CUMC Celebrates

CUMC CELEBRATES is a monthly publication that acknowledges faculty, staff, and students at Columbia University Medical Center who receive major research grants, who receive prestigious awards, who are elected to honorary societies, or who take leadership positions in professional organizations. Celebrates also gratefully acknowledges the gifts made by donors and friends of the Medical Center and highlights faculty who have appeared in the news recently.

If you have an award or honor that you would like to have listed in Celebrates, please fill out this online form. Please note: all federal grants are automatically included based on institutional data. For more information, send an email to the Celebrates editor.

Dear Colleagues:

We are acutely aware that there is a shortage of qualified health care professionals in many communities, both near and far. At CUMC, programs in each of our four schools aim to help reduce this shortage.

In the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Columbia-Bassett education track is one of the only programs in the United States dedicated to training physicians in the specific challenges that affect health care in rural communities.

P&S and Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown, NY, have established a track for students to experience their 18-month basic science curriculum at P&S and their major clinical year, including all core clinical rotations, at Bassett. This program permits students to learn medicine in a rural environment while utilizing a longitudinal curriculum with an exposure to health care management, all of which leads to the P&S MD degree.

Three classes of Columbia-Bassett students are now enrolled at P&S. First-year students in the Class of 2016 went to Cooperstown for an orientation before settling in to New York City in time for this year’s White Coat Ceremony in August. That class has started its 18-month fundamentals curriculum. Members of the second admitted class (2015) are nearing the end of that 18-month period and will move to Cooperstown in January. Members of the inaugural class, part of the Class of 2014, have been in Cooperstown since January 2012. By all reports, including the students’ own assessments, the year is off to a spectacular start!

The success of the Columbia-Bassett program will best be measured by the impact that our graduates have in the years ahead, but we are confident that we are training the kinds of health care professionals about which we can all be proud.

Lee Goldman, MD
Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences Columbia University Medical Center

RESEARCH GRANTS
(REPRESENTATIVE LISTING)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Timothy Bestor, PhD, Genetics & Development, has received $1.3 million over four years from the National Cancer Institute for “Methylation Suicide in Cancer (PQ10).”

Andrea Califano, PhD, Biomedical Informatics, has received $2 million over one year from the Office of the NIH Director for “High-Performance Computer Cluster for Biomedical Computing.”

Thomas Diacovo, MD, Pediatrics, has received $1.66 million over five years from the National Cancer Institute for “Targeting Non-classical Oncogenes as Therapy for T-ALL.”
RESEARCH GRANTS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)

**Donna Farber**, PhD, Medicine, has received $1.4 million over three years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Development of Lung T Cell Responses in Infant Respiratory Immunity.”

**Joachim Frank**, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, has received $1.98 million over four years from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for “Structural Analysis of Macromolecular Assemblies.”

**Ira Goldberg**, MD, Medicine, has received $1.76 million until 2016, in a competitive renewal, from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Mechanisms of Fatty Acid Uptake by Cardiac Muscle.”

**Joshua Gordon**, MD, PhD, Psychiatry, has received $1.6 million over four years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Mechanisms Underlying the Functional Connectivity Deficit in the 22q11 Microdeletion Syndrome.”

**Michael Grunebaum**, MD, Psychiatry, has received $2.58 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Ketamine vs Midazolam: Testing Rapid Relief of Suicide Risk in Depression.”

**Eric Hall**, DPhil, Center for Radiological Research, has received $312,000 over three years from the National Aeronautics & Space Administration for “Genetic Determinants of Radiation Cataract Risk.”

**Veronica Hinton**, PhD, G.H. Sergievsky Center, has received $398,000 over three years from the Muscular Dystrophy Association for “Executive Functions in Boys with Dystrophinopathies.”
Michio Hirano, MD, Neurology, has received $398,000 over three years from the Muscular Dystrophy Association for “Molecular Bypass Therapy for TK2 Deficiency.”

Kara Kelly, MD, Pediatrics, has received $500,000 over three years from the Sohn Conference Foundation for “Integrative Therapies Program for Children with Cancer.”

Jan Kitajewski, PhD, Obstetrics & Gynecology, has received $1.6 million over four years from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Notch in Angiogenesis and Vascular Biology.”

Louise Kuhn, MPH, G.H. Sergievsky Center, has received $3.7 million over five years from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “Host Epigenetic and Mitochondrial Function in HIV-infected Children.”

Guohua Li, MD, DrPH, Anesthesiology, has received $4.2 million over five years from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control for “Columbia Injury Control Research Center.”

Howard Lieberman, PhD, Center for Radiological Research, has received $1.7 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Cancer Institute for “Mechanisms of Radioresistance and Cell Cycle Progression.”

Andrew Marks, MD, Physiology & Cellular Biophysics, has received $2 million over five years from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Molecular Basis of Heart Failure.”
RESEARCH GRANTS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)

Kenneth Olive, PhD, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, has received $720,000 over four years from the American Cancer Society for “Preclinical Evaluation of Parp Inhibition in Pancreatic Cancer (2nd Resub.)”

Susan F. Steinberg, MD, Pharmacology, has received $3 million over four years from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “PKD Isoforms in the Heart.”

Melissa Stockwell, MD, MPH, Pediatrics, has received $3.7 million over five years from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for “MOSAIC: Mobile Surveillance for ARI and ILI in the Community.”

Hynek Wichterle, PhD, Pathology & Cell Biology and Neuroscience (in Neurology), has received $2.8 million over five years from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Motor Neuron Selector Genes and Mechanism of their Action.”

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Mildred Embree, PhD, DMD, has received $279,000 over two years from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research for “Dentist Scientist K99: Improve TMJ Fibrocartilage Regeneration Strategies.”

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Andrea Howard, MD, ICAP, has received $1.72 million over three years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “A Combination Intervention Package for Isoniazid Preventive Therapy in Ethiopia.”

Y. Claire Wang, MD, Health Policy and Management, has received $267,000 over two years from the JPB Foundation for “Childhood Obesity Interventions – Evaluating the Cost-Effectiveness of Strategies.”

Patrick Wilson, PhD, Sociomedical Science, has received $690,000 over three years from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for “Daily Psychosocial Determinants of ART Adherence in Substance-Using Black Men.”
AWARDS & HONORS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Anil K. Lalwani, MD, Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery, has been named president-elect of the American Neurotology Society.

Robert Tauber, DDS, has received the D. Austin Sniffen Medal of Honor, Ninth District Dental Association, in recognition of decades of work as volunteer teacher at CDM in Diagnosis, Restorative Dentistry & Ethics.

Annia Beatrice-LeGoff (CDM ’14) and Jose Castillo (CDM ’14) received scholarship awards in the amount of $5,000 from the Colgate-Palmolive Dental Association Foundation.

Sergei Kuznetsov (CDM ’14) received the Abraham and Martha Barnett Scholarship in the amount of $3,500.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Linda P. Fried, MD, MPH, Dean, has received the Silver Scholar Award from the Alliance for Aging Research from the Metlife Foundation in recognition of her work in advancing the science of human aging.

Robert E. Fullilove, Sociomedical Sciences, has been awarded the Allan Rosenfield Award for Public Health and Social Justice by the Public Health Association of New York City.

Sandro Galea, MD, DrPH, Epidemiology, has been appointed chair of the Community Services Board of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for a term expiring in 2015.

Karestan Koenen, PhD, Epidemiology, was named lead epidemiologist for the National PTSD Consortium.
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received August 25 – September 25, 2012)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

A donor made a commitment of $15 million to advance research and endow a professorship in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

A donor made a commitment of $5 million to establish the Center for Gender-Specific Medicine in the Department of Medicine.

A corporation made a commitment of $3 million to support construction of the Medical and Graduate Education Building, the centerpiece of our Campus Revitalization initiative.

A donor made a $250,000 gift to advance research in lymphoma and other hematological cancers within the Department of Medicine.

A family foundation made a gift of $106,861 to support the International Family AIDS Program in the Department of Pediatrics.

A donor made a contribution of $100,000 toward a $1 million commitment to support construction of the new Medical and Graduate Education Building.

A corporate foundation made a gift of $100,000 to provide scholarship support to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A contribution of $100,000 was made to advance research on retinal and macular degeneration in the Department of Ophthalmology.

A gift of $100,000 was made to support a professorship in clinical education at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Mailman School of Public Health received a $150,000 grant from Pfizer Inc. to support the Healthy Aging Leadership Forums.
Virus Disproved as Cause of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome – September 18, 2012
The saga of the retrovirus XMRV and chronic fatigue syndrome appears to have ended, now that researchers in a federally funded study said they found no relationship between the retrovirus and the illness. But W. Ian Lipkin, principal investigator of Tuesday’s National Institutes of Health-funded study and director of the Center for Infection and Immunity at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, said that while many scientists felt the question had been settled, “it was not settled in the [chronic fatigue syndrome] community.”

Lasker Awards to Honor 7 Scientists – September 10, 2012
The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation announced on Monday that seven scientists would be honored with the 2012 Lasker Award, one of the world’s most prestigious scientific prizes. Donald D. Brown, emeritus director of the department of embryology at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Baltimore, and Thomas P. Maniatis, professor of biochemistry at Columbia, will be given the Special Achievement Award in Medical Science for their work in genetics and their fostering of the work of young scientists.

Lunch Trays Got Too Lean in City’s Fight Against Fat – September 4, 2012
Worried that children were losing the war on obesity, New York City began to slim down its school lunch offerings several years ago, replacing fries with baked potato strips and introducing nonfat chocolate milk, whole grain pasta and salad bars, among other tweaks. In the process, the city also cut calories. So much so, city officials now acknowledge, that it often served children fewer calories than required by the federal government. “If you are delivering better calories, then that is important,” said Y. Claire Wang, an assistant professor in health policy and management at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, who said she did not feel the city had been underfeeding any students.

NYC bans big, sugary drinks at restaurants – September 15, 2012
Over a decade, New York City has outlawed smoking in bars and offices, banned trans fats, and forced fast-food restaurants to list calorie counts on their menus. Now, the Big Apple has set its sights on sugary beverages with a first-in-the-nation rule barring restaurants, cafeterias and concessions stands from selling soda and other calorie-rich drinks in containers larger than 16 ounces. “We are dealing with a crisis ... we need to act on this,” said Board of Health member Deepthiman Gowda, a professor of medicine at Columbia University.
Bloomberg

Fumbled DNA Tests Mean Peril for Breast-Cancer Patients – September 10, 2012
More than 2,700 diseases can now be identified through gene testing, compared with fewer than 800 in 2000, according to the government-funded website GeneTests. About 74 percent of internists said their knowledge of genetics was somewhat or very poor and 79 percent wanted more training on when to order the tests, according to a Columbia University study surveying 220 internists. “Even if you have been out of medical school for five years, you are totally out of date,” said Wendy Chung, a pediatrician and geneticist at Columbia University Medical Center who was a co-author on the study.

Heart Attacks Can Happen at Early Age – September 7, 2012
Heart attacks in the United States are uncommon among people younger than 55, but the numbers could rise because obesity is a growing problem, said Dr. Lee Goldman, Hatch Professor and dean of the faculties of health sciences and medicine at Columbia University Medical Center.

Smoking Decline Stalls Despite City Efforts – September 20, 2012
After almost a decade where an increasing number of city residents tossed away their cigarettes, smoking went up slightly last year, according to new Health Department figures. “As long as tobacco is a legal product, and as long it’s marketed aggressively, there will always be some core of people who are addicted to it,” said James Colgrove, from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health.

Steady Business Travel Can Lead to Health Risks – September 26, 2012
Judith Briles crisscrosses the country as a consultant and is well-acquainted with the bumps of the road. Unhealthy meals, hit-and-miss hotel rooms and travel delays can all take a toll. A recently published study backs up business trekkers like Briles who’ve long suspected life on the road was negatively affecting their health. “What we found was employees who travel the most had the highest rates of obesity and the poorest self-rated health,” says Andrew Rundle, associate professor of epidemiology at Columbia University, who was senior author of the study published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.