

GRAPEVINE

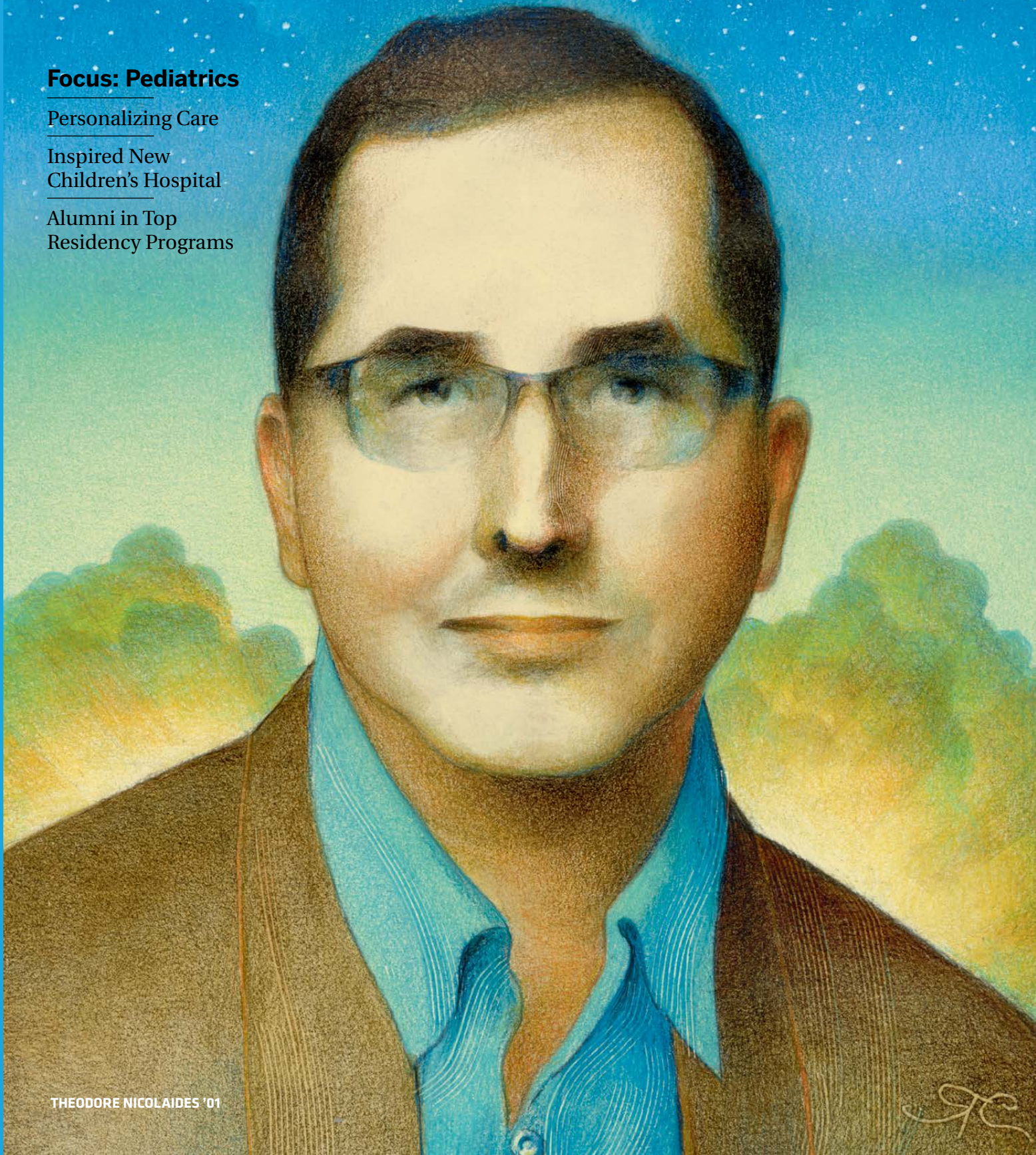
THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
OF NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
FALL 2018

Focus: Pediatrics

Personalizing Care

Inspired New
Children's Hospital

Alumni in Top
Residency Programs



THEODORE NICOLAIDES '01



A Historic Medical Breakthrough: Free Tuition!

NYU School of Medicine is now offering full-tuition scholarships to all of its current and future students in the MD degree program.

Alumni giving helped us achieve this landmark; now your philanthropy is essential for sustaining our full-tuition scholarship initiative in perpetuity. Help us continue to dramatically reduce medical student debt, so future doctors can pursue their true passions.

For more information, contact Diana Robertson at (212) 404-3510 or Diana.Robertson@nyulangone.org

Make an online donation at nyulangone.org/give/scholarships

PHOTO BY JULIANA THOMAS



Ushering in a New Era



This August, a new chapter was added to NYU School of Medicine's legacy as a pioneer in medical education. At our White Coat Ceremony, we were thrilled to announce that we are the nation's first top-ranked medical school to offer full-tuition scholarships to every student enrolled in our MD degree program. The tuition-free initiative is driven by a moral imperative to bring forth the broadest, most talented group of students to our School and to medicine while enabling all graduates to pursue their greatest passions. As peer institutions take notice of our leadership on this crucial issue, we anticipate many will follow suit.

Our tuition-free announcement capped a transformational summer, during which we also celebrated a ribbon cutting at the Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Pavilion and Hassenfeld Children's Hospital—34th Street. Building these facilities from the ground up afforded a unique opportunity for us to think holistically about how creative design and advanced technologies could be leveraged to empower our faculty, staff, and medical students to attain new levels of excellence in patient-centered care. As with our Science Building, these are milestones that represent the realization of our longtime vision to achieve the best in education, research, and clinical care.

Our goals for the coming decade are as ambitious as ever. They include:

- Incorporating the innovations of the Kimmel Pavilion and Hassenfeld Children's Hospital into the renovation of our flagship Tisch Hospital, new medical facilities at NYU Langone Hospital—Brooklyn, and enhancements at NYU Winthrop Hospital and system-wide
- Capitalizing on the latest in information technology—especially big data, predictive analytics, and telemedicine—to increase the safety, quality, and accessibility of life-changing services
- Investing in medicine's future by constructing state-of-the-art research

facilities for our brilliant investigators and recruits, and a cutting-edge medical education facility for our talented students

This issue of *Grapevine* explores how our care for children, in particular, exemplifies our momentum. We profile the ways Hassenfeld Children's Hospital along with the Sala Institute for Child and Family Centered Care are redefining the field today while trailblazing physician-scientists like Theodore P. Nicolaides '01 chart a course for its future. Additionally, we debut a column focused on the impressive accomplishments of our residency programs' alumni.

Together, these articles make clear that NYU Langone Health's backbone is its people: alumni, faculty, staff, students, and supporters who care so much about its success—a fact that was top of mind during our recent alumni reunion, where I had the pleasure of meeting many of you. Ours is a community full of inspiring individuals, and it is with great pride that we highlight some of them here.

Sincerely,

ROBERT I. GROSSMAN, MD
THE SAUL J. FARBER DEAN AND CEO

“NYU LANGONE HEALTH'S BACKBONE IS ITS PEOPLE: ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND SUPPORTERS WHO CARE SO MUCH ABOUT ITS SUCCESS....OURS IS A COMMUNITY FULL OF INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS.”

GRAPEVINE

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FALL 2018

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GRAPEVINE
Celia Regan
Editor

Barbara C. Mlawer
Darcy Sender
Managing Editors

Jen Swetzoff
Editorial Services

Travis Adkins
Joanna Bock
Raúl Colón
André da Loba
Sarah Jackson
Andrew Lichtenstein
Matthew Septimus
Contributors

Opto Design
Publication Design

CONTACT INFORMATION
Please contact us at
alumnirelations@nyulangone.org or
212-263-5390. You can also write
to us or visit our website.

NYU School of Medicine
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs
One Park Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10016

med.nyu.edu/alumni

NYU Langone Health comprises
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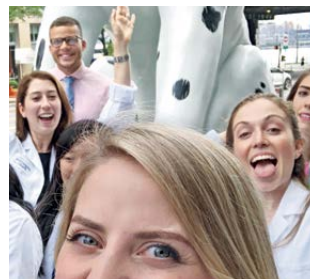
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ON THE COVER

Illustration of Theodore P. Nicolaides '01, director of pediatric neuro-oncology at the Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, by Raúl Colón



In 1966, when I graduated from NYU School of Medicine, there were approximately 3 million people with diabetes in the United States. By 2015, that number had ballooned to 24 million, largely due to the huge increase in the number of obese individuals. The tools that were available for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes were limited to urine measurements of glucose (outside a lab), insulin injections, and oral agents called sulfonylureas. Metformin from a class of drugs called biguanides was not approved in the United States until the 1990s.

The lead article in the spring issue of *Grapevine* called “Igniting a Transformation”

indicated the enormous advances that have been made and are being made in our institution alone. From an understanding of the pathophysiology of diabetes to multiple approaches to the treatment of obesity and the complications of diabetes including eye disease, neuropathy, kidney disease, and heart disease, NYU School of Medicine scientists are at the forefront. I have spent a lifetime treating people with diabetes, and the work of these scientists leaves me with a feeling of great optimism for the future.

ALAN L. RUBIN '66

Dr. Rubin is the author of 17 medical books, including *Diabetes For Dummies*, *Type 1 Diabetes For Dummies*, *Prediabetes For Dummies*, and *Diabetes Meal Planning and Nutrition For Dummies*.

I was very pleased to see, in the spring issue of *Grapevine*, that the Apple Distinguished School Award had gone to NYU School of Medicine. As mobile healthcare technology continues to advance, allowing more bedside patient

engagement with clinicians, medical schools need to integrate these tools as surely as the stethoscope has been integrated for centuries. The ability of clinicians to directly show complex imaging and have instant access to the totality of their patient’s data allows the patient to directly participate in his or her own care. It also reduces the number of “let me find that out for you” episodes, increasing patients’ trust in their clinical team. The recognition of the depth of usage of these technologies in the medical education offered at NYU [School of Medicine] means we are turning out clinicians trained for the expected technologies of the future, and shows the hard work of the educational technology team at the medical school. I for one am proud of our alma mater in this area.

HENRY FELDMAN '01

Dr. Feldman is the deputy chief medical officer for technology at IBM Watson Health in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

We'd love to hear from you! Please send your letters to the editor to alumnirelations@nyulangone.org. We reserve the right to edit for length.

Registration is Open for CME Courses at NYU



NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE provides the highest standard of continuing medical education (CME). Our CME program, which is formally recognized by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), maintains and furthers our trifold mission of the institution. We offer courses—including live activities and educational materials—in nearly every area, developed and taught by leaders in medicine from NYU Langone Health and around the world. We invite NYU School of Medicine alumni to attend our exceptional CME courses at a 15 percent discount, by entering the code NYUSOMALUM at registration.

Please visit nyulmc.org/cme for more information and to see a complete listing of course offerings.

News(s)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Full-Tuition Scholarships for All

NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE is now the first top-ranked medical school in the nation to offer full-tuition scholarships to all current and future students enrolled in its MD degree program. Robert I. Grossman, MD, the Saul J. Farber Dean and CEO of NYU Langone Health, announced the news to the incoming class at the White Coat Ceremony on August 16, 2018.

Starting this fall, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of more than 2,500 alumni, donors, and friends, students at NYU School of Medicine no longer have to worry about overwhelming financial debt.

For each of student in the MD degree program, regardless of class year, that amounts to an annual scholarship of about \$55,000 and significantly reduces the average financial debt for graduates, which was previously estimated at \$184,000.

“Tuition-free medical education goes beyond the merit and financial scholarships and debt cancellations that other academic centers have traditionally favored,” says Rafael Rivera, MD, MBA (STERN '15), associate dean for admissions and financial aid. “More importantly, by taking tuition off the table for all of our MD students, it

sends a clear signal downstream to all those considering a career in medicine that it is now within reach of everyone—regardless of their financial means.” Grants, much like merit and financial aid, are made only after students have chosen their career path, explains Dr. Rivera, who is also an alumnus of the NYU Langone Health residency program. “That’s too late if we wish to expand the pipeline to bring forth the broadest, most talented group of students, and to give them the financial freedom to choose medicine over other careers.”

“THIS DECISION RECOGNIZES A MORAL IMPERATIVE THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED, AS INSTITUTIONS PLACE AN INCREASING DEBT BURDEN ON YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ASPIRE TO BECOME PHYSICIANS.”

**ROBERT I. GROSSMAN, MD,
SAUL J. FARBER
DEAN AND CEO**



Photo: Jay Brady

Kimmel Pavilion Opens

Transforming patient care for the 21st century



IN JUNE 2018, NYU Langone opened the Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Pavilion—one of the most technologically integrated and digitally sophisticated inpatient facilities in the United States. Set within the Kimmel Pavilion is Hassenfeld Children’s Hospital—34th Street, a dedicated pediatric

BY THE NUMBERS

374

single-patient rooms

30

operating rooms and image-guided labs with four small procedure rooms

11

inpatient floors

830,000

square-foot clinical facility

inpatient facility (see page 16).

Our goal was to push the boundaries of the digital frontier,” says Nader Mherabi, senior vice president, vice dean, and chief information officer. “But we’ve been very careful not to implement technology for technology’s sake. Every decision was guided by what’s right and best for the people we serve. We’re empowering patients with personalized, convenient, state-of-the-art tools that enhance their hospital experience before, during, and after their stay.”

These innovations, some unique to NYU Langone, were developed with input from clinicians and patients. They include a variety of applications—handheld workstations for care providers, autonomous robots that transport meals and linens, and surgical navigation displays in the operating rooms, among others. But what they share is their value to patients, their families, and caregivers.

“The Kimmel Pavilion’s high-tech tools support not only physicians and nurses with real-time data as they care for patients at the bedside, but also their connections with other clinicians across NYU Langone and the entire health system,” says Paul Testa, MD, chief medical information officer and a member of the technology leadership team.

Take the Clinical Mobile Companion, which is installed on 2,600 iPhones; it enables the patient’s care team to access his or her medical record, monitor vital signs, review lab results, send secure text messages, receive alerts from patient monitoring devices, and scan identification bar codes on medication containers and wristbands. Even the hospital beds at Kimmel can be personalized, thanks to a host of sophisticated electronic features that enhance patient safety and comfort. The beds communicate *(continued on page 6)*

Left: The new surgical suites in Kimmel are built to deliver healthcare through the maximization of quality and efficiencies.

Right: Each of the inpatient rooms in Kimmel is single-bedded and thoughtfully planned with a focus on privacy and the reduction of risk of infection.

(continued from page 5)
wirelessly with Epic, NYU Langone's electronic health record system, and conform to prescribed guidelines for the patient's risks and restrictions.

A digital medication drawer, the first of its kind to be implemented at a U.S. hospital, syncs prescriptions and dosages with the patient's electronic medical record, customizing and updating its inventory. A new full-service electronic communications system called MyWall gives patients greater access to their own records. At the touch of a screen or button, patients can get to know their care team, review test results with physicians, ask questions about their treatment plan, view educational videos, and order meals that fall within the prescribed diet.

Kimmel is also a sustainable building—it's on track to receive LEED Platinum certification, which signifies that it is resource efficient, uses dramatically less energy and water, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. After the 2012 flooding caused by Hurricane Sandy, NYU Langone also took steps to ensure that the building would be resilient in the case of extreme weather events.

Last but not least, the new spaces were planned to support patients' healing. "We take a holistic view of creating environments of the highest quality for our patients and families," says Vicki Match Suna, AIA, senior vice president and vice dean for real estate development and facilities. "The Kimmel Pavilion is designed to enhance one's connection with the environment and create a sense of engagement, comfort, and calm. These features of the overall design offer opportunities for moments of mental and physical peace."

FAC Welcomes New

Meet the Faculty Alumni Council



THE SIX FACULTY MEMBERS and graduates of the School of Medicine who comprise the Faculty Alumni Council (FAC) congratulated Ariel Ostad '91 (CAS '87) on being named the new president of the NYU School of Medicine's Alumni Association Board.

"Dr. Ostad has long been a strong supporter of the School of Medicine," says FAC member and Associate Dean of Alumni Relations Anthony J. Grieco '63, '68 (Res), noting that Dr. Ostad and his wife, Alaleh, established the Alaleh and Ariel Ostad Endowed Scholarship Fund. "We know he will work closely with the committee to engage the larger alumni community in the life of the School of Medicine." (For an interview with Dr. Ostad, see page 32.)

Dr. Grieco also thanked Dr. Ostad's predecessor, Nancy H. Coles '85, who completed her term as president, for her service. "We're grateful to Dr. Coles for her leadership and dedication," says Dr. Grieco. (For more on Dr. Coles, see page 30.)



Nicole M. Hindman '01, '06 (Res)

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Hindman, associate professor in the Department of Radiology and director of female pelvic imaging, leads a number of different activities related to teaching and quality assurance in radiology and has served on several national committees.



Linda R. Tewksbury '90, '93 (Res)

Dr. Tewksbury leads the Office of Student Affairs, which supports the professional and personal development of the School of Medicine's medical students with programs, policies, and services that enhance student life, and has published a number of papers focused on evidence-based approaches to improving medical education.

Alumni Association President



**Dimitris G. Placantonakis '03,
PhD '02 (GSAS)**

Dr. Placantonakis, director of the Neurosurgical Laboratory for Stem Cell Research, is an NIH-funded neurosurgeon and researcher who focuses on the treatment of gliomas and brain tumors.



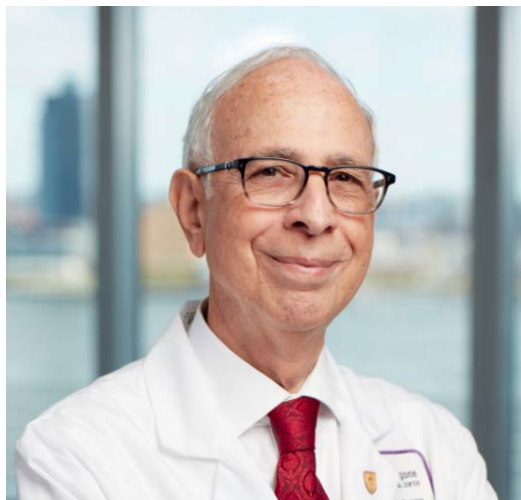
**Rafael Rivera, Jr., MD, '00 (Res),
'01 (Fellow), MBA (STERN '15)**

As associate dean for admission and financial aid, Dr. Rivera helped spearhead the School of Medicine's historic tuition-free initiative.



Mark M. Triola '98, '02 (Res)

Dr. Triola, associate dean for educational informatics and the founding director of the Institute for Innovations in Medical Education, works to create a continuously learning medical education system that includes computer-based learning tools and new ways to integrate electronic data into educational research.



**Anthony J. Grieco '63, '68 (Res)
(Ex-officio)**

Dr. Grieco, a leader of the School of Medicine's community for many years, is associate dean of alumni relations.

Visualizing the Future of Medicine

Graduation 2018

"TODAY IN MEDICINE THERE ARE TWO GREAT CLASSES OF CHALLENGES: TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE, AND TO SPREAD THOSE BENEFITS TO MORE PEOPLE. ALL OF YOU, AS HEALERS AND RESEARCHERS, WILL PLAY A ROLE ON THE FRONT LINES."

KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH, PHD, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND LAW; KEYNOTE SPEAKER

177th graduation ceremony

19 graduates of the Three-Year Accelerated MD Pathway

14 graduates with dual MD-MBA degrees

10 graduates with dual MD-PhD degrees



Photos: Joshua Bright



Record Numbers Attend 2018 Alumni Reunion Weekend

The class of 1983 boasted the largest turnout at last year's reunion—thanks to the tireless efforts of Rena Sue Brand '83. Reunion chairs are essential to a successful event.

147 new doctors **25** new Alpha Omega Alpha members



NEARLY 500 ALUMNI, students, faculty, and friends came together to celebrate NYU School of Medicine's legacy of excellence during the alumni reunion weekend in April 2018. From the kickoff welcome reception and alumni day to the festive alumni ball, record numbers of graduates reconnected and reminisced together while learning more about what's new at NYU Langone Health. Graduates from more than six decades were in attendance.

In addition to attending the annual ball with dinner and dancing held at the Ritz-Carlton in Battery Park, attendees had the chance to tour the ever-growing campus and meet current medical students. Dean and CEO Robert I. Grossman, MD, also offered an inside perspective on institutional plans and updates, while faculty members presented on the latest developments in glioma treatment and heart transplantation.

Two distinguished graduates

were honored with Alumni Achievement Awards:

- Athena Kritharis '09, BA (CAS '05), received the Julia Zelmanovich Young Alumni Award
- Ofer Levy '97, MS (GSAS '92), PhD (GSAS '96), received the Solomon A. Berson Medical Alumni Achievement Award

Anthony J. Grieco '63, associate dean for alumni relations, said during his remarks at the awards ceremony, "Reunion is not just about looking back fondly. It's about looking forward. Our School is guided by a great vision for the future, and there are many successes that we can point to, to compel more of the brightest students and the most talented faculty to join us. But far and away the most convincing example of our excellence is you, our wonderful alumni, and all you've accomplished in the world. Your outstanding skill, compassion, and dedication speak volumes."



This mural of a homeless man being helped up by a doctor is on 4th Avenue and 32nd Street in Brooklyn; another mural is on the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Cortelyou Road in Brooklyn.

NEW MURALS RAISE AWARENESS FOR THE NYC FREE CLINIC

As part of his Rudin Fellowship in Medical Ethics and Humanities last year, John Colavito '19 and an Italian street artist created two large murals in Brooklyn to promote the free healthcare services offered at the NYC Free Clinic, run by physicians and students from NYU School of Medicine. The hope is that the area's homeless population will see these murals and utilize the services at the free clinic themselves or pass on the information to people they know in need.

The Rudin Fellowship in Medical Ethics and Humanities was established as a core component of the Master Scholars Program in Humanistic Medicine (MSPHM) in 2014 through a generous grant from The Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation, Inc. The competitive program supports medical students, residents, and clinical fellows conducting innovative and creative research projects in medical humanities and biomedical ethics. Under the mentorship of expert faculty, Rudin Fellows pursue scholarship that is typically beyond the scope of traditional medical education and training, further advancing the mission of the MSPHM to promote interdisciplinary scholarship and humanistic values in medical education at NYU School of Medicine.

ALUMNI NEWS

Opening Doors for Young Doctors

Volunteers needed to host medical students and residents this fall



DURING THE PAST YEAR, 25 alumni and 17 students have participated in Help Our Students Travel (HOST), a program that connects alumni with medical students and residents traveling for their residency and fellowship interviews. By welcoming students and residents into your home, you can help ease the financial burden and stress of the interview process. Interested in learning more?

Contact Us
alumnirelations@nyulangone.org
 212-263-5390

New from Alumni Authors

Looking for your next read? Here are a few excerpts from books recently published by our graduates.

21 Public Health Case Studies on Policy and Administration, (Wolters Kluwer, 2018), by Lloyd F. Novick '65, together with Cynthia Morrow and Carole Novick, shares important case studies describing policy and administrative interventions to address public health problems or events.

Dr. Novick is professor emeritus at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*.

An excerpt from "A Case Study of Ebola Containment in Nigeria Using Principles and Practices of a Public Health Emergency Center," by Faisal M. Shuaib and Philip F. Musa (from **21 Public Health Case Studies on Policy and Administration**):

In July 2014, Patrick Sawyer, a Liberian-American diplomat who had been visiting relatives in Liberia, stepped off a plane and collapsed in Lagos, Nigeria, the most populous city in Africa. Mr. Sawyer died of Ebola five days later, becoming the first [casualty] in Nigeria associated with the devastating 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. By the time of his death, Mr. Sawyer had exposed 72 people to the lethal virus. Under the circumstances, this single event could have resulted in widespread transmission of Ebola in a densely populated country but, as Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the time, stated, Nigeria's "extensive response to a single case of Ebola shows that control is possible with rapid, focused interventions." This case study tells the story of what happened behind the scenes of Nigeria's Ebola Emergency Operations Center (EEOC).

189th and Washington: Stories from a Wonderful Bronx Neighborhood (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018), by Michael J. Napoliello '66, is a series of fictional narratives that capture the essence of the predominantly American-Italian neighborhood where he grew up and the wonderful people who lived there. Dr. Napoliello is president of PharmaSavant, LLC. An excerpt:

The apartment building took on an orange glow in the sunset. That orange glow,

per an ambitious stretch of the imagination, was somewhat reminiscent of that seen on churches in Italy. It was a nostalgic tease that escaped the awareness of all but a few of the older inhabitants of the neighborhood, whose dreams of returning to their land of birth, triumphant with dollars, were fading in concert with their tired bones and failing hearts.

Koh-Do World: Rex and the Blue Planet (Lulu Publishing Services, 2018), by Steven G. Wallach '90, is a science fiction/action adventure following the escapades of a teenager and his two friends trying to save Earth from an alien invasion. Dr. Wallach is a plastic surgeon in New York City. An excerpt:

Rex picked up his gym bag, and the three walked toward the Great Lawn, as Sam and Zach pushed their bikes along. As usual, the park was packed with all kinds of people on the Great Lawn doing all kinds of things on such a perfect fall day. Rex felt a strange pulsation in his left forearm, something he had only felt before when something really bad was going to happen. It was never more than a slight twinge, but then again, he had never really noticed that lump until a few months ago when it started to grow. With the increase in size, the pain associated with it became more intense. He grabbed it with his right hand and tried to rub the pain away, but it wouldn't go away as easily as in the past.

The winds began to pick up at a furious pace just as they made their way onto the Great Lawn, passing by people who were marking out their territory to enjoy the beautiful day. All of a sudden, the sky began to turn black, and only a few moments before there was not even a cloud in the sky. A strange eclipse of the sun began to appear, but unlike the typical solar eclipse phases that would take several hours, the sky went completely dark in just seconds. Shock and fear in their eyes appeared as they looked up, and what they figured was an unusual solar eclipse was actually a large spacecraft hovering over them. A quick burst of light came from the bottom of the spaceship—and then everything went black.

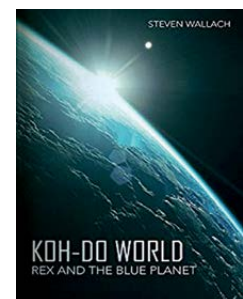
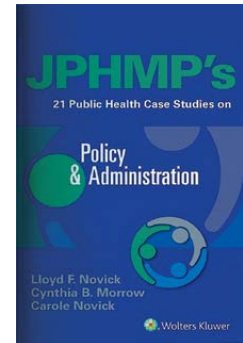




Photo: Matthew Septimus

PERSONAL CARE

Why Theodore Nicolaides '01, a leader in pediatric neuro-oncology, believes we can do more to fight tumors in children

By Travis Adkins

THE CHILD, A NINE-YEAR-OLD GIRL, tucked a lock of her curly black hair behind her ear as Theodore Nicolaides '01 asked how she had been feeling. “Good!” she answered. “Good.” She had the alert, intent manner of an enthusiastic student eager to be called on by a teacher. Fifteen minutes before, in the waiting room, she had been wholly absorbed in a game involving a kitchen play set, bustling to serve imaginary pizza to her younger sisters and brother. After six months of treatment for thalamic malignant glioma (an aggressive, infiltrative brain tumor), so far she had responded well. To all appearances, and in her own telling, her health seemed to be as good as could be hoped—yet Dr. Nicolaides, the director of the pediatric neuro-oncology program at Stephen D. Hassenfeld Children’s Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders, heard something in her answer that concerned him.

“Why did you hesitate?” he asked, looking at her closely. “You said ‘good,’ and then hesitated before you said ‘good’ again. Is there something going on?”

His instincts were correct. Encouraged by his attention, the girl began telling him about a recent trip to a beach. Dr. Nicolaides listened patiently as she recounted the story in a breathless mix of jumbled-up facts, details, and imaginary adventures. Finally she revealed that her eyes had bothered her that day, and with a couple questions, Dr. Nicolaides determined that her prescription eye drops, which are necessary to counteract certain complications from her chemotherapy, were the source of the problem. He asked the girl and her parents a few follow-up questions, enough to be sure that the eye drops had caused only relatively minor side effects, and reassured them that he would monitor the issue carefully. Then he moved on to other questions, asking about headaches, dizziness, balance, and reciting the girl's entire recent medical history without once looking at any notes.

Dr. Nicolaides has become known as an emerging leader in pediatric neuro-oncology thanks in large part to the role he's played in moving the field toward a more precise form of treatment targeting the genetic signature of an individual patient's unique tumor. His research has already yielded insights that perhaps one day soon will help bring about more personalized drugs.

It's clear from watching him in the clinic that Dr. Nicolaides is equally adept at practicing a different, but no less powerful, kind of personalized medicine: the kind that involves a physician being so attuned to his patient that he can pick up on a slight hesitation in the voice of a small girl.

"Dr. Nicolaides listens carefully, asks insightful questions, and cares deeply about his patients," says Catherine S. Manno, MD, the Pat and John Rosenwald Professor of Pediatrics and chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Manno, along with her colleague Adam J. Ratner, MD, led the search committee that recruited Dr. Nicolaides to NYU Langone. "He is that rare breed of pediatrician who trained in pediatric hematology-oncology and further trained in pediatric neuro-oncology. There are vanishingly few of these important pediatric physicians in the world. He possesses many capabilities that combine to make him a special doctor."

A Pathway to Precision Medicine

After graduating from NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Nicolaides stayed to complete his residency in pediatrics. While he was at the School of Medicine, he became intrigued by emerging cancer drugs, such as Gleevec (imatinib), that were much more targeted and less toxic than

chemotherapy. "When I saw that happening, I thought, wow, this is amazing," he says. "All this biology that we'd learned was now being translated into a precision medicine approach to treat cancer, and that really fascinated me." It was then that he decided to shift his focus and become a physician scientist studying the biology of brain tumors. His studies eventually led him to investigate the MAP kinase pathway, which is important for regulating cell growth, and in particular the BRAF gene, one of the most important genes in the MAP kinase pathway.

At the University of California, San Francisco, where he was an assistant professor in residence in the Division of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Pediatrics and director of the Brain Tumor Center Preclinical Core, Dr. Nicolaides collaborated with a group that discovered that a particular BRAF mutation, BRAF V600E, was found in a wide array of pediatric brain tumors. As it happened, Dr. Nicolaides knew that a nearby drug discovery company was developing a compound to inhibit the BRAF V600E mutation in melanoma, which was showing dramatic responses. He convinced the company to grant him access to the drug to test it against brain tumor cells, which showed that in the cells that had the BRAF V600E mutation, the compound was successful. Subsequent animal model tests confirmed that in certain brain tumors with the BRAF V600E mutation, the compound delayed the growth of the tumors and improved survival—but just as importantly, showed that in brain tumors without the mutation, the compound actually accelerated the growth of tumors, and shortened survival.

Based on the findings, Dr. Nicolaides secured funding for a national clinical trial, which just finished the phase I stage. "The results look very good," he says. "The majority of patients had at least some benefit, meaning that their tumors either stayed stable for a long period or shrank. These are patients who traditionally would be treated by radiation or cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs that can affect hearing, weaken their immune system, and put them at an increased risk of secondary cancer like leukemia later in life, so we don't want to expose them to those risks. With this treatment, these tumors can be manageable conditions, essentially." Dr. Nicolaides is now studying whether treating the tumors with a combination of the compound and immunotherapy is even more effective than the compound alone.

"Dr. Nicolaides' studies on the BRAF pathway in pediatric gliomas have helped guide clinical trials and contributed to novel treatment strategies," says Dr. Ratner. "The

Dr. Nicolaides has become known as an emerging leader in pediatric neuro-oncology thanks in large part to the role he's played in moving the field toward a more precise form of treatment targeting the genetic signature of an individual patient's unique tumor.

ability to translate laboratory observations to patient care and clinical trials is of enormous importance, and his experience in each of these areas makes Dr. Nicolaides an outstanding choice to lead the pediatric neuro-oncology program.”

The Next Generation of Neuro-Oncology Care

Integral to an institutional commitment to expand and strengthen its brain tumor program for children and adults, Dr. Nicolaides is one of several experts specializing in neuro-oncology, including Erik P. Sulman, MD, who was recently recruited by NYU Langone Health. These new recruits will join the program's longtime leaders, including Sharon L. Gardner, MD, and Jeffrey C. Allen, MD, as well as John G. Golfinos, MD, the chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, to put NYU Langone at the forefront of rapidly

of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology until recently and who was one of Dr. Nicolaides' mentors during his time as a student and resident at the School of Medicine. “I remember him as a bright, highly motivated resident; he had a natural curiosity. He wasn't afraid to ask questions and challenge dogma. I was delighted to help recruit him back to the School of Medicine, because that's just the kind of physician scientist we were looking for to lead our neuro-oncology program.”

“Meet them where they are”

In conversation, Dr. Nicolaides is measured and thoughtful as he speaks about his career, in the way of a wise physician who has learned to strike the difficult balance between being compassionate and being clearheaded. Pediatric neuro-oncology can be a particularly draining specialty; the children and families whom Dr. Nicolaides sees are facing the most

Photos (left to right): Jay Brady; Andrew Lichtenstein



emerging precision medicine developments in neuro-oncology.

“Until about 10 years ago, a pathologist would just look at a sample of a brain tumor under a microscope and say, ‘This is a low-grade glioma or high-grade glioma,’” says Dr. Nicolaides. “They might have had five or six different tests to confirm that, but that's all they had in their arsenal. Now we can pinpoint which oncogenes are mutating and driving the growth of these tumors, and we have drugs that can interfere with those pathways. Some of them have been proven to be effective, some of them are still being tested, and some of them might be in the pipeline. We're getting that information so that we can then stratify the patient and hopefully customize the therapy in some situations.”

“Dr. Nicolaides is a poster child for precision medicine,” says William L. Carroll, MD, Julie and Edward J. Minskoff Professor of Pediatrics, who served as the director

difficult time of their lives, and their pain and fear can be overwhelming. Early in his career, Dr. Nicolaides says, there were moments when he wasn't sure he had made the right choice.

“It's devastating for the families. It's just the worst thing in the world. And, initially, I felt like I had something to do with it.”

In time, however, he came to feel that his responsibilities were a privilege, not a burden. “It's a real privilege being a doctor in general, but in pediatric oncology, you meet a broad spectrum of people, and they are at the weakest point in their life,” says Dr. Nicolaides. “I'm basically the messenger who says, ‘This is what's happening to your child. And these are [your child's] options.’ It's always important also to let them know that there's nothing that the child did that caused this, or that the family did that caused this, because they all feel a lot of guilt. You need to meet them where they are, and help them through this process at their own level. It's the heart of medicine.”

Left: Dr. Nicolaides, the Otto and Marguerite Manley and Making Headway Foundation Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology, at Dean's Honors Day on October 4, 2018.

Right: Dr. Nicolaides engages with fellow doctors at pediatric neurology grand rounds.

Spot (2018) © Donald Lipski, Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, NYU Langone Art Program and Collection





Welcome to Hassenfeld Children's Hospital— 34th Street

IN JUNE, NYU Langone Health opened New York City's newest children's hospital in 15 years: Hassenfeld Children's Hospital—34th Street

by Sarah M. Jackson

Spot the Dog, the 38-foot-tall sculpture created by artist Donald Lipski, greets children and families at the entrance of Hassenfeld Children's Hospital.

LOCATED IN THE NEWLY BUILT Helen L. and Martin S. Kimmel Pavilion—a hospital within a hospital—this technologically advanced, 160,000-square-foot facility has all single-patient rooms and state-of-the-art procedural and surgical services designed for children’s unique needs.

“Children’s services are very important to any academic medical center,” says Robert I. Grossman, MD, the Saul J. Farber Dean and CEO of NYU Langone. “To do them well, you need a dedicated children’s hospital. The opening of our new Kimmel Pavilion and Hassenfeld Children’s Hospital location is the culmination of more than a decade of planning and construction, reflecting our overall vision to grow as a world-class, patient-centered, integrated academic health system focused on quality and excellence in clinical care, education, and research.”

Hassenfeld Children’s Hospital doesn’t look like a typical inpatient facility. Inspired by the concept of viewing New York City through a child’s eyes, each floor evokes a welcoming, lighthearted atmosphere designed to make children and their families feel safe, comfortable, and supported.

For example, a 38-foot-tall Dalmatian named Spot balancing a life-sized taxi on her nose greets children and visitors at the entrance. Among Spot’s tricks are lighting the cab’s headlights at night and turning on its wipers in the rain. The Children’s Hall hosts performances, family nights, fitness classes, talent shows, religious services, and more.

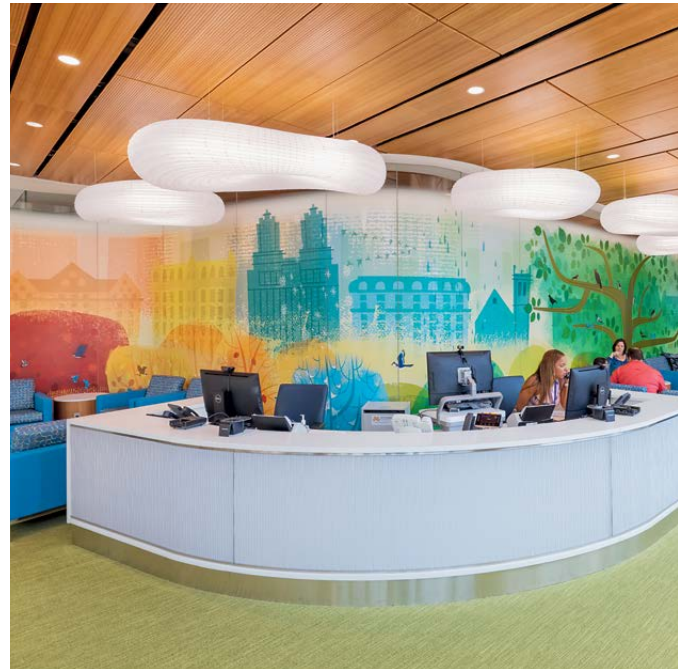
“Everyone, from doctors to nurses to support staff, is dedicated to making sure that children are put at ease, that parents’ voices are heard, and that the entire family knows their children aren’t just cared for, but cared about,” says Catherine S. Manno, MD, the Pat and John Rosenwald Professor of Pediatrics and chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

Adds Susan Block Casdin, NYU Langone trustee, and the granddaughter of Sylvia Hassenfeld, “We have the best specialists in the world, in all of their different disciplines. We’ve given our doctors and nurses the optimal environment to deliver outstanding care. We hope this new facility will be an inspiration for the future of medical care for children and families everywhere.”

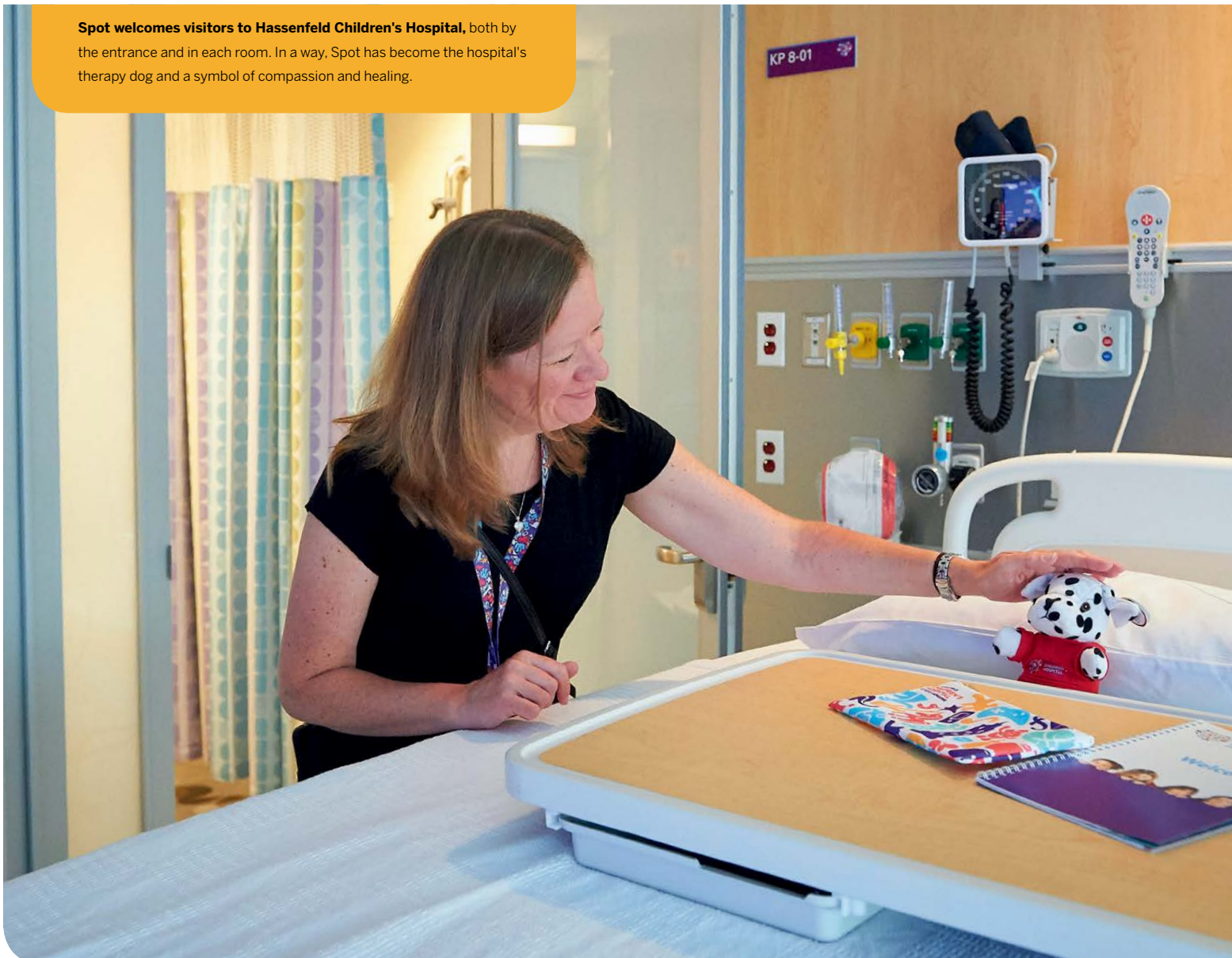
Lady Liberty, made entirely of LEGO® bricks, is positioned to greet children and families at Hassenfeld Children’s Hospital. The children’s hospital does not feel like a typical hospital; it was designed so visitors feel safe, comfortable, and supported.







Spot welcomes visitors to Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, both by the entrance and in each room. In a way, Spot has become the hospital's therapy dog and a symbol of compassion and healing.





Sala Institute for Child and Family Centered Care

Shaping a new children's hospital, together

FROM THE lobby's LEGO® Statue of Liberty to the latest interactive technologies, numerous elements of Hassenfeld Children's Hospital were co-developed and tested by children and families over the past several years.

Their input became integral to the hospital's aesthetics and inner workings, thanks to the efforts of the Sala Institute for Child and Family Centered Care. This unique partnership among children, families, and health professionals focuses on advancing the practice of family-centered care at Hassenfeld Children's Hospital and beyond.

The Sala Institute brought together members of the Sala Youth Advisory Council and Sala Family Advisory Council to create the hospital alongside institutional leaders, architects, artists, developers, health professionals, and planners.

"Through my work on the Family Advisory Council, I saw a lot of changes in what ended up being [part of] Hassenfeld Children's Hospital," says Jeremy Donovan, whose son William received extensive cardiac care in the old pediatric site as an infant. "I got a tour of the new hospital shortly before it opened. The elevator doors swept open and I started seeing the things that we had talked about for the past three years. It was very special to see it all come to life."

Of the many Hassenfeld Children's Hospital projects that the advisory councils worked on, Donovan is especially impressed with how the MyWall interactive screen evolved. Designed by and for NYU Langone, MyWall is a unique 75-inch, 4K resolution electronic display screen that gives patients control of their environment and the ability to customize their experiences. Using a tablet, children can view entertainment at the bedside, communicate with family and friends, control their room's ambiance, and interact with their care team in real time.

"First, groups presented to us at council meetings about the design of the MyWall interface," Donovan says. "As it developed, they kept coming back with questions. When we toured the new hospital and tried MyWall in real life, everything from the entertainment to video chat options lined up exactly with what

we had discussed in our meetings."

Other elements of the hospital that children and families helped to shape are wide-ranging; diverse examples include artwork selection, the process of communicating with families during surgery, gift shop design, child life programming, family presence and visitor access, security, website design and content, and furniture selection.

Trudy Elbaum Gottesman, who is an honorary alumna of the School of Medicine and a trustee of NYU Langone Health, cofounded—with her husband, Robert Gottesman—the Sala Institute. "It's a dream come true," she says, "to finally see the space that will be here for children and families for years to come, and create an environment that's designed to give the best care."



Sala Youth Advisory Council members meet monthly to tell us what no one else can—what it's really like to be a patient at Hassenfeld Children's Hospital.

THE PROMISE OF PEDIATRICS

**MEET FIRST-YEAR RESIDENTS AT SOME OF
THE COUNTRY'S TOP CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS**

By Jen Swetzoff



This year, graduates from NYU School of Medicine landed residency placements at some of the country's most innovative children's hospitals.

"We've been very fortunate to have exceptionally strong students applying in pediatrics consistently over time," says Linda R. Tewksbury '90, associate dean for student affairs and a member of the Faculty Alumni Council. "We're very proud of our students, who go on to top hospitals around the country, and we're thrilled to attract students to our own excellent residency program."

Because of a shortage of pediatricians in the United States, this next generation of doctors will be critical to helping shape the future of children's healthcare. Here, in their own words, four first-year residents share their experiences and outlooks on pediatrics.



Brit Trogen '18

Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone Health

Biggest challenge in pediatrics:

In children's health, I think income inequality is definitely one of the biggest challenges of our time. Early exposure to stress, through adverse childhood events, can have a huge impact on physical and mental health throughout our lives.

Hope for the future:

I hope that I'll be able to make a big difference in the lives of my patients, and I'm interested in

taking on a leadership role in improving healthcare and helping people connect with the resources they need. I'm also interested in using journalism to help communicate and advocate for patients, and bring issues to light in a way that makes people want to take action.

Impact of NYU School of Medicine:

I had a more circuitous path to medical school than most students, having worked as a science

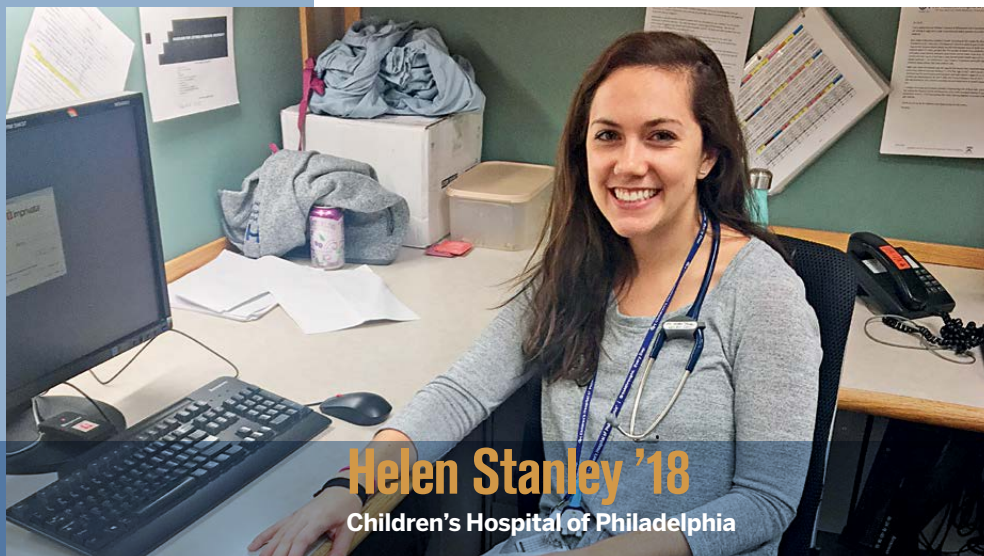
journalist for several years before applying. So when I was considering various programs, I emailed faculty members and administrators to ask a few questions. Even before I had finished my application, every single person I emailed at NYU wrote back to me immediately. People were so open and welcoming, and I quickly knew I wanted to be a part of this community.

“If you’re interested in preventive medicine, then you have to be interested in pediatrics. So many chronic illnesses, like obesity and diabetes, have their roots in everyday behaviors and patterns that often begin in early childhood.”

Brit Trogen '18

Undergraduate degree:
University of Alberta

Hails from:
Alberta, Canada



Helen Stanley '18
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

“I’m one of those people who holds a baby, even for 10 seconds, and my heart explodes. It gives me so much personal satisfaction.”

Helen Stanley '18
Undergraduate degree:
Georgetown University
Hails from:
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Biggest challenge in pediatrics: Poverty as a driver of disease is a huge challenge. It’s very difficult to watch kids go back into an environment that you know may keep them from being well—whether that’s due to a lack of access to healthy foods or being in an environment where they’re exposed to trauma, or whether they and their families don’t have enough financial or emotional support.

Hope for the future: I don’t know exactly what kind of doctor I’ll be yet, or where I’ll practice, but I believe in finding open doors and going through them. No matter what I end up focusing on, I think part of my responsibility as a pediatrician will be advocating for better resources for children and their families. I know that’s something that a lot of people who have had longer careers than I have are very passionate about and trying to address, but I hope to join those efforts.

Impact of NYU School of Medicine: Being at Bellevue, in particular, was a great opportunity to see health

as a human right and a public resource—providing healthcare to patients of all statuses, from all five boroughs of New York City. Working with a diverse patient population of kids and their families confirmed that I was heading in the right direction with pediatrics.

“The way that information is being disseminated and consumed is something we have to pay close attention to, as it may have potential effects on how the brains of children and adolescents are forming.”

H. Rhodes Hambrick '18
Undergraduate degree:
Furman University
Hails from:
Georgetown, Kentucky



H. Rhodes Hambrick '18

Boston Children's Hospital

Biggest challenge in

pediatrics: As more and more children use mobile devices from a very young age, we're seeing higher rates of depression and anxiety. I think the implications of screen time and social media use are going to present new issues in pediatrics over the next decade.

Hope for the future: My hope is that, throughout the entirety of my career, I can always find ways to connect with all of my patients and their families. Even if I only see a patient for five minutes, I want to make that person and their family members feel heard,

safe, and comforted. I want to help them understand what's happening. Even if we may not have a perfect cure, my goal is to provide children and their families with the most information and support available.

Impact of NYU School of

Medicine: I felt at home in a collegial and collaborative environment, while training with truly diverse patient populations. I met people from all over the world, providing care to patients regardless of the ability to pay. I will forever be a more empathetic doctor because of my experience at NYU.



Hannah Tredway '18

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York

Biggest challenge in

pediatrics: With today's increasingly rapid pace of technological advances, it can be difficult to know how to incorporate new tools into everyday practice. With genome sequencing, for example, we're increasingly able to diagnose genetic disorders and chromosomal abnormalities. But even though we can characterize something, we may not yet understand how to treat it. That can present real challenges in communicating with patients and their families.

Hope for the future: I'm still just taking it a day at a time. But my hope, every day, is to make a family or a patient's

day a little bit better, to bring some light or hope into their lives.

Impact of NYU School of

Medicine: I met so many mentors who I hope to emulate going forward. I made connections with other students that will last for years. And I had transformational experiences, like building 3D models of a child's heart and volunteering when called at Bellevue. As a medical student, you're paired with a child who has a chronic illness. You accompany them to their appointments, and really learn more about their family's experience with disease.

“Pediatrics is so varied. Within every age range, you can see the same symptom but have a totally different differential diagnosis. That complexity is one of the things I love about this field.”

Hannah Tredway '18

Undergraduate degree:
University of Utah

Hails from:
Gunnison, Colorado



Heard

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'60s



PHILIP R. YARNELL '63, a trauma neurologist in Lakewood, Colorado, was recently featured in *Reader's Digest* for his extraordinary treatment of a 28-year-old car crash victim. Two years after his patient was admitted to the hospital functionally decapitated—with a multifocal shearing injury inside her skull, and hemorrhages all across the surface, blood vessels, and brain stem—she is now able to talk, walk, and even ski down a mountain. According to the article, Dr. Yarnell often gives his patients hope, by reminding them that the brain is a remarkable thing, and if you keep exercising it, it may find all sorts of ways to work around its problems.



MICHAEL R. ZIMMERMAN '63, PhD, who received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1976, is an anthropologist and retired pathologist whose research focuses on mummy paleopathology. Dr. Zimmerman and his wife, Barbara, had a recent experience in London that resulted in an extraordinary professional opportunity. “We were checking out of our B&B and a gentleman asked if we needed help with our luggage,” Dr. Zimmerman says. “As he was wearing a suit and tie, I could tell he was not a tourist. He told me he was going to a meeting at the British Museum, and I mentioned that I have lectured there on Egyptian mummies.” The gentleman turned out to be Dr. Hani Hayajneh, dean of the faculty of archaeology and anthropology at Yarmouk

University in Irbid, Jordan, and he invited the Zimmermans to visit him there. As a result of their serendipitous meeting, Dr. Zimmerman presented a keynote speech at Yarmouk University during a workshop on ancient Egyptian burial practices. He also gave a lecture to the faculty on medical practice, disease, and death in ancient Egypt, and his wife spoke to the Hijjawi faculty for engineering technology on computer science. “We had a wonderful time,” Dr. Zimmerman says, “including the opportunity to visit Petra, and are looking forward to a continuing relationship with Yarmouk.” When he's not enjoying his retirement from practice and traveling around the world, Dr. Zimmerman serves as a visiting professor at the University of Manchester, an *(continued on page 30)*

PAUL L. KIMMEL '76

A former scholarship recipient, now a nationally recognized specialist in kidney disease, pays it forward and honors his late classmate Claudia McClintock '76.

PAUL L. KIMMEL '76, a nephrologist, researcher, and clinical professor of renal diseases and hypertension at George Washington University, has been supporting NYU School of Medicine for more than 35 years—largely inspired by the generosity he himself received as a student.

“I will forever be grateful to NYU School of Medicine for the confidence it placed in me,” Dr. Kimmel recalls. “Just before I was admitted into the medical school, my father died; he was a physician who inspired me to enter the field of medicine. At a very difficult time in my life, when I was just 20 years old, NYU showed its commitment to my success, providing full financial aid through a combination of loans and scholarships.”

Dr. Kimmel’s experience at the School helped put into place a meaningful career, one he has dedicated to the treatment and study of chronic kidney disease, which affects more than 20 million adults in the United States. Among his many other notable achievements, Dr. Kimmel has helped identify sleep apnea as a common complication in hemodialysis patients and conducted groundbreaking studies on HIV-immune complex renal diseases. He participated in the identification of MYH9 and APOL1, genetic susceptibility factors for renal disease, and is now involved in evaluating the clinical utility of these genetic markers. He also published a comprehensive textbook called *Chronic Renal Disease* (Elsevier, 2014) with Mark Rosenberg, MD.



But most significant, he says, is that he has always applied what he learned at NYU School of Medicine—prioritizing the care of patients—and is currently focusing on how depression, anxiety, pain, and poor quality of life affect patients with chronic kidney disease.

“Dialysis was a tremendous life-saving treatment when I started my career,” he says. “I believe that it’s one of our greatest advances over the last 50 years in clinical care. But as I’ve grown older, I’ve seen firsthand how the patient perspective is really the most important factor in chronic kidney disease.”

After completing his fellowship, Dr. Kimmel moved to Washington, D.C., where he continues to live today with his wife of 25 years, Prudence P. Kline, MD, a recently retired physician and emeritus professor at George Washington University. The couple share a passion for opera and literature—interests, he says, developed during medical school thanks to the office of culture that provided students with free tickets to theater and musical performances. He is a prolific writer, having recently completed his first novel, a work of historical fiction that begins in Lvov, where both of his parents were born, during World War II. Next, he plans to write another nonfiction book on kidney disease.

The School of Medicine remains vivid for Dr. Kimmel, who notes that his dear friend Claudia McClintock '76, a gastroenterologist who passed away in 2008, was a Julliard-trained pianist before beginning medical school at age 30. In her honor, Dr. Kimmel recently led an ambitious fundraising effort with his classmates to establish the Claudia McClintock Scholarship Fund.

For more information on how to contribute to scholarships, please contact Diana Robertson at 212-404-3510 or diana.robertson@nyulangone.org.

—J.S.

A CENTURY IN HEALTHCARE: ANN LUBLIN WITUS '43 AND ARTHUR ZITRIN '45

Between them, Ann Lublin Witus '43 and Arthur Zitrin '45—104 and 100 years old, respectively—have devoted more than 12 decades to the study and practice of medicine. They met as medical students through Dr. Zitrin's late wife, Charlotte Marker Zitrin '43, during a period of tremendous change for the nation at large, for medicine, and for the School. Friends even before they were physicians, the Zitrins and Dr. Witus kept in touch. Here, we share their recent reflections on their remarkable lives.

PASSIONATE TROUBLEMAKER

Not long before Dr. Arthur Zitrin's 100th birthday, the New York City Bar Association's Capital Punishment Committee presented him with a special award recognizing his activism against capital punishment—work he began in earnest after the age of 80. The committee leader who presented his award described him—admirably—as “a highly successful, world-class troublemaker.”

Dr. Zitrin would very likely reject everything from that portrayal but troublemaker, with characteristic good humor and humility. “I really didn't do anything remarkable,” he says, “except hold out longer than a lot of other people.”

His modesty is unwarranted. A passionate scholar, educator, political crusader, filmmaker, and psychiatrist, Dr. Zitrin has spent the better part of his life striving to make people think differently about the issues that should matter most to us as a society, in his view.

Raised in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, Dr. Zitrin is a product of the City's public schools and City College of New York. After serving in the Army, which paid for his medical education, he did his residency with NYU School of Medicine; his clinical focus was with the VA Hospital. He later took a position at Bellevue as director of Psychiatry, which he held for 15 years.

Outside the clinic, Dr. Zitrin was driven by a passion for debating ethical matters in medicine and science. In 1973, he cofounded the NYU School of Medicine Bioethics Colloquium and chaired it for nearly three decades. He is widely published on subjects of import to psychiatry and bioethics.

Meanwhile, in the 1970s, Dr. Zitrin began to carve out a name for himself as an amateur documentary filmmaker, working alongside

the late Daniel Klugherz, a professional documentarian, and winning awards for their work. Several films pay tribute to thought leaders whom Dr. Zitrin feels have had a powerful impact on healthcare; others present individuals who fought against anti-Semitism during World War II. And the remainder bear titles such as *Women and Sexuality: A Century of Change*, *Women in Sports*, and *Women's Rights in the U.S.*

“I suppose I am guilty,” Dr. Zitrin says, “of being a feminist.”

Perhaps it was this quality that first led him to his wife, Charlotte Marker Zitrin '43. They married in 1942, and had two children, Elizabeth and Richard. Following her own successful medical career, Charlotte died in 2013 at the age of 95.

“Charlotte was beautiful and brilliant,” her husband recalls, his voice breaking slightly. She started out as a pediatrician but later switched to psychiatry, and eventually started a successful clinic dealing with phobias. Many of her original treatment protocols are in use today, or led to the development of contemporary treatments.

Throughout their lives, Charlotte and Arthur made notable contributions to medicine and society. Inspired to give back to the institutions that had shaped their lives so radically, they were remarkably philanthropic: Gifts created the Charlotte Marker Zitrin Endowed Scholarship Fund at the School of Medicine, which currently supports four students a year, and endowed a chair and launched the NYU Center for Bioethics. They funded an endowed faculty chair and an endowed scholarship at City College.

Dr. Zitrin won't take any praise for their generosity either. “It's just money,” he says. “The point is helping people.”



INTREPID PIONEER

Ann Lublin Witus, who celebrated her 104th birthday in March, was always determined to do more with her life than was customary for women of her time. She wanted a family, yes, but she also wanted a career. She decided in high school to become a doctor “because the only people who could fire you were your patients,” she jokes. “But really,” she continues, “I just wanted to help people.”

The youngest of four in the midst of the Great Depression, Dr. Witus worked odd jobs to put herself through Smith College, her income supplemented by scholarships; she served as a laboratory technician during the summers for \$100 a month. Dr. Witus recalls that out

years. But, she says proudly, “all of the women made it to the end.”

In fact, they finished slightly early. With the nation at war, physicians were desperately needed—both on the front lines and to fill the gaps left at home—so the School agreed to accelerate her class’s fourth year. “We didn’t even have time to invite our parents” to graduation, Dr. Witus says.

She completed her first year of residency in pediatrics at Bellevue. Dr. Witus notes that her options were limited. “Surgery, anesthesiology, radiology, orthopaedics—forget it. We [women] would never have been allowed to go into those higher-paying professions. But pediatrics, we could do.”

Dr. Witus had a successful career in that specialty, continuing her residency at Children’s



of some 2,000 women at Smith, just one was African American. “She was a year ahead of me,” says Dr. Witus, “and I admired her a great deal. I thought she had a lot of guts.”

Many of Dr. Witus’s own life choices required similar courage and intrepidity. As a woman in medical school, she chose the challenging path of the pioneer.

After graduating from Smith, she worked for several years to earn tuition for medical school. She entered NYU School of Medicine in 1939; she was one of just 10 women in a class of 120, she remembers, along with Charlotte Zitrin ’43. NYU School of Medicine was generally more open to accepting women than other medical schools in the country, and its participating hospital, Bellevue, was the first to accept female interns, and the regimen was tough. By the time the first week of medical school was over, at least 10 students had dropped out, she recalls, with more to follow in subsequent

Hospital of Michigan. When she arrived in Detroit, she says, “there were more women than men on the house staff. Boys had been called in to serve, so they accepted more women—because they had to.” She became chief resident, and later accepted a position at the hospital, where she worked for 35 years. She also taught for several decades at Wayne State University, affiliated with Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Witus and her husband, Carl—also a pediatrician—married in 1946. For the next several decades, the couple lived in greater Detroit, remaining there through times of tremendous change for that city. They had two children—Ellen and Marc. Carl died in 2010.

In 2003, Drs. Ann and Carl Witus made a gift to establish the Dr. Ann Lublin Scholarship Fund at NYU School of Medicine. “I believe it is important to give back to whatever helped you in life,” she says.

—Joanna Bock

(continued from page 26)
adjunct professor of biology at Villanova University, and a lecturer in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania.



E. NEIL SCHACHTER '68, the Maurice Hexter Professor of Pulmonary and Community Medicine at Mount Sinai Health System, was recently honored with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by *Marquis Who's Who*. His research focuses on the clinical course, epidemiology, and mechanisms of airway diseases that are seen in workers in a wide range of industries including textiles and farming. In addition to his faculty position and clinical practice, Dr. Schachter serves as a board member of the American Lung Association, which recently named him a Wilbur Ross Medalist, and on the National Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Lung Association.

'80s



A big thank you to **NANCY H. COLES '85** who recently completed her two years of service as president of the alumni association. Dr. Coles has also served as president of the NYU School of Medicine Alumni Board of Governors, as a member of the Faculty Alumni Council, and as a member of the NYU Alumni Association Board. She was

a true legacy, as her father, Robert S. Coles '45, and her grandfather, William Goldring '22, were both alumni, and her mother, Roberta Goldring, MD, is professor emerita of the NYU School of Medicine. Together, Nancy and her mother established an endowed scholarship fund in memory of Robert S. Coles. In addition, Dr. Coles continues to be a vigorous fundraiser for the school, recently joining with her 1985 classmates to support scholarships through the Vilcek Hall Campaign.

EUGENE SUN '85 was appointed to the board of directors at Novan, a clinical-stage biotechnology company that focuses on using nitric oxide's natural antiviral and immunomodulatory mechanisms to treat dermatological and oncovirus-mediated diseases. He will chair the board's science and technology committee, which is tasked with developing Novan's trademarked nitric oxide-based technology.

Previously, Dr. Sun served as CEO for Melinta Therapeutics. Before that, he was vice president at Abbott Laboratories, where he led the development and worldwide regulatory approval of the landmark HIV protease inhibitor Kaletra, and oversaw the development and approval of multiple indications for Humira. Dr. Sun also served on the FDA Antiviral Drugs Advisory Committee.



HERNANDO GARZON '88, the director of emergency management and global health at Kaiser Permanente

in northern California, was honored with the 2018 NYU Alumni Changemakers Award. The fall 2017 issue of *Grapevine* covered his notable humanitarian relief work, including after the tsunami in Sri Lanka and the Kashmir earthquake in Pakistan, and during the famine in Somalia and the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. Most recently, he joined the International Medical Corps' hurricane response team in Puerto Rico.

'90s



M. NATALIE ACHONG '92, assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Yale University School of Medicine, received the 2018 Michael Parkes/Janet Mock Distinguished Alumni Award from the NYU Center for Multicultural Education and Programs for her "outstanding commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice through postgraduate service and community engagement efforts." She was the first NYU School of Medicine alum to receive this award.

Dr. Achong was featured in the fall 2017 issue of *Grapevine* after she was appointed the first black president of the 225-year-old Hartford County Medical Association. She earned a masters in healthcare leadership from Brown University in 2016.

JAMES C. WITTIG '94, a specialist in bone and soft-tissue cancers and limb-sparing surgery, has



been named chair of the Department of Orthopedics at the Morristown Medical Center and medical director of orthopedic oncology within the Atlantic Health System, which includes six hospitals. Previously, he was the vice chairman of orthopedic surgery, the chief of orthopedic oncology and sarcoma surgery, and the director of the skin and sarcoma division at John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey.

'00s



HENRY J. FELDMAN '01, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in Boston, has taken a new position as the deputy chief medical officer for technology at IBM Watson Health in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Previously, he served as the chief information architect in the informatics group at BIDMC, where he continues to hold a clinical appointment.

DANIEL BRANDT '03 and **LISA KIM '03** have been navigating the waters of private practice in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the past five years. Earlier this year, when a false alarm about an incoming missile from North Korea sent them hiding under their stairwell, they



recalled their time in medical school and the experience of 9/11. "While social media shy," Kim says, "we want to reach out the old-fashioned way and say thank you to our mentors, teachers, and the entire NYU Medicine community for essentially bringing us together."



DAVID B. LEVINE '03, a pediatrician with the Summit Medical Group in New Jersey and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, has been appointed a board member of Postpartum Support International, helping new parents deal with perinatal mood disorders. In August, Dr. Levine shared his personal journey through postpartum depression on network television with NBC's *Al Roker*, Keir Simmons, and Jacob Soboroff. By sharing his story, he says, he hopes to fight the stigma associated with postpartum depression in men and encourage those who are suffering in silence to seek help.



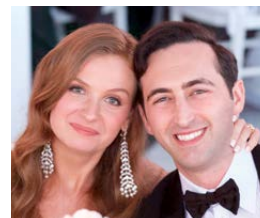
BRIAN A. LEVINE '08 (GSAS '03), an obstetrician and

gynecologist who specializes in reproductive endocrinology and infertility as the founding partner and practice director of the Colorado Center for Reproductive Medicine in New York (CCRM NY), has been selected to serve as president of the NYU Alumni Association Board of Directors, which includes more than 80 alumni representing all NYU schools and works collaboratively with the NYU Office of Alumni Relations to engage all NYU alumni. Dr. Levine has been a member of the NYU Board of Trustees since 2013.

'10s



IAN FAGAN '10, an internist and assistant professor at NYU School of Medicine, received the Distinguished Teacher in the Clinical Sciences Award from the class of 2018 for his "accomplishment in leading us to knowledge and understanding and for dedication and intellectual integrity representative of the highest ideals of the teaching profession."



SARAH BOLTON DRUCKENMILLER '16, a resident physician in obstetrics and gynecology at NYU Langone Health, married Maximilian August Cascante, an investment analyst at Castle Hook Partners, in June 2018 in Southampton, New York.



Q+A WITH ARIEL OSTAD '91, BA (CAS '87)

An internationally renowned dermatologist who specializes in Mohs micrographic surgery and a clinical assistant professor of dermatology at NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Ostad recently took the helm of NYU Medical School's Alumni Association Board. He and his wife, Alaleh, live with their three sons (ages 3, 11, and 13) in Manhattan and together established the Alaleh and Ariel Ostad Endowed Scholarship Fund several years ago. Here, Dr. Ostad discusses his own path from being a scholarship recipient to becoming a successful physician who's driven to give back.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT APPOINTMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Thank you. I'm humbled to be in this position, and I intend to do everything in my power to help the medical school at this momentous time, with the incredible tuition-free initiative that went into effect this year.

YOU'VE HAD REMARKABLE SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER AS A DERMATOLOGIST. WHAT ARE YOU PROUDEST OF?

Building my own practice and just being known as a good physician—as an expert in skin cancer and dermatologic surgery, and for doing beautiful cosmetic surgery. I also love teaching residents, and I'm proud to have received the award for Surgical Attending of the Year three times. As an immigrant, I had a goal of helping people become financially successful.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT WHAT THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE HAS MEANT TO YOU.

I came to Brooklyn as an Iranian refugee with my older sister in 1979. I was 12 years old. I didn't speak any English. My parents hoped to follow within the year, but it ended up taking them four years. So my sister and I really raised each other during adolescence, along with two of our cousins who we shared an apartment with in Long Island. I had to get myself up to go to school, come home, and do my homework. I had to start working—delivering the newspaper, having a Penny Saver route on the weekend, being a busboy at night. I experienced the full immigrant experience—trying to make a living, survive, and build a future for myself.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE?

NYU School of Medicine was my first choice—both because I had liked my undergradu-

ate experience at NYU and because I wanted to be close to my family. By then, my parents had arrived from Iran, so I was responsible for helping them and my younger brother—they had to learn the language and assimilate to the way things worked here.

I remember walking into Dean Brienza's office, who was the dean of admissions at the time, and having a very frank discussion with him about my life situation. NYU was very generous to me, but I still took out loans and worked the whole time I was a medical student.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO SPECIALIZE IN DERMATOLOGY?

I initially thought I'd become a surgeon. But as one of my jobs during medical school, I started working in the phototherapy unit of NYU Medical Center, an outpatient clinic that administered light treatments for inflammatory skin diseases that responded to light treatment. That's what opened my eyes to dermatology, realizing that I could help people who, despite being healthy, had a skin disease that could make them feel psychologically unhealthy. I loved that connection. Later, I also became interested in skin cancer and ultimately decided to specialize in head and neck dermatological surgery. Deep inside, I always saw myself as an artist, but I also loved science and helping people. Luckily, I could combine those passions through being a dermatologist.

People tell me I was this precocious, crazy kid. I had so many goals. I was definitely scared, afraid of failing. But I had this inner voice that said, "You can do it."

YOU HAVE A PHILOSOPHY OF "LESS IS MORE." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

We live in a society where, unfortunately, aging is difficult for all of us. But we can get carried

away trying to hold on to our youth. So when I go into an exam room, I pay close attention to how a patient is feeling and I remind them that we can enhance one's look, but it's most important to be natural. The less you do, the better.

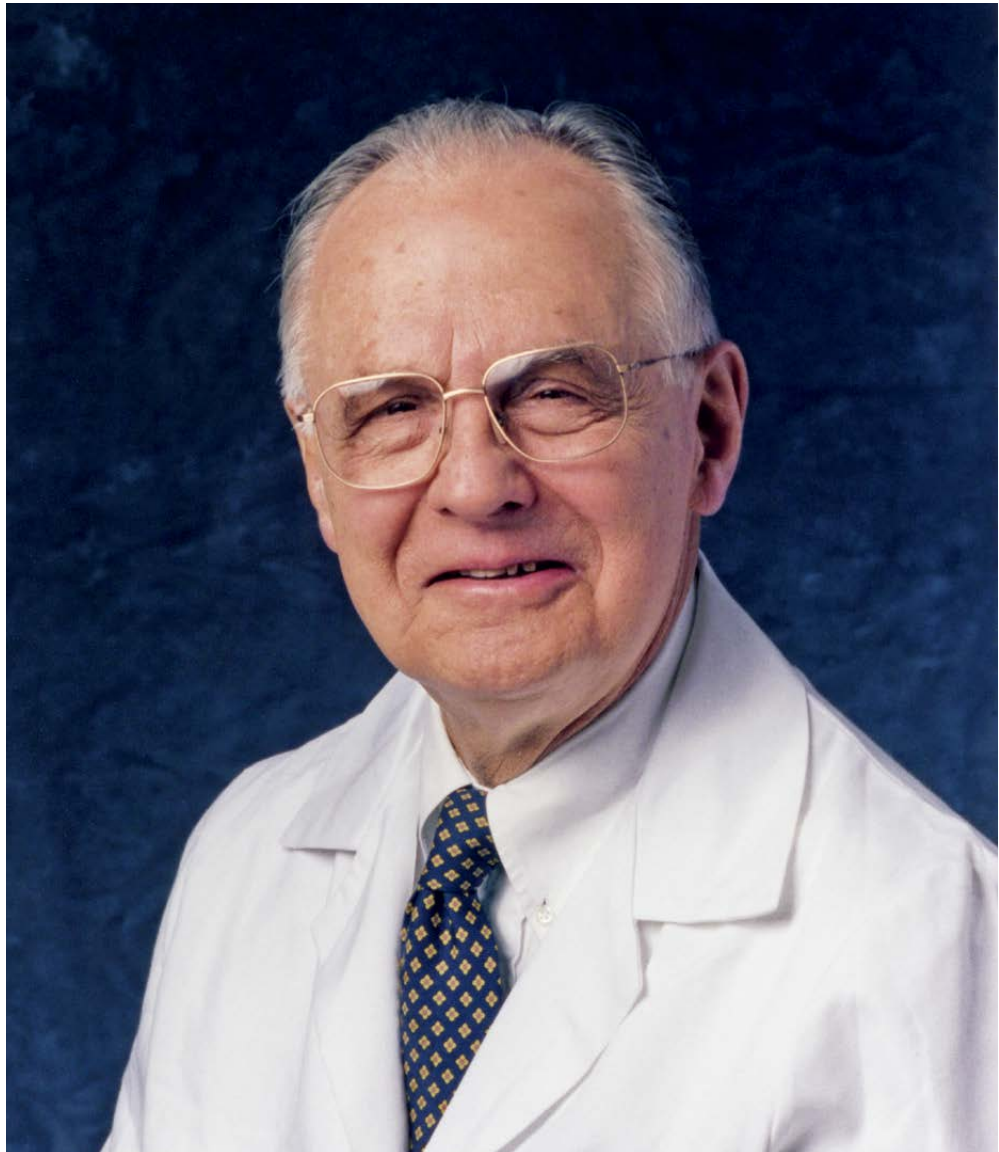
It's important to me to connect with my patients and understand any unresolved conflicts they may be experiencing—whether it's stress or anxiety. Our emotions can contribute to skin disease and other physical issues. They're intertwined.

NOW THAT YOU'RE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR WORKING WITH YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI?

It is incumbent on us as alumni to understand not only the challenges that students face, but the challenges that their families face in terms of getting through medical school. By helping to fulfill one person's dream, we're dramatically changing the lives of families and we're exponentially making this world a better place. I believe that when you help someone, they are going to want to help too—particularly in their own communities—and that makes a real difference. That's how things get better.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GIVE BACK TO NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE?

My wife and I decided to give back because both of us were recipients of financial aid and scholarships. Now, being able to help other students is a phenomenal feeling. A lot of happiness comes from giving back. We've taken our two oldest sons to the scholarship dinners at NYU School of Medicine, and they're blown away when they hear what the students say as they thank the audience. For us, showing gratitude is really important. —J.S.



FRANK C. SPENCER, MD (HON '99), professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at NYU School of Medicine from 1966 to 1998, died July 24, 2018, at 93. His work in techniques such as coronary artery bypass grafting served as the basis for modern cardiac surgery, and what was originally considered a high-risk surgery became an almost routine procedure. Under his leadership, Bellevue Hospital became a national center for open-heart surgery in the 1960s.

Born in Haskell, Texas, in 1925, Dr. Spencer was the youngest freshman at North Texas State College at the age of 15 and finished college in

two and a half years. He then entered Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee, and then did an internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He began his residency in surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles, but his training was put on hold by his service in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. During his two years in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, his knowledge of artery repair saved countless young soldiers from gangrene and amputation; he was honored with the Navy's Legion of Merit Award for exemplary service. He returned to his surgical training at Johns Hopkins in 1953, and completed

his residency in 1955.

In addition to his contributions to general cardiothoracic surgery (including reoperative surgery), surgery for congenital heart disease, valvular heart surgery, thoracic aneurysm, and experiments with artificial hearts, Dr. Spencer made education a priority. He received numerous accolades for his teaching, including twice earning the Distinguished Teacher Award from NYU School of Medicine.

Dr. Spencer was committed to getting to know his students and patients, inquiring about their family lives, hobbies, and interests, and focusing on sympathetic listening as one of a physician's primary

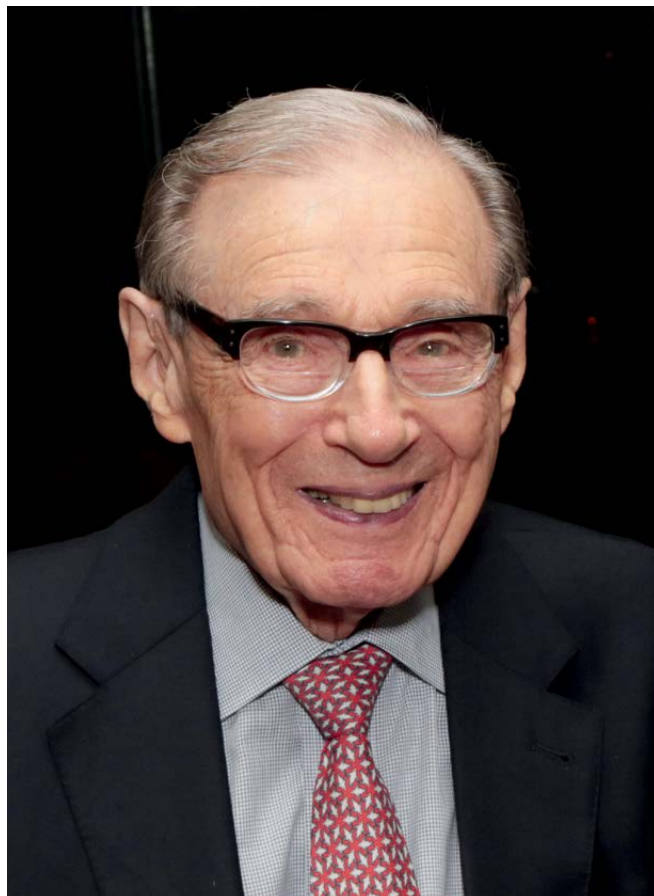
Our condolences to the families and friends who have recently lost loved ones. Please notify us of alumni and faculty passings, so that we may recognize and honor our community members in future issues.

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med.nyu.edu/alumni

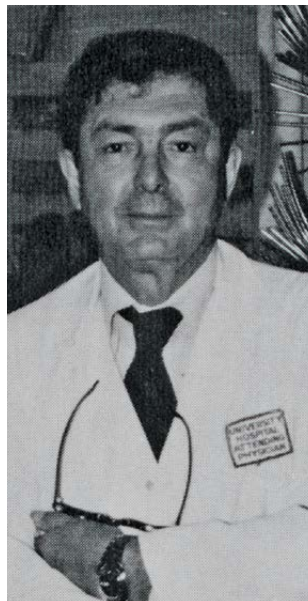
responsibilities. His approach to medicine lives on in his trainees, many of whom went on to become chairs of surgical departments across the country.

Throughout his career, Dr. Spencer was an advocate for surgeons and patients. He was a 54-year member of the American College of Surgeons and its president from 1990 to 1991. He also served as president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), and the American Surgical Association. In 2010, he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the AATS in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the specialty of thoracic surgery.

He is survived by his daughters, Dr. Elizabeth Kay Spencer Crabb and Patricia Spencer, and his grandchildren, Elizabeth and Adelaide. He was predeceased by his wife, Connie, and his son, Frank.



JOSEPH H. PRESS '41, BA (WSC '37), an internist and longtime faculty member at NYU Langone Health, died April 16, 2018, at 102. During his distinguished medical career of more than 75 years, he was highly respected as a superb caring physician. He also served as a former president of the NYU Medical School Alumni Association. Dr. Press graduated first in his class from NYU School of Medicine, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha. During his long and fruitful career, he received many honors, including the first Samuel D. Leidesdorf Associates Award and the Meritorious Service Award from the NYU School of Medicine Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; sons Bob, Mark, and Steven; grandchildren Jen, Carolyn, Allison, Michelle, Alex, Julia, and Emma; and great grandchildren Zoe, Sydney, Oscar, and Eloise.



ANTHONY IMPARATO '46, chief of vascular surgery at NYU Langone Health for more than 20 years and a longtime faculty member, died February 12, 2018, at 95. He was one of the first six surgeons to establish the subspecialty of vascular surgery, in 1980, and receive his board certification in it, as detailed in the book *Band of Brothers—Creators of Vascular Surgery*. Dr. Imparato dedicated much of his professional life to educating vascular surgeons around the world. A prolific teacher, speaker, and writer, he gave more than 200 invited lectures, contributed more than 170 peer-reviewed publications, and developed many training programs. In 1985, he was elected president of the Society for Vascular Surgery, and he served as an officer in every principal vascular society in the United States as well as in many international organizations. Prior to his medical career, he served in the U.S. Naval Forces from 1943 to 1953 and was in active duty during WWII. After retiring in 1991, he continued to serve as professor emeritus and chief emeritus until his passing. He is survived by his daughter, Mimi, her husband, John, and grandchildren Sonia and Alexander.



RUTH NUSSENZWEIG (HON. '04), PhD, a research professor of pathology and professor emerita of microbiology and pathology at NYU School of Medicine, died April 1, 2018, at 89. Her groundbreaking discoveries helped pave the way for the development of the first human malaria vaccine, which was recently approved for use in Africa by the World Health Organization. From a young age, Dr. Nussenzweig knew she wanted to work on scientific research related to the prevention, cure, and treatment of diseases. As a child during WWII, she and her family fled from Austria to Brazil. She later received her MD and PhD from the University of São Paulo, where she met her husband, but then emigrated again to escape a military dictatorship. "All this was a lesson of survival that strengthened my resources and hardened my will to be a scientist," she told *Science* magazine in 2013. While she was still in medical school, Dr. Nussenzweig and her husband discovered a blue dye that could inactivate the disease-causing organism of the insect-borne Chagas disease in blood for transfusion.

200 peer-reviewed publications and was on the editorial boards of prestigious journals including *Nature* and *Science*. In 2006, she was elected to the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies; in 2013, she was elected to the National Academy of Science. A mentor to countless colleagues and students, and an internationally renowned leader in the study of tropical and parasitic diseases, Dr. Nussenzweig left an indelible mark on the NYU community and on the world of medical research.

She is survived by her husband, Victor; children Andre, Michel '82, and Sonia; and six grandchildren.



During her career at NYU, she discovered a protein on the surface of malaria sporozoites called circumsporozoite, or CSP. She also held numerous leadership roles, including as chair of the Department of Medical and Molecular Parasitology for nearly 20 years; she was the first woman to chair a department at NYU School of Medicine.

Dr. Nussenzweig served as a member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the World Health Organization, the Pew Foundation, and the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium. She authored more than

VITTORIO DEFENDI (HON. '04), a viral oncologist and chair of pathology at NYU Langone Health, died February 12, 2018, at 89. He dedicated his career to pursuing research related to cancer, immunology, and disease pathogenesis, with a focus on studying the carcinogenic properties of the human papillomavirus. Dr. Defendi served as the chair of pathology at NYU Langone Health for nearly three decades and as the director of NYU Langone Health's Perlmutter Cancer Center for almost 20 years. In 2008, the Vittorio Defendi Fellowship in Pathobiology was created

to honor his commitment to science, the Department of Pathology, and graduate education. Prior to joining NYU, Dr. Defendi worked at the Detroit Institute of Cancer Research in Michigan and the Wistar Institute in Pennsylvania. He also was a professor at the University of Pennsylvania and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Cellular Physiology*. He graduated from the Università degli studi di Pavia in Italy, the country in which he was born and raised, before moving to the United States at age 25 with a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue his scientific interests at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Dr. Defendi is survived by his daughters Germaine, Claudia, and Adrienne, and eight grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Emi Mariani.

GERALDINE "GERRY" HUNT COLES (HON. '01), BA (WSC '38), a life trustee at NYU Langone Health since 1987 and a key leader on the Board of Overseers since 2014, died

December 25, 2017, at 100. She was a passionate supporter of scientific advancement and medical education. In 1990, Gerry established the Jerome S. Coles Biomolecular Research Laboratories in memory of her husband, a 1936 alumnus who served as chair of the Board of NYU Langone Health. In later years, she created the Geraldine H. Coles Research Laboratories, a student laboratory building, and its state-of-the-art teaching facility, the Dr. Martin L. Kahn Teaching and Learning Center. She also helped to endow professorships to advance research and education at NYU School of Medicine. In honor of Gerry's unwavering dedication to learning and innovation in medicine, her daughter Helene Coles Stein and son-in-law Judge Sidney Stein established the Geraldine H. Coles Lecture Series at NYU Langone in 2016. She is survived by her daughters, Helene and Marilyn; sons-in-law Judge Stein and Howard Haykin; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



Gerry Hunt Coles with L. Jay Oliva, former president of New York University

IN MEMORIAM

SEYMOUR S. BLUESTONE '43D
ALEXANDER C. MITCHELL '44
HENRY E. ALTENBERG '47
GEORGE MILLER '47
PETER J. MARCHISELLO '48
ALAN C. SCHEER '50
RAYMOND G. WARD '50
MILES J. SCHWARTZ '51
RICHARD HOCHMAN '52
LAWTON V. MANDERSON '54, BA
(WSC '50)
HOWARD M. KRAVETZ '56
NATHAN I. KRITZBERG '58
MARVIN LEVENSTEIN '58
ARTHUR E. REINHARD '58
PETER B. SCHNEIDAU '58
GEORGE LOWEN '59
ERNEST D. ABELES '60
MICHAEL N. COWAN '60
ARTHUR L. WALDMAN '60
RONALD E. SHERMAN '62
ROBERT V. ROSE '63
EMANUEL MARRITT '67
RICHARD S. PORENSKY '70
ELIZABETH K. GOLDMAN '72
HERMON SAUNDERS '73
JEFFREY H. KRAMER '81
JOHN GONZALEZ '83
EMMA J. MEYER '16
ANDREA LIU '18

Faculty

NOEL C. GALEN
LAWRENCE B. GARDNER
MORTIMER LEVITZ, PHD
JOSEPH P. LIN
STEVEN P. SEDLIS '77
CHARLES TOLK '65



Distant Memories of Medical School

BY MARTIN DUKE '54

Martin Duke, MD, FACP, attended NYU School of Medicine from 1950 to 1954. In his recent memoir, published in the spring of 2018, he reflects on his medical student years.

It is now more than 60 years since I was in medical school. Most of the classes I attended and many of the people I came in contact with are increasingly difficult to remember. However, the memories I do have continue to be a source of pleasure and reflection as the years go by.

An instructor in one of my laboratory sessions was Dr. Otto Loewi. It is embarrassing to say that the name of this 1936 Nobel Prize laureate, known for his discovery of the chemical transmission of

nervous impulses, meant little to me at the time. I wish it had been otherwise. Lectures by Dr. Severo Ochoa and by Drs. Dickinson Richards and André Cournand, all later Nobel Prize winners, also did not carry as much weight with me as they should have, wrapped up as I was in the daily grind of keeping up with my studies in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, therapeutics, and other courses, details of which have long since been forgotten. How little I really knew, and

what missed opportunities these were.

During my clinical rotation in pediatrics, I had a discussion with the chair of the Department of Pediatrics about a small boy I had seen as a patient on the wards of Bellevue Hospital. The boy had told me when I examined him that there were bugs and insects under his bed. Because he had been admitted to the sometimes far from clean wards of a large and old city hospital, I had accepted his account at face value.

This piece has been excerpted with permission from Hektoen International, A Journal of Medical Humanities.

However, it was explained to me that the boy was actually experiencing visual hallucinations due to atropine overdose. A look under the bed indeed satisfied me that no bugs or insects were present. I had learned a valuable lesson—to avoid preconceived ideas and biases when examining patients.

While I was on the medical wards of the Third Division at Bellevue Hospital, Dr. Ludwig Eichna taught me how to use the stethoscope properly when listening to heart sounds and murmurs. I particularly remember being with him at the Thursday Night Cardiac Clinic one winter evening when we were examining an elderly Chinese gentleman together. As the patient was about to leave the room at the conclusion of the examination, I noticed Dr. Eichna reach into his pocket for some money and say, “Eng, it is cold out. Take a taxi home tonight.” That moment made a deep impression upon me. Kindness and consideration can be as important as heart sounds and murmurs in the care of patients.

During the second year of medical school, I had fallen behind in my studies in pathology because of a lengthy hospital stay for severe back problems. I had failed the final exam in the course, which meant that I was faced with the possibility of having to take the second year over again. The kindness of the chief of pathology, Dr. William Von Glahn, in arranging for extra tutorial sessions and in allowing me to retake the exam—this time with a successful outcome—has never been forgotten. Dr. Sherwood Lawrence, the director of student health who was well known for his studies in immunology and the “transfer” factor, is also fondly remembered for the courtesy and consideration he always showed me when

making house calls during the time I was housebound with incapacitating infectious mononucleosis. I was living alone then, and he sometimes prepared a meal for me during these visits. This was a meaningful moment in my medical education, not

future wife during my third and fourth years of medical school was limited to weekends because of Juli’s obligations during the week as a social worker and my class schedule and attendance at clinics. My four years at medical school ended with

AS THE PATIENT WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE ROOM AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXAMINATION, I NOTICED DR. EICHNA REACH INTO HIS POCKET FOR SOME MONEY AND SAY, “ENG, IT IS COLD OUT. TAKE A TAXI HOME TONIGHT.” THAT MOMENT MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION UPON ME. KINDNESS AND CONSIDERATION CAN BE AS IMPORTANT AS HEART SOUNDS AND MURMURS IN THE CARE OF PATIENTS.

because I ever fully came to understand the intricacies of Dr. Lawrence’s research, but because I became aware of how much personal contact through a house call meant for a sick person, a message I would carry with me during my years of medical practice.

I took an elective clinical clerkship at the newly opened Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, named for its founder, Dr. Howard Rusk, where I helped with the physical therapy of injured and paraplegic coal miners. Detailed group discussions were held on every patient, with each meeting attended by individuals from the many disciplines of medicine, including internists, physiatrists, urologists, neurologists, psychiatrists, orthopedists, nurses, social workers, speech therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and others when needed. This was truly an eye-opener for me and was an important opportunity to observe the best of multidisciplinary medicine at work.

Time spent courting my

two lasting memories—Juli and I were married on June 6, 1954, while I was still officially a medical student, and three days later I received my medical degree at graduation exercises with my wife, my parents, and my new parents-in-law in attendance.

By some miracle, I had emerged as a doctor, grateful to the guardian angels that watch over and guide medical students to prevent them from doing harm to themselves and others, and hopeful for many more memories in the years ahead.

Following his postgraduate training in medicine, pathology, and cardiology, Dr. Duke was in private practice in Manchester, Connecticut. He served as the director of medical education and chief of cardiology at the Manchester Memorial Hospital, and he also held a teaching appointment at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He is the author of two books and more than 100 medical articles.

Look Back



Front row, left to right: Gray Twombly, Sophia Kleegman '24, Gordon Douglas, Fritz Beller, Alvin Weseley
Second row, left to right: Charles Debrovner '60, Leon Tancer '40, Robert Morris, Robert Porges

SOPHIA KLEEGMAN '24 (1901–1971)

DR. KLEEGMAN—professor of obstetrics and gynecology and a pioneer in human fertility—was the first woman president of the NYU Medical Alumni Association. She also was among the first wave of women appointed to faculty positions at NYU School of Medicine faculty and ran the infertility clinic at Bellevue Hospital. She worked with Dr. George Papanicolaou, developer of the PAP smear, who called her his chief disciple.

Among her many achievements, Dr. Kleegman advocated for artificial insemination, incorporated psychological issues into her clinical practice, and lectured on birth control in the early 1930s. Later, as medical director of the NY State Planned Parenthood Association, she fought for improved sex education and eventually convinced NYU to include a course on the subject. Her lectures on sex and sex education at NYU School of Medicine were among the best attended of any at the school.

**“IT WAS ALWAYS
CONSIDERED THE
WOMAN’S FAULT
WHEN THERE WERE
NO CHILDREN. NOW
WE KNOW BETTER.”**

DR. KLEEGMAN



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