

Solomon A. Berson Medical Achievement Awards for 2009

At Medical Alumni Reunion Day, April 4, 2009, Executive Vice President and Vice Dean Andrew W. Litt, M.D. ('83), recognized four alumni physicians for excellence in their fields, and bestowed honorary alumnus status on a well-known M.D.-writer:

AWARD IN BASIC SCIENCE

JOEL MOSS, M.D., PH.D. ('72), is deputy chief of the translational medicine branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). After earning his M.D. and a Ph.D. in biochemistry at NYU and completing his residency at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Moss joined the NHLBI as a researcher. His work there has centered on the molecular and cellular biology of destructive lung disease, particularly on how infection, inflammation, and genetic modifiers influence disease progression and severity.

In addition to serving in many advisory positions and chairing numerous international conferences, Dr. Moss has also served since 1979 as a physician in the medical intensive care unit at the Clinical Center of the NIH. His many honors include the Melvin M. Snider Chemistry Award, NYU's Founders Day Award, the American Federation for Clinical Research Young Investigator Award, the Public Health Service Meritorious Service Medal, and the National Institutes of Health Director's Award.

AWARD IN HEALTH SCIENCE

LONNIE R. BRISTOW, M.D. ('57), has practiced medicine in San Pablo, CA, since 1964, following residency training in San Francisco and New York. After serving five years on the board of trustees of the American Medical Association (AMA) in the 1980s, followed by three years on its executive committee and a year chairing its board, Dr. Bristow was elected AMA president in 1995—the first African-American to head the 300,000-member organization.

He has also been active with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences, where he chaired the IOM's committee that encouraged increasing diversity in the healthcare workforce, and also chaired the Commit-

tee on Medical Evaluation of Veterans for Disability Compensation.

Dr. Bristow has traveled to South Africa and Lesotho at the U.S. State Department's request to speak on HIV prevention and education. And he recently pressured the Joint Chiefs of Staff to allow military physicians and chaplains to work together to identify maltreatment of prisoners and other potential abuses.

Dr. Bristow's many honors include election to Alpha Omega Alpha, California's Most Distinguished Internist Award, an honorary Doctor of Military Medicine, and honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Morehouse, City College of New York, and Wayne State.

AWARD IN CLINICAL SCIENCE

ANN MARIE SCHMIDT, M.D. ('83), remained at NYU for her medical residency and chief residency as well as a fellowship in hematology and medical oncology, before being named to Columbia University's faculty in the Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics and the Department of Medicine's Division of Molecular Medicine. She later joined the surgery department, and since 2003 she has been chief of the Surgical Science Division and the Gerald and Janet Carrus Professor of Surgical Science.

Dr. Schmidt's basic and translational research has focused on how RAGE (Receptor for Advanced Glycation End-products), a cell-surface receptor that exacerbates inflammation when activated, contributes to heart disease-related vascular injury, particularly in diabetes. Her many honors include election to Alpha Omega Alpha, the Harold and Golden Lamport Prize for Excellence in Clinical Research, the Schunk Prize for Medicine from Justus-Liebig University, and the Mary Jane Kugel Award for Juvenile Diabetes Research.

JULIA ZELMANOVICH YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

TREVER G. BIVONA, M.D., PH.D. ('05), earned a doctorate in cell and molecular biology along with his M.D., then completed his residency at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital before returning to New York. He is now a research fellow in the human oncology and pathogenesis program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. His research is currently focused on elucidating the molecular pathways of oncogene dependence, an area where he has already made significant contributions.

Dr. Bivona has authored 10 peer-reviewed articles, as well as five book chapters and reviews. He has received the American Heart Association Undergraduate Research Award, the Pfizer Undergraduate Research Award, the Vanderbilt University Research Excellence Award, the NIH Medical Scientist Training Program Award, the NYU Outstanding Medical Science Writing Award, and he holds a patent for the prenyl-electrostatic switch.

HONORARY ALUMNUS, CLASS OF 2009

LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN, M.D., is a clinical professor of medicine at NYU and a nationally known health reporter for *The New York Times* since joining the newspaper's science news staff in 1969. After earning his M.D. from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1962, Dr. Altman interrupted his residency at San Francisco's Mt. Zion Hospital to edit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* and to help set up a measles immunization program in West Africa. He then became chief of the U.S. Public Health Service's Division of Epidemiology and Immunization in Washington, before attending the University of Washington in Seattle to complete his residency and a fellowship in medical genetics.

A member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, he is a three-time recipient of the American Heart Association's Howard W. Blakeslee Award, as well as its Howard Lewis Career Award. He also won the George Polk Award for his series on AIDS in Africa, and the first Victor Cohn Prize for Excellence in Medical Science Reporting from the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing. ●

1940s

BARRY A. FRIEDMAN, M.D. ('42), recently published *That's Life: It's Sexually Transmitted and Terminal*, which is his eighth book. He and his wife of 63 years live in a retirement community in San Diego.

SEYMOUR JACOBSON, M.D. ('43M), has retired from his practice in psychiatry.

DANIEL LIEBOWITZ, M.D. ('46), has published two books about unusual physicians since he retired—*The Physician and the Slave Trade* and *The Last Expedition*.

1950s

IRA J. GELB, M.D. ('51), ('48WSC), received a 2009 Opal Award from the Rotary Club of Boca Raton, FL, for health and medicine volunteerism.

MAURICE A. MUFSON, M.D. ('57), was named an Honorary Alumnus by NYU School of Medicine and the Alumni Association in May 2007. He is professor of medicine emeritus and chairman of medicine emeritus at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. He and his wife, Deedee, have lived in Huntington for 33 years.

1960s

RICHARD F. EDLICH, M.D. ('62), PH.D., and 11 other scientists submitted a citizen's petition to the Food and Drug Administration to ban cornstarch from examination and surgical gloves.

LAURENCE E. KARP, M.D. ('63), lives in Seattle. His sixth mystery novel, *The King of Ragtime*, was published last year by the Poisoned Pen Press.

SEYMOUR KATZ, M.D., ('64), has been awarded the Townsend Harris Medal by the City College of New York (CCNY) for his professional career achievement and work as chairman of the scholarship committee for needy Bronx High School of Science students to attend CCNY. A clinical professor of medicine at NYU School of Medicine and an attending gastroenterologist at North Shore University Hospital-Long Island Jewish Healthcare Systems and St. Francis Hospital, he has been in practice at Nassau Gastroenterology Associates, P.C., since 1970.

RICHARD D. KRUGMAN, M.D. ('68), has been appointed chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. The program empowers physicians to promote healthcare reform through research and policy change. He will continue to serve as vice chancellor for Health Affairs, dean, and professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where he has taught pediatric medicine since 1985.

1970s

MARK H. PODWAL, M.D. ('70), gave a lecture during the opening reception of Doctored Drawings, an exhibition at NYU Langone Medical Center that featured a selection of his medical-themed artworks. His drawings were on display in the Smilow Gallery from October 23, 2008, through January 2, 2009. *House of Life: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague*, a documentary film that he wrote and produced, was screened at the Medical Center last November.

STEVEN C. FISKE, M.D. ('74), has been reappointed by Gov. Jon Corzine of New Jersey to that state's Public Broadcasting Authority for a fourth consecutive four-year term. He serves on the commission that oversees the state public broadcasting system, including New Jersey Network and National Public Radio. He practices gastroenterol-

ogy in West Orange and Kearny, NJ, and is associate professor of medicine at Seton Hall University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He resides in West Orange, NJ, with his wife of 37 years, Marsha. His son, Joshua Fiske, M.D. ('99), practices urology in New Jersey. **CAROLYN BARLEY BRITTON, M.D. ('75), ('75 GSAS)**, has been inaugurated as the 109th president of the National Medical Association, an organization working to advance medicine for people of African descent through education, advocacy, and health policy. She is associate professor of clinical neurology at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, and associate attending physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

SHELDON M. FELDMAN, M.D. ('75), has been appointed chief of breast surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons.

E. ALBERT REECE, M.D. ('78), PH.D., M.B.A., was the honoree and recipient of the NYU School of Medicine Alumni Leadership Award at the Washington, DC, Alumni Brunch on September 21, 2008. He is vice president for medical affairs, the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Maryland, where he also holds professorships in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medicine and Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology.

VERONICA M. CATANESE, M.D. ('79), M.B.A. ('07 STERN), is the new senior associate dean for academic affairs at the new (first class slated for 2011) Hofstra University School of Medicine, which is in partnership with the North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System.

JOHN G. CSERNANSKY, M.D., ('79), was appointed the Lizzie Gilman Professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in March 2008.

MARC SAGEMAN, M.D. ('79), ('82 PH.D. GSAS), ('77 GSAS), a forensic psychiatrist, was the New York City Police Department's first scholar in residence. He conducted terrorism workshops for investigators and advised NYPD analysts on their assessments of future threats. He is the author of *Leaderless Jihad: Terror Networks in the Twenty-First Century*, which was published last year.

Alumni Deaths

Martin Spatz, M.D. ('40), '36WSC

Bernard Resnick, M.D. ('43)

Albert Kass, M.D. ('40), '35A

Kenneth M. Gang, M.D. ('43D), '40WSC

Sheldon E. Greisman, M.D. ('49)

Edward S. Greenwald, M.D. ('52)

Julius Korein, M.D. ('53), '49A

Cecil B. Broderick, M.D. ('55)

George C. Kaplan, M.D. ('59)

Sander Peck, M.D. ('60)

William S. Lewis, M.D. ('62)

Peter A. Lefkow, M.D. ('72)

Claudia McClintock, M.D. ('76)

Donald S. Gerber, HS Ophthalmology ('79)

Faculty Deaths

Douglas Meyer, M.D., clinical assistant professor of medicine

E. Roy John, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry

1980s

WILLIAM J. COLE, M.D. ('80), has been named Physician of the Year by the NYU Langone Medical Center Auxiliary and was honored on October 27, 2008, at the auxiliary's 50th anniversary celebration at the Metropolitan Club.

ROBERT M. AARONSON, M.D. ('88), received the 2008 Arizona Laureate Award from the American College of Physicians (ACP), Arizona chapter. He is the executive director of the Tucson Hospitals Medical Education Program, clinical associate professor of medicine at the University of Arizona, and associate director of the University of Arizona Internal Medicine Residency Program.

1990s

JESSICA COOPER FOLTIN, M.D. ('90), director of the Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Transport Program at Tisch Hospital, and her husband, George Foltin, M.D., director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Bellevue Hospital, were honored by KiDS of NYU at its Springfling Gala for their contributions to both institutions.

IN-KYU YOON, M.D. ('93), is a lieutenant colonel in the army, serving as assistant chief of the Department of Virology at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Bangkok, Thailand.

RICHARD A. FALCONE, JR., M.D. ('95), M.P.H., is assistant professor of surgery in the Division of Pediatric and Thoracic Surgery, associate director of the Pediatric Trauma Program, and director of the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

FRITZ FRANCOIS, M.D. ('97), ('07 M.S. MED.) '93 WSC, has been appointed assistant dean for academic affairs and diversity. He completed his residency and gastroenterology fellowship at NYU. During his chief residency, he created the Department of Internal Medicine Organization for Nurturing Diversity (DIAMOND) to help with resident recruitment, mentoring, development, and retention.

ANTHONY SHIH, M.D. ('97), has rejoined IPRO, an independent quality improvement and evaluation organization, as chief quality officer and vice president of strategic planning. He spent the past two years at The Commonwealth Fund, a national foundation working to improve U.S. health system performance, and held senior-level positions at IPRO from 2001 to 2006,

including vice president of healthcare quality improvement.

NICOLE SUTTON, M.D. ('98), and her husband, Robert Sutton, are the proud parents of twin girls born on April 7, 2008.

2000s

GERARD J. TEPEDINO, M.D. ('00), ('96 CAS) and his wife, Jackie, welcomed the newest addition to their family, a baby girl, on November 5, 2008.

DIANA LYNN ASCHETTINO-MANEVITZ, M.D. ('01), ('93 STEINHARDT), finished a fellowship in adolescent medicine at Schneider Children's Hospital and is now assistant professor of clinical pediatrics in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Stony Brook University.

CHIRAG R. KAPADIA, M.D. ('02), completed an endocrine fellowship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in July 2008.

CHRISTINA A. TENNYSON, M.D. ('02), married Richard J. Naddeo on August 9, 2008, at St. Francis de Sales Church in Belle Harbor, NY. She began working at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan in September 2008 after completing a fellowship in gastroenterology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Her husband is a counsel for the New York City Economic Development Corporation.

JEANINE A. DALY, M.D. ('03), and Andrew H. Gillette were married on August 30, 2008 at the Woodbury Country Club in Woodbury, NY. She is a chief resident in dermatology at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Her husband is a marketing manager at American Express in Manhattan.

RICHA AGARWAL, M.D. ('05), married Dr. Rajiv Seth Swamy on October 4, 2008, at the River East Art Center in Chicago. She is a fellow in cardiovascular medicine and her husband is chief resident for internal medicine at the University of Chicago Medical Center ●

Faint of Heart

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five children. "They've all been screened, and they don't have it," Jessica says. Yet genetic testing is the only way to know for sure. Even family members with normal ECGs may in fact be at risk: up to 35% of gene carriers have no symptoms—and a normal QT interval.

Even these "silent carriers" need to know their status so they can limit aggressive physical activity. What's more, certain prescription and over-the-counter medications—ranging from cold and

allergy products to antibiotics—can be life threatening to them. By prolonging the QT interval, some of these drugs can send people with long QT syndrome into cardiac arrest. For Jessica, familiarizing herself with this list has become crucial.

Family planning issues also loom large for everyone involved. One reason these genetic diseases continue to spread so widely throughout families is that people have children before realizing they are affected. In many cases, parents barely have time to process the tragedy of losing one child to long QT syndrome before learning that another of their children—or a grandchild, or a sibling—is also at risk. "We definitely want children," Jessica says. "And that's something definitely to consider: Do we want a kid who has this heart condition? So we've also considered adoption."

"The future is to try to cure these diseases," Dr. Priori adds. The promise of gene therapy is that a physician may someday be able to replace the defective gene in a patient's heart with a healthy one. That type of cure, however, is a long way off. In the meantime, Dr. Priori's team will continue to search for better drugs and therapies, and try to raise the level of awareness among physicians. "We need to be proactive and reach out," she says, "because every month, every year lost can mean more victims of sudden cardiac death." ●

Theo's Story

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to do after she took Theo home. How to handle reflux? The bassinet is on an incline—should I do that at home? When they bathed Theo and the other babies at night, they invited Audrey to come and observe. At first, Theo got a sponge bath, but eventually they put him in a round metal basin. "I hesitate to call it a tub," she says, laughing.

Finally, Theo was ready to go home. He was so ready that a nurse had nicknamed him Houdini. One day, she looked into his crib and saw an empty blanket. Theo was lying at the top of the bed, having shed the blanket he was swaddled in as if it were a cocoon he no longer needed.

On June 4, 119 days after he arrived in the NICU, Audrey buckled her seven-pounder into his car seat for the first time and carried him downstairs to the street where his father was waiting in the Jeep, dreaming about teaching his boy to swim and ride a bike, just as his father had taught him. ●