

NewYork-Presbyterian

FORUM

News and Information for the Alumni of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Spring 2008

CLOSING IN ON CANCER

Collaboration Drives New Developments in Prevention and Control



NewYork-Presbyterian

The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell



CLOSING IN ON CANCER

Collaboration
Drives New
Developments in
Prevention and Control

On the cover: Dr. Andrew J. Dannenberg and Dr. Alfred I. Neugut co-direct NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's Cancer Prevention Program, which contributes – through basic and clinical research, screening and early detection programs, and education of physicians and the public – to advancing the understanding of causal relationships for specific cancers and to developing approaches that can lead to prevention on a global scale.

In 1928, Dr. George N. Papanicolaou, a Professor of Anatomy at Cornell University Medical College, pioneered the Pap test for the early detection of cervical cancer. It wasn't until the 1960s that the Pap test became widely accepted as an effective method of screening to reduce cervical cancer mortality. Another two decades passed before a virus was determined to be the cause. And nearly 80 years after Dr. Papanicolaou's original discovery, the Food and Drug Administration approved a vaccine to prevent women from developing the disease.

“The development of the Pap test provided a springboard for the eventual discovery of the link between human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer, which, in turn, provided a scientific platform for the development of a vaccine – a perfect illustration of how multiple scientific disciplines can work together to develop an effective approach to preventing cancer,” says Andrew J. Dannenberg, MD, the Henry R. Erle, MD-Roberts Family Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and the recently appointed Director of the Cancer Center at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical

Center. “HPV is now known to cause oropharyngeal cancer as well. Because this cancer affects males and females, it suggests there might be benefit to vaccinating boys, too.”

Dr. Dannenberg and Alfred I. Neugut, MD, PhD, the Myron M. Studner Professor of Cancer Research in the Department of Medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, as well as Associate Director for Population Sciences of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, have made cancer prevention their life's work, and their job is far from over. Together, they co-direct NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's Cancer Prevention Program, combining their expertise, as well as campus-specific faculty and resources, to make inroads in the challenging field of cancer prevention.

“When you include the work of the cancer centers of both campuses – what's pursued individually and also what's done together – the breadth of the Hospital's role in oncology becomes staggering,” says Dr. Neugut.

In cancer prevention alone, multiple projects are underway, including chemoprevention studies with a



In Dr. Dannenberg's lab, post-doctoral fellow Jessie Hou, PhD, is one of many researchers who work on studies that seek to uncover links between inflammation and the development of certain cancers. (At right) With a worldwide distribution, *Cancer Prevention*, a biannual newsletter co-edited by Drs. Neugut and Dannenberg, features articles and columns by contributing writers representing medicine, science, and advocates in the field. The newsletter archives and additional information on cancer prevention are available at www.nypcancerprevention.org.



green tea derivative in both Barrett's esophagus and breast cancer, and with Vitamin D in the prevention of breast cancer. Other areas of interest include identifying genetic risk factors underlying breast and colon cancer, and evaluating the role of obesity and physical activity in the etiology and natural history of cancer.

Dr. Dannenberg and his colleagues are best known for their work in the lab on the inflammation-cancer connection, in particular, cyclooxygenase-derived prostaglandins, which are part of an inflammatory cascade. "One of the ways chronic infections appear to predispose to cancer is through inflammation," notes Dr. Dannenberg, who recently chaired the Scientific Program Committee for the sixth annual *Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research* meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). "There's an enormous interest worldwide in the connection between infections, inflammation and cancer. Although inflammation need not have an infectious etiology, causal links exist between chronic hepatitis B and C and hepatocellular cancer; *Helicobacter pylori* and gastric cancer and MALT lymphoma; HPV and cervical and oropharyngeal cancer; and schistosomiasis and bladder cancer, to name a few."

In fact, the link between infection and cancer is woefully underappreciated, according to Dr. Dannenberg. "Some 15 to 20 percent of the overall cancer burden is infectious in origin," he says, "and that number could be much larger because the role of infection in causing certain cancers remains undetermined. Chronic inflammation as a consequence of infection represents an important opportunity for targeted therapy to reduce the cancer burden."

This cancer burden due to infection is far greater in the developing world than that of the Western world, adds Dr. Dannenberg, who spoke on *Chronic Inflammation*:

A Global Opportunity for Cancer Prevention in his opening address of the AACR meeting. "Outstanding science cannot triumph without an effective global health policy, one that would improve vaccine implementation in the developing world through needle-less vaccinations, no need for refrigeration, reduced cost, and fewer doses required."

Here in the United States, Dr. Neugut has a particular interest in quality of care issues in colon and breast cancer, looking at who gets treated and the quality of treatment they receive. "Are there racial or ethnic disparities?" asks Dr. Neugut. "Are the elderly under treated? What is the impact on survival? Educating both physicians and the general public about screening services available is critical in order to improve access to underserved populations." These services include a large New York State-funded colorectal cancer screening program for indigent populations; a Manhattan-based mammography screening program also for the uninsured or poorly insured; and a State-funded tobacco cessation program.

"Andy and I have a really good relationship and that shows in our programs," says Dr. Neugut. It is also evident in their development of the first national newsletter on cancer prevention, which debuted in the spring of 2003, with 10 issues published to date. *Cancer Prevention* features articles by nationally recognized leaders writing on developments in the field, news from the National Cancer Institute, and discussions on tough issues facing clinicians and researchers.

"The war against cancer hasn't been won, and we will work extremely hard not only to develop new treatments, but to also use scientific discovery to enhance cancer prevention efforts," says Dr. Dannenberg. "I have to tell you, I'm never bored...though I'm frequently tired." □

NEWS AND NOTES

1960s

James C. Shelburne, MD 1966 Residencies, Internal Medicine and Cardiology, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center "After completing my residencies, I spent the next two years at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a cardiology fellow, one year as Director of the Cath Lab at UCLA and then six years in the same post at the University of Pennsylvania. From 1976 to 1980 I was the Director of Cardiology at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, California. I spent the next two years as Director of Cardiology at the American Hospital in Paris. From 1982 to 2004 I was in private practice here in Newport Beach, where I retired in 2004."

1970s

Richard Thorner, MD 1974 Residency, Internal Medicine, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center "After a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, I settled in San Antonio, Texas, in 1978. I am now the senior member of a nine-person infectious diseases group. A 39th anniversary is approaching with my wife Alice, who supported me during the time at Columbia. I have two grown daughters living in Alexandria, Virginia, with husbands and three grandkids. And we're off to Costa Rica soon with Leon Dragon, MD (House Officer with us '71-'73) and wives to celebrate our 240th birthday!"

Robert A. Harvey, MD, FACS 1977 Residency, Plastic Surgery, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center "Following my residency, I moved to San Francisco and began my plastic surgery practice. I currently work full-time performing aesthetic plastic surgery, and I am also the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco. My daughter Morgan is a freshman at Barnard College, and she hopes to attend medical school."

Kenneth Bromberg, MD, FAAP, FIDSA 1978 Residency, Pediatrics, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center Dr. Bromberg went on to complete a fellowship in infectious diseases at Brown University. He is currently Chairman of Pediatrics at The Brooklyn Hospital Center where he has been for the last four years, and Professor of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medical College. Prior to that he was at Downstate Medical Center for 23 years. Over the last few years Dr. Bromberg has invited his fellow graduates to grand rounds, and he asks that any residents or fellows from the 1970s contact him if they want to give grand rounds or to just say hello.

Alethea Hsu, MD 1978 Residency, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center "I have been the Medical Director of the Rehabilitation Department at Garfield Medical Center in Monterey Park, California, since 1986. Along the way I got into the real estate development business and am

Kenneth L. Edelson, MD

1978 Residency,

Dermatology, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center For the past 30 years, Dr. Edelson has maintained a practice on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. "At the same time, I have the notable honor of being the actor who has been in more Woody Allen films than any other actor—12 movies, including the current *Cassandra's Dream*, which was filmed in London," says Dr. Edelson

(far right in photo while filming *Mighty Aphrodite*). Friends for the past 20 years, he first treated Mr. Allen for a dermatological issue. "When he was leaving the office, he turned around and said, 'Dr. Edelson, you are a very funny guy. I think I will put you in my next film'....and the rest is history," says Dr. Edelson, who describes his roles as "cameo appearances with funny lines that are often ad libbed." His characters have included a Christmas party guest in *Alice* (1990); a doctor in *Husbands and Wives* (1992); and a rabbi in *Celebrity* (1998). Throughout the years he has enjoyed meeting many celebrities, including Billy Crystal, Will Ferrell, and Robin Williams. "On the set of *Deconstructing Harry*, the stars treated me like a celebrity because I'm Woody's doctor," he says. "They got free skin advice and I got free acting advice." Adds Dr. Edelson, "Acting is a real diversion and very enjoyable. It's truly an avenue to express myself and be in a different role than my normal everyday life in medicine."



currently developing a shopping center in Irvine, California. Please see www.diamond-jamboree.com. I really enjoy my double career."

1980s

Hal Gutstein, MD 1981 Residency, Neurology, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center After 24 years practicing in the Bronx, Dr. Gutstein, Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurology, New York University School of Medicine, is now senior attending neurologist specializing in the care of patients with multiple sclerosis at Hospital for Joint Diseases/MS Care Center. In this position, Dr. Gutstein is involved with patient care, consortium clinical research, drug trials, and teaching. "My training under the tutelage of Drs. Fred Plum and Jerome Posner, etc. continues to resonate with me for the benefit of patients, staff, and students," says Dr. Gutstein.

Howard J. Birenbaum, MD 1983 Residency, Pediatrics, and Fellowship, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center Dr. Birenbaum directs a 30-bed Level III B Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Greater Baltimore Medical Center. He presented a poster at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Toronto last May on a quality improvement initiative to reduce chronic lung disease in premature infants. He and his wife Debra reside in Owings Mills, Maryland, and are the proud grandparents of Samantha, two. Their children are Robert, an attorney; Lauren, a vice president with Citigroup in New York; and Daniel, a mechanical engineer. Contact Dr. Birenbaum at hbirenba@gbmc.org.

George Szreniawski, MD 1984 Residency and Fellowship, Anesthesia, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center "I was also known at CPMC as 'Dr. George.' After graduation I spent 16 years in Syracuse, New York, as Director of Obstetric Anesthesia at Crouse Hospital and Upstate Medical Center. Now I am partially retired and live in Chappaqua, New York. I am doing part-time anesthesia at Westchester Medical Center Valhalla. My only daughter Eva Szreniawski-Hessert is also a graduate of the anesthesia program at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia and an attending anesthesiologist at Hackensack University Hospital in New Jersey. We have three grandsons and they frequently visit my wife Helen and me."

Clarence L. Young, MD 1984 Residency, Internal Medicine, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center "I am currently Vice President, Drug Development, and Chief Medical Officer at Protez Pharmaceuticals, a specialty pharmaceutical company in Malvern, Pennsylvania, that focuses on the discovery and development of antibiotics to treat multi-resistant infections in hospitalized patients. I joined Protez after 12 years at GlaxoSmithKline where I held variety of positions, the last five years as Head of Clinical Development for Anti-Infectives. I live with my wife and stepdaughter about 35 miles west of Philadelphia on the edges of civilization—west of Valley Forge and within striking distance of the city."

(continued on next page)

NEWS AND NOTES (continued)

Roy L. Silverstein, MD 1985 *Residency, Internal Medicine, Fellowship, Hematology/Oncology, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center* Dr. Silverstein is Chairman of the Department of Cell Biology, Vice Chair of Translational Research at the Lerner Research Institute, and Professor of Molecular Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Dr. Silverstein, who is the Jan Bleeksma Endowed Chair in Vascular Biology, is the principal investigator on two large NIH research grants: Specialized Center for Clinically Oriented Research in Thrombosis — “Molecular Determinants of Arterial Thrombosis,” and an NIH Program Project on “Role of Oxidized Phospholipids in Pathobiology.” He is also the named editor of *The Hematologist*, a research newsletter published by the American Society of Hematology (effective 1/09).

1990s

Joseph S. Cervia, MD, FACP, FAAP 1990 *Fellowship, Infectious Diseases, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center* Dr. Cervia is currently Clinical Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and Medical Director and Senior Vice President for Pall Corporation. Previously, Dr. Cervia joined the faculty of the State University of New York, Stony Brook School of Medicine as Assistant Professor, and served as Director of the Pediatric-Maternal HIV service at Nassau County Medical Center (1990-1992). He then served as Director of the Program for Children with AIDS at New York Hospital and Principal Investigator of the NIH-sponsored Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (1992-1999). In 1999, Dr. Cervia established the Comprehensive HIV Care and Research Center at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Dr. Cervia and his wife, Denise Blumberg, MD, make their home in Roslyn, New York, with children David, Lisa, and Michael.

Michele David, MD, MBA, MPH 1991 *Residency, Internal Medicine, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center* Dr. David is Director of Community Health Programs at Boston University Medical Center for Excellence in Women's Health, Co-Director of the Haitian Health Institute at Boston Medical Center, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine, and a staff physician with the Women's Health Group. Dr. David is an active public health researcher and community educator. She was awarded a physician advocacy fellowship by the Institute on Medicine as a Profession at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 2007, she was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to the Massachusetts Public Health Council. Dr. David was awarded a Leadership Award by the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad. Dr. David is also a creator of fine art quilts, which have been exhibited in museums, galleries, and featured in books, magazines and HGTV television. Her designs can be found at www.creole-creations.com.

Steven Grinspoon, MD 1992 *Residency, Internal Medicine, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center* Dr. Grinspoon is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, as well as Director, Massachusetts General Hospital Program in Nutritional Metabolism, and Clinical Director, Neuroendocrine Clinical Center.

Jacqueline W. Muller, MD 1993 *Residency, Ophthalmology, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center* “After completing a fellowship in cornea and refractive surgery I started my private practice. It took years to purchase and renovate my own office, but it was well worth it. My new office opened one year ago and is very comfortable and high tech. My practice focuses on laser vision correction and the diagnosis and treatment of dry eye. I have been an attending in the Department of Ophthalmology at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center since 1993 and hope to always be there. I feel incredibly fortunate to be in the company of the best and the brightest minds in medicine and surgery. Regarding my personal life, I have a wonderful husband, two healthy children and several domestic animals.”

Lilli B. Link, MD, MS 1997 *Residency, Internal Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center* “I am currently doing integrative nutritional counseling on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I work with patients who have serious illnesses or who are trying to improve their health.”

Pamela Smith, MD 1998 *Residency, Psychiatry, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center* Dr. Smith is currently an independent consultant in psychiatry and President of the non-profit organization, Psychiatrists Without Borders. Previously, she served for five years on the medical staff and faculty of the UCLA Medical School as an Assistant Clinical Professor in Psychiatry. She went on to work in international humanitarian aid providing mental health support to people living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, to survivors of the tsunami in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and to refugees of the conflict in Darfur, Sudan. Dr. Smith has participated in coordinating projects with organizations and agencies including the AIDS Healthcare Foundation International Medical Corps, World Health Organization, UNICEF, and United Nations High Commission for Refugees. In addition, she has served on the peer review panel of the United Nations/Inter-Agency Standing Committee Mental Health Task Force developing international guidelines for mental health interventions during emergency disaster relief.

Leah Klinger, MD 1999 *Internal Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center* Following graduation, Dr. Klinger moved to San Francisco and works as an internist at Kaiser Permanente.

Ngozi Okesie, MD 1999 *Clinical Fellowship and Research Fellowship, Adolescent Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center* “For eight years I worked at Saint Vincent's Westchester in the outpatient clinic before joining Columbia University's counseling center in July 2007. I am enjoying my time there. I currently live with my husband and two sons in Northern Westchester.”

2000s

David T. Chang, MD, FACS 2000 *Residencies, General Surgery and Urology, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center* “I've been appointed Chief of Urology at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey, and have been selected to serve on the QualCare Quality Management Committee as a representative of the North Jersey IPA.”

Merle Myerson, MD, EdD, FACC 2001 *Fellowship, Cardiology, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center* Dr. Myerson is presently Director, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Program. She is also Adjunct Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University.

Nina Eisenberg Katz, MD 2005 *Fellowship, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center* “I am currently a clinical instructor at Stanford University, working as the psychiatry attending on a medical stabilization unit for adolescents with eating disorders. I married Josh Kirz, a psychologist at Stanford, in December 2006.”

Timothy Lo, MD, MPH 2005 *Residency, Neurology, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, Neurological Institute* “Following my neurology residency, I married Catherine Leung in Jamaica in July 2005 and then moved to Berkeley, California, to attend a one-year MPH program in Epidemiology at the University of California. In July 2006, I started a one-year clinical fellowship in Pain Medicine in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In June 2007, I moved back to California and am presently in private practice in Oakland-Berkeley practicing a combination of acupuncture, pain management, and neurology.”

New York-Presbyterian

FORUM

Spring 2008

Vol. 2, No. 1

New York-Presbyterian Forum is published for former residents and fellows of New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Please send your news to: Richard S. Liebowitz, MD, MHSc, Vice President, Medical Affairs, rs19002@nyp.org

SIGN UP FOR CME

Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities are provided through Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/cme or (212) 305-3334) and Weill

Cornell Medical College (www.med.cornell.edu/education/programs/con_med_edu or (212) 746-2631). Both institutions are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to authorize and issue CME credit.

APRIL 2008

10th Annual Echocardiography Conference: State-of-the-Art 2008

Sponsors: Cardiac Valve Program of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and American Society of Echocardiography
Dates: April 30 – May 2, 2008
Location: The Roosevelt Hotel
45 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017

CME Credits: 23

For information, contact the Center for Continuing Medical Education at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, (212) 305-3334. To register, go to <http://columbiacme.org>.

MAY 2008

5th Annual Advances in the Treatment of Coronary Artery Disease: A Comprehensive Review

Sponsor: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Date: May 2, 2008
Location: Grand Hyatt New York
109 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

CME Credits: 6

Specialty: Cardiology, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine

For information/registration, go to www.nypheart.org.

Women and Epilepsy: Special Concerns

Sponsor: Weill Cornell Medical College
Date: May 3, 2008
Time: 8 am – 1 pm
Location: Weill Cornell Medical College
CME Credits: 4.5
Specialty: Neurology
For information/registration, contact Catherine Soto at (212) 746-2625 or cas2027@med.cornell.edu.

JUNE 2008

5th New York Symposium on Neurological Emergencies and Neurocritical Care

Sponsor: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
Dates: June 4 – 6, 2008
Location: The New York Academy of Medicine
1216 Fifth Avenue (at 103rd Street)
New York, NY 10029

CME Credits: 23

For information, contact the Center for Continuing Medical Education at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, (212) 305-3334. To register, go to <http://columbiacme.org>.

For more information about the Alumni Associations at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Weill Cornell Medical College, contact:

College of Physicians and Surgeons Columbia University

Office of the Alumni Association
630 West 168th Street, BB2-250
New York, NY 10032
(212) 305-3498
psalumni@columbia.edu
www.cps.onlinecommunity.com

New York Weill Cornell Medical Center Alumni Council (CAC)

Office of Alumni Relations
1300 York Avenue, Box 61
New York, NY 10065
(212) 746-6546
alumni@med.cornell.edu
www.med.cornell.edu/alumni

New York-Presbyterian The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell

Office of Medical Affairs
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
525 East 68th Street
New York, NY 10065
www.nyp.org/alumni

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 7491
New York, NY