

New Chairman of Pediatrics Appointed



MICHAEL L. WEITZMAN, M.D., has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, replacing Benard P. Dreyer, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, who served as Interim Chairman. Dr. Weitzman is also the Pat and John Rosenwald Professor of Pediatrics.

Previously, he was Executive Director of the American Academy of Pediatrics Center for Child Health Research and Professor and Associate Chairman of Pediatrics

DR. MICHAEL L. WEITZMAN

at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. There, he was Director of the Division of General Pediatrics and Pediatrician in Chief at Rochester General Hospital. Prior to that, he was Director of Maternal and Child Health for the City of Boston and Director of General Pediatrics and the Fellowship Training Program in Academic General Pediatrics at Boston City Hospital and the Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Weitzman has researched and written extensively on such diverse issues as childhood lead poisoning, chronic illness, passive and prenatal exposure to cigarette smoke, breast-feeding, excessive school absences, and the epidemiology of children's mental health problems, health risk behaviors, school failure, and asthma.

He also served as chairman of the Center for Disease Control's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory and the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars Program. In 2005 he was the recipient of the 2005 Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Environmental Health Recognition Award.

Dr. Weitzman earned his M.D. from the State University of New York (SUNY), Upstate Medical University College of Medicine, in Syracuse. He remained at SUNY Upstate for his internship and residency (in pediatrics), ultimately serving as Chief Resident. ●

Dr. Seth Orlow Chosen Chairman of Dermatology

SETH J. ORLOW, M.D., PH.D., Professor of Dermatology, Cell Biology, and Pediatrics, has been appointed Chairman of the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Dermatology. He replaces Nicholas A. Soter, M.D., who served as Interim Chairman after illness required longtime Chairman Irwin M. Freedberg, M.D., to step down prior to his death in 2005. Dr. Orlow, a member of the faculty since 1990, was founding Director of the Pediatric & Adolescent Dermatology unit, and has been Vice Chairman for Research since 2004. He holds the first named chair in Pediatric Dermatology in the country, having been appointed the Samuel Weinberg Professor of Pediatric Dermatology in 2002.

Internationally recognized for his clinical expertise in childhood, congenital, and genetic disorders affecting the skin, hair, and nails, Dr. Orlow has been a principal investigator on major grants from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and the National Eye Institute (NEI) in the areas of melanoma therapy and the

molecular and cellular biology of skin and eye pigmentation. He has also been an investigator in numerous clinical trials.

Dr. Orlow serves on the editorial boards of *Archives of Dermatology* and *Pediatric Dermatology*. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a member of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology and the Society for Investigative Dermatology. He was elected to the American Dermatological



DR. SETH J. ORLOW

Association, and has been honored with a lifetime achievement award from the American Skin Association.

Dr. Orlow received his A.B. magna cum laude from Harvard University. He earned his M.D. and Ph.D. (in molecular pharmacology) at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Following an internship in pediatrics at the

Mount Sinai Medical Center, he completed his residency and fellowship training in dermatology at the Yale University School of Medicine. ●

Dafna Bar-Sagi, Ph.D., To Head Biochemistry

DAFNA BAR-SAGI, PH.D., has been named Chairwoman of the Department of Biochemistry. One of the country's leading molecular biologists, she is widely known for elucidating the cellular pathways involved in controlling the growth of cells. Dr. Bar-Sagi previously headed the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook. A native of Israel, she earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from Bar-Ilan University and her Ph.D. from SUNY at Stony Brook. After receiving her doctorate, she joined Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island as a postdoctoral fellow, eventually serving as a Senior Staff Investigator there. She then joined SUNY as an Associate Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, ultimately serving as Chairwoman of the Department.

A prolific researcher, Dr. Bar-Sagi has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research papers in leading journals on a wide range of topics centered on the molecular mechanisms underlying tumor and blood vessel formation, and survival of

cells. Dr. Bar-Sagi has devoted considerable research to ras proteins, essential elements in complex pathways that control cellular growth. Ras proteins have captured the interest of cancer researchers for many years because abnormal forms of the proteins are present in many types of tumors.

Dr. Bar-Sagi has received many prestigious grants, including most recently a MERIT award (for Method to Extend Research in Time) from the

National Institutes of Health. This highly competitive grant frees researchers who are widely recognized as leaders in their fields from the need to reapply for funding every three or four years. The award allows her to concentrate on ras proteins and their role in pancreatic cancer, which is her main research focus.

Dr. Bar-Sagi is an editor of *Molecular and Cellular Biology* and serves on the editorial boards of other journals and on the board of scientific counselors for the National Cancer Institute. She follows Dr. Nigel Godson, who led the department through its transition into the era of molecular biology, genomics, and proteomics. He will remain a professor in the department. ●



DR. DAFNA BAR-SAGI

H. Leon Pachter, M.D., Named Chairman of Surgery

H. LEON PACTER, M.D., has been named Chairman of the Department of Surgery. His roots at NYU School of Medicine stretch back to his days as a student and Chief Resident in the early 1970s. Dr. Pachter has an unbroken record of outstanding contributions—as Director of the Trauma Service at Bellevue Hospital from 1978 to 1998 and Executive Director from 1999 to 2006, Director of Bellevue's Surgical Intensive Care Unit from 1978 to 1997, Interim Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Chairman of the Medical Board of Tisch Hospital, Vice Chairman for Faculty Affairs, Division Chief of General Surgery, author and clinical scientist, and master laparoscopic surgeon.

Known for his passion, energy, and skill, Dr. Pachter has perfected a number of life-saving techniques over the years, among them a method of salvaging severely damaged livers and spleens that drastically reduced the mortality rate for

such injuries. In 1975 he was awarded a fellowship by the American Cancer Society. By introducing advances in minimally invasive surgical techniques, Dr. Pachter has played a key role in making NYU's surgical service one of the finest in the country.



DR. H. LEON PACTER

The author of more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and numerous book chapters, Dr. Pachter serves on the Editorial Board of *The Journal of the American College of Surgeons* and *The Journal of Trauma and Critical Care*. The American College of Surgeons has designated him a mentor for young female academic surgeons in the U.S.

Dr. Pachter, now the George Stewart David Professor, succeeds Thomas S. Riles, M.D., who, as Associate Dean for Medical Education and Technology, is pursuing novel approaches to surgical education. ●

Dr. Malaspina New Chairwoman of Psychiatry

DOLORES MALASPINA, M.D., M.P.H., has been appointed Chairwoman of the Department of Psychiatry, which is world renowned for the depth and breadth of its expertise. Previously, she was Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Director of the Clinical Neurobiology Division in Medical Genetics at New York State Psychiatric Institute. There she established an inpatient schizophrenia research unit and opened an outpatient center aimed at preventing psychotic disorders by treating early symptoms.

After earning her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Dr. Malaspina did postgraduate training at Columbia University Medical Center, where she served as Chief Resident in psychiatry and received its Horowitz Award for Clinical Excellence. She later did an extramural NIMH Schizophrenia Clinical Research Fellowship. Dr. Malaspina earned an M.P.H. in

epidemiology from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and an M.S. in zoology from Rutgers University. She did her undergraduate work at Boston University, where she studied environmental biology.

Dr. Malaspina was the first to identify and explain the significant association between increasing paternal age and a child's risk for schizophrenia, a factor now known to account for up to a quarter of all cases. She has also



DR. DOLORES MALASPINA

elucidated a variety of other risk factors for psychiatric diseases, including prenatal exposures and family history. In 1990 she received an NIMH Schizophrenia Academic Award to support her development as a researcher, academician, and administrative leader. ●

Mariano J. Rey, M.D., Named to Two New Positions



DR. MARIANO J. REY.

MARIANO J. REY, M.D., has been appointed to the newly created positions of Senior Associate Dean for Community Health Affairs and Director of the Institute for Community Health and Research. The Office of Community Health grew out of the Dean's Council on Institutional Diversity. Its mission is to provide solutions for health disparities in minority populations by better understanding their root causes.

For 25 years Dr. Rey has been a member of the Department of Medicine and its Division of Cardiology, as well as the Department of Physiology and Neuroscience. For the last six years he has served as Dean of Students, taking individual care of the personal and academic needs of some 700 students. He has also helped modify the curriculum, shape the residential environment, and develop the Master Scholars Program. In 2002 he received the Best Dean of Students Award from the Medical Society of New York.

In 2003 Dr. Rey created the Centers for Health Disparities Research (now incorporated into the Institute for Community Health and Research), which rapidly became a national model for its comprehensive approach to examining the possible genetic, environmental, and socioeconomic causes of health disparities. The institute's centers are largely supported by the NIH, and also by New York City and State, with a total of some \$20 million in grants, which Dr. Rey and his colleagues have obtained in just over two years. ●

Dr. Abramson Becomes Vice Dean for Education, Faculty, and Academic Affairs



DR. STEVEN B. ABRAMSON

STEVEN B. ABRAMSON, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Pathology, has been appointed Vice Dean for Education, Faculty, and Academic Affairs. He formerly served as Vice Dean for Medical Education and Associate Dean for Curriculum.

At the Hospital for Joint Diseases, he was Chairman of the Department of Rheumatology and Medicine and Physician in Chief. He is currently Director of the Division of Rheumatology at NYU School of Medicine. Since 2004 Dr. Abramson has served as Associate Dean for Clinical Research.

A summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Dartmouth College, Dr. Abramson earned his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. He arrived at NYU Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital for his internship in 1974, and later served as Chief Resident in Medicine. He trained in Rheumatology at NYU under his mentor, Dr. Gerald Weissmann. Dr. Abramson joined the faculty in 1979, rising to the rank of Professor in 1996.

The Vice Dean for Education, Faculty, and Academic Affairs oversees faculty affairs, including appointments, promotions, tenure issues, and departmental reviews; undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate education, including ongoing reforms that continue to enhance the role of humanism and technology in the medical curriculum; continuing medical education; pre-college programs; the admissions process; and the School's accreditation. ●

Richard P. Novick, M.D., Elected to National Academy of Sciences

RICHARD P. NOVICK, M.D., Professor of Microbiology and Medicine, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Membership in the National Academy is widely considered one of the highest accolades that can be accorded to a scientist. A leader in the field of molecular pathogenesis, Dr. Novick has devoted his career to the study of *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacterium that causes a wide variety of illnesses and is the leading cause of hospital-acquired infections. In recent years the bacterium, which is resistant to most commonly used antibiotics, has infected an increasing number of people outside hospitals as well, posing a serious public health risk. Dr. Novick's laboratory is dedicated to understanding the mechanisms by which the bacterium causes disease, and to devising ways to block its effects. His laboratory discovered and characterized a master gene, or global regulator, which controls a signaling pathway in the bacterium that is responsible for the production and release of its toxins and many other disease-causing products.

Dr. Novick earned his M.D. with honors in microbiology from NYU School of Medicine in 1959 and was a post-doctoral fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research in London. After completing his residency at Vanderbilt University Hospital, he became a special post-doctoral fellow at The Rockefeller University. Dr. Novick was Director of the Public Health Research Institute in New York from 1982 to 1992. An adjunct professor at the



DR. RICHARD P. NOVICK

School for many years, he joined the faculty in 1993. A recipient of the Solomon Berson Medical Alumni Achievement Award, he has served on many committees and advisory boards, including the Board of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York. ●