town in the Pennsylvania coal region where few went to college," she says. "I never believed that medicine was a realistic career for me. At Bucknell Junior College (now Wilkes University), the head of the science department noticed my aptitude for science and changed my point of view. I had very supportive professors at Bucknell, who urged me to continue my studies."

She is currently Emeritus Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology) at Drexel University School of Medicine. She has been the Director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, and is a past President of the Medical Staff at MCP. Dr. Bartuska served as President of the American Medical Women's Association in 1988, and President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. Dr. Bartuska continues to be a leader in organized medicine, currently serving as a Delegate to the Pennsylvania Medical Society and member of the Committee to Nominate Delegates to the American Medical Association.

Arturo Hervada PD'58 defended his PhD thesis this past April in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. His title was "Art and

To Submit Class Notes, Send to:

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Renewal in Medicine: The Medical College Building

by E. J. Caterson MD PhD, Class of '03

June 4, 2003 (two days before graduation)

I can remember vividly my time as a first year medical student being infatuated with the good fortune of being accepted into the medical school of both my choice and my family legacy. At that time, I was active in a surgical organization, Operation Smile, which performs cleft lip and palate repairs for underprivileged children around the world. I can remember that it was a bright spring day when I had the honor of escorting a visiting Operation Smile professor from Honduras for a tour around the Jefferson campus. While touring we were prompted by our perusal of *The Gross Clinic*, the sculpture of *The Winged Ox*, and the numerous portraits of past professors and contributors to the Jefferson community, to chat about the rich history of Jefferson. The surgeon conveyed to me the importance of our reverence for our teachers and mentors of prior generations and how he was so impressed to see their legacy openly celebrated. This prompted me to take him to two of my favorite locations on campus. The first location was the second floor of the



Curtis building where there is a plaque dedicated by the JMC Alumni Association. It reads, "To the students of Jefferson: Our medical college was established in 1825 through the vision, initiative and generosity of a small group of physicians. Loyal alumni and friends have since contributed to its support and traditions. These benefactors ask no returns save that you make the most of the opportunities they have helped to provide. And that you, as future alumni, carry on their faith in you, in medicine, and in Jefferson."

This plaque sums up the feeling of countless alumni and friends of Jefferson and speaks to my personal gratitude for the opportunities that were given to me by this institution. After visiting the plaque we made another stop at the

inconspicuous entrance of the medical college building on Walnut Street. We stopped at the steps within the entrance of this building and simply made an observation. I assume that many of you, as alumni, have walked up and down these stairs to McClellan Hall countless times in your tenure at Jefferson but maybe you have not noticed the subtleties of the staircase at this entrance. However, if you have ever had the opportunity to stop and observe these steps you have found bevels worn into the marble slabs in the most heavily traveled locations. The building dates from 1929 and I presume that these marble stairs so beveled were the product of the passage

of countless medical students, interns, residents, and academic faculty. I used to remember walking these steps myself and wondering who else had walked them before me, and who else had worn down the marble in a march towards their future. Today, I walked into the medical college building for the first time in some time, because the entrance had been closed for "remodeling" for the past several weeks. To my surprise I entered and found a set of new and

pristine marble stairs leading up into the building. I paused at the foot of these new stairs and thought for a moment that an offense had been performed against all of those who had come before me and had so diligently worn away that marble one step at a time. And then the perspective came to me that this was a symbolic reminder that it is the duty of those in the present to contribute and make new footsteps towards Jefferson's rich tradition. I found this perspective and these new stairs to climb two days prior to my own graduation. I am glad that I have had the honor and privilege to walk these stairs and I hope that we, as the generation who have traversed these new steps, will continue to make our footprint in the future.

Tuberculosis: Composers, Painters, Poets, and Novelists as Victims of Tuberculosis." After a 40-minute presentation he spent almost two hours answering questions. His work was given the mark of *summa cum laude*. Dr. Hervada, a Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at Jefferson, is delighted with this evidence that he is "still alive with some functioning neurons."

Peter DeLuca OSM'93, an orthopaedic surgeon at Hahnemann University Hospital, has been named one of the official team physicians for the Philadelphia Eagles. Dr. DeLuca is now in his seventh season with the Eagles. He specializes in sports related injuries as an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine. He is also the team orthopaedic surgeon for the Philadelphia Flyers and the Philadelphia Phantoms.

Mary-Elise Manuell EM'96 of Paxton, MA is Clinical Director of Education at St. Vincent's Hospital at Worcester Medical Center in Worcester, MA.

Christalene Saldanha AN'97 and **David Santamore AN'99** happily announce the birth of their first child, Megan Sophia, on June 3, 2003. Chris and David are faculty members of the University of Louisville Department of Anesthesiology in Louisville, KY.

Christopher Spagnuolo OSM'02, who specializes in sports medicine, has joined the staff of Monmouth Medical Center. While at Jefferson he worked as an assistant team physician to Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies as well as the Philadelphia Wings National Lacrosse Team. He resides in Fair Haven, NJ.

Carolyn Runowicz '77, Director of the University of Connecticut Cancer Center

Carolyn D. Runowicz '77, a nationally prominent expert in gynecologic cancers and women's health, will begin serving in October as Director of the Cancer Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center, in Farmington.

Dr. Runowicz will also serve as Director of Women's Health Services. She is currently a Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Vice Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City.

Dr. Runowicz was the first woman President of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. She is also involved with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and is a member of its Hormone Replacement Therapy Task Force. She is currently on the national board of the American Cancer Society and has been Chair of the Gynecologic Committee of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABBP), a leading national organization in large scale cancer research, since 1994.



"Under the direction of a nationally established leader like Dr. Runowicz, all aspects of the health center's cancer program will soar—including clinical services, research, and education," said Peter J. Deckers MD, the health center's Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, who recruited Dr. Runowicz.

A native of Willimantic, Connecticut, Dr. Runowicz is a 1973 graduate of the University of Connecticut and a recipient of its Distinguished Alumni Award. She said her decision to join UConn was driven, in part, by its closeness to her roots. Also Dr. Runowicz said she was attracted by the unique opportunity to help build upon the existing strengths of the center's cancer program.

"I knew of the solid basic science program at the health center and its need for a leader with clinical skills and a vision for the future," Dr. Runowicz said, adding that her vision for the UConn Cancer Center is very clear. "Ultimately, I'd like to develop a strong center with enough outstanding oncologists and translational and basic science researchers, as well as a cancer control program, to become a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center," she said. NCI designated centers are the nation's most elite cancer centers and participate in broad based, interdisciplinary programs in cancer research.

"I'm intrigued by the challenge of expanding the existing clinical

programs at the health center and interconnecting those services with basic research. By translating the work done in the laboratory to the bedside, the health center is poised to make significant progress in the prevention, early detection, and cure of cancer," she said.

Throughout her career, Dr. Runowicz has achieved exceptional success. In addition to her positions with St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, she has held academic positions at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where she served as Professor and Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. She has also served as Director of Gynecologic Oncology Research for the women's health service line of Continuum Health Partners in New York City.

Dr. Runowicz has been involved with research studies on ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, and epithelial cancer. She has written more than 100 contributions to the medical literature, including scientific abstracts and textbook chapters. She is widely published in scholarly journals including the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, the *Journal of*

Clinical Oncology, and *Cancer*. She is a reviewer for journals that include *The New England Journal of Medicine* and *Cancer*.

An outspoken advocate for women's health, Dr. Runowicz has candidly shared insights from her own battle with breast cancer, both in speaking appearances and in her 1995 book, *To Be Alive: A Woman's Guide to a Full Life After Cancer*.

"I was too much of a public figure not to share my personal story about breast cancer, and I hoped it would empower other patients," she said. As a result of her personal experience, she added, "I hope I am more compassionate as a physician and have a better understanding of what my patients are going through."

In 1994, Dr. Runowicz and her husband, Sheldon Cherry MD, a gynecologist in New York City, co-authored *The Menopause Book: A Guide to Women's Health After 40*. In 1999, she wrote *Women and Cancer: A Thorough and Compassionate Resource for Patients and Their Families*, with co-author Jeanne Petrek. A fourth book, *The Cancer Prevention Breakthrough*, is in progress.

Dr. Runowicz trained in obstetrics and gynecology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She was a Galloway Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and also underwent fellowship training in gynecologic oncology at Mount Sinai. [JMC](#)