

Winter 1-1-2010

# COM Outlook Winter 2010

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Winter 2010

Volume 11, Number 1

***Drs. Levy and Pandya Cherish  
Their Experiences as Fulbright  
Scholars in Slovakia***

# Dean's Message



In February 2000, NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine introduced its inaugural 16-page newsletter called *COM Outlook* to keep the students, faculty, alumni, staff, and administration informed of the myriad activities and accomplishments occurring within the college. Over the years, as the magazine evolved into a full-color 40-page magazine, it has served

as a respected and acclaimed diary of our academic progress while also spotlighting the numerous individuals who have and continue to play a key role in the college's growth and success.

When our students receive national recognition for their achievements—and our international outreach programs positively impact indigent and underserved populations around the globe—*COM Outlook* is there to document these endeavors for posterity. Similarly, whether it's the accomplishments of our alumni or news relating to the prominent research being conducted at the college that enhances quality of care and the development of new knowledge, *COM Outlook* helps shine a journalistic spotlight on these merit-worthy efforts.

When I reflect back on the 40-plus issues of *COM Outlook*, which encompass approximately 1,600 pages of in-depth news and feature articles, even I'm amazed at the depth and breadth of our college's achievements, which include the amazing growth and development of our various academic and international programs as well as the numerous accomplishments of our faculty, students, staff, alumni, and administration. Thankfully, the advancements we've made in contemporary medical education through the inclusion of vital training components such as our standardized and simulated patient programs have been well-documented due to the comprehensive coverage provided by *COM Outlook* magazine. As a result, we can use the 40-plus issues that have been produced over the past decade to serve as the visual history of where we were, where we are, and how we got there.

Since its inception a decade ago, the magazine has received national recognition for both its journalistic and artistic quality, winning multiple honors in the Best Magazine and Best Feature Story or Article categories in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Excellence in Communications Awards Competition. As a biased observer of the magazine's merit, it's not hard to understand why it has deservedly earned such recognition.

Over the years, *COM Outlook* has provided interesting and in-depth looks at subjects that are not just COM-centric, but instead address universal themes relative to both the osteopathic and general medical profession as a whole. Examples include thought-provoking (and award-winning) articles on topics such as "Examining the Future of Osteopathic Medicine," "Last Breath: How Doctors Deal with Death," "Motherhood and Medicine: An Emotional Juggling Act," and "Who's Watching the Baby? A Comprehensive Look at the OB/GYN Crisis."

Of course, because it is geared to promote NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, human-interest stories about our family of students, faculty, administration, staff, and alumni are regularly featured. Some have been uniquely sad, addressing the death of a beloved individual such as our founder, Dr. Morton Terry, while others have served as inspirational tales about overcoming adversity. In this capacity, *COM Outlook* has served as a journalistic time capsule, preserving the NSU-COM legacy for future generations.

An ancillary benefit of the magazine is how it has served as a valuable recruitment tool. In fact, a number of our students have actually commented that reading *COM Outlook* helped them make the decision to attend NSU-COM because they were so impressed by the diverse programs we offer and the numerous opportunities we provide for student involvement in both local and international medical outreach efforts.

Credit for the magazine's success can be directly attributed to Scott Colton, our director of medical communications, who serves as editor-in-chief and graphic designer of the magazine. From creating the concept and coining the publication's name to handling all aspects of editorial content and art production, Scott does it all without the benefit of any staff support, which makes his dedication and passion all the more praiseworthy.

It's been interesting and enjoyable to witness the evolution of *COM Outlook* as it has progressed from a newsletter format into the nationally recognized magazine it is today. Its aesthetic quality and absorbing editorial content have served the college well in making many of its readers aware of our programs, our profession, and our university.

Happy 10th anniversary, *COM Outlook*!

*Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.*



One of the most important things we as citizens—whether it be citizens of the United States or citizens of the world—should recognize is that we all have an obligation to pursue the benefits of preventing disease and keeping ourselves as healthy as possible.

As the policymakers debate—or in some cases argue—over the issue of health care reform,

the reality of these conversations merely points to what I would call the responsibilities of the individual as being paramount to the success or failure of any changes that will be made to the current health care paradigm. That's why issues such as prevention and wellness are going to play such a significant role in the impending health care reforms that will be occurring in the United States.

It's no secret that many Americans suffer from common health disorders such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and cardiac distress that place a heavy financial burden on the nation's health care system. The question is, who's to blame? It's not any easy query to answer, especially when you consider factors such as genetic tendencies, debilitating life stress, air pollution, and the dangerous levels of toxins found in our soil and water. I don't think anyone denies the fact that we have to be very careful about how we protect our soil and water because that's where most of our food products come from. Consequently, if we did a better job of protecting our soil and water reserves, we would essentially be protecting all living creatures from enduring the dire health consequences caused by contamination.

On the other hand, there are numerous studies suggesting that we, as a population, need to bear more responsibility for our medical woes. Does that mean we should be more cautious and take additional responsibility for what we ingest? Do we need to be more vigilant as to how much sugar we allow our children to consume? To put it succinctly, people need to assert more independent control over their nutrition and exercise while acknowledging and addressing their negative behaviors. The detrimental health consequences associated with using tobacco products or imbibing too much alcohol on a regular basis are well-documented facts. That's why people have to understand the correlation between their behaviors and their future health outcomes.

Over the past few decades, people in general have become much more knowledgeable about the pros and cons associated with their nutritional intake. Unfortunately, not everyone adheres to a

prevention and wellness lifestyle, which is where the new health care paradigm will be leading us in the very near future. That's why it's crucial for the youth of America to have this information inculcated at an early age. It's important to remember that most young people, who tend to live in a state of healthy omnipresence, rarely worry about something serious happening to them health-wise. However, we know that many of the precursors to age-related morbidity, such as sclerotic disease, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol, can be signaled by testing and things of that nature early on in life.

That's why people of all ages should visit their personal physician or local health clinic to receive an annual checkup. If people get into the habit of having an annual checkup with the attendant blood screenings, along with age-appropriate tests such as colonoscopies and mammograms, we could go a long way toward achieving our nationwide health and wellness goals. Of course, this needs to occur along with a proper diet and sensible exercise regimen, especially since we, as a society, have become very sedentary. We love to sit in front of our television sets and computers with our favorite snacks and beverages in hand. Additionally, instead of taking a nice brisk walk around the block to do a quick errand, we drive everywhere.

When we're in our 20s and 30s, most of us never think too much about our later years. But consider this: Anyone born today is expected to live well into their 90s—or above. But do you want to live in a morbid body that prevents you from living life to the fullest? Or are you willing to pursue a wellness- and prevention-based existence that maximizes your health? Of course, I'm not saying all ailments can be prevented if you pursue a healthy lifestyle. But you can certainly improve the quality of your life by incorporating prevention and wellness practices.

Essentially, it all boils down to this: As our nation's health care system begins its reformation, personal responsibility is going to be more important than ever before. The goal is going to center on creating a prevention and wellness attitude within our families where we learn to be much more responsible to ourselves for our actions. Why do people in certain areas of the world live so long while others don't? It isn't just because of their genes; it's because of the foods they ingest and their heightened activity levels. These may sound like overly simplistic factors, but they are the aspects we need to focus on in the United States. Hopefully all of us will take on the responsibility of assuming an active role in our health by incorporating prevention and wellness techniques that help reduce our disease risk and improve our overall quality of life.

*Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.*



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### **Drs. Levy and Pandya Cherish Fulbright Experience**

Part of the joy of being an academician is having the opportunity to do something out of the ordinary, which is exactly what occurred in the waning days of the summer of 2009 when Drs. Leonard Levy and Naushira Pandya traveled to Slovakia to serve as Fulbright senior specialist scholars.



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### **Dr. Scott-Holman Revels in Personal, Professional Bliss**

Attaining that wondrous balance of personal contentment, professional fulfillment, and financial peace of mind can prove elusive for some. But for others, such as Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman, the quest for all-encompassing contentment delivers a happy ending on all fronts.



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### **Preparation for Terrorist Threats: Explosive Devices**

Although most attention regarding all-hazards preparedness has been focused on bioterrorism and natural disasters, explosives have been the weapons most commonly used by terrorists—and many health care providers are unfamiliar with many of the features of terrorism resulting from the use of such weapons of destruction.



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### **M.P.H. Course Offers Students Eye-Opening Insights**

Grabbing a student's attention is of paramount importance for any professor, which is why a popular online elective course in the Master of Public Health Program called Culture, Ethnicity, and Health welcomes students by showing a disturbing news video to illustrate the vast cultural divide that exists throughout the world.



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### **Dr. Mayrink Discusses Life Aboard the USNS Comfort**

Last year, Dr. Maximiliano Mayrink took part in an unforgettable medical experience when he did a one-month international humanitarian mission called Continuing Promise 2009 aboard the USNS Comfort (T-AH20) hospital ship during the concluding months of his NSU-COM education.

## DEPARTMENTS

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### Notice of Accreditation/Nondiscrimination

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any age, race, color, sexual orientation, pregnancy status, religion or creed, nondisqualifying disability, and national or ethnic origin. Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

## Perez-Valasco Relishes Ecuador Selective Experience



In August 2009, OMS-IV Daniela Perez-Valasco participated in an enriching one-month selective clinical rotation by working in various Ecuadorian emergency departments in collaboration with Child Family Health International. During her time in Ecuador, Perez-Valasco dealt with many interesting public health scenarios, including the H1N1 flu scare. While she was volunteering in the city of Chone, Perez-Valasco worked with a local pediatrician, who explained the severity of public health concerns such as malaria, dengue, and other tropical diseases and how issues such as poor nutrition and parasites were still huge concerns.

“It’s one thing to know how to best treat a patient, and another thing to know how to deal with the simple daily responsibilities people have that can impair treatment,” Perez-Velasco stated. “If a mother stays with her sick child who is in the hospital, who takes care of her other children who are hours away by car? I don’t have the answer, but I came away from the rotation knowing that much work still needs to be done. Thankfully there are organizations willing to help, including NSU.”

## NSU-COM Celebrates Halloween in Ghoulish Style



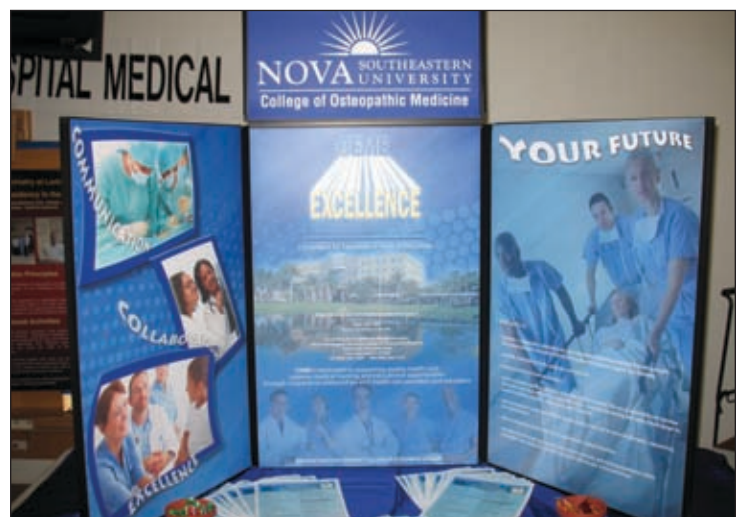
To commemorate Halloween, the college coordinated a fun-filled contest that allowed staff members to dress up and compete for first-, second-, and third-place prizes. When the judging was completed, the bewitching Denise

Raof (center), who serves as administrative assistant in the Department of Family Medicine, earned first place for her fetching (and frightening!) witch outfit.



Members of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association (BCOMA) gathered at the Lauderdale Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale on December 3 for the Annual General Membership and Educational Dinner Meeting. Pictured (from left) are: Ronald Bekic, D.O. (secretary-treasurer); Marc Kaprow, D.O. (vice president); Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FAAFP, FACOFP (president); Anna Hayden, D.O. (past president of BCOMA and FOMA); and Jorge Luna, D.O. (immediate past president of BCOMA and a FOMA director at large).

## Residency Fair Offers Students Clues to the Future



On November 20, NSU-COM hosted its annual Residency Fair, which allows representatives from various U.S. residency programs to mingle with the college’s third- and fourth-year students. During the event, the participating students have an opportunity to pose various questions to the program directors and residents in attendance, which allows the physicians-in-training to begin formulating ideas on where they may wish to pursue their postgraduate training. Simultaneous to the NSU-COM Residency Fair, the college’s Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) held its inaugural Resident Research Poster Competition. Twenty residents from the various CEME affiliates submitted posters in the case presentation category. The winners are listed on page 12 in the research section of *COM Outlook*.

## Sigma Sigma Phi Visits Sick Children at Broward General



Pictured (back row from left) are Jonathan Grima, Miglena Dzhupanova, Yaseen Perbtani, and Matthew Uhde. Front row (from left) are Sarah Siddiqui, Karoline Korah, and Stephanie Perez.

NSU-COM students recently showcased their dedication not only in the classroom but in the hospital as seven members of the **Sigma Sigma Phi** fraternity took time from studying to bond with sick children at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale. During their visit, Caroline Korah, Jonathan Grima, Matthew Uhde, and Yaseen Perbtani interacted with cancer patients by providing entertainment and constructive activities that included sharing their fun-based learning kits with the children. The other three participants visited the pediatric unit, where Miglena Dzhupanova, Sarah Siddiqui, and Stephanie Perez educated a five-year-old patient about the human body and showed him how to take a blood-pressure reading.

## Certificate Programs Established in Health Education and Public Health



The College of Osteopathic Medicine Master of Public Health Program recently added to its academic offerings by establishing two online, 15-credit graduate certificate programs. The **Graduate Certificate in Health Education** includes the following five courses: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; Health Service Planning and Evaluation; Principles of Health Education; Public Health Communications; and Public Health Informatics.

The **Graduate Certificate in Public Health** includes the following five courses: Epidemiology; Biostatistics; Environmental and Occupational Health; Health Policy, Planning, and Management; and Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health.

To learn more about these programs, please call (954) 262-1113 or 800-356-0026, ext. 21066.

## Ferrero Steps Down as NSU President; Hanbury Takes the Helm



In December, the NSU Board of Trustees unanimously voted on a leadership succession plan that took effect January 1, 2010. Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D. (left), who has served as NSU president and chief executive officer (CEO) since 1998, was named university chancellor and CEO, while **George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.** (bottom left), the longtime NSU executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO), will become university president and remain COO.

The board also unanimously approved, based on the recommendation of the succession committee, that Dr. Hanbury will assume the role of CEO when President Ferrero's term as CEO expires in 2011. "I am humbled and honored to receive the confidence of the board to lead the university as President Ferrero's successor," said Dr. Hanbury. "I credit the mentorship of Ray Ferrero, Jr., for the last 12 years and his guidance to assist NSU to achieve educational preeminence."

Prior to joining NSU 12 years ago, Dr. Hanbury spent 30 years working as city manager in the cities of Fort Lauderdale and Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and assistant city manager in Norfolk, Virginia. Ferrero, who served as NSU's sixth president, began his university involvement in 1984 as a member of the NSU Board of Trustees. Thanks to his shrewd leadership skills, NSU has grown



into the sixth largest independent not-for-profit university in the nation and the largest in the southeastern United States. During his 12 years as president, enrollment increased 68 percent, from 16,921 in 1998 to 28,378 in 2008. Ferrero also has overseen a transformation of NSU's main campus, with more than two-million square feet of construction projects completed within the past decade.



On December 5, two NSU-COM students, along with two faculty and staff members, volunteered their time to work at a health fair organized at the South Florida Hindu Temple in Davie. During the health fair, the NSU-COM volunteers provided blood pressure monitoring and blood glucose testing on patients. Pictured (from left) are OMS-III and predoctoral research fellow Hilary Gerber, Anjali Bhasin, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, and medical assistant Katherine Kompos. (Not pictured: OMS-III and predoctoral research fellow Heather Ruff.)

## Morris Auditorium and Computer Lab Dedication Ceremony



Attendees at the dedication ceremony included (from left): Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine; A. Alvin Greber, D.O., HPD executive dean for professional affairs; Fred Lippman, R.Ph, Ed.D., HPD chancellor; Jay Morris; Marie Morris; Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., NSU president; Irv Rosenbaum, D.P.A., Ed.D., M.P.A., HPD provost and executive dean for administration; Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., NSU-COM dean; and George Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU executive vice president/chief operating officer.

On December 7, a heartfelt and lighthearted dedication ceremony was held to recognize the generosity of the late **Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO**, and his wife **Marie**, who donated a sizable sum to the Health Professions Division (HPD) to have the auditorium adjacent to the Terry Building in Assembly Building II and the first-floor computer laboratory bear the Morris moniker.

Dr. Morris, who served as executive dean for professional affairs of the Health Professions Division and was affiliated with the College of Osteopathic Medicine when the inaugural class began matriculating in 1981, passed away in May 2008. Fortunately, he has left a lasting legacy that will live on in future generations of osteopathic physicians as they gain imperative skills through the education they receive in the **Morton and Marie Morris**

**Auditorium** and their time spent studying in the **Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., Computer Laboratory**.

"He felt that this was his way of giving back to the profession he loved," Marie explained. "Since he was employed at NSU for so many years and had such a deep and abiding love for education, he felt compelled to make a donation to the institution. Upon his passing, I felt I wanted to donate something strictly in his name. After graduating from law school in 1981, he became very involved with learning all about computers and their numerous capabilities. This led to him being appointed to oversee the NSU Health Professions Division computer services department. That's why I felt there was no better way to honor his memory than to have a computer lab named in his honor."

## CBAP Collaborates with AACOM on National H1N1 Webinar



On September 21, the college's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) joined forces with the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)

to coordinate a free, interactive webinar on **H1N1 Planning and Preparedness** that addressed issues such as how to prevent the spread of H1N1 on campus, vaccination

worries, and appropriate responses by medical schools to H1N1 outbreaks. More than 100 individuals, representing at least 14 of the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine, participated in the webinar.

Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., assistant dean for education, planning, and research and CBAP director, assisted with program development and acted as moderator, while John Pellosie, D.O., M.P.H., chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, presented a lecture called "When Pigs Flu." The webinar also included an audio conference that allowed participants to ask questions of the CBAP experts and discuss topics of mutual concern.



## COMmunications

■ **Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP**, founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (now NSU-COM), had his book entitled *Medical Writing 101: A Primer for Health Professionals* adopted by the University of Brescia in Italy as an official textbook for its courses in medical linguistics.

■ Residents at the **NSU-COM/Broward General Medical Center Dermatology Residency Training Program**, under the directorship of Stanley Skopit, D.O., FAOCD, and assistant director, Tracy Favreau, D.O., had their poster abstract and project accepted by the American Academy of Dermatology for its 88<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, which will be held March 5-9, 2010, in Miami, Florida. This is the fourth consecutive year this prestigious national honor has been bestowed upon the dermatology program.

■ The **Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education (PBCGME)** announced several newsworthy developments. The PBCGME/Columbia Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program is having a robust interview season with record numbers of applicants following ranking 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the last national internal medicine residency program in-service examination. PBCGME also is in the process of applying for a palliative care fellowship, which will be funded by Hospice of Palm Beach County in cooperation with the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, and the University of Miami. PBCGME also has received funding, through the VA Medical Center, to accredit and establish a new psychiatry residency program based at PBCGME/University Hospital and Medical Center in Tamarac, with rotations at the VA Medical Center. Applications are now being accepted for PBCGME's newly accredited combined internal medicine/pediatrics (based at PBCGME/Columbia Hospital) and emergency medicine (based at PBCGME/St. Lucie Medical Center) residency training programs. PBCGME also is pleased to announce that its Palms West Hospital pediatrics resident Caecilia Garcia-Perez, D.O., has been appointed District X Delegate to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## Track Day Provides Enriching Networking Experience



**O**n December 4, the college held its annual **Track Day**, which allows second-year students to meet with the directors of medical education (DMEs) from the 15 affiliated core campuses that provide clinical training to the students during their third- and fourth-year rotations. During Track Day, OMS-II students learn about the college's affiliated core campuses, which are located in Florida,

Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and New York, and have an opportunity to ask the DMEs specific questions. The students utilize this information to begin to make decisions as to where they wish to go for their third- and fourth-year clinical training. The DMEs enjoy the opportunity to spend a day on campus, visit with NSU-COM faculty and administration, and meet their new cadre of trainees for the coming academic year.

## Compassionate Health Care on Display in New Orleans



**P**rior to the start of the American Osteopathic Association's 114th Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition, which took place November 1-5 in New Orleans, Louisiana, 40 osteopathic medical students from NSU-COM and across the country participated in a **one-day health fair** to benefit the city's homeless residents. The event, which was coordinated by the National Osteopathic Medical Association (NOMA), along with the Student Osteopathic Medical Association and the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, allowed students and medical personnel to visit the Harry Tompson Center and provide health care for the homeless and those still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. "Our students did great and should be recognized," said Bruce Peters, D.O., FACOP, FAAP, professor of pediatrics and medical director of the NSU medical clinics. "They assisted in blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings, HIV education, nutrition counseling, and worked with me to do health screenings on children and adults. We were able to provide services for hundreds of people."

## Osteopathic Facts and Figures

The American Osteopathic Association's 2009 *Osteopathic Medical Profession Report* revealed some interesting statistics about the field:

■ D.O.s are one of the fastest growing segments of health care professionals in the United States. At the current rate of growth, it is estimated that at least 100,000 osteopathic physicians will be in active medical practice by the year 2020. In 2009, the number of D.O.s in the United States reached 67,167.

■ In 2005-06, there were 13,406 osteopathic medical students enrolled in the nation's various D.O. colleges. In 2008-09, the figure reached an all-time high of 16,893.

■ In 1995, the D.O. colleges produced 1,853 graduates nationwide. In 2008, the number reached 3,364.

■ In 1984, Florida had 1,373 D.O.s representing 6.4 percent of the D.O. population. In 2009, Florida had 4,816 D.O.s representing 7.2 percent of the D.O. population.

# Imperative Issues Addressed at SGA Health Care Forum

By Lindsay LaCorte, SGA President and OPP Fellow



Pictured (from left) are: Dustin May (SGA parliamentarian); Lindsay LaCorte; OMS-II Allison Moore (FOMA student chapter president); Dr. Jorge Luna; Dr. Anna Z. Hayden; Dr. Joshua Lenchus; OMS-II Miranda Haskins (FOMA student chapter vice president); Nitin Wadhwa; and Jason Hardwick.

**O**n November 10, the NSU-COM Student Government Association (SGA) Legislative Affairs Committee held an event called **Health Care and Your Future: How Will the Proposed Health Policy Reform Impact Current Medical Students?**

The Legislative Affairs Committee comprises executive officers of the college's SGA and the student chapters of the American Medical Student Association, the Student Osteopathic Medical Association, and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA). Its mission is to inform students of key health policy issues and to encourage medical student advocacy and national organization involvement.

The forum began with a presentation by OMS-II Dustin May, legislative affairs chairperson, on the topic "Cutting Through the Confusion: Understanding Health Care System Reform in 10 Minutes or Less." His presentation included a brief history of health care system reform and a summary of the key issues under debate. He also discussed the expected timeline for legislative action over the coming months.

Next, members of the physician panel presented their view of the potential impacts of the proposed legislation currently being debated. The panel included: Anna Z. Hayden, D.O., FOMA immediate past president; Jorge Luna, D.O., FOMA District 6 president; and Joshua Lenchus, D.O., associate program director for the Jackson

Health System. The panelists discussed the following areas of potential impact:

- *Delivery and Reimbursement of Primary and Preventative Care*
- *Effects on Specialty Care Practitioners/Use of Medical Technology*
- *Potential Changes to the Structure of Graduate Medical Education and Medical Training in the United States*

Finally, all of the Legislative Affairs Committee members presented information about actions taken by their national parent organizations in regard to health insurance reform. As president of the Student Government Association, I had the pleasure of representing the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents. The Student Osteopathic Medical Association was represented by our SOMA president, OMS-II Jason Hardwick, and the American Medical Student Association was represented by its president, OMS-II Nitin Wadhwa. When the presentations concluded, the event closed with a question-and-answer period in which students asked questions of the physician panelists.

Students described the event as informative and felt it provided a broad overview of the health care delivery system and how reform may be implemented in the near future. We are hopeful that our students will continue to get involved in the discussion of this important legislation and that they will continue to participate in projects and events offered by our student organizations.

# Student Government Association Report

By Lindsay LaCorte, SGA President and OPP Fellow



Hello colleagues,

I hope you thoroughly enjoyed your well-deserved time off over the holidays.

Your SGA has been working hard to organize and represent the student body, and the various student organizations have been very busy over the past several months bringing excellent programming to campus.

Following is a list of events and projects that occurred during the fall 2009 semester:

## **Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health (TOUCH)**

The TOUCH kickoff event, held on September 19, joined forces with the NSU Oceanographic Center SGA to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual International Coastal Cleanup at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Fort Lauderdale.

## **NSU SharkLink Web Portal**

The SGA has been very involved with improving SharkLink and making it more user-friendly for students. We've also held training sessions for our student leaders to teach them how to best utilize our college's revised Web site to advertise their events and communicate better with the NSU community.

## **Improving Communication**

Your SGA representatives have been working very hard this year to develop strategies to improve communication with our administration. Our goal has been to continue defining our roles on different committees and assist in the development of student feedback via surveys and focus groups.

## **Student Professionalism and Ethics Committee (SPEC)**

We are currently in the process of redefining the roles and procedures for SPEC officers. New projects include creating programming to encourage professionalism and ethical behavior at NSU-COM.

## **Legislative Affairs Committee**

The Legislative Affairs Committee is composed of student leaders representing the SGA, SOMA, AMSA, FOMA, and UAAO. We held our first event on November 10, 2009, to inform medical students about the importance of advocacy

and help them to understand the major issues involved in health policy reform. Future events are in the works to continue this effort in the winter semester.

## **Clubs of the Month**

**July** – *Pediatrics Club*

**August** – *Student Osteopathic Medical Association*

**September** – *American Medical Women's Association*

**October** – *Student Osteopathic Surgical Association*

**November** – *LOG*

## **Day of Compassion – October 19**

The Day of Compassion was initiated by Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in remembrance of Flight 5966, which claimed the lives of 13 people traveling to Kirksville for a meeting regarding compassion in medicine on that date in 2004. The SGA worked to memorialize the Day of Compassion here at NSU-COM as well by hosting a breakfast and passing out burgundy ribbons for students to wear on their white coats that day.

## **EVENTS ON THE HORIZON**

**Student D.O. of the Year** – We are beginning the annual process of selecting our Student D.O. of the Year very soon. Please be on the lookout for emails explaining the process.

**Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents** – The quarterly meeting will be hosted by NSU-COM during the weekend of January 15-17.

**AACOM Annual Meeting** – April 7-10 in Bethesda, Maryland

**National Osteopathic Medicine Week** – April 18-24

**D.O. Day on Capitol Hill** – April 29 in Washington, D.C.



# HPD Library Commemorates a Year of Change

By Lynne Joshi, M.S., M.L.I.S., HPD Reference Librarian and Liaison to the College of Osteopathic Medicine/College of Medical Sciences



Lynne Joshi discusses how to access certain online data with OMS-1 Derrick Goubeaux.

The year 2009 brought exciting changes and accomplishments for the **Health Professions Division (HPD) Library**. Conveniently located at the north end of the first floor of the Terry Building complex, the HPD Library serves the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Optometry, Allied Health and Nursing, Medical Sciences, and Dental Medicine.

The library is now fully staffed and includes 5 professional librarians, 18 support staff members, and 3 part-time students. In 2009, two new librarians—Lynne Joshi, M.S., M.L.I.S., and Courtney Mlinar, M.M., M.L.I.S.—joined Bonnie DiGiallonardo, M.L.I.S., and came together to form the library's reference team. Each reference librarian is now acting as liaison to two

HPD colleges. According to DiGiallonardo, "This arrangement ensures that the students and faculty members of each HPD college have a designated librarian who serves as a link to library services and resources for their subject area."

The library's reference area has a new look that includes comfortable seating, a massage chair, and better access to reference services. The area has been rearranged, and plans are in place to install a new glass door to the reference office, creating an information commons area that encourages collaborative learning among students and better engagement with library staff. "We are changing the focus of the whole reference department to make it more accessible to our users," said Kaye Robertson, M.L.S., HPD Library executive director.

New 2009 library-led initiatives include the establishment of a writing tutoring program in partnership with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences' Office of Academic Services for HPD graduate students. A 13-week pilot program was offered through the fall, and the service will be continued in 2010. Tutoring services are offered to HPD students to help develop essays, organize research papers, and use AMA/APA scholarly citation styles.

After reflecting on the year's changes, Robertson said that in 2010 the library will continue in its efforts to partner with faculty and to implement current technology, including mobile phone devices. "The library's goal is to meet the resource needs of HPD students and faculty members by providing access to timely and accurate medical and health-sciences information," she explained. "If our users are always connected, we want to make sure they are connected to the library, too."

## SNMA Plays Pivotal Role at Delray Health Fair

By Jaime Baynes (OMS-I) and Ashley Startzman (OMS-I)

Pulling up to the Village Academy School in Delray Beach on November 7, we saw hundreds of people anxiously waiting at the doors to get into the **Delray Beach Health Fair**. For the past 10 years, Dr. Wiener Leblanc and his wife, NSU-COM faculty member Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts, and other local physicians have organized this event to ensure health awareness. In this underserved community, there is a lack of access to health care, and most people do not have medical insurance. Many of the patients make this health fair their yearly—and only—doctor visit. As a result, people ranging in age from 2 to 80 were all patiently waiting to be seen by the physicians and NSU-COM student volunteers in attendance.

Members of the **NSU-COM Student National Medical Association (SNMA)** chapter, along with other NSU-COM students, were separated into different exam areas to conduct vital-sign screenings, female exams, male exams, breast exams, dental exams, eye exams, urinalysis, and HIV testing. In addition, free referrals for mammograms were offered to women over the age of 40—or to any women if abnormal findings were discovered

during their breast exams. In the female physical exam room and during the mammogram rotations, NSU-COM students were taught the new lateral breast exam recommended by the American Cancer Society and also had an opportunity to perform preventative prostate screenings.

Primary screenings were completed, and preventative information was shared with the patients. Student doctors and local physicians not only performed physical exams; they also educated patients on health-related issues such as eating the right foods, exercising, and using medications properly.

The NSU-COM student participants included team leaders Rachel Pierre and Nina Rivera as well as Katherine Peicher, George McKean, Nonna Kozlenko, Ashley Startzman, Emily Eubanks, Jaime Baynes, Maanasi Chandarana, Joy Barcomb, Michael Luca, Stephanie Haynes, Michelle Brucal, Emily Greer, Jillian Fleisher, Matt Uhde, Neetu Dhawan, Jaclynn Moscow Rosenthal, Leah Delumpa, Chelsey Swaiko, Jenna Crowe, Naimah Wajid, Danielle Conahan, Nathan Coverman, Daniel Falcao, and Aisha Khan.

## CEME Coordinates Inaugural Research Poster Competition



Pictured at the awards ceremony are (back row from left): Jerry Cajina, D.O.; Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FFAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME; Lawrence Jacobson, D.O., vice dean; and Juliana Rodrigues, D.O. Pictured (front row from left) are: Victor Jaffe, D.O.; Marc Morganstine, D.O., CEME president and vice president of medical education at Palmetto General Hospital; and Jill Ross, D.O.

Simultaneous to the NSU-COM Residency Fair, which was held on November 20, the college's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) held its inaugural **Resident Research Poster Competition**. Twenty residents from the various CEME affiliates located throughout Florida and the southeastern United States submitted posters, which were judged on their originality, content, and design in the case presentation category. Cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$100 were awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place finishers. Following are the inaugural winners of the CEME Resident Research Poster Competition:

### First Place

*"Purple Glove Syndrome (PGS) Following Intravenous Phenytoin Administration Presenting in the Emergency Department: A Case Report"*

**Alexander Scumpia, D.O., M.Sc., John Yashou, D.O., Jerry Cajina, D.O., and Carlos Cao, M.D., M.P.H.**

*Emergency Medicine Residency, Mount Sinai Medical Center*

### Second Place

*"Eosinophilic Esophagitis"*

**Victor Jaffe, D.O., Jill Ross, D.O., and Peter Cohen, D.O.**

*Family Medicine Residency, Palmetto General Hospital*

### Third Place

*"Superficial Thrombophlebitis in Occult Malignancy"*

**Julia Rodrigues, D.O., and Sergio Vega, M.D.**

*Internal Medicine Residency, Columbia Hospital, West Palm Beach (PBCGME)*

## Student News

**OMS-I Elias Fakhoury** coauthored a research article entitled "Production of Membrane Proteins for NMR Studies Using the Condensed Single Protein (cSPP) Production System" that was published in a recent issue of the *Journal of Structural and Functional Genomics*.

**OMS-III Adam O'Mara**, who presented two posters at the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions held in October in Tucson, Arizona, was awarded first place in the Clinical Poster Competition for his project entitled "Differences in Perceived Stress, Depression, and Medical Symptoms Among Medical, Nursing, and Physician Assistant Students: A Latent Class Analysis." O'Mara was the first medical student to win the poster competition in the ACOI's history. O'Mara collaborated on the project with **OMS-III Marlow Hernandez, Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., and Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.**

**OMS-IV Nicholas St. Hilaire** served as first author of a research project entitled "Single-Port Laparoscopic and Robotic Hysterectomy +/- BSO in Gynecological Oncology: A Case Series" that he worked on with several attending physicians while doing a clinical rotation at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc, Michigan. Hilaire and his colleagues presented the poster at the American College of Surgeons' 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinical Congress in Chicago last October.

**OMS-I Michael Kasprzak** presented a research poster in November at the Fifth Annual MichBio Expo and Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Kasprzak contributed to research conducted at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Laboratory of Molecular Dermatology, Department of Dermatology. His research advanced the development of a novel anti-melanoma therapy that is based on an unconventional approach in the field of suicide gene therapy.

**OMS-III Candace White, M.S., and OMS-III Robinson Trevil**, along with **Susan Ledbetter, D.O.**, presented a poster entitled "The Osteopathic Physician and End of Life Care" at the American Osteopathic Association's 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition held November 1-5 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The aforementioned trio coauthored the project with **OMS-III Marlow Hernandez and Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.**



Pictured (from left) are Marlow Hernandez, Dr. Susan Ledbetter, Robinson Trevil, Candace White, and Natasha Bray, D.O.

## Faculty Fragments



**Barbara Arcos, D.O.** (left), assistant professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine, **Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FAAFP, FACOFP**, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME,

**Janet Hamstra, Ed.D.**, assistant professor of internal medical and medical education specialist, and **Mark Sandhouse, D.O.**, associate professor and interim chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, coauthored an article entitled "A Concise Review of Osteopathic Diagnosis and Treatment: A Primer for Osteopathic Preceptors." Their collaborative piece was published in the fall 2009 issue of the *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education*. It also received a Certificate of Registration from the United States Copyright Office.

**Faustino Gonzalez, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, recently coauthored several articles and had two posters accepted for presentation at various symposiums. His article entitled "Acute Mental Status Changes in Two Patients Taking Capecitabine: A Case Report" was published in the August issue of *Clinical Geriatrics*, while his essay entitled "Diphenhydramine May Be Useful as a Palliative Treatment for Patients Dying With Parkinson's Disease and Tremors: A Case Report and Discussion" appeared in the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care*.



**Jay Fleisher, Ph.D.**, associate professor of public health, presented his research project entitled "BEACHES Study: Health Effects and Exposures from Non-Point Source Microbial Contaminants in Subtropical Recreational Marine Waters" at the 137<sup>th</sup> American Public Health Association Annual Meeting held in November in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Douglas Flemons, Ph.D.**, clinical professor of family medicine and director of NSU Student Counseling, and **Leonard Gralnik, M.D., Ph.D.**, clinical associate professor of psychiatry and medical director at NSU Student Counseling, have been given a contract by W.W. Norton to publish a book they are currently completing called *Therapeutic Suicide Assessment* that will be available in late 2010 or early 2011.

In addition, Dr. Flemons, along with **Scott Poland, Ed.D.**, associate professor of school psychology in the NSU Center for Psychological Studies and coordinator of the Suicide and Violence Prevention office, have received a \$100,000 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant (renewable for two additional years) to extend their suicide prevention efforts from the main campus to NSU Student Educational Centers and online students.



**Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG**, associate professor of OB/GYN and director of the NSU Women's Health Center, coauthored an article with faculty members from NSU's Center for Psychological Studies entitled "Using One Question to Identify Women at Risk for an Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancy" that has

been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the *JAOA—The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. He also presented two lectures for the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians at the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on the topics "A New Paradigm in Adolescent STDs" and "Maternal Alcohol Exposure and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention."



**Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**, professor of internal medicine/public health and director of the biomedical informatics program, has been invited to be a reviewer for the *Applied Clinical Informatics* online journal. In November, Dr. Lou, along with several Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.)

program faculty members and students, attended the American Medical Informatics Association annual conference in San Francisco, California. During the symposium, Dr. Lou conducted the in-person session for the AMIA 10x10 certificate students.



**Raymond Ownby, M.D., Ph.D., M.Ed., M.B.A.**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry, received a two-year, \$362,577 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to fund his research project entitled "An Automated, Tailored Information Application for Medication Health Literacy." In

addition, he presented two papers at the Health Literacy Annual Research Conference held October 19-20 in Washington, D.C., on the topics "Health Literacy Is Related to Problem-Solving Skills" and "Health Literacy Is Associated with Executive Function in Older Persons with Memory Problems." He also presented two papers at the Gerontological Society of America's 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting held November 18-22 in Atlanta, Georgia, on "The Relation of Health Literacy to Health Status in Participants 65 Years of Age and Older in the National Assessment of Adult Literacy" and "Age-Related Differential Item Functioning on the Test of Functional Health Literacy in HIV-Positive Older Adults."



**Dianne Rehtine, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine and program director of the NSU-COM Correctional Medicine Fellowship, **Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP dist.**, NSU-COM dean, and **David Thomas, M.D., J.D.** (pictured left), professor of surgery and public

health and chair of the Department of Surgery, presented a session entitled “A University-Based Correctional Medical Fellowship” during the National Conference on Correctional Health Care held October 17-21 in Orlando, Florida.



**Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.**, executive director of education, planning, and research and project director of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP), gave a number of presentations to local and national organizations over the past several months. In October, Dr. Rokusek, along with several other CBAP personnel, presented two afternoon workshops to the Broward County Homeless Coalition on “Emergency Preparedness for the Homeless” and “How to Best Prepare the Homeless for All-Hazards Events.” Dr. Rokusek, who is a professor of family medicine and public health, also provided two one-hour programs in October to over 150 Broward County foster grandparents on the topic “The H1N1 Flu Season.” She also presented a daylong workshop in October for the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in Prestonsbury, Kentucky, that focused on the development and integration of all-hazards emergency preparedness curriculum into allied health education programs that are part of CAAHEP. In December, she provided a luncheon presentation on “H1N1 and the Role of Law Enforcement in a Pandemic Situation” to the alumni of the Executive Leadership Program, which is an educational endeavor between NSU and the Broward County Sheriff’s Office.



**Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.**, associate professor of behavioral medicine, had his article entitled “The Professionalism Portfolio” published in the fall 2009 issue of the *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education*. He also was named vice chair of the Department of Psychiatry.

## Recently Submitted Grant Proposals

*“Personal Resilience in Frail Elders Affected by Disasters”*

Submitted by **Gloria Zimmerman, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine and CBAP assistant project manager, to the *National Institutes of Health*

Requested amount: \$344,150

*“Interdisciplinary Symposium on Early Identification and Intervention in Autism Spectrum Disorders—Biological, Developmental, and Psychosocial Advances: Birth to Five Years of Age—Developing a Research Agenda”*

Submitted by **Edward Packer, D.O.**, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, to the *National Institute of Mental Health*

Requested amount: \$39,550

## Hernandez Maintains Busy Research Agenda

**OMS-III Marlow Hernandez** presented a number of coauthored research projects at various meetings and conferences:

■ At the American College of Physicians’ (ACP) Florida Chapter Scientific Meeting held in St. Petersburg Beach last September, Hernandez presented two posters, including one that received first place in the poster competition. The award-winning poster was entitled “*Differences in Perceived Stress, Depression, and Medical Symptoms Among Medical, Nursing, and Physician Assistant Students: A Latent Class Analysis*,” while the second poster addressed the topic “*Use of Comparison Films for Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis Among Florida Radiologists*.” This marked the second straight year NSU-COM earned first-place honors in the ACP’s poster competition. A number of individuals coauthored the posters with Hernandez, including Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., Debbi Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., Anjali Bhasin, M.D., OMS-III Chris Bailey, and OMS-II Nitin Wadhwa.

■ During the Association for the Behavioral Science and Medical Education’s 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, held October 8-10, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Hernandez gave an oral presentation regarding the academic and clinical implications of a research project he conducted with Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., and Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H.

■ Hernandez presented his coauthored research project entitled “*Physician Familiarity with the Five Most Common Misdiagnoses*” at the AOA’s annual conference held November 1-5 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Hernandez coauthored the research study with OMS-III Chad L. McDonald, Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., Robert Hasty, D.O., Natasha Bray, D.O., and OMS-III Yana Gofman.

■ During the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, held November 7-10, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Hernandez presented “*The AP (Alcohol Perception Project): A Study of the Perceptions of Adolescents Towards Alcohol*,” which he coauthored with OMS-III Shawna DeGraff, Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., Gabriel Suci, Ph.D., OMS-III Kelli Burton, and Jon Dodds, Ph.D.



Pictured at the meeting are Stan Cohen, Ed.D., HPD vice provost for educational support, Marlow Hernandez, and Dr. Patrick Hardigan, HPD executive director of assessment, education, and faculty development.

Biomedical informatics students **Monty Islam, B.S.**, and **Ricardo Gomez, M.S.**, presented posters at the American Medical Informatics Association annual conference last fall in San Francisco, California. Islam collaborated with **Wendy Thomson, M.S.N., R.N.**, on the project entitled “Automated Underwriting Program Evaluation for Health Information Technology,” while Gomez worked with **Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**, on the topic “Developing a Census Tracking System to Improve the Real Time Reporting Capability in the Cleveland Clinic Informatics System.”

# NSU Division of Clinical Operations Update

By Robert Oller, D.O., CEO of the Division of Clinical Operations

## A Day for Children

In September, NSU hosted its Eighth Annual A Day for Children health fair, which showcased the university's clinical programs and featured more than 75 booths representing different disciplines of the university as well as various Broward County social service and other related organizations. The fun-filled day drew more than 12,000 attendees and featured the participation of Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

## Shark Shuffle

Hundreds of runners and walkers gathered in the early morning hours of October 11 to participate in the fourth annual USATF-certified Shark Shuffle 5K Run and Walk. Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida and Collegiate Risk Management, the Shark Shuffle is designed to promote health and wellness among the NSU community and to offer grant money for health-conscious students. In fact, NSU students who participated in the event were eligible to enter a random drawing for more than 25 Deans' \$500 Active Scholar grants, while participating University School students were eligible to win Headmaster's \$100 Active Scholar grants.

## Healthy Sharks

Healthy Sharks is the latest addition to NSU's Health and Wellness Program, which encourages the university community to adopt healthier lifestyles by incorporating health and wellness activities into daily routines. The Healthy Sharks initiative involved the adoption of a smoking restriction policy to ensure clean air around campus buildings while greatly reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. Through this project, NSU faculty members, staff members, and students who want to quit smoking are encouraged to take advantage of the university's multiple smoking cessation programs and resources.

## American Heart Association Recognition

NSU has once again received the American Heart Association's Start! Fit Friendly Gold Award. Of the 820 companies that received recognition, 108 achieved platinum status and 712 received gold recognition, while 18 of those companies were also honored as Worksite Innovation Award winners and 8 as Community Innovation Award recipients.

## Health and Fitness Expo

On September 30, NSU held its annual Health and Fitness Expo, which showcased the university's health and fitness services along with its health and wellness programs. The 2009 expo focused on employees and emphasized the importance of being aware of your blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, and body-fat composition numbers. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in health screenings, attend fitness demonstrations, sample healthy snacks, and received body-fat assessments.

## University Free Flu Shot Campaign

Through October 15, the university's Health and Wellness Program distributed 256 Walgreens Health Initiative (WHI) flu shot vouchers and vaccinated 441 employees at its onsite clinics. The program is coordinated in conjunction with College of Pharmacy and College of Allied Health and Nursing faculty members and students, the Student Medical Center, and the NSU Walgreens Health Initiative account executive.

## Suicide Prevention Grant

The NSU Office of Suicide and Violence Prevention (SVP) received a three-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration campus suicide prevention grant. The \$100,000 annual award is matched by NSU each year. The Expansion of Prevention Initiatives Off-Campus (EPIC) Project will transform the suicide prevention trainings currently being conducted for employees and students on the main campus to an engaging Web-based format that will include PowerPoint slides, narration, and dramatic video vignettes.

## Wellness Made Simple Magazine Launched

Last fall, NSU released the inaugural issue of its health and wellness magazine entitled *Wellness Made Simple*, which is dedicated to addressing health care issues as well as highlighting university services and benefits related to healthy lifestyles. The magazine will serve as a resource regarding the university's health and wellness initiatives and services while focusing on the six dimensions of wellness, including physical, emotional, social, mental, occupational, and spiritual components.

## Wellness Champions

Currently, NSU has 47 wellness champions who serve as the wellness leaders for their departments or colleges. A wellness champion is a person appointed by an NSU college or department who facilitates wellness events that are coordinated with the university's wellness coordinator. Most importantly, they serve as a motivator to continuously encourage their coworkers to lead positive and proactive lifestyles.

## Know Your Numbers Initiative

Knowing your numbers is the first step to a healthier lifestyle. According to WebMD, three numbers can save your life: blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and waist circumference. NSU is committed to providing a healthy environment and is offering its new Know Your Numbers initiative to all employees free of charge. To get the program rolling, an NSU pharmacist, along with a personal trainer, went to each college/department on a designated date and completed a series of assessments for participating employees that included blood pressure and cholesterol, glucose testing, waist circumference, flexibility test, strength test, and body fat composition.



# Looking Back...at Our Libraries



Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc.

We were well aware that a good medical library is the backbone of any medical school for everyone, faculty and students alike. And we realized that very few people get the opportunity to start one from scratch, but that was our challenging task.

We took a room in the Dr. John S. Hull Administration Building and – voila – we had a library, really just a

few books to start, but we were on our way. We hired a well-trained, young librarian named Naomi Prussiano, and she began at once to organize and create our library. I can't remember any dollar amounts, but I do remember that we did not stint on costs because we knew its importance, even though we were meticulously careful with expenses in other places. And the school grew, and the library grew, and Naomi grew with them.

When SECOM (Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine) bought the vacant buildings of the former Southeastern Hospital, we assigned much more space and built a suitable library to meet our needs.

When Naomi left her position after several years, we started a search for a new librarian, and interesting it was. A faculty committee screened the applicants and provided Mort Terry and me with two finalists – an older gentleman who had a Ph.D., and a younger gentleman whose Ph.D. was to be awarded shortly. I interviewed both, and both were capable. But the older gentleman had a five-year lapse in his curriculum vitae and was hard-pressed to fill it in with credible explanation or evidence.

Obviously, I hired the younger man – there were no problems. No problems except that the man with a five-year hole in his career filed an age discrimination complaint with the federal government. That meant a federal agent came to us, went through all of our records, interviewed everyone involved – and then totally cleared us. You may be sure that this was not one of the happiest moments in my career.

Sometime later (in the early 1990s), we hired Janice Gottlieb, who was a joy to work with because she was fully qualified and totally competent. She stayed with us until the early 2000s. Over her tenure, she developed a team of library personnel that made this library function as smooth as it could be. It provided great service to all, with very few problems.

In 1996, when we moved our entire operation, we built four major buildings for the Health Professions Division on the Nova University campus. Included was a brand new library that stands as an example of a fine, up-to-date medical library, now operated under the supervision of the Nova Southeastern University library leadership.

Recollections are very often personal ones, and I have two regarding the library.

Before I became dean at SECOM, I had owned, published, and edited (along with the late Harold H. Finkel, D.O.) a monthly magazine/journal called *Maternal and Child Health*, which was the official organ of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians and the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists. When I moved to Florida, I took the only remaining full set of the five-year-old publication with me and turned the copies over to the library for safekeeping.

Some years later, I wanted to consult them and could not find any trace of them (even after a series of intense searches) – nor could anyone else. Under my breath I chewed out many library people, blaming them for the disappearance of these irreplaceable magazines. After we moved to Davie, on an impulse one day, I looked again for them. There they were in the periodical reference section: the full complement of five years of *Maternal and Child Health*, completely bound. Who? What? Why? I still don't know. But I am glad they are preserved, even if no one ever looks at them again, except me.

The second incident occurred years later. The new library had been outfitted with up-to-date computerization instead of the old manual Index Medicus. One day, I was taking a group of my neighbors on tour and, spotting a young man at one of the computers, I started to brag. We were walking slowly over to him when I noticed he was playing games on the computer. He looked up and saw it was "the dean." He uttered an expletive and dashed out of the library. Of course, it was hysterical to the tour group. I wonder if he is still running or if he ever graduated.

All in all, the library has been a complete satisfaction to me, bringing us great pride. Students use it constantly, the library is often filled wall-to-wall, and the service seems excellent. That makes it all worthwhile.



*Dr. Arnold Melnick is the founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM). His pithy columns serve as a humorous and insightful bridge to the past—and remind us of how far our college has come in a relatively short period of time.*

**J**oseph Allgeier, D.O., clinical assistant professor of internal medicine and director of medical education at Florida Hospital East Orlando, received the American Osteopathic Foundation Pfizer “Fit for Life” Smoking Cessation Award, which was presented in November during the AOA 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana.



**A**lina Alonso, M.D., clinical assistant professor of preventive medicine, was appointed director of the Palm Beach County Health Department by Florida Surgeon General Ana Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. Dr. Alonso has been serving the medically needy in Palm Beach County since 1989 when she became medical director for the Lake Worth Health Center. Through the years, she served as clinical director for the health department’s seven health centers and acted as the organization’s assistant director for the past six years.

**B**arbara Arcos, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, who had been serving as interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine throughout most of 2009, was officially promoted to the position of chair of the department effective November 16. Dr. Arcos has been an NSU-COM faculty member since March 1998.



**C**yril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, professor and director of the Master of Public Health Program, received training in November in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to become an accreditation evaluator for public health. Dr. Blavo was invited to become an accreditation evaluator by the Council on Education for Public Health, which is the accrediting body for public health schools and programs.



**P**ablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., FAAFP, associate professor of family medicine/public health and assistant dean of clinical operations and graduate education, was interviewed in September by WSFL TV 39 news in Miami about the seasonal and H1N1 flu viruses. He also was interviewed for a *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* article titled “Swine Flu Spreading at South Florida Universities.” In addition, Dr. Calzada was invited by Dove Medical Press to participate in the peer-review process of a manuscript entitled “Tackling Obesity: New Therapeutic Agents for Assisted Weight Loss” that is being considered for publication in *Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome, and Obesity: Targets and Therapy*.

**R**obert Contrucci, D.O., clinical associate professor of surgery and chair of the Division of Otolaryngology, appeared on Miami’s WPLG Local 10 news in late October to discuss the new Lyric Extended Wear Hearing Aid—a revolutionary hearing aid a patient can wear for up to 4 months—24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



**J**oseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed, FAAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and graduate medical education, was elected president of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association. He also was named to serve as an officer on the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Executive Committee.



**R**ogerio Faillace, M.D., FAAP, assistant professor of pediatrics, had his first-person account of his experiences participating in the NSU-COM medical outreach trip to the Dominican Republic published in the fall 2009 issue of *The Florida Pediatrician*, which is the official publication of the Florida Pediatric Society.

**L**eonard Gralnik, M.D., Ph.D., medical director of NSU Student Counseling, has been promoted from NSU-COM clinical assistant professor to clinical associate professor of psychiatry.



**R**obert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency, was quoted in the September 18 issue of the *South Florida Business Journal* in an article entitled “Health Care Reform Could Stretch Primary Care Workforce Thin.” He also was named as one of the 40 Under 40 in *Gold Coast* magazine’s list of Broward County’s leading professionals under 40 years of age. Published in the November issue of *Gold Coast*, which is South Florida’s leading lifestyle publication, the list highlights leading young professionals in industries such as government, medicine, media, nonprofit, law, finance, and community development.

**C**harles Hennekens, M.D., Dr.P.H., clinical professor of preventive medicine, recently filmed a one-hour CME program for the Discovery Health channel on “Risk Assessment and Communication.” On September 12, he received a citation from the Brooklyn Borough president for his numerous contributions to the field of medicine. In addition, on December 2, Dr. Hennekens was the recipient of the Walter D. Kelly Award from the Oakwood Center of the Palm Beaches, Inc. for distinguished contributions to mental health. Dr. Hennekens was chosen for this award by the center’s board of directors because of his personal and professional dedication to help individuals with mental health issues, especially his landmark work demonstrating that mentally ill persons die 25 years earlier than the general population due to primary health care problems.



# Faculty Focus



**R**obin Jacobs, Ph.D., assistant professor of preventive medicine in the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, has added a new dimension to her job responsibilities by assuming oversight of all NSU-COM international activities and projects, which have increased dramatically in size and scope over the past several years.



**S**usan Ledbetter, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine and geriatrics and program director of the family medicine residency at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, was appointed chair of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Medical Outreach Task Force for the remainder of the

2009-10 academic year.



**A**nthony Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H., FACOI, FCCP, clinical professor of internal medicine and regional dean of NSU-COM's West Coast Academic Center located at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Florida, was the recipient of the American Osteopathic Foundation

Boehringer Ingelheim Breath of Life Award. The award, which was presented in November during the AOA 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana, recognized Dr. Ottaviani for the work being done through Sun Coast Hospital's Every Breath of the Way: COPD Education for Pinellas County program.



**E**dward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, made a presentation for the Smart Start Program on the topic "The Importance of Play," which he presented to a group of 40 parents at the NSU Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center.



**J**ohn Pellosie, D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM, assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health, who had been serving as interim chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, was officially elevated to the position of chair of the department effective November 16.



**D**ianne Rehtine, M.D., clinical assistant professor of family medicine and program director of the college's Correctional Medicine Fellowship, received the Bernard P. Harrison Award of Merit during the National Conference on Correctional Health Care held October 17-21 in Orlando, Florida. The award is presented

to an individual or group that has demonstrated excellence and service and advanced the correctional health care field, either through an individual project or a history of service.



**C**ecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., executive director of education, planning, and research and project director of the Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, hosted Dr. Dusan Caplovic (deputy prime minister of the Slovak Republic) and Peter Burian (Slovak ambassador to the United States), along with a delegation from

both the U.S. Slovak Embassy and the Slovak government on the NSU campus on October 1-2. During their stay, Dr. Caplovic and Ambassador Burian, along with Dr. Rokusek, Gary Margules, Sc.D., NSU vice president for research and technology transfer, and Anthony DeNapoli, Ed.D., dean of international affairs at NSU's Fischer School of Education and Human Services, met with Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni and NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D., to discuss plans for future student and faculty exchanges as well as other academic program opportunities.

**S**tephen Russo, Ph.D., NSU-COM director of sport psychology in the Sports Medicine Clinic and assistant professor in the NSU Center for Psychological Studies, was quoted in a September 30 *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* article about concussions and the usefulness of taking an ImPACT test. Dr. Russo also appeared in October on the WSFL TV 39 news program in Miami to discuss the topic of concussions and their seriousness.

**R**ichard F. Seelig, M.D., adjunct assistant professor of biomedical informatics, was elected as a member of the VitaminSpice Board of Directors. Dr. Seelig is a physician executive with numerous years of medical device and medical informatics design and development experience, resulting in the first and only FDA-cleared radio frequency identification medical information device of its kind.



**S**tanley Simpson, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, participated in the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) Level 2 Referencing Meeting held November 13-14 in Chicago, Illinois. During the meeting, Dr. Simpson and the other participants reviewed and documented the accuracy of questions being used in level 2 of the NBOME exam.



**S**amuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, associate professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, was elected to the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) Board of Directors. He also moderated a symposium on "Lupus Nephritis" at the ACOI's 2009 Annual Convention and

Scientific Sessions last October in Tucson, Arizona.

## Dr. Howell Wins Lifetime Achievement Award



James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor of public health and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the *South Florida Business Journal's* Excellence in Health Care Awards ceremony held October 22 at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Howell was honored for his more than 40 years of exemplary service to the public health arena in areas ranging from executive decision-making and policy development to strategic business planning and legislative relations. He also was quoted in the November 8 issue of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* in an article entitled "Give Swine Flu Prevention the College Try." In the accompanying photo, Dr. Howell (center) receives his award from Melanie Dickinson, publisher, *South Florida Business Journal*.

**A**nthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP *dist.*, NSU-COM dean, was quoted in the September 30 edition of the *St. Petersburg Times* in an article entitled "If Medical Coverage Extends to All, Will There Be Enough Primary Care Doctors?"

**J**oel D. Stein, D.O., FAAO, FAOASM, FACOFP, clinical associate professor of family medicine, coordinated eight hours of CME seminars in his office for eight doctors regarding the use of "Musculoskeletal Ultrasound and Platelet-Rich Plasma Injection." In fact, his practice, located in Broward County, is one of the few in the area that offers platelet-rich plasma for chronic tendinitis, joint problems, and ligament/cartilage damage.

**D**avid Thomas, M.D., J.D., professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, was named co-scientific editor of the new peer-reviewed journal of the American Correctional Association entitled *Correctional Health Today*.

## Dr. Mulligan Attends Judge Sotomayor Reception



Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, had the privilege of attending a reception on October 15 in Washington,

D.C., commemorating the historic appointment and confirmation of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, J.D., to the Supreme Court. The reception, which was sponsored by five national Hispanic organizations, was an invitation-only event that featured 25 guests. Dr. Mulligan attended as a guest of the Hispanic Federation. Pictured (from left) are Hispanic Federation President Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and Dr. Mulligan.

## Dr. Russo Raises Concussion Awareness in South Florida



**S**tephen Russo, Ph.D., NSU-COM director of sport psychology in the Sports Medicine Clinic and assistant professor in the NSU Center for Psychological Studies, is spearheading a collaborative, community-based effort in the management of sports-related concussions in Broward County. The initiative involves three local organizations—NSU, Broward Health, and the Broward

County Athletic Association (BCAA)—and a computer software company based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, known as ImPACT.

ImPACT, which stands for Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing, is a computer-based, neuro-cognitive screening device developed in the mid-1990s for use with athletes. The psychologists behind the instrument, Drs. Mark Lovell and Michael Collins, are perhaps the foremost experts in the management of sports-related concussion and were some of the earliest pioneers in the use of neuropsychological testing for the identification and management of sports concussion. Their neuro-cognitive screening device is currently in use within the National Football League and National Hockey League and has been utilized by numerous high schools, colleges, and other professional sporting organizations as well as the U.S. military as a way to help individuals recover more successfully from mild traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Russo, in collaboration with these local and national organizations, has been raising awareness of the dangers and consequences of sports-related concussion in Broward County. By working with ImPACT, Broward Health, and the BCAA, he also has been helping athletes navigate the complications that arise from this injury through his duties as director of sport psychology at the NSU Sports Medicine Clinic. He has provided training to many of the certified athletic trainers (ATCs) who cover games for the 33 BCAA high schools.

In addition, Dr. Russo will be using the Broward County population to develop norms for the newest version of the ImPACT screening test, which is not currently available to the public. Through this special initiative, ImPACT has provided its baseline concussion screening software to all interested BCAA schools for free over the next two years, which has a value of close to \$1,000.

Dr. Russo plans to continue his education efforts as he speaks to the public as well as the athletic and medical community in South Florida about the dangers and issues associated with brain injury in sports while also educating people about the unique services provided by the NSU Sports Medicine Clinic. In addition to providing a five-hour educational workshop for the ATCs at Broward Health, Dr. Russo has spoken to the BCAA athletic directors and the BCAA head football coaches at their respective preseason meetings. Ultimately, it is expected that this innovative community effort will provide a level of care for high school athletes in the Broward community that is as unique as the concussive injury itself.



# Drs. Levy and Pandya Cherish Their Experiences as Fulbright Scholars in Slovakia

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**P**art of the joy of being an academician is having the opportunity to do something out of the ordinary, which is exactly what occurred in the waning days of the summer of 2009 when Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., and Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD, traveled to Slovakia to serve as Fulbright senior specialist scholars at Comenius University Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava.

During their Slovakia sojourn, Dr. Levy, professor and associate dean of education, planning, and research, and Dr. Pandya, associate professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, had an opportunity to develop collaborative relationships with the medical school in Bratislava that will benefit both Comenius University and Nova Southeastern University. Drs. Levy and Pandya, who are the first NSU-COM faculty members to be named Fulbright specialist scholars, were thrilled to be part of such a memorable information exchange program—even through it was an opportunity they had never even considered pursuing as recently as late 2008.

“If I had been asked whether I intended to go to Slovakia to engage in any sort of scholarly activity a year ago, it’s likely I would have said that it’s not a probable destination,” Dr. Levy admitted. “After all, I could not speak a word of Slovakian, my

knowledge of Eastern Europe was very primitive, plus, what would I do there? Surprisingly, I was offered the opportunity of serving as a senior Fulbright specialist at Comenius University Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava while it celebrated its 90th anniversary. Indeed, I did accept the post and did so for a period of more than three weeks. My experience there turned out to be one of the highlights of my life because not only did I interact with many faculty, students, and senior administrators; I developed friendships and collegial relationships that will be so for the remainder of my career.”

Drs. Levy and Pandya are two of over 400 U.S. faculty members and professionals who traveled abroad in 2009 through the Fulbright Specialists Program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Fulbright Specialists Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, promotes linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at universities abroad. The program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty members and professionals, in select disciplines, to engage in short-term collaborative two- to six-week projects at higher education institutions in over 100 countries worldwide. International travel costs and an honorarium are

funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, while participating host universities cover grantee in-country expenses or provide in-kind services.

This life-enhancing experience was made possible primarily through the efforts of Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D., project director of NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness and Slovak Honorary Consul for Florida, who recommended that Drs. Levy and Pandya apply to the Fulbright program. "I had always heard of it as being a wonderful opportunity, but I didn't ever really think of applying until Dr. Rokusek suggested it," said Dr. Pandya, who also serves as project director of the college's Geriatric Education Center. "Because of Dr. Rokusek's Slovakian heritage, it made sense for us to apply to a Central European country and to try to foster some sort of intellectual collaboration."

Working in Slovakia, which is a relatively poor nation with a population of about five million people, would prove to be quite an enlightening experience for Drs. Levy and Pandya. During their stay, they became acquainted with Slovakia's universal health care system, as well as its rigorous system of medical and postgraduate education, and learned about the shockingly low pay physicians in the government-run system receive, which is about \$18,000 annually. "We learned that at one time there was a copayment component to the universal plan, but the people protested, which resulted in the government doing away with it," Dr. Levy stated.

Participating in the Fulbright field of interest entitled public/global health, Drs. Levy and Pandya worked independently

at Comenius University, although there were several opportunities for them to work together during their stay in Slovakia. "My work there was, of course, focused on geriatrics," said Dr. Pandya, who had an opportunity to attend a reception at the American Embassy in Slovakia, present numerous lectures, and gain valuable exposure to the Slovak eldercare system. "Slovakia actually has a very old tradition in geriatrics that stretches back many years."

Working closely with Daniela Ostatnikova, M.D., Ph.D., vice dean for international relations at Comenius University Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Pandya was put in contact with numerous geriatric experts, including Vladimir Krcmery, M.D., Ph.D., Dr.Sc., who heads the geriatrics department at a private hospital affiliated with Comenius University that is operated by an order of monks. In addition to providing lectures to the medical students and residents at the hospital, Dr. Pandya was invited to the annual Slovak international geriatrics conference in Tale, where she interacted with many Slovak and international geriatricians and presented a lecture on "Water and Mineral Disorders in the Elderly."

During her time in Slovakia, Dr. Pandya also had a chance to visit many facilities, including several public and private nursing homes as well as the largest hospital system in the country called Kramare, where she provided informative lectures to medical and speech pathology students as well as residents. What she learned from these experiences was that despite their cultural differences, the Slovak geriatricians shared quite a bit of commonality with their U.S. counterparts. "I was impressed by the great knowledge and humility of the professors I worked with," said Dr. Pandya,

*Drs. Pandya and Levy had the honor of visiting Comenius University Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava during the university's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration.*





Dr. Pandya pays a visit to a geriatric ward during her stay in Slovakia.

who made brief side trips to Budapest, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. “It was very valuable for me to connect with geriatricians from several countries, and it was reassuring to know we all have the same passionate feelings about geriatrics.”

Although Dr. Pandya found their general approaches to geriatric care to be similar, she says she was quite impressed with the lack of clutter and efficient way patient care was handled in the Slovak facilities she visited. “They actually have a very practical approach to caring for patients,” she explained. “I thought the layout of their nursing homes was more conducive to maintaining patient mobility than those in the United States. For example, armchairs were arranged in the corridors so patients could always have a place to sit. As a result, the older patients were much more mobile and much less reliant on wheelchairs. In addition, although the medical personnel had access to the same type of scans and MRIs we have in the United States, they seemed to order them more judiciously and rely heavily on their clinical judgment.

“What really struck me when I toured the various hospitals and nursing homes was how thin the patients’ charts were,” she added. “There was less outside information, and fewer tests were ordered. I was also surprised to learn that the geriatric fellows in Slovakia stay overnight at the nursing homes, which is something you would never see here. At Kramare Hospital, the doctors’ offices and on-call rooms are located in the same ward as the patient rooms, and every doctor’s office has a bed. Generally, physicians are assigned nine patients and care for more when they are on call. In contrast, our residents and attending physicians in the United States usually care for 20 to 30 patients at a given time.”

Dr. Levy was equally as busy as his NSU-COM colleague establishing symbiotic linkages with various dignitaries and presenting numerous lectures on far-ranging topics such as “All-Hazards Preparedness,” “The Development of Research Projects,” and “Current Concepts in Medical Education.” “I felt like a true scholar sharing concepts and information in a broad spectrum of areas,” he explained. “My topic range also included a discussion with faculty from the Department of Internal Medicine on the reasons for acute gouty arthritis affecting the great toe joint by employing principles of physical chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, and pharmacology as well as a talk on the importance of communication on outcomes in patient-physician interactions. The talks addressed faculty as well as students, and all resulted

in interesting discussions. Dr. Pandya and I also participated in teaching a course developed for Ph.D. students prior to our visit on research methods, analyzing medical literature, and making scientific presentations.

“Another important part of my visit was to engage in discussions with faculty, senior administration, and students on the possibility of shared clinical rotations by students from NSU-COM and Comenius University for one or two months,” he continued. “Additionally, the World Health Organization regional office invited me to discuss its interest in these plans as well. There also was a strong interest by Comenius University in the potential availability of our online accredited master’s programs in public health and biomedical informatics. In fact, Comenius’ vice dean for international relations, Dr. Daniela Ostatnikova, visited the NSU-COM campus in early December to continue discussions about making one or more of these collaborations come to fruition. It also was fortuitous that I was there during the 90th anniversary commemoration of the Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University. As a result, I was invited to attend the commemoration program during which the President of the Republic of Slovakia was present to offer his greetings.

As they reflect back on their time spent serving as Fulbright senior specialist scholars in Slovakia, both Drs. Levy and Pandya are grateful for the opportunity they had to expand their educational and cultural horizons, establish friendships with like-minded professionals, and foster future alliances that have the potential to benefit both universities. “It was a great opportunity to collaborate on interesting projects with my peers in Slovakia,” Dr. Pandya stated. “I came away from the experience feeling I had really made a number of good friends. My hope is that we really keep a connection going for many years to come.”

“For me, the experience was a privilege that allowed me to extend the dimensions of my activities in the United States so I could also touch people elsewhere in the world,” Dr. Levy explained. “To be able to share with students and faculty of the Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University some of my experiences and to reciprocally learn from them is the ultimate fulfillment for an academic. I actually experienced much more than that, learning that in spite of cultural and language differences how similar people are, only more so. It would be nice to feel that such a simple lesson could be learned globally. Who knows—perhaps some day it will.”



During her Fulbright experience in Slovakia, Dr. Pandya presented a lecture to medical students at Milosrdni Hospital Bratislava.



*In December, Dr. Daniela Ostatnikova, who serves as vice dean for international relations at Comenius University Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava, visited the NSU campus following Dr. Levy and Dr. Pandya's stay in Slovakia to discuss future collaborative opportunities. Pictured (from left) are Drs. Cecilia Rokusek, Anthony J. Silvagni, Daniela Ostatnikova, and Ray Ferrero, Jr., J.D. (NSU president) with Drs. Leonard Levy, Naushira Pandya, and Anthony DeNapoli (dean of international affairs at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services).*

## Fast Facts About the Fulbright Program

### Program History

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas and is sponsored by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). Approximately 294,000 individuals—111,000 from the United States and 183,000 from other countries—have participated in the program, which awards approximately 7,500 new grants annually. Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

### Program Funding

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations, and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support. The Congressional appropriation for the Fulbright Program in fiscal year 2009 was \$234.9 million. Foreign governments, through binational commissions or foundations abroad, contributed approximately \$60 million directly to the program in fiscal year 2008.

### Program Administration

The ECA administers the program under policy guidelines established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) with the assistance of binational commissions and foundations in 50 countries, U.S. embassies in more than 100 other countries, and cooperating

agencies in the United States. The ECA is responsible for the U.S. government's overseas educational, cultural, and informational programs. The FSB, composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policies for the administration of the program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates, and selects candidates nominated for awards.

### What Is Expected from Fulbrighters?

Throughout the history of the Fulbright Program, participants have exposed their host communities to new cultures and ideas. In turn, they have taken their experiences back to their home communities and shared them with family, friends, and peers. This cultural exchange is an important part of the Fulbright Program's mission to promote mutual understanding. In addition to academic endeavors, Fulbrighters have a unique opportunity to make a valuable contribution to their host and home communities through participating in community activities abroad and sharing their experiences upon returning home.

### Why Is the Fulbright Program Unique?

The Fulbright Program is based on binational partnerships and open, merit-based competition. Fulbrighters are offered unique opportunities for enrichment and leadership development as well as access to facilities and a vast community of alumni.

To learn more about the Fulbright Program, please visit [www.fulbright.state.gov/fulbright/about](http://www.fulbright.state.gov/fulbright/about).



# CEME SPOTLIGHT:

## *St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency*



Each year, anywhere from 12 to 20 NSU-COM students participate in a family medicine rotation at St. Vincent's.

In 1916, the Daughters of Charity organization was asked by the community to establish a hospital in Jacksonville, and by 1917, its members were caring for patients during the influenza epidemic. St. Vincent's was one of the first hospitals founded in Jacksonville and has moved and grown many times. Now located on the banks of the St. Johns River in the historic Riverside neighborhood, it comprises 528 acute care beds and a 240-bed nursing home/skilled care facility named St. Catherine Laboure Manor. The campus includes several medical office buildings, a cancer center, orthopedic center, heart and vascular center, and the Family Medicine Center, which is the location of the St. Vincent Family Medicine Residency Program.

St. Vincent's HealthCare is part of Ascension Health, the largest nonprofit health care organization in the county, and comprises 67 hospitals and hundreds of health care facilities. In Jacksonville, St. Luke's Hospital also is part of St. Vincent's HealthCare, as

are primary care and specialty physician practices, pharmacies, ambulance services, and many others.

The Family Medicine Center is home to the Family Medicine Residency Program as well as the clinical practice of the faculty and residents. This new facility, built in 2004, was designed specifically for the educational program and clinical practice. Over 30,000 square feet on two floors contains 36 exam rooms, 2 OMT rooms, 4 minor surgery rooms, X-ray facilities, laboratory facilities, large and small conference rooms, precepting areas, and office space for faculty and residents.

The practice has over 34,000 office visits annually with a diverse population served and a well-balanced patient base of obstetrics, pediatrics, adolescent, adult, and geriatric patients. The full-time faculty consists of 10 family physicians, a pediatrician, 1 full-time and 4 part-time obstetricians/gynecologists, a family nurse practitioner, and 2 clinical psychologists.

Each year, anywhere from 12 to 20 NSU-COM students participate in a family medicine rotation at St. Vincent's. Of the 10 residents in each class, St. Vincent's matches four residents through the National Matching Service, and several have been NSU-COM graduates. The other six residents each year are matched through the National Resident Matching Program, where an NSU-COM graduate will occasionally match and participate in the St. Vincent's program. The 30 residents participating in the family medicine residency join St. Vincent's from a variety of medical schools throughout the country. Consequently, the facility considers the diversity of residents to be a core strength of its program.

The St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program was founded in 1972 and has graduated 258 family physicians who are currently serving in a wide variety of clinical practice, academic, and administrative positions across the country. In 2003, the program began discussions with NSU-COM's Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education regarding obtaining dual accreditation of its program, which would allow it to attract talented students graduating from NSU-COM. In 2005, St. Vincent's obtained internship accreditation and accepted its first students through the match. In 2006, the family medicine residency at St. Vincent's was accredited by the American Osteopathic Association for three full years and has continued to match outstanding graduates from NSU-COM and other regional schools into its dually accredited program.

Unique to the St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program is continuity of care, with residents being assigned a panel of patients they care for in the office and hospital for the entire three years of residency. This includes over 400 obstetrical deliveries per year by the residents and nearly 2,000 inpatient admissions and nursing home/skilled-care visits. The residents also are involved in many community health efforts, including serving as team doctors at sporting events, working at mobile outreach medical and adolescent health units that visit shelters and rural community centers, and participating in the medical center's medical missions to Haiti and its regional Reach Out and Read childhood literacy project.

Following are the various postgraduate programs currently offered at St. Vincent's:

**Family Medicine Residency**  
*(AOA and ACGME accredited)*

**Podiatric Residency (PM&S 24)**  
*(CPME accredited)*

**Pharmacy Residency Program (PGY 1)**  
*(ASHP accredited)*

Because the family residency program at St. Vincent's is always striving to be at the forefront of innovation in clinical practice and education, a fully integrated electronic health record, which includes features such as electronic prescribing and remote access, was implemented. St. Vincent's also has been a leader in the development of the patient-centered medical home and has implemented disease registries and group visits as well as

care pathways. Educationally, its graduates have a 99.8 percent specialty board pass rate on the first attempt and are in high demand for practice positions. Many enter academic positions, and those seeking fellowships in areas such as obstetrics, geriatrics, faculty development, and sports medicine have all obtained their top choices.

If you would like to obtain more information about the St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program, please visit its Web site located at [www.svresidency.com](http://www.svresidency.com).

## St. Vincent's Fast Fact

**Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H., FAAFP**, associate professor of family medicine/public health and NSU-COM assistant dean of clinical operations and graduate education, is an alumnus of the St. Vincent's Family Medicine Residency Program.



*Since 2005, COM Outlook has featured informative spotlights on the various organizations that comprise the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education. The accomplishments and contributions of this interactive educational network are indeed merit worthy because each participating institution provides exceptional postdoctoral training opportunities throughout Florida and the southeastern United States.*



# Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman Revels in Personal Bliss, Professional Fulfillment

*By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications*

**T**he perfect life... For many people, attaining this all-consuming goal is something they perpetually strive for as they work to achieve that wondrous balance of personal contentment, professional fulfillment, and financial peace of mind. For some, this lifelong search results in endless frustration and heartbreak. But for others, such as Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O., the quest for all-encompassing contentment delivers a happy ending on all fronts.

Dr. Scott-Holman, who serves as assistant professor of family medicine and director of NSU's Student Medical Center, is the first to admit her life has unfolded in ways even she couldn't have contemplated when she emerged from her teenage years and began seeking her place in the world. "Everything worked out better than I could ever have imagined," she admitted. "I have a wonderful husband, beautiful children, and a fantastic job I truly love."

A Florida native, Dr. Scott-Holman was born in Cocoa Beach near Cape Canaveral, where her father worked as an electrical contractor for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). However, her memories of Cocoa Beach are negligible

because her family, which includes four older siblings, relocated to Hialeah in South Florida when she was just two years old. "I had a very normal childhood," said Dr. Scott-Holman, whose mother was a stay-at-home mom until her youngest daughter entered second grade. "And like most kids, I really had no idea what I wanted to do when I grew up."

After graduating from Dade Christian School, she enrolled in Miami Dade College, where she first had a serious inkling that becoming a physician would be a fulfilling career path to pursue. "I was not one of those kids who carried around a doctor's bag and said she wanted to be a doctor from a young age," Dr. Scott-Holman admitted. "When I started college, I was taking computer classes because I thought a career in computers would be interesting. But when I got a job as a data-entry processor during my first year of college, I realized it wasn't for me because I wasn't interacting with people."

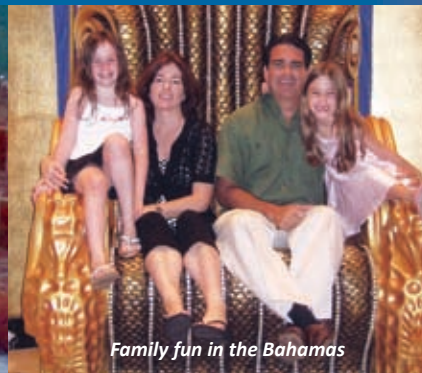
Although her uncle was a radiologist who always told her to go into medicine because she received such good grades in school, it wasn't until she took an anatomy class at Miami Dade College that the idea took root. "When I was in my first year at college, I



*Exuding happiness as a child*



*A bright future looms*



*Family fun in the Bahamas*



*Dr. Scott-Holman with her parents*

went to my adviser and told him I might be interested in medicine, and he said, ‘Okay, anything in particular?’ I told him I might be interested in radiology, and he replied, ‘What you want to do is become a radiology tech, the person who takes the pictures.’ I said, ‘No, not really. I’m talking about being a radiologist.’ He ignored me and said, ‘Okay, there are some good schools you can go to be an X-ray technician.’ Again, he never mentioned medical school. Needless to say, that was the last time I ever went to any sort of adviser.”

### Finding a Home at NSU-COM

After completing two years at Miami Dade College in 1987, Dr. Scott-Holman went to Barry University in Miami, where she pursued a full premed curriculum and received her B.S. degree in biology in 1989. As graduation loomed and it came time to apply to various medical schools, Dr. Scott-Holman had a logical geographic region in mind. “For me, there were only two choices: the University of Miami or Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the precursor to NSU-COM),” she explained. “I wanted to stay in South Florida and remain at home with my family, so I only applied to those schools. The University of Miami did not accept me for its incoming class, and I was told to be patient for another year and wait to be interviewed again the following year. But then I got accepted to SECOM, which was a godsend.”

Dr. Scott-Holman, who said her educational highlight was delivering her first baby at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola during her OB/GYN rotation, admittedly received an outstanding education at SECOM, although it certainly bears little resemblance to the current NSU-COM educational paradigm. “Of course, we didn’t have all the great new technology like simulated patients,” she said. “Since I graduated in 1993, the college has incorporated courses like clinical practicum and small-group learning. When I went to SECOM, it was all large auditorium teaching.”

Following her graduation from SECOM, Dr. Scott-Holman completed her internship training at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah before going on to do her family medicine residency training at the same facility, which she completed in 1996. “When I was at SECOM, I was initially interested in emergency medicine, so I did my elective rotations at places like the Jackson Memorial Hospital ER, the University of Florida ER, and the Palmetto General ER,” she explained. “It was a very exciting experience, but my body has to have a certain pattern of sleep, and I simply couldn’t function properly on such a crazy work

schedule, which often included working all night. That’s when I decided to become a generalist.”

During this time, a number of confluent forces were helping to shape the direction of Dr. Scott-Holman’s personal and professional future—which, of course, she was totally unaware of. While she was in the midst of completing her residency training, Dr. Scott-Holman was set up on a blind date with someone who would turn out to be the love of her life. “I met my husband Brent, who’s a pilot for U.S. Airways, while I was doing my residency, so it was the perfect time,” she said. “It was love at first sight, and we were married about 18 months later in 1996.”

In addition to meeting her husband at just the right time in her life, Dr. Scott-Holman was about to embark on a career that would keep her deeply entrenched in the NSU-COM family for many years to come. “From the time I received my acceptance letter from SECOM, I truly believed that God had a plan for my life,” she admitted. “I did my family practice residency through NSU-COM at Palmetto General, and then, when I was about to complete the residency, I was offered a job by Dr. Myron Howell to work in family medicine at the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center, which had just opened on NSU’s Davie campus.”

There was, however, a slight problem with the job offer, which had a July 1996 start date. “I remember interviewing with Dr. Matt Terry, who was dean of the college at the time, and I said, ‘I really want the position, but I can’t start right away because I’ve already made plans to go to Africa with my husband for the entire month of July. I need the time off because it’s been nonstop education for most of my life, and this is my one month to relax before I start the rest of my life nonstop,’” she recalled. “Dr. Terry was totally supportive and said, ‘You know, Sandi, I completely understand. Not spending enough time with family is one thing I’ve regretted over the years.’ I always thought highly of him for saying that to me and being so understanding.”

Once she returned from Africa, which she called “the trip of a lifetime,” Dr. Scott-Holman began her NSU-COM employment and quickly became immersed in all the exciting changes that were occurring at the time. “It was a great way to start my career because so many new programs were being initiated, like the family medicine residency at Broward General Medical Center,” she stated. “When I started working at the Ziff Health Care Center, family medicine was the only clinic because none of the other specialty clinics had been established yet on campus.”

The next decade would prove to be an incredibly productive one for Dr. Scott-Holman, who served as medical director of the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center from 1997 through 2002, became director of the newly formed Student Medical Center in 2002, and gave birth to two daughters—Emmy in 2000 and Julia in 2003.

The establishment of the Student Medical Center, which was her idea, is a professional achievement she is extremely proud of, for obvious reasons. “Because the clinic patient population continued to grow each year, I felt the students needed a specific medical center just for them to accommodate their schedules,” Dr. Scott-Holman explained. “The center is open from noon until 7:00 p.m., which is a timeframe that fits their schedules much better.”

An unexpected benefit of the Student Medical Center’s offbeat hours is that it has afforded Dr. Scott-Holman the opportunity to spend additional quality time with her daughters, which is something most time-strapped working moms would love to emulate. “Balancing being at work and being a mother is definitely a difficult situation,” said Dr. Scott-Holman, who became teary-eyed while discussing the subject. “Thankfully, because of my work schedule, I can take my kids to school in the morning and participate in various PTA meetings and fundraisers. I’m not able

to pick them up in the afternoons, but I have an excellent support group of other moms who bring my kids home.”

Additionally, because she and her husband have fairly lucrative careers, they are able to afford the luxury of having a trustworthy live-in nanny who handles domestic chores and provides loving care to their two daughters. “The kids call her nana and absolutely love her to death,” Dr. Scott-Holman stated. “We’re very fortunate to have someone as wonderful as her, who has been with us for many years. Because my husband is a pilot who can be gone anywhere from two to four days a week, having a live-in nanny is such a help because it allows us the freedom to work and provide continuity for our kids.”

As she reflects back on her life, Dr. Scott-Holman readily admits to being an extremely blessed person in so many tangible ways. “Family is very important to me, so it’s amazing that three of my siblings live only a few miles from me in northwestern Broward County,” she said. “I have a wonderful husband, beautiful children, and a career I truly love. Being part of the NSU-COM structure from the beginning of my medical education has been an absolute blessing. I’ve been associated with the college for over 20 years, and I’m extremely proud to be part of the NSU family. God clearly had a plan for my life, and it has worked out beautifully.”





# Preparation for Terrorist Threats: Explosive Devices

*By Deborah Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP, Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H.,  
and Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., R.D.*

**A**lthough most attention regarding all-hazards preparedness has been focused on bioterrorism and natural disasters, it is important to note that bombs and explosives have been the weapons most commonly used by terrorists. Most physicians and other health care providers, as well as the public, are unfamiliar with many of the features of terrorism resulting from the use of such weapons of destruction.

Indeed, there is a need for greater emphasis on preventing terrorist assaults that use explosives. This should be part of a continuum that includes preparing for, responding to, and recovering from such events. This should include the injuries that are likely to be caused by explosives as well as their devastating psychologic effects, with attention to the special needs of children.

As a result of lessons learned from recent disasters involving terrorists and explosives, planning considerations should include the development of a network containing multiple hospitals so that those closest to the event are not overwhelmed. After the bombings of the Murrah Federal Building in 1995

and the Madrid trains in 2004, most victims were taken to the nearest hospital.<sup>1-3</sup> Because the number of casualties that required medical management rose into the hundreds, certain facilities were overwhelmed, and the care provided became inefficient and delayed. Therefore, a plan that includes multiple hospitals in the response system is needed in the event of a terrorist bombing attack as we must be prepared to care for multiple victims.

Even though suicide bombings have occurred in other countries, the potential for such an event in the United States needs to be seriously addressed. First, responders and physicians must become familiar with the nature of the injuries inflicted by explosions. There will likely be victims who experience burns, crushed bones, ruptured eardrums and intestines, and penetrating injury from nails and other projectiles that were packed with the explosives. This characteristic is unique to terrorist bombing in that other acts of violence rarely produce combinations of such wounds in a single individual.<sup>4</sup>

Explosions, particularly in confined spaces, have the capability to cause multisystem, life-threatening injuries in single or



multiple victims simultaneously, presenting complex triage, diagnostic, and management challenges for the health care provider. Blasts produce classic injury patterns from blunt and penetrating mechanisms to several organ systems. Children are particularly at risk for blast injury because of their size and susceptibility to head and abdominal trauma. The blast wave, flying debris, and injuries from being thrown may have more deadly results in children. Understanding these crucial differences is critical toward effective management.

Though the occurrence of bombings in the United States has been infrequent, when such incidents do occur, cases tend to be clustered and have the ability to temporarily overwhelm a local health care system.<sup>5,6</sup> Because many patients will self-evacuate after a terrorist attack and pre-hospital care may be difficult to coordinate, hospitals near the scene can expect to receive a large influx of victims after an event. This rapid surge of victims typically occurs within minutes as exemplified by the Madrid bombings where the closest hospital received 272 patients in 2.5 hours.<sup>1</sup> Health care and public health specialists anticipate profound problems in adequately caring for the resulting surge of victims.<sup>7,8</sup>

Our current health care system, especially our emergency care system, is already strained attending to routine daily patient volumes. There are 170 verified pediatric trauma centers, located in 41 states (including the District of Columbia).<sup>9</sup> An estimated 70 percent of children younger than 15 years reside within 60 minutes of one of the centers by ground or by air transportation, whereas nearly half are within 60 minutes if only ground transportation was considered. This leaves an estimated 17.4 million U.S. children who would not have access to a pediatric trauma center within 60 minutes—an amount of time that could prove deadly in the event of a serious injury.<sup>9</sup> Access also varies by state, ranging from more than 90 percent of children having access in 11 states to less than 25 percent having access in 12 states. After a bomb blast, health care personnel with limited trauma care expertise and little or no pediatric experience could be called upon to treat critically injured children.<sup>9,10</sup>

Because blast terrorism in recent years has involved children, significant experience has been gained in understanding the consequences of blast injuries. These experiences highlight a number of vitally important issues regarding blast terrorism mitigation in children.<sup>5,6,11-15</sup>

- After a blast, children will be injured in closed or confined spaces, which greatly increase the magnitude of forces of injury.

- As with blast injuries in adults, most children will either die at the scene or sustain minor injuries. Only a small number of children in the penumbra of the blast wind who sustain major injuries will survive to require hospital care, but typically, they will not begin to arrive at the trauma center until 30 to 60 minutes after the blast event.

Most surviving children with major injuries will require early surgery and subsequent care in a pediatric critical care unit, followed by lengthy hospitalization and rehabilitation, both physical and psychological. The United States has 4,919 community hospitals, of which approximately 250 are children's hospitals, representing approximately 5 percent of our nation's hospitals. The number of hospitals that are truly capable of providing care to critically ill and injured children is relatively small. Most pediatric critical care units have a limited number of trained, available, and experienced staff.<sup>15-19</sup>

Many of our nation's hospitals with large pediatric emergency and critical care units already operate at near-maximum capacity. If a mass casualty involving children and infants was to occur, the immediate ability to provide pediatric emergency and/or critical care would be severely constrained. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publication determined that approximately 75 percent of hospitals had disaster plans that addressed explosives, but few (20 percent) had actually conducted a drill that involved imagined use of explosives. Continual education combined with regularly scheduled disaster drills are needed to train response and hospital personnel in the triage and management of victims due to bombings.<sup>2,6,7,18</sup>

One of the most prevalent problems that will be experienced by both adults and children will be the assessment and effective treatment of the mental health concerns induced by terrorism. For example, although survivors of an automobile accident may benefit from group therapy, group interaction after a terrorist incident could heighten emotional turmoil. Disaster survivors and others affected by such events will experience a broad range of early and late reactions (e.g., physical, psychological, behavioral, and spiritual). Some of these reactions will cause enough distress to interfere with adaptive coping, and recovery may be helped by support from compassionate and caring disaster responders as well as ongoing mental health interventions after the event.<sup>20,21</sup>

### **Bombs in Our Schools: A Reality Here to Stay**

In an era of rapidly growing technology and instantaneous worldwide communication, it is no surprise that there are countless Web sites describing how to make a bomb in the home or how to construct a bomb specifically to blow up a school. In addition, there are hundreds of violent video games available online to anyone using the Web. Columbine and Oklahoma City are constant reminders that the threat of a bomb explosion in our schools is real. The size of the community and the demographics of the school make little difference.<sup>21-23</sup>

Schools should be a safe haven for our children but are most vulnerable to a bomb attack. Schools and families must be

informed and prepared for such an event. Students at all levels must be taught to report immediately any suspicious behavior by fellow students and strangers. Students must also be taught how to react in the event of a disaster, both natural (fire, storm) and manmade (bomb scare, explosion). Students must learn how to take cover, how to assist others, and how, if possible, to use their cell phones to call for help. Parents should talk to their children about the possibilities of a disaster that could occur while they are at school and how to care for themselves. These discussions should be part of a broader plan for family emergency preparedness.

In addition, parents should monitor their child's behavior. If parents notice a change in behavior and/or lack of communication, they should intervene immediately. Talking with one's child and taking adequate time to do so may make a real difference. In Columbine, the student bombers voiced to fellow students before the bombing that they felt alone and on the outside. Greater awareness of this expression of social isolation may have afforded an opportunity to prevent that tragedy.

At the Columbine School Memorial in Littleton, Colorado, there is a plaque from a faculty member on the stone wall of the memorial that reads: "They never taught us in school how to deal with a tragedy like this." Faculty members and administrators bear a huge responsibility from parents and guardians to watch over their children. It is important for parents to advocate for their children to partner with faculty, staff, and administrators in monitoring for any concerning behaviors of students and others within the school environment. As should occur within the family unit, faculty and administrators need to discuss with students how to prepare for and react to the possibility of an emergency, such as a bomb explosion, in the school. Schools must have well-developed emergency plans that must be actively practiced, at a minimum annually. Emergency preparedness and response should be part of all faculty development programs held at the beginning of each school year.<sup>24-26</sup>

A 2006 study by the U.S. Secret Service concluded that schools were taking false hope in their physical security. The report stated that schools should be paying more attention to the pre-attack behaviors of everyone in the school, especially students. With the physical security measures taken by most schools today, most bomb attacks will be well calculated. See-through backpacks, metal detectors, computer-generated IDs, and security guards have helped to make our schools safer, but more needs to be done in preparedness training, drills, and, above all, communication with families and within the school to better target those that might have behavioral or psychologic disorders. The greatest security challenge will continue to be with attacks from outsiders or terrorists.<sup>21</sup>

Schools remain a safe haven for children, but we must now include safety and preparedness planning, training, and exercising at all levels. Bombs and blasts in our schools will always be a threat, but we can help to minimize the risks and ultimate losses.

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# M.P.H. Cultural, Ethnicity, and Health Course Offers Students Eye-Opening Insights

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications



Grabbing a student's attention is of paramount importance for any professor, which is why Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., who teaches a popular online elective course in the Master of Public Health Program called Culture, Ethnicity, and Health, welcomes her students by showing a disturbing news video to illustrate the vast cultural divide that exists throughout the world.

"One of my goals is to bring to the forefront an understanding of other cultures and how they adopt customs that we here in the United States might not necessarily agree with," said Perez, who serves as assistant professor of public health. "At the beginning of the course, I show the students a video that appeared on CNN that exposes a very old Indian custom where for good luck and prosperity in life, the villagers throw naked babies that are about six months old 500 feet from the top of a tower and catch them in a large sheet. Without saying a word about what they have just seen, I tell them our journey starts here and ask them to talk about their reactions. This practice would be considered extreme child abuse here in the United States, so it's a great way to introduce the course and start a dialog about the topic."

The course, which includes a mix of individual and group assignments, introduces students to skills and insights necessary in promoting health in diverse populations. During the two-month class, a number of topics are addressed such as

- understanding health in the cultural context
- cultural diversity in health and illness
- pain, death, and dying in the cultural context
- mental health and culture
- migration, globalization, and health
- the cultural competence continuum

- health promotion and disease prevention with the culturally diverse

Perez, who has been teaching the course for eight years, is perpetually tweaking the curriculum to keep it as topical as possible. "Over the years, I've modified and added new components to make it more interesting to the students while also making sure the course is more applicable not only to today's society but also to some of the requirements of the national exam public health practitioners can take after they graduate."

In addition to textbook reading and creating comprehensive coursework portfolios, students participate in discussion board postings and enriching collaborative assignments that broaden their understanding of the vast cultural differences – and prejudices – that exist in the world. "We discuss the problems facing minorities in the United States that are linked to the social, political, and economic circumstances of that particular time," said Perez, who teaches two core and two elective courses in the M.P.H. Program. "There are also regular discussion board postings about the subject for that week and related assignments, which may range from finding interventional public health programs that exemplify what we have covered or studies that have been done to simply discussing a particular issue of importance."

To make the experience truly enriching on a personal level, students are asked to discuss their own ethnic and personal backgrounds and are required to submit a song or musical interlude that depicts their ethnicity. "This all ties into acculturation issues relating to your sense of identity and how you subscribe to the cultural practices of your own ethnic background," Perez explained. "We have a very diverse body of students, and my classes are the perfect example of that. It's also important to note that culture is not only related to

ethnicity because there is a medical culture, a medical student culture, professional cultures, and behavioral-based cultures. For example, I show the students a series of PowerPoint slides about people who are into extreme tattooing and body piercing and discuss the manifestations of that culture. Some of the students are shocked by it, but it helps them understand the concept of culture as whole."

Another interesting assignment involves having each student find a family-based remedy that is used to cure or alleviate certain medical ailments. "When we discuss the different sectors of health care, the assignment for that week is to find a remedy used by your family to "cure" something like a common cold or an upset stomach and post it on the discussion boards," she stated. "Every student will come up with his or her own family remedy, such as a Jewish mother giving the family homemade chicken soup. Interestingly, almost every culture uses chicken soup. The assignment really helps them get in touch with their roots and see how international these remedies are, that they're not so unique. It also helps demystify medicine."

When students complete the course, Perez hopes they walk away with a better understanding of how to effectively understand and deal with the sometimes seemingly insurmountable cultural differences that arise when dealing with various population groups. "There are some cultural or behavioral practices that are going to have more of a negative impact on health," Perez explained. "However, what is equally as important is your attitude toward that person or patient. If your first response is negative, your professional relationship with that person is probably shot forever. My goal with the students is to sensitize them to everything so they stop being quite so judgmental. The bottom line is that even people who think they're not judgmental actually are because we all have our own biases.

"For example, seeing babies being thrown from a tower may shock us because it's not something we would ever think of doing here in the United States," she added. "That's why I explain to the students how it's sometimes hard to discern whether you're actually crossing that thin line between respecting someone's beliefs and actually educating that individual about a more beneficial practice. The components of culture such as religion, food practices, and how people deal with death and dying and medicine differ in various population groups. As a result, the Culture, Ethnicity, and Health course prompts students to look at the components of culture so when that person is in front of them, they can comprehend the cultural differences and ask the right questions. It's not about remembering information like, 'Oh, most Muslim women don't like men to touch them.' The key is to ask the right questions and stay away from stereotyping."

## Student Testimonials

**Aruna Gadekar, M.D.**

"This class was so impactful. It was interesting to learn about how cultural diversity can impact health care workers, patient-physician relationship, and the importance of cultural sensitivity and competence while dealing with minorities. Cultural competence is a

developmental process that requires a long-term commitment. It is not a specific end product that occurs after two hours of training, but it is an active process of learning and practicing over time. Becoming culturally competent is easier to talk about than to accomplish, and this class gave me a head start. The cultural competence quiz was equally rewarding because it was not just facts and figures but some real-life experiences that everybody can relate with. To give an example, on the quiz about why Muslim women don't look the doctor in the eye, I knew that modesty is very important in Islam, but I also thought they were taught to be submissive. Probably, it was my own prejudice – and I was wrong. From this quiz and also this class, I learned how to frame questions and avoid discriminatory questions while talking to minorities.

The discussion board was another great learning tool. The discussion on folk remedies was interesting. As people are looking at a natural way to maintain good health and well-being, some of the remedies shared by my classmates were very helpful. For instance, drinking ginger tea for a sore throat, ginger ale for an upset stomach, and rubbing a banana peel on a bug bite would not hurt to try. I walked away from this class excited, with more retained knowledge, and with a renewed sense of direction."

**Rohit Mehra, OMS-II**

"I thoroughly enjoyed this class and felt that it taught me a lot about cultural competency and its importance with regard to health care. A doctor is worth nothing unless he connects with his patients and ensures that they comply with the prescribed treatments. The issue of cultural competency becomes especially important when practicing in an area as culturally diverse as the northeastern United States and South Florida. I particularly enjoyed the cultural diversity of our classmates and the tremendous amount of discussion generated by the postings. I also liked the assignments, especially the discussion question and the assignment on food and culture. A very poignant assignment was the optional one about the ritual of throwing babies from the top of the roof. It forced me to think about the definition of acceptability with regard to traditions and culture. Who would have thought that an action so crazy as throwing babies would be so popular as to have a long line of mothers waiting to perform this action? This perfectly illustrates the tremendous differences between the different cultures of the world. Again, I feel as if I have grown and matured throughout this course and now know how to better deal with people from other cultures whose beliefs, traditions, and value systems may be foreign to me. These tools will prove to be integral as I grow as both a person and a physician."



# Life Aboard the USNS Comfort

By Maximiliano Mayrink, D.O. (2009 NSU-COM Alumnus)



**“D**oktè! Doktè! (Translation: “Doctor-Doctor!”) I resist looking up, perhaps, not to cry or show how powerless I was feeling. The despair, suffering, and helplessness that emanated from their eyes spoke much louder than the few words I could understand in French Creole.

Just a wall separated two very different worlds, on one side hundreds of hopeless Haitians, and on the other dozens of health care professionals, military personnel, and volunteers united in one common mission—to bring hope and make a difference in the lives of those in need. As I walked along that wall, I knew exactly what it was like to be on the other side. Growing up in Brazil, lack of basic health care was too common of a problem. Long lines would form in front of medical centers, and sadly, more often than not, people would succumb while waiting for care. Although I have never had to wait in line to receive medical care, my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins have. Being reminded of what so many close to me have had to go through in order to receive medical treatment caught me by surprise.

As I tried to navigate through the gloomy feelings of that moment, I am reminded of Baby Neritiza. She was our first surgical patient. I was assigned to work in the hotel section of the USNS Comfort, an area where patients and escorts would spend the night before their surgeries. There, they had the opportunity to take a warm shower, eat, and rest before heading to the operating room. We had spent a great amount of time and effort making sure the hotel was ready to receive our patients and their families; I had already lost count of how many times I had swept and mopped the floors, cleaned the bathrooms, and checked on the beds and supplies.

The phone rang, and many of us jumped out of our seats. We were finally getting our first patient. When Neritiza and her mom walked through the doors of the hotel, overwhelming feelings of joy and happiness overtook the entire staff. There she was; a small-framed

13-month-old Haitian girl. After we greeted them and checked their paperwork, I proceeded to show them the hotel with the help of a translator. As she and her mother settled down in their bed, one of the volunteers attempted to hold Neritiza. She started crying, turned in my direction, and extended both of her delicate arms toward me. I picked her up, and she stopped crying. We connected immediately. I took her to the playroom, where we had a TV with videocassette and DVD player, toys, crayons, and coloring books. I turned on the TV. Her beautiful brown eyes were fixed on the cartoon playing, and I wondered if she had ever watched TV before. I put her on the floor and brought her some of the toys we had in the room.

As I watched her play, I also wondered if she could sense that in less than a day the surgery she was about to undergo would forever change her life. She was born without an anal sphincter. She defecated through a small hole made in her abdomen called a colostomy. Patients with colostomies often have a colostomy bag attached to their colostomies where feces are collected. One might end up with a colostomy after a colon resection due to colon cancer, or colon perforation due to a gunshot or stabbing. Colostomies can at times be reversed. But sometimes, one might have to permanently live with one. Many patients who have a colostomy are embarrassed about their condition, and for many it represents an unbearable burden, which was the case for one patient I met during my surgery rotation who ended up with a colostomy due to colon cancer. After over 60 years of marriage, his wife was divorcing him because she couldn't tolerate the smell of his colostomy bag any longer.

Patients must keep their colostomies clean in order to prevent infections. Neritiza had a cloth around her colostomy, which her mother changed often, and the pink color of the tissue around the colostomy was a good sign. The anoplasty she was about to undergo was the initial step to a new life for her and those around her.

The thought of Neritiza and her innocent smile slowly dissipated the sadness I was feeling. At that exact moment, I thought, her life was being forever changed. And right across that wall many more lives were waiting to be changed, perhaps not to Neritiza's extent. But maybe they would carry with them the sense that they were not alone and realize there are people who care about them and their misery. I hope one day the Haitian people will get to experience as blissful a life as that of their joyful spirits. As my journey as a medical student came to an end, I hoped I would never cease learning from my patients, and that if I ever feel incapable of helping someone or bringing them at least hope, I can once again hear those brave souls calling for me: “Doktè! Doktè...”

Last year, Dr. Mayrink enjoyed the experience of a lifetime when he participated in a one-month international humanitarian mission aboard the USNS Comfort (T-AH20) hospital ship during the concluding months of his NSU-COM education. The experience allowed him to provide medical care to patients aboard the ship and assist with an annual humanitarian civic assistance operation called Continuing Promise 2009.

## NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

### Past Presidents

Pre 1995 - Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)  
 1996 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
 1997 - Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)  
 1998 - Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)  
 1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)  
 2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)  
 2001 - Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)  
 2002 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
 2003 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 2004 - Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)  
 2005 - Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('87)  
 2006 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)  
 2007 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
 2008 - Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)

### Trustees at Large

Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)  
 Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('87)  
 Mayrene Hernandez, D.O. ('01)  
 Stephen MacDonald, D.O. ('90)  
 Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 William Stager, D.O. ('89)

### 2009-2010 Officers

**Ronald Tolchin, D.O.** ('89)  
 President

**Daniel Carney, D.O.** ('95)  
 President Elect

**Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.** ('94)  
 Vice President

**Andrew Gross, D.O.** ('93)  
 Secretary

**Annette Da Silva, D.O.** ('96)  
 Treasurer

**Robert Blackburn, D.O.** ('86)  
 Immediate Past President

**Howard L. Neer, D.O.**  
 Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs

**Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.**  
 Director, Alumni Affairs

### Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro  
 2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.  
 2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.  
 2005 - Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.  
 2006 - Howard Hada, Ph.D.  
 2008 - Cyril Blavo, D.O.  
 2009 - A. Alvin Greber, D.O.

### Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)  
 2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)  
 2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
 2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)  
 2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
 2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
 2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
 2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)  
 2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)  
 2009 - Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)

## Alumni in the News

**LTC(P) Bret T. Ackermann, D.O., FAAEM** ('92), who is currently a student at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania, recently commanded the 168th Multifunctional Medical Battalion headquartered in Daegu, Republic of Korea.

**David M. Brown, D.O.** ('87) was one of five rural physicians in Indiana to be honored with the Doc Hollywood Award from the Indiana Rural Health Association. The award recognizes physicians working in underserved areas who have dedicated themselves to improving health care in their communities.

**John Coppola, D.O.** ('05), who recently joined the Skin & Vein Center in Michigan, was profiled in an article entitled "Dermatologist Joins Skin & Vein Center in Fenton" that appeared in Michigan's *Tri-County Times*.

**Christopher DeLisle, D.O.** ('03), who recently relocated from Florida to Georgia, has opened a family medicine practice at the Waterford Shoppes in Port Wentworth. Dr. DeLisle's practice is part of an expansion of the Effingham Hospital Family of Medicine clinics.

**Matthew Hesh, D.O.** ('01) has been named assistant professor of radiology and medicine at both Florida State University College of Medicine and the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

**Jennifer Lamneck, D.O.** ('08), who is currently a PGY-2 resident in the Mount Sinai Medical Center Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency Program in Miami Beach, was awarded first place in the poster competition held in October at the American College of Osteopathic Internists 2009 Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions held in Tucson, Arizona. Her project was titled "Sphincter of Oddi Dysfunction and Ampullary Carcinoma."

**Mehdi Shishehbor, D.O., Ph.D., M.P.H.** ('99) is currently working as an interventional cardiologist and endovascular interventionist in the Robert and Suzanne Tomsich Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Brett Scotch, D.O.** ('99), was a finalist for the 2009 Health Care Heroes Award from the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*. Dr. Scotch was one of four physicians honored for their contributions to the medical community in the physician category. Over the past year, Dr. Scotch, who owns ENT and Facial Plastic Surgery Specialists, PL, participated in the 2009 East Pasco Habitat for Humanity Bike Ride and donated his time to the 2009 Oral Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week by providing free screenings to the community. He also became an adjunct clinical assistant professor of surgery/ENT at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and is serving as treasurer on the Hillsborough County Osteopathic Medical Society Board of Directors.

**Sandi Thomas-Stuart, D.O.** ('00), who is an emergency room physician in Brevard County, Florida, earned her pro card at the National Physique Committee Jr. USA Bodybuilding, Fitness, Figure, and Bikini competition held in Charleston, South Carolina, and was named the overall winner in the women's fitness category.

**Elise Zahn, D.O., FACOEP** ('96), who is an NSU-COM clinical associate professor of family medicine and works in the Delray Medical Center Emergency Department, was nominated for a Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches' Athena Award for her commitment to helping others.

**Jason A. Zell, D.O., M.P.H.** ('01), who serves as assistant professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Medicine, and Department of Epidemiology at the University

# Alumni Corner

of California, Irvine School of Medicine, received an extramural mentored patient-oriented research grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health. His research project, entitled "Risk Reduction Through Polyamine Inhibition Among Colorectal Carcinoma Patients," will receive approximately \$700,000 in funding over a four-year period. The proposed research aims to define strategies for risk reduction among colon and rectal cancer survivors through a genetic epidemiologic analysis of colorectal cancer survivors and a phase IIa clinical trial involving aspirin + dietary arginine restriction as tertiary prevention among colon and rectal cancer patients.

This research grant comes on the heels of another recent grant Dr. Zell, who also serves as a translational cancer prevention researcher at the UC Irvine Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, received from the NCI-supported Southwest Oncology Group and its philanthropic arm—The Hope Foundation. As a recipient of the inaugural Dr. Charles A. Coltman, Jr. Fellowship Award, which provides \$100,000 in research support from July 2009 through June 2011, Dr. Zell is serving as lead investigator for the proposed multicenter clinical trial entitled "S0820, A Double Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Eflornithine and Sulindac to Prevent Recurrence of High-Risk Adenomas and Second Primary Colorectal Cancers in Patients with Stage 0-III Colon Cancer, Phase III."

## New Orleans Alumni Events Educate and Entertain



During the American Osteopathic Association's 114th Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition, held November 1-5 in New Orleans, Louisiana, NSU-COM coordinated an alumni luncheon at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside as well as a private dinner reception that was held at The National World War II Museum, both of which attracted more than 125 attendees.



"Dr. Neer and I were so pleased with the turnout," said Lynne Cawley, M.Sc., director of alumni affairs. "There are so many options in New Orleans for them to choose from, and they chose to attend the luncheon. In fact, we had alumni attend from the inaugural graduating class of 1985 through the class of 2008."



The evening alumni reception held at The National World War II Museum proved to be an exceptionally popular event as attendees were able to tour the museum at their leisure and enjoy all it had to offer after they enjoyed a Cajun-themed buffet complete with New Orleans' famous bread pudding and dark rum sauce for dessert. The reception was held in a large room filled with war planes and armored battle vehicles parked around the periphery, which added to the event's ambience.



"I believe everyone had a great time, and we look forward to the 2010 AOA unified national convention in San Francisco," said Cawley. "We're already planning and looking forward to seeing alumni on the West Coast."



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter. For example, the college has received a number of donation cards with credit-card pledges where no name is listed. The Office of Alumni Affairs cannot process the credit-card donation without a name indicated, so if you have not received a letter of thanks from NSU-COM but know you have made a credit-card contribution, please contact Ms. Cawley at the aforementioned phone number.

## 2009 Donors

### Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

Dr. Paul Winner  
*(to be used for neurological education and research)*

### NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Mr. Howard Spector  
*(David Spector Memorial Endowment Fund)*

### Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner

### Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)  
*(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench)*

### Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

\*Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. John H. Harker ('89)  
*(Leave a Legacy, Buy a Bench)*

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)

Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)

Dr. Soling Li ('00)

### 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)

Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)

Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)

\*Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson

Dr. Marc Kaprow ('01)

Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)

\*Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)

### Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Michael Baron ('88)

Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)

Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)

Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05)

\*Dr. Stan Cohen

Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

Mr. Martin Greco  
*(in memory of Dr. Daniel Finkelstein)*

\*Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)

Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)

Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)

Dr. Mark Khorsandi ('99)

Dr. James Liang ('99)

Dr. Lynita Mullins ('06)

Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)

\*Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

\*Dr. Christopher D. Robert ('99)

Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)

Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)

\*Dr. Richard R. Thacker ('92)

Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)

\*Dr. Steven Zucker

### Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)

Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)

\*Dr. Candice C. Black Budner ('96)

Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)

Ms. Rosa DeLuca  
*(in memory of Dr. Daniel Finkelstein)*

\*Dr. Marti Echols

Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)

Dr. Michele Lapayowker ('90)

Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)

Dr. Donald Miller ('00)

Dr. Chad Robbins ('99)

Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)

*\*in honor of 2009 Living Tribute Award  
recipient Dr. A. Alvin Greber*

## Cumulative List (1999-2009)

### Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

Drs. Andrew J. Hanley and  
Evangelos G. Poulos

David Kimmel Foundation/Mr.  
and Mrs. Stephen Mason/Harry  
Wendroff, CPA  
*(in memory of Dr. David Levine)*

Dr. George Linsey

Mr. Howard Spector

Dr. Paul Winner

Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

### Heritage Circle

Represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.

*Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)*  
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)

*Dr. Albert Whitehead*  
(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)

# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

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Dr. John N. Harker ('89)  
Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

## Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

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Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)  
Dr. Raymon Priewe ('86)  
Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson  
Dr. Stanley Zimmelman ('91)

## Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Douglas G. Bushell ('98)  
Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)  
Dr. Charles Chase ('89)  
Dr. Robert Crook ('88)  
Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)  
Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)  
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association  
Florida Society ACOFP  
Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)  
Dr. Leslie Greco ('87)  
Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Gross ('93)  
Dr. Jamal Haddad ('91)  
Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. ('92)  
Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)  
Dr. Mayrene Hernandez ('01)  
Dr. Gregory James ('88)  
Dr. Christopher P. Lampson ('85)  
Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)  
Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)  
Dr. Mitchell Pace ('87)  
Dr. Earle Pescatore ('89)  
Dr. Isidro Pujol ('94)  
Dr. Bruce Rankin ('85)  
Dr. Michael Ross ('88)  
Dr. Joel Rush ('85)  
Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Swanson ('96)  
Ms. Geraldine Terry  
Dr. Stacy Williams ('95)  
Dr. John Windsor ('89)

## 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. David Adler ('92)  
Dr. Eric Alboucrek ('92)  
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)  
Dr. Michael Baron ('88)  
Dr. Steven Beljic ('95)  
Dr. James Beretta ('88)  
Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)  
Broward County Osteopathic  
Medical Association  
Dr. Colene Stout Calo ('95)  
Dr. Mariaelena Caraballo ('98)  
Dr. Steven Cimerberg ('87)  
Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)  
Dr. Bruce David ('88)  
Drs. Felix Fernandez/Ravi Mehan ('00)  
Dr. Judith Fitzgerald ('90)  
Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)  
Dr. Brad Glick ('89)  
Dr. Sandy Goldman ('86)  
Dr. John Gordon ('92)  
Dr. Thomas Green ('98)  
Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)  
Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)  
Dr. Steven L. Hazalcorn ('98)  
Dr. James T. Howell  
Dr. Sharon Johnston ('93)  
Dr. Walter J. Kay  
Dr. Robert Klein ('91)  
Drs. Jared and Susan Lechtenstein ('01)  
Dr. Soling Li ('00)  
Dr. Henry Malczak ('90)  
Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)  
Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin  
Dr. Julia O'Brien ('89)  
Dr. Tricia Percy ('95)  
Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)  
Dr. Ronald Renuart ('90)  
Dr. Patrick Sayavong ('92)  
Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)  
Ms. Lorraine Snyder  
Dr. Theodore Spevack ('85)/Dr. Robyn  
Zelnick ('87)  
Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)  
Drs. Ronald Tolchin ('89)/Susan Yahia ('91)

Dr. Aye Unnoppet ('00)  
Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)  
Dr. Andrew Wakstein ('93)  
Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

## 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Ms. Mary Smith  
Dr. Bridget Bellingar ('86)  
Dr. Shaughn Bennett ('86)  
Dr. Camille Z. Bentley ('92)  
Drs. Alice ('94) and Cyril Blavo  
Dr. Edgar Bolton  
Dr. Janet Bradshaw ('92)  
Dr. Kenneth Bresky ('92)  
Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)  
Dr. Kenneth Chan ('92)  
Dr. Joan Crawford ('86)  
Dr. Gaston Dana ('92)  
Dr. Alan David ('92)  
Dr. John DeCosmo ('87)  
Dr. Stephen Dyke ('91)  
Dr. Malcolm R. Freedman ('94)  
Dr. Julie Katz-Gerrish ('93)  
Dr. Lee L. Gibson ('85)  
Dr. Dana Chaykin Glover ('90)  
Dr. Diana Graves ('86)  
Dr. A. Alvin Greber  
Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)  
Dr. Nancy Harpold ('96)  
Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)  
Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)  
Dr. Nabil Itani ('00)  
Dr. Andrew Kahn ('91)  
Dr. Barry Karpel ('89)  
Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)  
Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)  
Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)  
Dr. James Liang ('99)  
Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)  
Dr. R. Jackeline Moljo ('95)  
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Neer  
Dr. Anjali Noble ('97)  
Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)  
NSU-COM Class of 1994  
Dr. Nelson Onaro ('92)  
Dr. William E. Osborn, III ('96)  
Dr. Anthony Ottaviani  
Dr. Edward Packer  
Dr. Raimundo Pastor ('93)  
Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)  
Dr. Ramsey B. Pevsner ('03)  
Mr. John Potomski

# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

Dr. David Rabaja ('94)  
Dr. George Ramie ('96)  
Dr. David Ratcliffe ('92)  
Dr. Saul Rigau ('89)  
Dr. Hector Rodriguez ('90)  
Dr. Steven Sager ('90)  
Dr. David D. Sarkarati ('00)  
Dr. Lawrence Schwartz ('90)  
Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman ('93)  
Dr. John Yozen Shih ('91)  
Dr. William Sjovald II ('96)  
Dr. William H. Stager ('89)  
Dr. Joseph Stasio ('91)  
Dr. Donald Teplitz ('85)  
Ms. Louise Todaro  
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello ('91)  
Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)  
Dr. Ira Weiner  
Dr. Margaret Wilkinson  
Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

## Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Kelly Adams ('88)  
Dr. Comfort Omobola Adewumi ('00)  
Dr. Barnet Alpert  
Dr. Richard Appleby ('93)  
Dr. Thomas Anderson ('98)  
Dr. Barbara Arcos ('94)  
Dr. Leslie Arroyo-Barrows ('86)  
Dr. Shoaib M. Ayubi  
Dr. Joseph F. Barakeh ('97)  
Dr. Daniel Barkus  
Dr. Douglas Baska ('86)  
Dr. Paul Bates ('86)  
Dr. Ronald Bekic ('04)  
Dr. R. Patrick Bell  
Dr. Peggy Benzing ('87)  
Dr. Deidra Bergmann ('85)  
Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)  
Dr. Behnam Birgani ('93)  
Dr. Melissa Broadman ('98)  
Dr. Juanita M. Brown ('91)  
Dr. George Campbell ('99)  
Dr. Maureen Campbell ('89)  
Dr. Octavia M. Cannon  
Dr. Robert Cano ('95)  
Dr. James Caschette  
Dr. Hazmer Cassim ('05)  
Dr. Maria Catalano ('89)  
Ms. Ann Cawley  
Dr. Charles Chodorow ('89)  
Dr. David Cisko ('88)  
Dr. Jules Cohen  
Dr. Stan Cohen  
Dr. Robert Darrel Collins ('93)  
Mr. Scott Colton  
Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98)

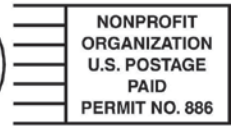
Dr. Robert D'Amico ('87)  
Dr. Anthony Dardano ('90)  
Dr. Christopher Davis ('89)  
Ms. Harriet Deissler ('87)  
Dr. Hector Delgado ('90)  
Dr. Jon and Janee Dodds  
Dr. Cynthia Chobanian Egan ('89)  
Dr. George Elias ('99)  
Dr. Salvatore Finazzo ('96)  
Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek ('90)  
Dr. Gary Gary  
Dr. Steven Gillon ('86)  
Dr. Brent Gordon ('88)  
Dr. Joanna L. Greenblatt-Drowos ('04)  
Ms. Marcia Groverman  
Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock ('86)  
Dr. Heidi Handman ('90)  
Dr. Jimmy Hankins ('88)  
Dr. Edward Hartwig  
Dr. William Hayes ('89)  
Dr. David Heller ('85)  
Dr. David C. Hellman ('88)  
Dr. Richard Herman ('89)  
Dr. Marc Herschelman ('91)  
Dr. Leslie Herzog ('87)  
Dr. William Holt ('86)  
Dr. Myron Howell  
Dr. Lawrence Jacobson  
Dr. Thelma Jamison  
Drs. Kurt Kantzler ('93) and Yoyen Lau ('93)  
Donna Kaplan  
Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)  
Dr. Robin Kesselman ('85)  
Dr. Youssef Khodor ('95)  
Dr. Frank Kiick ('88)  
Dr. Mi Kim ('90)  
Dr. Laura Kimbro ('90)  
Dr. Mark Khorsandi ('99)  
Dr. Stephen Krathen  
Dr. Mark A. Kucker ('89)  
Dr. Michael Landman ('88)  
Dr. Michele Lapayowker ('90)  
Dr. Kim Lark ('94)  
Dr. Tracie Leonhardt ('92)  
Dr. Andrew Lepoff ('86)  
Dr. Lily Limsuvanrot ('02)  
Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox ('88)  
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Dr. Leonardo Lopez ('99)  
Dr. Jason Lue ('99)  
Dr. Sonal Majmundar ('94)  
Dr. Anthony Marchese ('01)  
Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally ('93)  
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Dr. Arnold Melnick  
Dr. Michelle Mendez ('96)  
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Dr. Laila Mozdab ('92)  
Dr. Lynita Mullins ('06)

Dr. Jeffrey Newfield ('91)  
Dr. Iran Niroomand-Rad ('89)  
Dr. Robert Nisenbaum ('90)  
Dr. Nelson Olaguibel ('87)  
Dr. Aeyal Oren ('99)  
Mr. Alexander Packman  
Dr. Greta Amy Peck ('86)  
Dr. Brent Penhall ('07)  
Dr. Jorge Perez ('90)  
Dr. Antonio Ramirez ('90)  
Dr. Ravinder Randhawa ('92)  
Dr. Michael Rasansky ('06)  
Dr. Marcos Rejtman ('94)  
Dr. Jeffrey Rich ('92)  
Dr. Mark Ritch ('88)  
Dr. Christopher D. Robert ('99)  
Dr. Michael Rohan ('01)  
Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg ('90)  
Dr. E. Larry Roycraft ('93)  
Dr. Allan Rubin  
Dr. Robert Ruffolo ('88)  
Dr. David Saltzman  
Dr. Stuart A. Sandler ('86)  
Dr. Melvin Sarnow  
Dr. Theodore Schock ('87)  
Dr. Andrew Schwartz ('03)  
Dr. Sandra Schwemmer  
Dr. Robert Sculthorpe  
Dr. Stuart Shalit ('90)  
Dr. Josephine Shallo-Hoffman  
Dr. John Shover  
Mr. Stanley Silverman  
Dr. Rita Sivils ('92)  
Dr. Scott W. Smith ('94)  
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Snyder  
Dr. Marian St. Petery ('00)  
Dr. John H. Stanton ('90)  
Dr. Margaret Starr  
Dr. Mark Stich ('87)  
Dr. Colene Stout  
Dr. James Sullivan ('87)  
Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan ('88)  
Dr. Richard J. Susi  
Dr. James H. Taylor  
Dr. Richard R. Thacker ('92)  
Dr. David Thomas  
Dr. Stephen A. Tramill ('88)  
Dr. Dafna Trites ('94)  
Dr. Claudine Ward ('02)  
Dr. Douglas P. Webster  
Dr. Richard Weisberg ('93)  
Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)  
Dr. Sharon White-Findley ('86)  
Dr. John E. Williams ('96)  
Dr. Michael Williams ('00)  
Dr. Scott Yagger ('89)  
Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)  
Dr. Adrian M. Zachary ('98)  
Dr. Christopher Zub ('99)  
Dr. Steven Zucker





Health Professions Division  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018



# 2010 Calendar of Events

## **January 29-31, 2010**

### *14th Annual Alumni Reunion and CME Program*

Renaissance Hotel in Plantation (social events) and NSU-HPD Campus (CME)

Welcome Reception on January 29

CME Seminars on January 30-31 in the Morris Auditorium

Dinner Banquet and Living Tribute Award Presentation on January 30

## **February 18-21, 2010**

### *107th Annual FOMA Annual Convention*

Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, Florida

Alumni Reception – February 19, 2010 (Location TBA)

## **July 28-August 1, 2010**

### *FSACOFPP Annual Convention and National Family Practice Update*

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, Florida

## **September 24-26, 2010**

### *FOMA Mid-Year Seminar*

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida