

Fall 10-1-2006

COM Outlook Fall 2006

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NSUWorks Citation

College of Osteopathic Medicine, "COM Outlook Fall 2006" (2006). *COM Outlook*. Book 32.
http://nsuworks.nova.edu/hpd_com_outlook/32

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Fall 2006

Volume 7, Number 4

Osteopathic Medicine: Is Our Message Reaching the Masses?





Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.

In this issue of *COM Outlook*, our cover story centers on the timely topic of osteopathic medicine's continued inability to effectively convey its message (and existence) to both the public and media. The gravity of this situation was epitomized earlier this year when *Newsweek*—one of the nation's most-respected news magazines—ran a cover story entitled "Hero M.D." about a brave military physician who saved dozens of lives during the battle for Fallujah in Iraq.

The article itself was a wonderfully gripping account of the physician's experiences in Iraq. However, there was one major oversight: The physician was a D.O.—not an M.D. The American Osteopathic Association quickly responded to the egregious mistake by penning a thoughtful letter to *Newsweek* that resulted in a correction being printed in the following week's issue. Unfortunately, the damage had already been done.

There is a challenging and curious dichotomy occurring regarding the osteopathic profession as it relates to public recognition of osteopathic medicine and the fact that it has been the fastest-growing health profession in the United States based on percentage of growth in recent years. The latter fact was even recognized in April 2005 when Jordan Cohen, M.D., past president of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), penned a message in the *AAMC Reporter* about the impending physician shortage that is expected to impact the nation within the next 10 or so years.

In his message, Dr. Cohen stated, "After more than a century of often bitterly contentious relationships between the osteopathic and allopathic medical professions, we now find ourselves living at a time when osteopathic and allopathic graduates are both sought after by many of the same residency programs; are in most instances both licensed by the same licensing boards; are both privileged by many of the same hospitals; and are found in appreciable numbers on the faculties of each other's medical schools.

"One clear difference," he added, "is that, while the number of LCME (the allopathic accrediting body) graduates has

remained virtually constant over the past 25 years, the number of osteopathic graduates has more than doubled (from about 1,150 to about 2,600) and is expected to increase to 3,300 by the year 2010 and to perhaps 4,000 by 2015."

When Dr. Morton Terry established Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1979, it became the nation's 15th osteopathic medical school. Today, there are 23 osteopathic medical schools and three branch campuses in existence. And that number is expected to rise significantly by the end of the decade when eight potential new osteopathic medical schools join our respected ranks.

Therein lies the dichotomy. While our numbers continue to increase dramatically, surveys show that only a minority of the population even knows what osteopathic medicine is or that it even exists. Combine that with the fact that many people don't even know they're going to a D.O., and you have a prescription for potential anonymity.

Our profession is the fastest growing health profession in the country—a profession that is having a profoundly positive impact on our nation's health care system and sees a disproportionate number of patients compared to its M.D. counterpart. It's also important to note that while many D.O.s hold positions of high visibility and prestige, the media and public remain largely unaware of our existence and contributions to the health care system.

This is a perplexing challenge that we must accept and solve, and we need to think outside the box to find ways to do just that. It was disheartening for me to realize that more people could explain what acupuncture, chiropractic treatment, or naturopathy is than could offer up an explanation of osteopathic medicine.

Change will not just happen serendipitously; people have to know we exist. That's why promulgating our message to the masses is something all of us who are involved in the osteopathic medical profession need to do on a continuum to ensure our continued growth and success. The American Osteopathic Association must take the lead and has started to do just that through President John Strosnider's "From Good to Great" initiative.

We are already late, so let's not hesitate.



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

Increasing public recognition of the osteopathic profession has been an ongoing struggle over the years, primarily because it's a minority profession that comprises approximately six percent of the country's physician workforce and has far fewer schools than its allopathic counterpart.

While the osteopathic message may not permeate the public or media's

consciousness with regularity, there is no denying the fact that NSU-COM has done a tremendous job of successfully integrating itself into the health care landscape without ever denying its clear and very succinct osteopathic mission.

For example, NSU-COM has one of the largest teaching elements in terms of its educational collaborations and a dramatic number of prestigious affiliated residency programs with various institutions throughout Florida and the southeastern United States. In fact, we've broken the mold in this regard.

There are certainly very few entities amongst our sister schools that have the depth and breadth of the coordinated health education programmatic structure we have here at NSU's Health Professions Division, which consists of 6 colleges comprising 26 programs. When people think of NSU-COM, they frequently think of it not only as the College of Osteopathic Medicine but also as an integral part of the Health Professions Division at Nova Southeastern University.

We also have a tremendous advantage in that the university has supported our continued development as a Health Professions Division. In fact, NSU's trustees and President Ray Ferrero have done everything possible to adhere to the concepts and mission set forth by the late Dr. Morton Terry. And since I've been given the privilege of succeeding him, I feel I've tried to obligate myself to that same mission.

Certainly, when it comes to the College of Osteopathic Medicine, we have gone out of our way to expand our influence by being present at the table not only for osteopathic medicine but also for the public relations' element of letting people know of the equality positioning that is necessary for the public's eyes and minds.

Whether they are D.O.s or M.D.s, people don't measure doctors by the fact that they're allopathic or osteopathic as they did years ago. They measure them by the qualitative nature of what they do and by their outcomes. Our prestige as an institution has also increased significantly thanks to the college's dean, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, who has done an excellent job of being at the forefront of leadership in medical education in the state of Florida and on such issues as patient safety and medical errors.

Additionally, I sincerely believe that all our community activities—medical missions, health fairs, our rural and underserved community service rotations, and subsequent placement of physicians into these areas—have brought us to the point where people do not necessarily question what an osteopathic physician is, but in a sense just look at us as doctors of medicine.

In my estimation, we have an advantage in the fact that the public is currently seeking the osteopathic mission from their primary and subspecialty care doctors. They want them to be holistic in nature. We serve the community with kindness, humanity, and holistic care and educate our students in that vein. Dr. Silvagni has espoused that philosophy to his faculty and administrative leadership, and I certainly support him 100 percent when it comes to this.

Today, more health care is being driven external of the hospital, and more and more health care is being designed for wellness, prevention, and for the intervention of primary care physicians. Over the next decade, there will be a need for many more physicians to address outpatient issues such as nutrition, prevention, wellness, and other issues of that nature. Osteopathic physicians are clearly the captains of the ship on these issues.

There needs to be much more credence given in the media to the fact that NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine is special, that osteopathic medicine is special, and that it is the paradigm everyone is reaching for in terms of future health care delivery. We know how special osteopathic medicine is—now it's time for the rest of the world to realize it as well.



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COM Outlook is produced by
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COM Outlook is produced quarterly in
January, April, July, and October.

Notice of Nondiscrimination
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9 Faculty Gets Crash Course in Reuniting the Arts in Medicine

Family medicine faculty recently had an opportunity to visit the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale and participate in an innovative exercise that helped foster a sense of community between and among department members and provide them with an opportunity to express and share their creative sides with their colleagues.

18 Academic Societies Kickoff Honors Distinguished Individuals

NSU-COM's newly launched academical societies celebrated their formation with a kickoff ceremony that introduced the 10 societies as well as the individuals each society was named after, including the immortal Dr. Morton Terry.

20 Why Isn't the Osteopathic Message Reaching the Masses?

The cliché "ignorance is bliss" may apply to some situations, but it has been nothing but a hindrance to the osteopathic medical profession, which remains a relatively anonymous entity to a significant portion of the population more than 130 years after its inception.

26 Education, Altruism on Display During Jamaica Mission

Combining education and altruism have always been hallmarks of the college's medical outreach efforts, and that tradition continued last June when a 111-member health care team traveled to over a dozen locations throughout Jamaica to provide a range of services to about 3,500 patients.

28 Debbi Cohn Steinkohl Sets Example by Leading with Her Heart

When people first meet Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, who serves as administrative director of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC), the first thing they probably notice is the thick and lustrous mass of red curls that surround her face. However, once they spend some time with Steinkohl, people quickly discover that beneath the big hair is a woman with a big heart, an immense work ethic, and an unquenchable passion for curricular innovation and experiential learning.

32 Examining the Myths and Realities of Medical Ethics

In this thought-provoking article, Dr. Stanley Cohen examines the college's approach to teaching its students about medical ethics issues and takes a broader look at the myths and realities of this timely topic.

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Charlene LePane, D.O.

Charlene LePane, D.O., chief resident in the NSU-COM/Mt. Sinai Medical Center Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency, was the lead author of an article entitled "Ulcerative Jejunoileitis: A Complication of Celiac Sprue Simulating Crohn's Disease Diagnosed with Capsule Endoscopy (PillCam)." The article has been accepted for publication and will be appearing in an upcoming issue of *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*.

On Saturday, August 12, a group comprising approximately 16 M1 and M2 students from the college's Christian Medical and Dental Association participated in the Back to School Family Fest health fair, which was held at the L.A. Lee Family YMCA in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Under the supervision of Barbara Arcos, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, the students provided blood pressure, blood sugar, and body-mass-index screenings to over 80 patients.

White Coat Ceremony Welcomes Future Physicians



White Coat Ceremony served as an auspicious experience that officially marked their entry into the medical profession. In the presence of family, guests, and faculty members, the students were welcomed into the medical community by leaders of the osteopathic profession and ceremonially "cloaked" with their white coat. By establishing this meaningful ritual at the beginning of medical school, the intent is to make students aware of their responsibilities from the first day of training and convey the message that doctors should "care" as well as "cure."



During the ceremony, a number of M2 students were in attendance to pin the M1 students into their respective academical societies.

Dr. Daniel Shaw Awarded Kenyon Cancer Grant



Daniel Shaw, Ph.D.

The Sixth Annual Kenyon Faculty Research Grant was awarded to Daniel Shaw, Ph.D., who serves as coordinator of the college's psychology and behavioral medicine course and associate professor of family medicine. Dr. Shaw, who will conduct research in end-of-life care, will employ the Educating Physicians on End-of-Life Care curriculum (EPEC, 1999 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), which

will be modified by using selected training modules that focus primarily on the psychosocial issues of end-of-life care, specifically physician empathic communication. Both experimental and control group subjects will comprise family medicine attending and resident physicians at the NSU-COM family medicine clinics in Davie and North Miami Beach. It is hypothesized that the participants' knowledge of end-of-life care issues and empathic communication techniques will increase as a result of their participation in the modified EPEC program.

COMMUNICATIONS

NSU-COM recently established the North Broward Hospital District/NSU-COM Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency at Broward General Medical Center, which has been approved by the American Osteopathic Association. The program will consist of nine residents and officially commence July 1, 2007.

Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, founding dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, was the recipient of the Frances Larson Memorial Award for writing excellence, which was presented in May 2006 by the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association.

Ricardo Arriaza, M.S., who served as coordinator in the Office of Institutional Data Analysis and Development for many years, was selected in July to replace Randy Sweeting as program coordinator of distance learning.

Paul Winner, D.O., FAAN, FAAP, FAHS, clinical professor of neurology, coauthored a book entitled *Young Adult and Pediatric Headache Management*. Dr. Winner is the director of the Palm Beach Headache Center and serves as an attending neurologist at Palm Beach Neurology in West Palm Beach, Florida.



Caban-Martinez discusses his poster with renowned cancer researcher Judah Folkman, M.D., who serves as professor of cell biology at Harvard Medical School.

Interview Survey 1997 to 2003.” He also attended the International Cancer Congress and Tobacco Conference in Washington, D.C., in July to present three oral and poster presentations.

Lifesaving Techniques on Display at CPR Day



Association and the Florida College of Emergency Physicians.

Throughout the day, participants were trained in CPR and in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine. The event’s goal is to reduce the number of lives lost from cardiac death by educating people about the “Chain of Survival”—the four-step process of providing treatment to victims of sudden cardiac death.

Nationwide, cardiac arrests claim about 330,000 lives each year. In Florida, about 10,000 people a year suffer a cardiac arrest, but the startling statistic is that 95 percent of those victims die before reaching the hospital.

“It is probably safe to say that most every one of us has had a family member or friend who has suffered either a cardiac arrest or a major stroke,” said Kevin Nugent, program director of NSU-COM’s Department of Emergency Medical Services Education and Training. “The few hours the attendees spent attending a session could very easily save a loved one’s life in the future.”

NSU Health Care Centers Activity Report

- NSU’s Family Medicine Clinic at the Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center in Davie was featured in a segment on PBS’s national *Nightly Business Report* that explained how medical residents are skillfully prepared to enter the business world of medicine. Featured in the segment were Dr. Joseph De Gaetano and third-year family medicine residents Dr. Samuel Perna and Dr. Hafusat Fawehinmi.
- The Division of Clinical Operations has been working with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to implement a shadowing program for undergraduate students who are interested in careers in the health professions. The students would obtain college credits by working in Nova Southeastern University clinical sites. The program would not only attract undergraduate students to the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences but also provide those interested in the health professions with a comprehensive look at the university’s graduate programs, which will hopefully encourage them to consider their further education at NSU.
- A practicum site for nursing students within the College of Allied Health and Nursing has been established at NSU’s medical sites, further enhancing the interdisciplinary educational opportunities provided through the Health Professions Division’s health care centers.
- Navicare has been implemented as the new clearinghouse for medical billing, a move that was implemented to improve the billing department’s ability to process claims in a more expedient manner.



2006-07 OPP Fellows
Six NSU-COM students were selected to participate in the 2006-07 predoctoral clinical and teaching fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice. Pictured (top from left) are Amil Badoolah, Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., and Stephen Fromang. Pictured (bottom from left) are Renee Marchioni, Melissa Morgan, and Elena Timoshkin.



On July 4, NSU showcased its community spirit by serving as a sponsor of the Town of Davie’s Fourth of July celebration. Manning the NSU booth were Robert Oller, D.O., CEO of NSU’s Division of Clinical Operations, and his wife, Ronnie.

Eye on AHEC: Camps, Linkages...and More

- The Broward County Public Schools Office of Prevention Programs recognized AHEC for its outstanding service to the community through its AHEC Tobacco Prevention/Cessation Project. Since its inception in 2001, this highly successful initiative has reached over 90,000 elementary, middle, and high school children in Broward and Seminole counties as well as in Puerto Rico with educational programming focusing on the harmful effects of tobacco use.
- AHEC coordinated two sessions of its nationally recognized annual Summer Health Career Camps, which featured participation from nearly 100 high school students from a pool of approximately 230 applicants from 40 schools located throughout AHEC’s 19-county service area. Since their establishment, over 1,600 students have participated in the camps.
- AHEC has been expanding linkages with various HPD colleges and programs in the development of new specialized training initiatives for students and health providers. These efforts have included support for the College of Allied Health and Nursing’s new Master’s in Community Health Nursing Program, which will provide an opportunity for nurses in underserved communities to gain practical skills in addressing an array of public health issues.
- AHEC has been working to enhance collaboration between itself and NSU’s Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME) to improve access to care in underserved areas and to recruit physicians to these communities. Towards this end, AHEC hosted a special program on “AHEC and Safety Net Linkages” for medical education directors, residency directors, and hospital administrators from NSU-affiliated residency programs throughout Florida as well as in Georgia and South Carolina.

Dateline Health Celebrates Major Milestone



Celebrants at the 200th taping are: Mark Schuknecht, associate director; Jasmine Morales, multimedia producer assistant; Maria Prieto, multimedia producer; A. Alvin Greber, D.O., HPD associate executive dean; Dr. Lippman; Rita Silverman, Robert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, and Alma Somarriba, production assistant.

Dateline Health, NSU’s public service program hosted by HPD Chancellor Dr. Fred Lippman, reached a significant milestone in September when it taped its 200th episode. The program, which originated in 1998, is produced by the Health Professions Division and features up-to-date health care news and interviews with health care experts, researchers, and policymakers who discuss a range of contemporary topics. The program is taped on NSU’s main campus in collaboration with the Office of Educational Technologies and Digital Media Production.

“Dateline Health is provided as a service to the community and is closely watched for the health tips it dispenses,” said Executive



Dateline Health Executive Producer Rita Silverman, who also serves as NSU-COM’s director of clinical research, displays a promotional poster that commemorates the show’s 200th episode.

Producer Rita Silverman, M.P.S. “We get a lot of queries and calls from viewers in the community after each broadcast. In fact, some of them even suggest topics for future episodes.”

Dateline Health is broadcast on two local cable stations. The Broward Education Communications Network (BECON) airs the program Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m., Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m., and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. After each *Dateline Health* episode rotates through the BECON time slots for two weeks, it is then broadcast on Comcast’s community channel. For *Dateline Health* air times on Comcast, please see your local cable TV listings.

Clinical Research Studies on the Rise



Thanks to the resourcefulness of Rita Silverman, M.P.S., who has served as director of clinical research since 1999, eight new/ongoing clinical trials worth about \$400,000 in funding are being conducted through the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Following is information regarding the current studies:

Study of Patients with Normal LDL Cholesterol and Elevated C-Reactive Protein

Principal Investigator: *Gary Hill, D.O.*

Funding Source: AstraZeneca

Funding Amount: \$48,000

Osteoporosis Prevention and Postmenopausal Symptom Study

Principal Investigator: *Kenneth Johnson, D.O.*

Funding Source: Wyeth

Funding Amount: \$97,665

Abdominally Obese Subjects with Cardiovascular Risk Factors

Principal Investigator: *Jeffrey Bleicher, D.O.*

Funding Source: Sanofi

Funding Amount: \$76,000

Menstrual Migraine

Principal Investigator: *Kenneth Johnson, D.O.*

Funding Source: GlaxoSmithKline

Funding Amount: \$16,000

CLMF237A Treatment Naïve Diabetics

Principal Investigator: *Gary Hill, D.O.*

Funding Source: Novartis

Funding Amount: \$19,241

Flibanserin Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder

Principal Investigator: *Kenneth Johnson, D.O.*

Funding Source: Boehringer-Ingelheim

Funding Amount: \$108,090

Oral Contraceptives for Dysmenorrhea

Principal Investigator: *Kenneth Johnson, D.O.*

Funding Source: Wyeth

Funding Amount: \$16,000

Testosterone Patch FSD in Menopausal Women

Principal Investigator: *Kenneth Johnson, D.O.*

Funding Source: Proctor & Gamble

Funding Amount: Unknown

HPD-SGA Photo Contest

By Heather Mikes, M2



"Sunrise" by M2 student Julia Hartley

If a picture is worth a 1,000 words, then coming this fall, over 40,000 of them will be spread on the walls of NSU's Health Professions Division.

Last semester, I had an idea that would enable students to liven up the school through sharing their learning experiences in medicine and enjoyment of living in South Florida. I presented my idea to the Health Professions Division Student Government Association, and the result was the coordination of HPD-SGA's first-ever photo contest. Over 40 HPD students participated in the contest, from which 75 photographs were chosen. The categories included medicine orientated to local and international communities and landscapes of Florida.

During my undergraduate experience at the University of Florida, I did a lot of work with Arts in Medicine. Having witnessed and experienced the soothing and reflective nature of decorative art, I am excited to describe the new sentiment one may soon feel walking around the Health Professions Division. The north wall of the cafeteria will set a mood of compassion and inspiration with action shots of medical mission work in the Amazon set in between two pictures of serene sunrises.

The next time you zoom down the halls of the Terry Building, the striking colors of photos taken by NSU-COM students may take you in and slow down your pace for a moment or two. In the HPD Library, the hallways will be decorated with a colorful collection of photos that encompass all the diverse aspects of Florida. Last but not least, the student lounge will soon feature tranquil pictures of beach life as well as vibrant collages that capture students' passions for learning medicine.

Although our academic and clinical schedules inevitability continue to grow more challenging, I truly look forward to the reflections these new photographs will evoke. May they remind us of the beauty that surrounds us in South Florida and continue to keep us connected to the passion and dedication to medicine we all share.

Organizing this photo contest with the help of the HPD-SGA has made me realize what a creative and talented student body we have here at NSU-HPD. On behalf of the HPD-SGA and myself, thank you and congratulations to all the participating students.

Please continue to weave this creative passion throughout your student experiences, as I assure you there will be many more artistic opportunities to come.

NSU-COM Faculty Gets Crash Course in "Reuniting the Arts in Medicine"



On August 18, family medicine faculty had an opportunity to visit the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale and participate in an innovative exercise that helped foster a sense of community between and among department members and provide them with an opportunity to express and share their creative sides with their colleagues.

"When I became chair of the Department of Family Medicine, I wanted to develop a tool to assess the faculty's perception in regard to the need for faculty development, so I worked with Dr. Dan Shaw to design a survey, which we then administered to all the family medicine faculty," said Pablo Calzada, D.O., M.P.H. "Interestingly, among the items mentioned most were conflict analysis/resolution and leadership. What the survey indicated to me was that the faculty perceived the need to function as a cohesive unit."

Drawing on an educational exercise he participated in while completing a health policy fellowship several years ago, Dr. Calzada decided to implement a similar one at NSU-COM that consisted of visiting a museum and evaluating how physicians are decidedly different when it comes to their perceptions of life and other people due to their disparate upbringings, lifestyles, cultures, and religions. "When I participated in this exercise during my fellowship, it made me realize that art could be amazingly utilized as a tool to wake up that sense of disparity and how we see things among ourselves," he explained. "And since our family medicine faculty was actually asking for training in that kind of conflict resolution and leadership, I decided it would be a good exercise to try here."

With the help of two professors from NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services, as well as a renowned visiting professor, the participants broke up into four teams of five and analyzed pre-selected paintings, sculptures, and photographs. The participants then journeyed to the nearby downtown library to share their thoughts and make performance-style presentations to their peers about what a particular piece of art meant to them. "It proved to be a truly enriching experience and a great icebreaker," stated Dr. Calzada. "We chartered an NSU van, and on the drive to the museum there was complete silence because people were looking out the window and entertaining their own thoughts. On the way back, however, it was like putting a group of high school students together because everybody was hyped and talking animatedly and gesticulating."

Because the museum experience was such a success, plans are already underway to collaborate with other NSU schools and colleges to create quarterly workshops for the family medicine faculty, which will revolve around issues such as conflict analysis/resolution, leadership, and other topics of interest. "I decided to look within our institution for assistance, so I will be working with the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Fischler School of Education and Human Services on these workshops," he explained. "These workshops will be beneficial to the faculty while also serving as a terrific way to bolster interdisciplinary, interdepartmental, and inter-college collaboration."

FSACOFP Convention Photo Gallery

July 26-30, 2006 - Orlando



Howard Neer, D.O., William Stager, D.O., Kenneth Johnson, D.O., and Lynne Cawley, M.S.



Dr. Silvagni and his wife, Dianna, celebrate his FSACOFP Physician of the Year Award.



Clockwise (from left) are Gregory James, D.O., Jeffrey Grove, D.O., Robert Blackburn, D.O., Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., and Joseph De Gaetano, D.O.



John Presutti, D.O., and Louis Radnothy, D.O.



NSU-COM was well represented at the 2006 Florida Public Health Association Annual Education Conference, which was held at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida,

in early August. During the symposium, a mix of medical and M.P.H. students, faculty, and preventive medicine residents provided both oral and poster presentations on a range of insightful topics.

The FPHA, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary, recently established a student section comprising 41 students from all disciplines in public health throughout the state of Florida. This development is particularly noteworthy because M3 student and OPP fellow Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H., who will serve as the organization's student section chair, spearheaded its creation. In this role, Caban-Martinez hopes to instill momentum and develop membership conducive to advocating the affairs of all public health students in Florida.

The majority of NSU-COM posters represented research and analysis accomplished in the research project phase of the M.P.H. biostatistics course that is directed by Dr. Gabriel Suciú. The cancer topic was chosen based on the Florida Cancer Registry database, which is available for student research based on a 22-year period (1981-2002). The cancer registry database is one of the most complex surveillance systems in existence for helping students and faculty members find prognostic factors related to cancer sites, health disparities, and other major public health implications.

Four current M.P.H. students—Yuri Feito, E. Mika Nakagawa, Molly Ryan, and Anita Tamirisa—are currently taking the Research in Public Health I class and preparing a draft of their findings under Dr. Suciú's supervision. Their research focuses on the outcome of surgery techniques before and after new guidelines were adopted in 1997.

"We had fun taking a break from our monthly rotations and studying for our weekly exams," said M3 student Shannon Hillier. "Public health is exciting, and especially rewarding, when we know we can help so many people in so many ways."

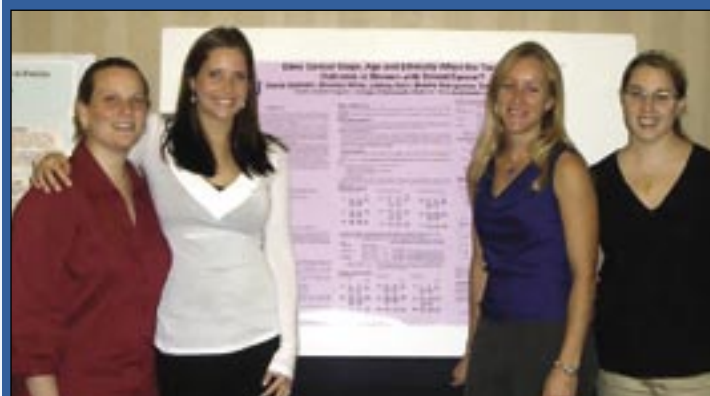
Unlike the usual medical office where we treat just one person at a time, we know the research we did will be used to help educate and prevent unfavorable outcomes for many in the future."

Presentations

*Health Insurance Coverage Among U.S. Worker Groups:
The National Health Interview Survey*
Alberto Caban-Martinez, M.P.H.

*Prognostic Factors for the Risky Behaviors of High School
Students That Can Lead to the Leading Causes of Death
Among Youths and Tomorrow's Adults*
Gabriel Suciú, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

*Does Cancer Morphology and Grading Affect the Surgery
Outcome in Women with Breast Cancer?*
**Danita Gailbraith, Shannon Hillier, Lindsay Kahn,
Gabriel Suciú, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., and Brooke Weingarden**



Pictured (from left) are Lindsay Kahn (M3), Shannon Hillier (M3), Danita Galbraith (M3), and Brooke Weingarden (M2).

*Impact of Gender, Histology, and Tobacco Use in the Treatment
of Lung Cancer in Florida (1990-2001)*
**Yuri Feito, Lindsay Kahn, Molly Ryan, E. Mika Nakagawa,
Gabriel Suciú, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., and Anita Tamirisa**

*Association Between Age, Gender, and Treatment Outcome Among
Patients with Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Skin Cancer*
**Jose de la Llana, M.D., Faizah Ekram, Hosein Farsad, M.D.,
Omolara Olowoyeye, and Gabriel Suciú, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.**



Hosein Farsad, M.D., preventive medicine resident; Savita Kumar, clinical assistant professor of preventive medicine; and Jose de la Llana, M.D., preventive medicine resident.



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

There we were—Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. The little acorn from which big oaks grew, even as the little acorn itself flourished and blossomed. The year was 1985, and the charter class in osteopathic medicine was getting ready to graduate. Mort Terry and I were still in the throes of trying to make SECOM the best institution we could

by improving the curriculum, collecting a fine faculty, and handling administrative matters. And we had no thoughts of anything other than osteopathic medicine.

One day, however, Mort went across the street to Southeastern Medical Center, our affiliated hospital, for a conference with Jeffrey Rosenberg, who was the hospital's executive director at that time. In the middle of reviewing many things, Jeff suddenly said to Mort, "Do you know what you should do? You should start a pharmacy school because we can't seem to get enough pharmacists."

That was like a challenge to Mort Terry. He came back across the street and headed straight for my office. After about 40 seconds of "intense" discussion and investigation, we both said, "Let's do it." Neither of us had any doubts or qualms.

Unlike the red tape that expands as an institution grows, unlike the procedures and protocols that were necessary when we became large, we found no need for studies, statistics, investigation, consultations, or any of the other preparations that almost always accompany the decision on establishing a new school.

That decision having been made, it meant that Mort and I had to take on another workload. Since I, as dean of the osteopathic college, was the chief operating officer, technically it was my job to get the pharmacy program started. But Mort Terry and Arnold Melnick never looked at job titles or job responsibilities. Together, we jumped in and did whatever had to be done. Of course, we went to the Board of Governors for its approval.

Fortunately for us, help was in the wings. Fred Lippman, the present HPD chancellor, was then a member of the Florida House of Representatives and a great friend of SECOM—and he was a pharmacist. He was strongly versed in pharmacy practice, organized pharmacy, and

the legislative aspects involved. Around the same time, Allen Nichol appeared. He was a highly regarded local pharmacist—and he was organizationally active and a keen arbiter of pharmacy education. Most important of all, both took an immediate interest in the new school, and both went to work at once to help us.

An interesting anecdote will illustrate the atmosphere at the time: There was only one pharmacy school in the state—at the University of Florida. It was a fine institution, and none of our efforts to start a new school were directed at them. We just felt that another institution was needed, particularly in South Florida where a major portion of Florida's population lived. When news reached the UF Pharmacy School, a major domo of that school stood up at a public meeting and said, sneeringly, "What are they going to teach—osteopathic pharmacy?" Thankfully, times have changed.

Fast forward a couple of years, during which time our administration realized there were expansion opportunities out there—the pharmacy experience had established that for us, and proved we could do it. We talked about a lot of possibilities. Then it was pointed out to us that there was no optometry educational institution in Florida, actually none south of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. We subsequently found out in talks with the Florida Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association that both were in favor of a new school.

Consequently, a taskforce was formed, including state and local optometrists, and we conferred frequently with the state association. In 1988, the SECOM Board of Governors approved establishment of the new school, and the first class was accepted for entry in 1989. From concept to charter class took less than 18 months—a phenomenon that began with SECOM and eventually became characteristic of every new school we established.

So, from the just-starting-to-grow little acorn—SECOM—sprouted two now-giant oaks, the College of Pharmacy and the College of Optometry. And more big oaks were to come...



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



By Kathryn Rooth, SGA President

This year has brought many great changes we would like to share.

New SGA Officers

The elected officers for the 2006-07 school year are:
President: Kathryn Rooth, M3
Vice President: Roger Alvarez, M2
Treasurer: Jessica Wilson, M2
Secretary: Nat Kittisarapong, M1

COSGP Meeting

The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents held its first annual meeting in July in Chicago. This is where all the presidents and vice presidents from all the osteopathic schools meet to discuss pertinent issues and learn about new ideas and projects that can be brought back to NSU-COM. An initiative that was started by COSGP that has been brought to NSU-COM is the TOUCH initiative, which stands for Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health. This program encourages community service by the students and gives recognition to those contributing over 50 hours of community service.

AOA House of Delegates

The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association sponsored Kathryn Rooth and Roger Alvarez to represent the student body as delegates. During the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting, which preceded the COSGP meeting,

several student-oriented resolutions were brought to the house.

Resolution 252 was passed, which requested that the NBOME look into creating more COMLEX PE locations. House Resolution 298 was also approved, which requires students to write OMS I, II, III, or IV accordingly after their name, unless prohibited by the institution in which they are doing their clinical rotation. In addition, Resolution 19 was passed, which redefines the rotation internship year by making it easier to track and less confusing for students. Osteopathic internships are not being terminated, but most will be put into a specialty track. However, Resolution 302 was not passed; therefore, the student representation at the HOD remains the SGA president as the delegate and vice president as the alternate.

White Coat Ceremony

Tradition was continued with the White Coat Ceremony, where family members proudly watched class of 2010 students receive their white coats. The academical societies were also in attendance, and all the students received a pin from their designated society. The ceremony was followed by a brunch at NSU-COM and a presentation on osteopathic medicine.

Club Week

The annual NSU-COM SGA Club Week, which took place August 8-



Pictured at the FOMA delegation meeting in Chicago are M2 student Roger Alvarez and M3 student Kathryn Rooth.

10, involved more than 30 student organizations, professional societies, and interest groups. First- and second-year students had the opportunity to sign up for various organizations, giving them access to wonderful extra and co-curricular programming throughout the year such as health fairs, guest speakers, and more.

MILES Committee

Mixing In Lifestyles, Exercise, and School (MILES) has been created as a spin off of Get Fit in '06. Its goal is to encourage students to live a healthy lifestyle while going through the stresses of medical school. Each academical society has a MILES committee representative that will help create innovative ideas and activities to get students involved.



FOMA delegates gather for a commemorative photo at the AOA's 2006 House of Delegates meeting, which was held last July in Chicago, Illinois.



threat of potential terrorist attacks in Miami, Chicago, and New York City.

A well-trained and fully prepared health system network is needed at the federal, state, and local levels to protect Americans from the effects of natural disasters, mass contagion, and terrorist activities. However, there remain significant challenges in training the U.S. health care workforce in disaster management. Private and public health care facilities are struggling with their ability to maintain ongoing and new staff training and assess program effectiveness, employee competencies, and skill retention.

To remain at the forefront of these imperative issues, the NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) has collaborated with local, state, and national partners to provide continuing education in "preparedness training" to Florida's health care workers and first responders. Most recently, CBAP, in partnership with Broward Community College, has utilized a Health Resources and Services Administration-funded continuing education grant to develop appropriate and timely training for Florida's health care workforce.

This training includes health care administrators and volunteers that may not have a medical or scientific background, as well as health care professionals, first responders, and related personnel that play a vital role in both disaster preparedness and response.

A variety of training tools and resources are provided, including speaker programs, educational materials, and unique interactive online courses made possible through the expertise of NSU's Innovation Zone (IZone). To date, more than 1,000 individuals have accessed the free CME/CE programs, and this number is growing daily.

For more information about these programs and courses or to access additional resources, please visit the CBAP Web site at www.nova.edu/allhazards. You may also contact the center by calling (954) 262-1688.



DID YOU KNOW?

Before September 11, 2001, the last major attack on the U.S. mainland occurred when the British burned Washington, D.C., during the war of 1812. Between then and 9/11, terrorist attacks were isolated and rare incidents conducted by one or a few individuals (e.g., Oklahoma City, the Atlanta Olympics).

FAST FACTS

Vulnerable and/or hard-to-reach populations are a major target for public health to improve communication and services to at the time of a major disaster. Nationwide, it is estimated that these groups represent 134 million individuals. In Florida, they account for more than 63 percent of the total population.

- Florida has the nation's largest proportion of people over 65 years old: 18.3 percent vs. the national average of 12 percent.
- By 2025, 25 percent of Florida's population will be 65 years of age and over.
- Of Florida's "over-65" population, 19.3 percent have 2 or more disabilities, 18.6 percent are unable to go outside of their home, and 14.3 percent have Alzheimer's disease.
- Florida has over 2 million individuals with diagnosed mental or physical disabilities.
- Estimates indicate that over 83,000 homeless people live in Florida, and on any one day, temporary housing is available for approximately 25 percent.
- Tourists/visitors and part-time residents, from both the U.S. and abroad, make up over 30 percent of Florida's population at any one time.

(Sources: Florida Department of Elder Affairs; Census 2000; Florida Coalition for the Homeless; and Visit Florida.org.)



Attendees at a recent CBAP meeting included (from left): Jeffrey Larson, Ph.D., director of elearning content solutions, Broward Community College/SunGard Higher Education; Judith Farrar, Ph.D., CBAP project coordinator; Sharon Cohen, R.N., M.S.N., clinical nurse specialist for emergency preparedness, North Broward Hospital District; David Thomas, M.D., J.D., chair, Department of Surgery; Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., deputy director, Behavioral Health Promotion Program; Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of education, planning, and research; and Sally Bragg, R.N., CBAP health professions and nursing coordinator.



Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., FAAFP, FACOFP, associate professor of family medicine and assistant dean of clinical curriculum and GME, was elected president of the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians at the organization's July conference in Orlando. "My top goals as president," he explained,

"will be to expand FSACOFPP member services and aggressively reach out to members to learn what issues they are most concerned with and wish the FSACOFPP to address."

Robert Hasty, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, received a heartfelt gift of gratitude from a patient whose life he helped saved in February 2006 in the Internal Medicine Clinic at NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center. The patient, who suffered



a massive heart attack and lapsed into a state of unconsciousness, was resuscitated by Dr. Hasty and has recovered nicely. To showcase his appreciation, the patient presented Dr. Hasty with a hand-drawn pencil rendering featuring two hands clasping the arm of a person in need. The apropos inscription reads, "Thanks for lending me a helping hand." In

addition, he was accepted as a 2006-07 fellow in the AOA's Health Policy Fellowship program and presented a lecture in October at the American College of Osteopathic Internists national convention in Phoenix, Arizona, on "Antithrombotic Update 2006." He has also been asked to serve as a Level 2 examination writer for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.



Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., FAOAO, who serves as HPD vice chancellor for professional affairs and executive director of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics, was honored at the AOA's House of Delegates meeting in July by being invited to deliver the annual A.T. Still Memorial Address, which was entitled "A.T. Still Revisited: A

New Look at Osteopathic Education." The lecture addressed current tribulations and offered solutions to many of the concerns regarding where the osteopathic profession is heading. In 2005, Dr. Morris received the AOA's highest award—the Distinguished Service Certificate.



Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOFP, who serves as NSU-COM dean, was the deserving recipient of the Physician of the Year Award from the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FSACOFPP). The award, which was presented in Orlando during the FSACOFPP's annual July convention, recognized Dr. Silvagni

for his "longstanding commitment to the highest quality of patient care and dedicated leadership in this pursuit." Dr. Silvagni, who currently serves as chairman of the Council of Florida Medical School Deans, is the first NSU-COM dean to receive this prestigious award.

M Isabel Fernandez, Ph.D., professor of preventive medicine/public health and director of the Behavioral Health Promotion Program, was a discussant at the 114th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, which was held last August in New Orleans, Louisiana, where



she addressed the topic "Effective Interventions for Drug-Abusing Women at Risk for HIV/AIDS." Dr. Fernandez and her research team comprising Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., Leah Varga, M.A., Nilda Hernandez, Cesar DeFuentes, and Jacob Warren, Ph.D., also presented two

posters at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada, August 13-18. The posters were entitled "Is Use of Crystal Methamphetamine Associated with Increased HIV Risk Behaviors for Hispanic MSM in Miami?" and "Cruising in Cyberspace: Using the Internet to Recruit Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men."



Loretta Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, and Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, were presenters at the Association of Standardized Patient Educators annual conference, which took place August 20-23 in Tucson, Arizona.

Dr. Graham presented a half-day pre-conference course titled "Taking the Mystery Out of Statistics," while Dr. Hamstra showcased a poster titled "Using the HBO Movie *Will to Develop* Standardized Patient Inter-Rater Reliability on the Arizona Clinical Interview Rating Scale."



Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of NSU's Women's Health Center, served as coauthor of an article entitled "Efficacy of a Brief Motivational Intervention to Reduce Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancies: An RCT" that has been accepted for publication in the January 2007 issue of the *American*

Journal of Preventive Medicine. The article is an offshoot of the work done by the Project CHOICES Efficacy Study research team, which features a number of individuals, including Dr. Johnson.



Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., M.S., professor of public health/family medicine and special assistant to the chancellor, was a moderator and presenter at the state of Florida's Fifth Annual Medicaid Research Conference, which was held last June in Tallahassee and brought together health services researchers with policymakers,

advocates, and state agency staff. Dr. Foster's presentation centered on the topic "Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: Issues of Diversity and Cultural Competence."



Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, gave a presentation to school nurses in St. Augustine, Florida, on preparing for and dealing with children during disasters and was appointed as faculty adviser to the Dr. Fred Lippman academical society. Dr. Packer also organized and participated in the annual NSU-HPD

Back to School Physicals kickoff event and oriented the incoming interns who are participating in the pediatric residency program at Palms West Hospital.

Faculty Promotions

Camille Bentley, D.O.
elevated from assistant to associate professor

Kenneth Johnson, D.O.
elevated from assistant to associate professor

Jennie Q. Lou, M.D.
elevated from associate to full professor



Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., professor of public health and director of medical informatics, was selected to act as an editorial advisory board member and peer reviewer for *Scientific Journals International*. In addition, She served as a peer reviewer for selecting the scientific presentations that were given at the 11th World Congress on Internet

in Medicine symposium, which was held October 14-19, 2006, in Toronto, Canada.



Robert Otter, D.O., chief executive officer of NSU's Division of Clinical Operations, appeared on *South Florida Citizens' Health Care Forum*, which was aired on WPBT/Channel 2 and recorded at Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Otter served on a panel of experts that discussed current health care issues. In addition, he was selected to serve on

UnitedHealthcare's Physician Advisory Committee to help explore new payment mechanisms to health care providers.

COM Faculty Earns NSU Grants

In May, several NSU-COM faculty members were awarded sizable cash endowments in the Seventh Annual President's Faculty Research and Development Grant and Fourth Annual NSU/Coordinating Council of Broward Quality of Life Faculty Community-Based Applied Research Grant categories.

President's Faculty Research and Development Grants

Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD
"Assessment of a Butyrylcholinesterase Variant in Alzheimer's Patients"
(in collaboration with other NSU faculty members)

Anthony Ottaviani, D.O.
Max Mayrink (M2 student)
Victor Totfalusi (M3 student)
"CPAP Versus Oral Appliances: Effect on Quality of Life, Sleepiness, and Performance"
(in collaboration with other NSU faculty members)

Quality of Life Faculty Community-Based Applied Research Grants

Jacob Warren, Ph.D.
"Suicide Prevention Among Adolescents: Research and Evaluation"
(in collaboration with other NSU faculty members)



Stanley Cohen, Ed.D., professor and vice provost for educational support of the Health Professions Division, will be a featured speaker at the November 2006 Type Across Borders Conference, which is being sponsored by the Association of Psychological Type International Southeast Region and the University of Florida in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Cohen's presentation will focus on "Identifying Teaching and Learning Styles Using Myers-Briggs Type I Indicators (MBTI)."



Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor of pediatrics and director of systems, participated in a panel discussion on June 17 called "All-Hazards Preparedness: Vulnerable and Hard-to-Reach Populations." The event was coordinated through the Broward County Medical Association in collaboration with NSU-COM and was held at the Health Professions Division campus.



Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., professor and AHEC Program director, and Rosebud Foster, professor and AHEC special projects coordinator, were honored by the National Area Health Education Center Organization during its 2006 Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Drs. Foster and Zucker were acknowledged for their longstanding leadership, dedication, and service in national advocacy efforts for federal health professions programs.



James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, was elected to serve as an alternate delegate in the Florida American Medical Association (FMA) Delegation. He was also appointed to the FMA's Council on Public Health along with Deborah Mulligan, M.D., who serves as clinical professor of pediatrics.

New Faculty Joins College of Osteopathic Medicine Team



David Boesler, D.O., M.S., is the latest addition to the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice. Prior to joining NSU-COM in August, Dr. Boesler served as associate dean for clinical affairs, year III, and chairman of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at Des Moines University-Osteopathic Medical Center. Dr. Boesler received his D.O. degree from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and his master's degree from Villanova University in Pennsylvania.



Amy Dadura Raines, D.O., who previously worked in the Department of Family Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, joined NSU-COM's family medicine department in August. Dr. Raines received her D.O. degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., who previously worked for NSU-COM as a consultant and helped prepare the initial HRSA bioterrorism grant application, rejoined the college in September in the role of executive director of education, planning, and research. In this capacity, Dr. Rokusek will be assisting in educational planning and research in conjunction with Dr. Leonard Levy. Dr. Rokusek received her doctorate in education from the University of South Dakota and recently served as dean of the College of Education at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota.



Khin Maung Tu, M.D., assistant professor of anatomy, was recently profiled in the faith and values section of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. In the profile, Dr. Tu discussed a range of topics and explained how he became a devout disciple of Buddhism. "I became a real Buddhist when I became a surgeon," he stated. "When you save a life, you give the patient a chance to be reborn with the idea for a second chance. If I were not a surgeon, I would have become a monk because religion gives me inner peace."



Bradley S. Feuer, D.O., J.D., who serves as clinical professor of family medicine, was recently promoted to the rank of auxiliary lieutenant colonel and appointed to the position of chief surgeon in the Florida Highway Patrol. Dr. Feuer, who is the regional director of medical education of the Palm Beach Centre for Graduate Medical Education, was appointed as the first troop surgeon in the state of Florida Highway Patrol in 2003. In the above photo, Dr. Feuer (center) receives congratulations from his wife, Ileana Feuer, D.O., and Florida Highway Patrol Troop L Commander Major Miguel A. Guzman.

COM Has Integral Impact at FSACOFP Conference

A number of full-time and clinical NSU-COM faculty members presented lectures or served as panelists at the 26th Annual Florida Society ACOFP Convention held July 26-30 at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, Florida:

- Panel Presentation: Limited Ability/Hard-to-Reach Populations**
Pablo Calzada, D.O., Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., Susan Ledbetter, D.O., Monica Warhaftig, D.O., and Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.
- Resident/Student Meeting**
Joseph De Gaetano, D.O., and Joseph Allegier, D.O.
- Personal and Workplace Emergency Preparedness and Response**
Judith Farrar, Ph.D.
- The Emergency Response System** - *James Howell, M.D.*
- Domestic Violence** - *Gregory James, D.O.*
- Differential Diagnosis of Dementia** - *Susan Ledbetter, D.O.*
- Bipolar Disorder: Treatment Strategies** - *Frederick Lewis, D.O.*
- Florida Laws and Rules** - *Morton Morris, D.O., J.D.*
- Update in Therapy for COPD** - *Anthony Ottaviani, D.O.*
- Trends in Diabetic Management**
Adrenal Insufficiency: Prompt Diagnosis and Management
Naushira Pandya, M.D.
- Overview of Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness**
Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.
- HIV/AIDS** - *Jason Sniffen, D.O.*
- Chronic Renal Failure and the FP** - *Samuel Snyder, D.O.*
- Overview of Joint Infections** - *Joel Stein, D.O.*
- Testosterone Deficiency** - *Mitchell Weinstein, D.O.*

CEME Profile: Westchester General Hospital



Established in 1967, Westchester General Hospital is a modern, newly expanded acute care hospital with a total of 197 beds, centrally located in the very heart of Miami, Florida, that prides itself on a personal approach to patient care. Its staff of over 500 dedicated employees understands the importance of a caring, compassionate, and supportive environment while delivering exceptional patient care.

Westchester General offers a broad range of services that includes intensive care, emergency services, surgery, orthopedics, G.I. station, urology, gynecology, plastic surgery, vascular surgery, podiatry, around-the-clock diagnostic ancillary services, and more. Specialized services in psychiatry are offered at Westchester General Hospital and at the Southern Winds Hospital campus, with 99 psychiatric beds available. Although Westchester General, which has been a CEME partner since the consortium's inception, renders a wide range of services, it is small enough to deliver patient care with warm personalized service while maintaining the privacy and security that its patients and staff deserve. It offers a family-like atmosphere and friendly working environment where human touch makes a difference.

Each year, about 80 NSU-COM students rotate through Westchester General Hospital, while 42 students are scheduled to rotate through Southern Winds Hospital. In terms of its postgraduate positions, 4 to 5 interns participate annually in a traditional internship, while 2 to 4 PGY2 residents and 2 to 3 PGY3 residents are affiliated with the program.

Westchester General Hospital hosts various educational programs that offer medical school graduates an opportunity to learn in a multicultural, fast-paced, and exciting environment. The postgraduate programs at Westchester General, which include a traditional internship and family practice residency, are affiliated with Nova Southeastern University. As a CEME hospital member, the full resources of distance learning, research support, and library facilities are available and are an integral part of the Westchester educational program.

Westchester General Hospital's educational programs offer graduates the close-knit family environment of a community facility surrounded by the excitement of all that is available in a large metropolitan area such as Miami. In addition, the hospital's multicultural mix provides enriching opportunities for learning from and interacting with professionals, colleagues, and patients of all backgrounds, cultures, religions, and countries. For the same reason, South Florida is an exciting and "happening" place to live. There are theaters, sporting events, art, fashion, museums, concerts, shopping, and people watching—especially in world-famous South Beach.

NSU-COM Implements Latest Educational Enhancement



Attendees at the kickoff ceremony included (from left): Ron and Rosalie Klein, Dr. Gary Hill, Stanley and Marilyn Silverman, Dr. Silvagni, Dr. Turner, and Dr. Lippman.

On August 21, NSU-COM’s newly launched academical societies celebrated their formation with a kickoff ceremony that introduced the 10 societies as well as the individuals each society was named after, including the immortal Dr. Morton Terry.

All NSU-COM students are assigned to a society composed of approximately 25 students per class and at least two faculty society advisers that act as academic and career advisers. To assure that each society includes a diverse group of students, assignment to societies is done randomly. Students will remain in their designated academical society throughout their medical school experience to create a unique sense of community that students experience from their very first day in medical school.

Each society organizes a program of peer advising—the core of creating not only a four-year relationship between students but also between alumni of the society. Student-student and student-faculty interaction is fostered through academic/professional programs and social gatherings. The 10 academical societies meet monthly with their advisers to ensure continuous communication and serve as the formal structure and democracy for student input to the NSU-COM Student Government Association.

Not surprisingly, the Student Task Force for Academical Societies spent a considerable amount of time establishing the names of NSU-COM’s new academical entities. The task force felt it was imperative to allow alumni to

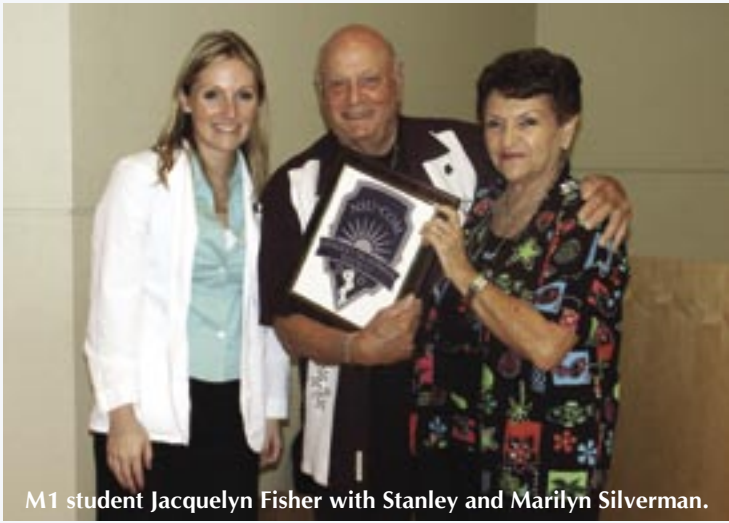
contribute to this new endeavor by pledging \$25,000 to name a society while also honoring other individuals associated with NSU-COM as well as those who have made a significant contribution to the osteopathic profession. The names of the academical societies and their respective presidents are as follows:

Academical Societies

- William G. Anderson, D.O.
- Louisa Burns, D.O.
- Robert Klein, D.O.
- Fred Lippman, Ed.D.
- Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.
- Bradley I. Silverman, D.O.
- A.T. Still, M.D., D.O.
- Morton Terry, D.O.
- James Turner, D.O.
- Ross Zafonte, D.O.

Society Presidents

- Imtiaz Ather – Silvagni Society
- Victoria Chang – Turner Society
- Jacquelyn Fisher – Silverman Society
- Dave Jabs – Zafonte Society
- Carmela Mancini – Klein Society
- Jeanine Martin – Still Society
- Terry Moy-Brown – Anderson Society
- Mark Newberry – Burns Society
- Maria Terneus – Lippman Society
- Ian Vincent – Terry Society



M1 student Jacquelyn Fisher with Stanley and Marilyn Silverman.

William G. Anderson, D.O.



Dr. Anderson, who was the first African American president of the American Osteopathic Association in 1994-95, has spent his professional life enhancing, promoting, and leading osteopathic medical education and the osteopathic profession in a number of ways. From his days as a surgeon and leader of the Civil Rights Movement in Georgia when he worked beside Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Anderson has focused not only on improving the health of his individual patients but on improving the health of the society in which his patients live.

Louisa Burns, D.O.



One of the first women to rise to a position of prominence in osteopathic medicine was Dr. Burns, who graduated from Pacific College of Osteopathy in 1903 and became the foremost researcher in osteopathic medicine. She joined the faculty of Pacific College in 1906, where she taught physiology and acted as a clinician for the next eight years. As her career progressed, Dr. Burns continued to hold leadership positions with osteopathic organizations such as the A.T. Still Research Institute and the Louisa Burns Osteopathic Research Laboratory.

Robert Klein, D.O.



Dr. Klein, who passed away in 2004, graduated from NSU-COM with highest honors in 1991 and spent over a decade serving as a highly esteemed and much-beloved faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Klein, whose acute intellect led him to finishing first in the nation on levels I, II, and III of the COMLEX board exams, had a truly impressive command of medical knowledge. However, he is best remembered for being a kind, gentle, brilliant, respected, and dedicated friend, son, colleague, and physician.

Fred Lippman, Ed.D.



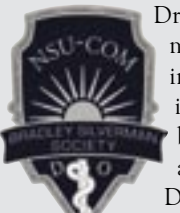
As the current chancellor of NSU’s Health Professions Division, Dr. Lippman has made tremendous contributions to the osteopathic medical profession as well as the overall health care landscape. During his long and distinguished career, Dr. Lippman served as a 20-year member (1978-98) of the Florida House of Representatives and became known as the “father” of Florida’s Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program. Thanks to his efforts, NSU-COM’s AHEC Program was established in 1985, becoming the state’s inaugural AHEC.

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.



Dr. Silvagni has implemented numerous innovative ideas to trigger the growth and accomplishments that have occurred since he became dean of NSU-COM in 1998. As a result of his commitment to providing students with the most comprehensive educational experience possible, Dr. Silvagni has helped implement an array of enhancements that includes increased emphasis on local and international medical missions, establishment of an OSCE curriculum that uses standardized patients in medical student/resident training, and a dramatic increase in faculty/student-driven research.

Bradley I. Silverman, D.O.



Dr. Silverman, who passed away in 1999, was a beloved member of NSU-COM’s charter graduating class in 1985. During his career, he became passionately involved in the breast cancer field and went on to become chief of surgery and then chief of staff elect at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center. In 1998, Dr. Silverman made a significant contribution to the medical field by pioneering a new procedure called sentinel node dissection that helped make breast cancer surgical procedures significantly less invasive.

A.T. Still, M.D., D.O.



In 1874, Dr. Still established a new system of medicine called osteopathy, which centered on methods of diagnosis and treatment that relied on the belief that the human being should be treated as a unit. Through experimentation and clinical observation, Dr. Still developed the art of osteopathic treatment, applied directly to the musculoskeletal system. In 1892, he developed the first formal classes in the teaching of osteopathic medicine in Kirksville, Missouri, and established the American School of Osteopathy—the first osteopathic medical school in the nation.

Morton Terry, D.O.



When Dr. Terry passed away on January 11, 2004, he left behind an extraordinary professional legacy that will continue to live on through the six colleges and numerous programs that comprise NSU’s renowned Health Professions Division. Throughout his legendary life, Dr. Terry masterminded a number of bricks-and-mortar successes, including Osteopathic General Hospital, Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), Southeastern University of the Health Sciences—and the historic merging of Southeastern University with Nova University in 1994.

James Turner, D.O.



Dr. Turner, who graduated from SECOM—the precursor to NSU-COM—in 1988, has spent the past two decades establishing an illustrious career dedicated to service at the community, state, and national level. Currently, Dr. Turner serves as director of emergency medicine at the Charleston Area Medical Center and is an emergency physician at New Century Emergency Physicians of West Virginia, Inc. Other points of distinction for Dr. Turner encompass numerous publications, lectures, and accolades that include the NSU-COM Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award in 1999.

Ross Zafonte, D.O.



Although it’s been over two decades since Dr. Zafonte graduated from the inaugural SECOM class in 1985, he has never lost touch with the institution that provided him with his entrée into the osteopathic profession. In fact, he became the first alumnus to participate in NSU-COM’s academical societies by making a sizable contribution to the worthy cause. Dr. Zafonte currently serves as professor and chair of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh and acts as principal investigator on a number of federal grants.



Since its inception in 1874, osteopathic medicine has made huge strides in regard to its recognition within the health care community...so why does the profession remain a relatively anonymous entity to the general public?

Seeking Solutions: Why Isn't the Osteopathic Message Reaching the Masses?

By Scott Colton
Director of Medical Communications

Osteopathic Medicine: Pumping Up the P.R.

The cliché “ignorance is bliss” may apply to some situations, but it has been nothing but a hindrance to the osteopathic medical profession, which remains a relatively anonymous entity to a significant portion of the population more than 130 years after its inception.

The latest snub to be hurled at the profession came courtesy of *Newsweek* magazine, which committed a serious faux pas on its March 20 cover this year by running the headline “Hero M.D.” in big, bold print for all the world to see about a physician’s courageous tour of duty in Iraq. Had the physician in question—Dr. Richard Jadick—actually been an M.D., no one would have raised an eyebrow. However, in a repeat of numerous other slights and oversights perpetually endured by the osteopathic profession, Dr. Jadick’s status as a D.O. was overlooked by the magazine, which raised the ire of many D.O.s as well as the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

In its role as the profession’s national voice, the AOA fired off a friendly yet stern letter to *Newsweek*, which published a seemingly contrite retraction in its next issue. However, according to current AOA President John Strosnider, D.O., the “Hero M.D.” cover was no accident. “Dr. Jadick informed the magazine of where he went to school and that he was a D.O. when he was interviewed,” stated Dr. Strosnider. “*Newsweek* was completely aware of it—they just chose to use the M.D. designation instead because that’s *Newsweek*’s editorial policy. They may have apologized in a later issue, but it doesn’t mean anything because the headline and cover are still out there for the world to see.”

The Blame Game: Who’s at Fault?

For a vocation that’s been around since 1874 and is widely acknowledged as the fastest-growing health profession in the United States today, why is osteopathic medicine still struggling to earn the respect and name recognition it so rightfully deserves? Is it due to reverberating osteopathic biases that stem from decades ago? Could it be the paucity of publicity emanating from the AOA? Has indifference and infighting within the profession been the culprit? Or is it because the profession has lost the distinctiveness that historically separated it from its M.D. counterpart?

While the aforementioned issues all play a role in the profession’s lack of significant national visibility, there’s no denying that osteopathic medicine’s “small fish in a big pond” reputation has also affected its ability to earn greater renown with the media and public. Although millions of Americans rely on D.O.s for their daily health care needs, the eye-catching reality is that osteopathic physicians only comprise approximately six percent of the nation’s physician workforce.

According to recent statistics provided by the AOA and the American Medical Association, there are currently

D.O. Growth: 1975-2006

1975 – 13,977
1980 – 17,620
1985 – 22,483
1990 – 28,952
1995 – 35,720
2000 – 44,731
2006 – 52,827

M.D. Growth: 1975-2004

1975 – 366,425
1980 – 435,545
1985 – 511,090
1990 – 572,660
1995 – 646,022
2000 – 737,504
2004 – 884,974

(Active numbers are listed.)

52,827 D.O.s in active practice. Compare that to an active M.D. population numbered at 884,974 and it’s easy to see why the osteopathic message sometimes falls on deaf ears.

Because osteopathic medicine is clearly a minority occupation when compared to its M.D. counterpart, it would be easy to attribute the profession’s publicity-starved plight to this glaringly obvious

fact. Unfortunately, even in areas where D.O.s comprise a greater percentage of the physician population, the same “ignorance is bliss” scenario is being played out with frustrating frequency.

“When I was dean at New England University College of Osteopathic Medicine, we were the only medical school in the state of Maine, but the media would still occasionally report that there were no medical schools in Maine,” said Stephen Shannon, D.O., M.P.H., who currently serves as president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). “The state with the highest percentage of osteopathic physicians is Oklahoma, where D.O.s make up about 26 percent of the physician population. In fact, half of the family practice physicians in Oklahoma are D.O.s. However, even in states like this, you’re still going to run into a situation where the local mass media gets it wrong.

“It’s not an unusual occurrence because we’re still bucking an easy flow of information where the term M.D. is used to refer to a physician,” Dr. Shannon added. “It’s not going to be an easy challenge to overcome, but what we have to do is be very vigilant and constantly remind folks that there is such a thing called osteopathic medicine and osteopathic medical colleges. Eventually, you’ll get people to respond, and they will begin to recognize that they need to include more than M.D.s in a slide presentation, a news statement, or a law. You have to have individuals who are diligent and willing to follow up on these issues all the time. You can never stop. And that’s just the minimum thing you need to do just to keep from falling backward.”

According to Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., dean of NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, all facets of the profession are culpable in this regard. “The practitioners,

organizations, and schools are all partly at fault," he stated. "It all goes back to the day-to-day interaction between people who are properly representing themselves. And if that isn't done, then we have a major void. Every D.O. and osteopathic college needs to actively publicize the profession and assist each other with this effort. It's not solely the AOA's responsibility to do this for us."

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division, generally agrees with the aforementioned assessment, adding that, "It's definitely up to the educators, the deans, and the colleges themselves to forward the profession. It's well meaning and wonderful to have all these osteopathic associations such as the AOA and AACOM doing what they do. But all of that is basically inside baseball when it comes to the public. Patients are only concerned about the care and kindness they receive when they walk into a doctor's office—not whether it's delivered from a D.O. or an M.D."

Unfortunately, it's not just the general public and media that frequently neglect to recognize osteopathic medicine. During his tenure in the Florida Legislature, Dr. Lippman earned quite a reputation amongst his political peers for his unrelenting support of legislative parity for the osteopathic profession. "Many times we would be analyzing a bill that wasn't specific to the osteopathic profession but was relative to the standards and care and regulation of physicians in general," he explained. "Quite often, when a statutory section would cite physicians or the practice of medicine, it related to only one chapter, Chapter 458, which refers to allopathic (M.D.) physicians. Since many of these bills frequently excluded Chapter 459, which relates to osteopathic (D.O.) physicians, I became known as the '459 amendment legislator' over a period of years because I constantly addressed the oversight whenever it occurred."

Internal Strife and Loss of Distinctiveness

Beyond the obvious lack of publicity generated by the media about osteopathic medicine and the inherent benefits it provides the patient population, many individuals involved with the profession point to more internal causes for its current tribulations.

In her role as executive director of the Council of Florida Medical School Deans, Terry Meek, J.D., M.P.H., spends much of her time interacting with both M.D.s and D.O.s., so she's been able to assess the current situation with an exceedingly objective eye. "I see the two professions working very collegially in organizations I've been involved with," said Meek, who has spent many years working as a board-certified health law attorney in the health care policy arena. "For example, Dr. Silvagni has been chair of the Council of Florida Medical School Deans for almost four years, so that illustrates the successful impact of D.O. leadership and the collegial working relationship between the

Florida Bill Benefits D.O.s



The days of D.O.s keeping their osteopathic education a secret are over—at least in the Sunshine State. On July 1, 2006, a bill (HB 587) passed by Florida's House of Representatives made sweeping changes to the way health care practitioners identify their professional licenses. Under the new law, all health care licensees must provide notice to patients of what type of health care provider they are (e.g., osteopathic physician, dentist, allopathic physician, registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant).

Official wording of the bill is as follows: "The legislature finds that there exists a compelling state interest in patients being informed of the credentials of the health care practitioners who treat them and in the public being protected from misleading health care advertising. The legislature further finds that the areas of licensure for the practice of health care can be extremely confusing for patients and that health care practitioners can easily mislead patients into believing that the practitioner is better qualified than other health care practitioners simply by creating a sham practice designation. Therefore, the legislature has determined that the most direct and effective manner in which to protect patients from this identifiable harm is to ensure that patients and the public be informed of the training of health care practitioners and intends by this act to require the provision of the information."

M.D. and D.O. professions. However, I have seen that when I've been involved in meetings about medical schools, the discussion is sometimes just relative to the allopathic schools."

Meek also brings up an interesting point when it comes to the mixed messages the osteopathic community is sending within its own professional circle. "Do D.O.s want to be considered almost synonymously with M.D.s, which is an internal debate that has been going on for years, by saying they're equivalent to M.D.s and have similar curriculums? Or do they want to be considered separately by saying, 'We have this distinct osteopathic philosophy, perform osteopathic manipulation, and stress a mind, body, soul philosophy that is actually different than M.D.s?' In my estimation, the most important thing the D.O. community has to do is determine how it wants to be identified."

Beyond agreeing on a definitive public relations strategy, the profession's most perplexing dilemma may be dealing with the disparate opinions of its own brethren, which have created feelings ranging from frustration and disappointment to outright outrage.

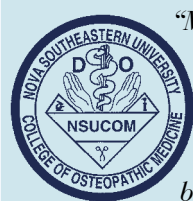
"In my inaugural speech as AOA president, I discussed the fact that there are a few leaders of our schools who have openly stated that the word osteopathic is a hindrance to them, so they don't want to use it," said Dr. Strosnider, who also serves as dean at Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Kentucky. "That mindset just defeats the purpose of being an osteopathic school. They

also think OPP should be an elective for those that might be interested and not a required subject in an osteopathic school anymore. These are the presidents of our schools saying this, so we're in trouble when that occurs. My theme as AOA president is to promote a "Back to the Basics" approach to fight these attitudes, and I will go around the country this year and proclaim who we are, why we are, and why we need to get the word out.

"We need to let people know we are a unique branch of medicine that offers things to patients that no other health care professional can," he added. "We need to stress that we utilize all the latest techniques and research and technologies like other physicians yet offer the added benefit of osteopathic principles and practice. Only D.O.s can do that—not M.D.s, not nurse practitioners, not P.A.s.—and we need to make sure the public realizes that."

Another significant—and somewhat distressing—fact is that many osteopathic practitioners purposely go out of their way to avoid advertising their D.O. status. "Too many of our graduates won't even admit they are osteopathic physicians," Dr. Strosnider explained. "Many of them don't use any of the OPP techniques they've been taught, and they don't offer these services to patients either because they never believed in them in the first place or because they take too much time—and they can't make as much money. Unfortunately, we're our own worst enemy in that sense.

"We're getting away from our distinctiveness, and we're going to lose our profession because of it," Dr. Strosnider added. "As I mentioned earlier, some of the major culprits are those D.O. schools that don't necessarily want to be osteopathic; they want to be just like another M.D. school. If you do that and blur the line, then it's hard to tell the



"Medical schools achieve their reputations primarily by accomplishments, not by academics. A business school looks at how many of its graduates get significant jobs and law schools look at how many graduates become legislators or judges. But in medicine, how do you define a successful graduate? It can be difficult because the greatest graduate you ever had may be working in a rural area doing miraculous medicine for the people he or she serves, but no one knows. That's why medical schools are measured by accomplishments such as research, contributions to literature, and public health issues. It does us no good if people don't know about our accomplishments. We won't be recognized as excellent in society's eyes if we're not the ones announcing our achievements. We as an institution have to become much more conscious of publishing, getting the word out, and appropriately proclaiming our successes and accomplishments to ensure that the media and public know what we're doing."

Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, NSU-COM



"One of the problems we have is that as many of our osteopathic schools have grown, they have become universities and changed their names so people don't even know a college of osteopathic medicine exists there anymore. We have to be diligent, and every time we have an opportunity to promote the words osteopathic medicine, we have to let them know we're there. I was at a meeting with Leadership Kentucky in 2001 at the University of Louisville, and the university's president was talking about the state and mentioned that it had two high-quality medical schools. Before I could say anything, one of the people in attendance said, 'Excuse me, but you're behind the times. We have three medical schools in Kentucky; the third one is an osteopathic medical school in Pikeville that puts out most of the primary care physicians for Kentucky.' And the president apologized and said, 'You're right, it's a great school, and I apologize for the oversight.'"

Dr. John Strosnider, AOA

difference. Many of our osteopathic colleges don't encourage their students to do D.O. residencies, and they don't encourage them to learn the art and practice of osteopathic medicine. That's why 60 percent of osteopathic residents go into allopathic residencies, and we never hear from them again."

"There are few osteopathic hospitals today, so the distinctiveness is gone," stated Stephen Winn, who serves as executive director of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association and has been actively involved with the profession since 1974. "Years ago, D.O.s had to have their own hospitals in order to practice. Today, the majority of D.O.s now practice with M.D.s, so the osteopathic individuality and their dependence on each other that used to exist have disappeared."

Optimism in the Face of Challenges

Although the aforementioned scenarios sound dire, the osteopathic profession has an invaluable opportunity to place itself at the forefront of health care within the next decade when a physician shortage estimated to number about 200,000 is expected to impact the nation. As the fastest-growing health profession in the United States today, osteopathic medicine is strategically positioned to greatly advance its cause—if the profession is willing to mobilize its energies and efforts in a successfully symbiotic way.

"I think we've got a great story to tell," said AACOM's Dr. Shannon. "There are things that really do distinguish osteopathic medical practice and education from allopathic practice, but we really haven't been able to explain, document, and research it to the point where it becomes part of the universal conversation of what medical care should be. That's where we really need to go. In Maine, there was a study done where allopathic and osteopathic primary care physicians were compared in regard to patient interaction,

and there was a highly significant difference in the way D.O.s talked to their patients and communicated different types of information. This is the type of information that needs to be shared with the public and the media on a regular basis.

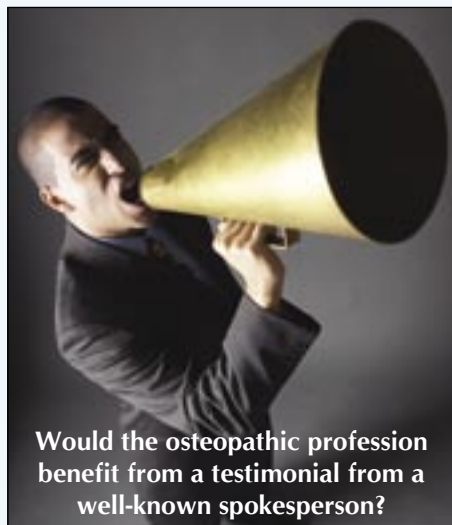
"Information such as the benefits patients derive from the holistic osteopathic philosophy or in conjunction with osteopathic manipulative treatment has to be documented, and that involves producing hard data that we're not used to doing as a profession," he added. "We're doing more and more in that regard in terms of publishing and funded research, but it takes a long time to begin to have a significant impact. Once this happens, that is when osteopathic medicine will become more legitimized or recognized among the media and other opinion leaders. We frequently talk about how we distinguish ourselves from the allopathic profession, and I think it's real. But you can't just say it; you somehow have to demonstrate it."

Although osteopathic medicine has suffered its share of strife and stigma throughout its 132-year history, it's also important to note how much progress the profession has made in a relatively short period of time. "There's no denying that due to past biases as well as political and other reasons, we are sometimes presented or perceived as being less than capable physicians," said Dr. Silvagni. "It's easy to be negative, but in my almost 30 years in the osteopathic profession, I have watched it grow tremendously in research, quality, and numerically. These are the achievements we need to focus on as a profession."

Promotion...Promotion...Promotion

Whether it be a coffeemaker, a T.V. show, or a political candidate, the key to far-reaching visibility and success in today's world often depends on a clever marketing strategy that not only conveys a convincing message to the masses but also compels them to buy the product, watch the T.V. program, or vote for a particular candidate. Would the osteopathic profession benefit from a massive marketing campaign that cannily extols its virtues to a vast and largely uninformed American public, say with the help of a respected national spokesperson and catchy slogan? According to the experts interviewed for this article, the answer seems to be a resounding yes.

"I strongly feel that a national spokesperson is necessary to promote the osteopathic profession," said Winn. "It may mean that the AOA would need to make a financial commitment to this endeavor. The national spokesperson's credibility is paramount, and that person should be someone who has used a D.O. and is well recognized by the public. Without that, I don't believe our message is going to stick. We have individuals within our profession who treat athletes on professional teams, so wouldn't it be great to have a famous, well-respected athlete speaking on our



Would the osteopathic profession benefit from a testimonial from a well-known spokesperson?

behalf who can say things like, 'If it wasn't for my osteopathic physician, I wouldn't be playing today.' If this doesn't happen, I'm afraid we'll be facing the same situation 20 years from now."

Dr. Shannon concurs with Winn, adding that, "We have to go after the media and the politicians

to get our message out. I'm not an expert in marketing or advertising, but I think the reason well-known, respected people become spokesmen for causes, ideas, or products is that they believe in them. President George and Barbara Bush, Henry Kissinger, General Norman Schwarzkopf—there have been so many respected individuals who have been treated by an osteopathic physician very effectively, so it's certainly possible to promote the profession in these terms."

Because osteopathic medicine has never been marketed on such a grand scale during its existence, is it something the AOA would even consider as part of its future promotional strategy? Fortunately, the answer is an unqualified yes. "The first thing I requested after my inaugural speech was permission to establish an AOA Greatness Fund," said Dr. Strosnider of his visionary plan. "If over a two-year period every practicing D.O. would just give a one-time \$1,000 donation to the fund, and every resident donated \$500, we'd have about \$23 million to invest and propel us to greatness."

"I stated in my request that I would like to see the AOA spend \$3 million a year to advertise on the major television networks so the public could see what we actually do," he enthusiastically added. "I also said that 'Wouldn't it be great if a patient came into your office and said, 'Wow, I saw an ad on T.V. about D.O.s and the D.O. difference—now that's what I want in my physician.'"

Thankfully, instead of being concerned about an article that intended to analytically address issues that directly affect the future direction of the osteopathic profession, including the AOA's integral role in the process, Dr. Strosnider warmly embraced the idea. "When I was contacted about being interviewed for this article, my first thought was, 'Well... good. At least somebody's thinking about these issues, that we need to be more publicity conscious, that we need to be proud of who we are and what we do,'" he explained. "If we're not different or claim not to be different or just as good as our counterparts, then what are we doing here? We might as well just be giving everybody an M.D. degree."

NSU-COM Students Assist Medically Deprived Population in Nicaragua



NSU-COM's commitment to international medical missions was in evidence again last April when a number of members from the college's student chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Association traveled to Nicaragua to provide medical care to about 600 patients.

The weeklong outreach endeavor, which was coordinated by First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, provided a rare opportunity for nine first-year medical students to participate in an international medical mission and gain some valuable hands-on exposure to patient care.

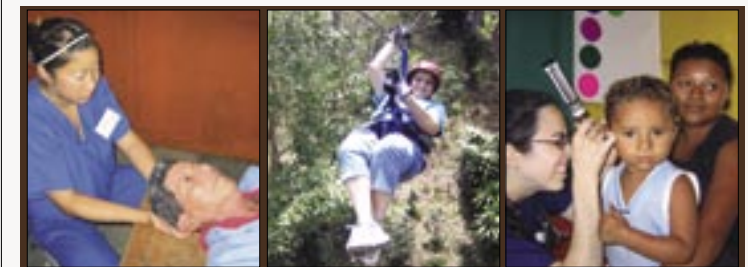
"Although M2 and physician assistant students also participated in the trip, it proved to be an invaluable experience for the M1 students," said Camille Bentley, D.O., FACOF, associate professor of family medicine and president of DOCARE International. "The M1s had no idea what to expect and were very apprehensive at first. Basically, this was their first opportunity to practice their history and physical exam skills, and they had no experience with diagnosing or treatment at all, so it was a real challenge for them."

The 39-member health care contingent was housed at a ranch owned by Dr. and Mrs. Nour Sirker, who run the El Samaritano Medical Clinic located near the capital city of Managua. According to Dr. Bentley, who was the only full-time NSU-COM faculty member in attendance, the list of

ailments seen and treated was similar to those witnessed in similar medical missions to Guatemala or Jamaica. "The major illnesses seen among children were upper respiratory and gastrointestinal in nature; however, adult conditions were quite varied and included everything from chronic pain, diabetes, and hypertension to acute respiratory and dermatological problems," she explained.

While these outreach efforts are critically important to all medically deprived areas of the globe, the Nicaragua expedition was especially crucial since the country had been crippled since November 2005 by a public health system strike. "The public health sector was in its sixth month of a physician strike, which resulted in the vast majority of Nicaraguans having no access to health care," explained Dr. Bentley. "As a result, many citizens were struggling to find emergency care after being turned away from public hospitals."

During their stay, the students traveled to several makeshift clinics in indigent areas of Santa Rosa and Managua, where they rotated between working in temporary pharmacies/laboratories, assisting with surgeries, and seeing patients. "Each physician worked with four students, and the students were then separated into teams of two," Dr. Bentley stated. "Most of the time we tried to have an M1 paired with either an M2 or with one of the four participating P.A. students to enhance the educational process. It proved to be a rewarding experience for everyone involved, especially since we were able to provide medical care to communities suffering due to the country's ongoing physician strike."



NSU-COM Faculty

Camille Bentley, D.O. Zsuzsanna Seybold, M.D.

NSU-COM Students

Andrew Abbeg	Leslie Bridges	Jack Gibon Gray
Tiffany Heu	David Lamborn	Jennifer Lamneck
Sharon Lee Londo	Christopher LeMay	Carmela Mancini
Katy Matthews	Sandhya Nicholas	Venette Pierre
Jennifer Sears	Nicole Tuve	Marina Udowenko

P.A. Students

Neil Andrew Bulkosh	Hilene De Amonim
Amber Martin	Kathleen Stanley



Education, Altruism on Display During Medical Mission to Jamaica

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications

Combining education and altruism have always been hallmarks of the college’s medical outreach efforts, and that tradition continued June 15-23, 2006, when a 111-member health care team traveled to over a dozen locations throughout Jamaica to provide a range of services to about 3,500 thankful patients.

The 2006 Medical Mission to Jamaica, which is now in its sixth year of existence, was a multifaceted triumph that featured participation from 10 University of Miami medical school students as well as a dedicated and diverse group of volunteers comprising HPD faculty, students, and community advocates.

One of the highlights of this year’s medical mission was the participation of David Perloff, M.D., clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, who brought along an echocardiogram machine and Sherri Julius, an echo technician from Broward

General Medical Center, to operate it. “When you continually go back into an environment where you really want to make a difference, you have to start thinking about what things you can add to the type of treatment you provide that would help provide better care,” said Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine and public health who serves as coordinator of the annual Jamaica missions.

“In Jamaica, one of the major diseases we deal with is hypertension and all the sequelae that come along with uncontrolled hypertension,” she added. “In the areas we visited, it’s very difficult for the local clinics to obtain an echocardiogram. In fact, one of the local hospitals actually sent patients to us that could benefit from having an echo done. The students were able to see and hear the cardiac dysfunctions on a real patient and have a one-on-one experience with Dr. Perloff, which definitely added a new dimension to our mission trip.”

Another interesting aspect of the medical mission was the number of intriguing and unexpected situations that sprung up while the health care team was out plying its trade in remote areas of the country. “One interesting case occurred when a young boy enthusiastically shouted, ‘Oh, doctors, please listen to my heart.’ When one of the doctors put his stethoscope on the boy’s chest, what he thought was a fun way of joking around with the boy suddenly turned serious when he heard a significant heart murmur,” Dr. Anderson-Worts explained. “In that same area, another little boy came up to us who we had seen two years ago. He came to thank us for picking up his heart murmur, which resulted in him having lifesaving corrective surgery. Those are the things that make these mission trips so worthwhile, when you see those type of cases and get to make a positive impact in a life and in a community.”

In addition to obtaining hands-on medical experience by working in remote areas and at several local prisons, the participants were able to expand their craniums by attending informative CME sessions on far-reaching topics such as hypertension, sexually transmitted infections, sinusitis, diabetes, glaucoma, and musculoskeletal injuries.

The interdisciplinary approach that defined the 2006 Medical Mission to Jamaica also played an integral role in its success. “Many of the disciplines we take down there, especially optometry, dental medicine, and occupational/physical therapy, are vitally important because the rural areas we visit have little or no access to these services,” explained Dr. Anderson-Worts. “It also gives all of us an opportunity to work side by side with other disciplines and see how they operate on a day-to-day basis. That’s exciting for us as clinicians, but it’s even more exhilarating for the students because they actually learn things they wouldn’t necessarily be exposed to in the classroom.”



This year’s Medical Mission to Jamaica health care team provided a range of services to about 3,500 patients in remote areas as well as at several local prisons.

Health Care Practitioners

Charles Adelson, D.M.D.	Fabrizio Amador, D.M.D.	
Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.	Beatrice Austin, M.D.	Gregory Black, O.D.
Nancy Borja, Pharm.D.	Aldo Calvo, D.O.	Errol Campbell, M.D.
Danika Crabtree, D.M.D.	Rashida Daily, Pharm.D.	Peter Ehlers, D.O.
Keisha Goodison, D.O.	Noel Henry, O.D.	Harry Lehrer, D.M.D.
John May, M.D.	Lainisha McMiller, OTR/L	Jerome Obed, D.O.
David Perloff, M.D.	Raymond Petrus, D.O.	Sherrol Reynolds, O.D.
Marilyn Riley, D.M.D.	Gisela Robles, Pharm.D.	
Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O.	Shannon Shillin	
Alex Walker, D.M.D.	Antonia Zapantis, Pharm.D.	

Dental Students

Aaron Acres	Hoang Bui	Gregory Camp	Adam Cohn
Jonathan Cook	Michael Costabile	Eric Crum	Babak Etemadshahidi
Ana Ferraz	Marc Gayed	Sanjay Ghetiya	Tracey Heiken
Jennifer Henkin	Caroline Jermanus	Melissa Kirkman	Kelly Maixner
Heidi Mason	Michelle Mayer	Harvey Mossak	Carla Munnion
Cory Naiman	Jeremy Nehieber	Chad Orlich	Darren Pike
Tom Purcell	Abigail Schwartz	Svetlana Seid	Rohit Sharma
Mical Slater	Meredith Standridge	Robert Wagner	

Medical Students

Jodi Aarons (UM)	Richard Abraham (UM)	Christian Andrade (UM)
Olphabine Athouriste (NSU-COM)	David Chin-Yee (UM)	
Nicole Marie Christin (UM)	Neshagay Edwards-Williams (NSU-COM)	
Vanessa Guerra (UM)	Joseph Halliday (NSU-COM)	
Betty Lackey (NSU-COM)	Joshua Livingstone (UM)	
Nicole Martin (UM)	Maximiliano Mayrink (NSU-COM)	
Carlos Salgado (UM)	Andre Sanchez (UM)	
Mohsin Siddiqui (NSU-COM)	Kelly Signorelli (NSU-COM)	

Occupational Therapy Students

Shana Laird	Deana Daneau	Charity Higgins
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Optometry Students

Smith Blanc	Takeia Locke	Ashley Kimble	Kerri-Ann Thomas	Rido Pham
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Pharmacy Students

Megan Alderman	Kenisha Carr	Lauren Levith	Yi Hong Ling
Soraida Rivera	Janette Sahai	Sophie Samuel	

Sponsors

Air Jamaica	Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.	Anna Howell	
Apotex Pharmaceuticals	Armor Correctional	A. Hobbs	
Beverly Maranto	Broward General Medical Center	Coast Dental	
Craig A. Mayer, D.D.S.	David Perloff, M.D.	Jonah A. Wasserman, D.O.	
Golden Seas Resort	Grace, Kennedy & Company		
Harry M. Lehrer, D.M.D., M.S.	Henry Schein	Hu-Friedy	
Irie Vacations	Jamaica National Building Society	Jeff Koecher	
Jennifer Lo	Jon Halpern	Juici Patties	Karen Nong/Chris Phan
King Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Kingston Miami Trading Company		
Marion Suydam	MoneyGram	Nancy Daneau	
Narberth Dental Associates	NSU-CDM Student Government Association		
Primal Financial Group Inc./Ms. Jennifer Holmes	Rita Mendez		
S.S. White	Sandals Resort	The Jamaica Pegasus	
Towncare Dental Partnership, Inc.	Winnie Tjioe		
World Dental Relief	Zai Zhu		

Community Volunteers

Yamilsy Alvarez	Antonio Anderson	Conroy Anderson	Millicent Anderson
Larissa Baker-Acres	Danika Daly	Don Daly	Yannick Daly
Nicola Fairclough	Karla Ferreira	Dorothy Goodison	Marisa Hutchinson
Sherri Julius	Nicole Kellier	Paul Kolodziej	Everen Liberal
Lashonda Linton	Sonia Montague	Pauline O’Keefe	Denise Tolson

Debbi Cohn Steinkohl Sets Example by Leading with Her Heart

By Scott Colton, Director of Medical Communications



When people first meet Debbi Cohn Steinkohl, M.H.S.A., who serves as administrative director of the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC), the first thing they probably notice is the thick and lustrous mass of red curls that surround her face. However, once they spend some time with Steinkohl, people quickly discover that beneath the big hair is a woman with a big heart, an immense work ethic, and an unquenchable passion for curricular innovation and experiential learning.

Since joining NSU-COM in 1991, Steinkohl has played a major role in reshaping the college's curriculum and providing students with invaluable experiential learning opportunities that have influenced many of them to pursue primary care fields and work with underserved rural populations.

Doctor Dreams Rule Childhood

As a child growing up in North Miami, Florida, in the 1960s, Steinkohl, who is a South Florida native, harbored the single-

minded goal of becoming a physician, even though no woman in her family had ever even gone to college. "From an early age, I wanted to be a doctor," she admitted. "I came from an old-fashioned family in terms of men and women having very defined roles, but I was adamant about becoming a physician back then."

Her eagerness to become a physician was so strong that she even eschewed traditional Halloween costumes to demonstrate her doctor-wannabe desire. "I was *Dr. Kildaire* two years in a row, and then I actually went out trick-or-treating as *Marcus Welby*," stated Steinkohl, who also dabbled in artistic pursuits such as acting, singing, and writing. "I was always a doctor while all the other girls were dressing up as princesses and other cute things. I was always interested in health, medicine, and safety. In fact, I recall asking my parents to exchange all the fashion dolls I received as birthday gifts so I could get a microscope instead because I had created a little laboratory in my bedroom."

Unlike many children, whose career interests waver as often as their clothes sizes, Steinkohl remained resolute about her professional aspirations. "I was always very premed in my focus," she explained. "I was president of the premedical society, which was called the Paramed Club, when I attended North Miami Senior High. I always believed in experiential learning, so when I was president of Paramed, I took the members out to see autopsies, witness surgeries, and spend time with physicians. My philosophy has always been, 'How do we know what we want to do unless we've seen it, felt it, and touched it?'"

Steinkohl also developed a strong interest in community service in 1979 when she became a blood donor for the first time. "There was a huge need for blood donations, so I inquired through Miami's Mt. Sinai Medical Center whether I could actually conduct a blood drive in our high school, which, at that point, had never been done in South Florida," she said. "So I planned the first blood drive at a high school and was honored by Mt. Sinai for my efforts in 1980 at an awards ceremony."



Debbi celebrates her third birthday with friends and family.

The human tornado that is Debbi Steinkohl was actually on display way before she even graduated from high school. While many of her classmates were whiling away their summer breaks lounging on the beach or sleeping late, Steinkohl applied for and was accepted into a prestigious summer internship at North Miami City Hall. "The best job I ever had in high school was when I did that summer internship because it's where I really developed an understanding of business principles and economics," said Steinkohl, who inherited her strong work ethic from her parents and has worked continuously since the age of 15. "This was the job that opened up my eyes to so many fields because I got to rotate through all the departments. That's what made me see that you can't just pick a career in a vacuum; you have to see it, feel it, and experience it. It was truly fascinating."

Health Care Administration Comes into Focus

Because she came from a working-class, depression-era family, Steinkohl, who graduated 12th in her high school class of 650 students, learned the value of a dollar early in life. So when it came time to map out her college career, she was understandably prudent. "When I graduated from high school and started thinking about what I wanted to do in college, I knew it was going to be a financial struggle," said Steinkohl, who earned a partial scholarship to the University of Florida in Gainesville. "Even though I had a scholarship, I was basically putting myself through school by soliciting funds for the university's Alumni Association and working in a campus-based daycare center.

"I really grew up on a budget," she added. "My parents always stressed function and practicality, so if I buy something today that is not discounted, I really appreciate it. I didn't even have my first car until I was in my third year of college, and that old Toyota Corolla had 170,000 miles on it, but I loved it. It's experiences like that which help to build a person's character. I consider myself fortunate to have always worked for what I have because this allows me to have a deeper appreciation for even the little things."

While she was pursuing her B.S. degree in business administration/marketing, Steinkohl became intrigued by a transformation that was taking place within the health care industry. "I



Debbi with Grandma Ethel in 1963.



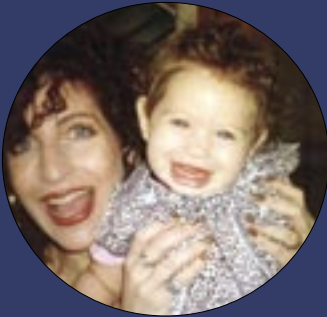
Debbi with brother Alan in 1976.



Debbi at high school graduation.



Debbi and Richie in 1988.



Debbi and daughter Erica in 1997.

became fascinated with our health care system and the changes that were going to take place in my lifetime in regard to meeting the demands of the aging baby boomers, the uninsured, and the financial collapse of our health care system," she explained. "I decided I could really make an impact in the health administrative side of medicine because of the introduction of managed care, which created new positions for hospital and managed care administrators."

In May 1984, when Steinkohl proudly marched across the stage of the University of Florida's O'Connell Center to receive her B.S. degree in front of her friends and family, her world seemed to be full of infinite possibilities, especially since she had been accepted into the university's dual M.H.S.A./M.B.A degree program. Following the graduation ceremony, Steinkohl drove back to North Miami to celebrate her accomplishment with her family. Then came the bombshell that shook Steinkohl to her core.

Change of Plans as Illness Intervenes

"I found out my mother had breast cancer the day I graduated," said Steinkohl, who was understandably wracked with grief when she heard the horrifying news. "I returned to Gainesville to start my master's courses, but one day I had a phone conversation with my mother, and even though she didn't say anything specific, I just felt as if she needed me to be there. So I walked to my car without even packing a toothbrush and started driving toward Miami in the middle of the day."

As it turned out, Steinkohl's gut instinct had been correct. "I needed to be there with her because, although I didn't know it at that time, her cancer had metastasized," she explained. "I decided I couldn't pursue the master's degree in Gainesville, so my roommates packed up all my belongings, and I moved back to North Miami."

Over the next nine months, Steinkohl lived a harried existence that included caring for her ailing mother, taking courses at Florida International University, and working odd jobs at a flea market and a travel agency to earn some much-needed cash. "I wasn't sure what I was going to do at this point," admitted Steinkohl, who was spending a major portion of her time driving her mom to doctor's appointments. "I just knew I had to be there for my mother."

In February 1985, only nine months after Steinkohl was informed of the breast cancer diagnosis, her mother passed away from the illness at the tragically young age of 49. However, just when it seemed life couldn't get any grimmer for Steinkohl, a wonderful antidote called love soon appeared on her romantic horizon.

Romance and Career Blossom in Tandem

Five months after her mother's death, Steinkohl was out with a group of friends at a local bar and grill in North Miami Beach when Cupid's arrow unexpectedly hit the bulls-eye of her heart. "It was love at first sight when a mutual friend coincidentally introduced me to Richie, who I had noticed from across the room," recalled Steinkohl of that life-altering evening that culminated in a June 1986 wedding.

Happily, romance wasn't the only area of Steinkohl's life that was blossoming. In 1986, she earned her master of health services administration degree from Florida International University, where she graduated with honors. She then accepted a job offer to work as a provider development manager for Heritage Health Plan of South Florida in Miami. It would take two more years, but in 1988, Steinkohl applied for a new position that would end up mirroring all her beliefs about how health care in this country should be orchestrated and delivered.

When she interviewed to become director of planning and evaluation at the University of Miami/Dade County Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program in Miami, Florida, Steinkohl freely admits she had never heard of the term AHEC before. "My initial thought was, 'What the heck is an AHEC?'" she admitted. "However, during the interview, I discovered it was everything I believed in—experiential learning, helping the underserved, dealing with program development from its infancy, and influencing health care professionals to go into primary care fields and work with underserved populations."

During her tenure at the University of Miami/Dade County AHEC, Steinkohl directed the planning and implementation of educational programs and clinical rotations for health professions students and residents in community-based settings. She also recruited, trained, and evaluated community-based preceptors for



participation in programs and facilitated the match between training needs of students, curriculum requirements of training programs, and service objectives of community sites.

Steinkohl Switches to SECOM

"When I was working in Miami, we were in the process of developing a statewide AHEC program," she recalled. "Back then we were federally funded, so we had gotten together with Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) in North Miami Beach to put together a statewide AHEC program, which was a process headed by Dr. Stephen Zucker with Dr. Fred Lippman. We would meet at SECOM to have early think-tank meetings, and since we needed to acquire hard data about the initiative, the SECOM AHEC Program hired me to work as an evaluation consultant until the statewide program was completed."

Although she remained a full-time employee at the University of Miami/Dade County AHEC for the next several years, Steinkohl immensely enjoyed the consulting work she did at SECOM. Consequently, when the associate AHEC director position at SECOM became available in late 1991, Steinkohl wisely decided to accept the challenge.

The next five years would prove to be fruitful ones for Steinkohl as she assisted Dr. Zucker on a range of projects that included the development and administration of the AHEC Program in 19 South and Central Florida counties. She also

- collaborated on the development of a network of community-based teaching sites for over 25 health professions education programs encompassing 15 disciplines
- assisted in the development and operation of grants and contracts for the AHEC Program
- developed didactic curriculum and planned and delivered courses and seminars for medical students, family practice residents, and physician assistant students on primary care and public health issues as well as other special-needs areas that target high-risk populations

IGC Program Takes Shape

By the time 1996 rolled around, Steinkohl's life was in the process of undergoing a series of new—

Like Mother, Like Daughter



In May 2006, Debbi's daughter Erica, who aspires to become a physician, received one of the highest honors at her school when she was selected as the NSU University Lower School Good Citizen of the Month. The accolade is awarded monthly to the one student who exemplifies the highest standards of character and positive attitude, effort and cooperation, as well as responsibility and contribution to the ethos of the school. Erica and student representatives from other Davie elementary schools were recognized at a special ceremony at the Davie Police Department.

and extremely positive—changes. SECOM and its sister colleges had merged with Nova University to form Nova Southeastern University, which precipitated a move to the Davie campus. In addition, her career continued to flourish as she was tapped to serve as administrative director of a pilot program called the Interdisciplinary Generalist Curriculum (IGC). However, the most significant development in Steinkohl's life was discovering she was pregnant with her adored daughter, Erica.

"It was an exciting—and exhausting—period in my life because there was so much going on at the same time," admitted Steinkohl, who gave birth to Erica in February 1997. "When I became administrative director of the IGC Program, I was four months pregnant. And there was a lot I had to accomplish to get the program up and running during and immediately following my pregnancy."

Steinkohl had been approached by the college's dean at the time—Matthew Terry, D.O.—to assume the stewardship of the college's IGC Program, which had been a pet project of Dr. Terry's for several years. "In 1996, we were the only osteopathic medical school involved and one of only 12 medical schools to receive funding for this pilot program," said Steinkohl of the IGC curriculum that introduces hands-on, clinical learning to students in their first two years of medical school.



In this role, Steinkohl has done a stellar job of handling the ongoing development and daily

operation of a program designed to motivate medical students to pursue career paths in primary care medicine and prepare them to work effectively in integrated health care delivery systems. In addition to overseeing the IGC Program's various facets, she is responsible for developing and managing a physician mentor network of over 165 community-based primary care physicians to serve as preceptors for all first- and second-year students.



According to Steinkohl, who serves as assistant professor in the departments of family medicine and public health, the IGC Program is vitally significant because, "It gives our students that real-life practice environment to apply everything they're learning, and to see it while they're learning it," she explained. "The premise of IGC is to try and expose the medical students to primary care opportunities so that in their formative years of education, they would have a positive exposure to primary care role models, which will hopefully result in them pursuing a primary care profession. It's also a way for them to really develop their love of medicine, to remind students during their first two years of medical school why they came here in the first place while also exposing them to the business and practice side of health care."

After more than 15 years working with NSU-COM, Steinkohl has the peace of mind that comes from knowing she has achieved a life that harmoniously balances both her personal and professional ambitions. "I was pleasantly surprised at how that balance was able to be achieved," admitted Steinkohl, who won the 2003 NSU Student Life Achievement (Stuey) Cocurricular Advisor of the Year Award. "I don't regret being a working mother at all. In fact, I feel like I'm a better mother because of it. I have a very close relationship with my daughter, who is very proud of me. Working has always been a part of who I am, and I have a very supportive husband who always shares in everything, from driving to dance competitions and Hebrew school and packing lunches to doing homework with Erica."

She also has a strong affinity for the multitude of students who have passed through the IGC Program over the years. "I love watching them come in as freshmen with the 'deer-in-the-headlights' look and then watching them progress to the day when they flip their tassels at graduation," said Steinkohl, who plans to pursue a doctoral degree sometime in the near future. "I cry at every graduation ceremony because I treasure every student that walks across the stage. Becoming a doctor is one of the most fulfilling things I could ever imagine anyone experiencing, and I'm so proud to have played a part in helping students achieve their goals."



Examining the Myths and Realities of Medical Ethics

By Stanley Cohen, Ed.D.
HPD Vice Provost for Educational Support



Most of our medical students are aware of what constitutes a medical workup, which includes procedures such as drawing blood, measuring blood pressure, taking the pulse, looking in the throat and ears, collecting a urine sample, listening to the heart, as well as a bunch of other technical physical tests that are chosen depending on the presenting symptoms.

All of this would have been adequate 30 years ago when there was only one ethical principle, namely “do no harm” or the principle of non maleficence. However, in today’s modern world, do no harm is no longer adequate. The physician must do some good for the patient, which ethicists

call the principle of beneficence or helping the patient to achieve an adequate outcome.

Learning to do an ethical workup is a major goal of medical ethics. Unfortunately, it has become more difficult because the physician is no longer the fountainhead of all knowledge that makes the diagnosis, decides on a treatment plan—and the patient listens and complies. With the advent of the principle of respect for autonomy without coercion, we have come to understand that patients have a right to hold views, make their treatment choices, and take whatever actions they see fit that are based on their values or beliefs—not the physicians. As a result, physicians must become more like facilitators that help make patients autonomous. There is also the issue of justice, which suggests that patients are entitled to certain things based on fundamental moral values. Physicians cannot lie to patients. They must be impartial, and they must communicate with all kinds of people who speak all kinds of languages. To do this well involves the art of medicine and requires training in doing an ethical workup.

Sometimes there is a contradiction between what is ethically the right thing to do and the evidence from the medical science workup. A patient, for example, may refuse treatment for a terminal illness even when medical science may have a cure. In modern medicine, patient autonomy is absolute and must be respected. When physicians go into practice, they will be faced with ethical problems from birth to death. Some common problems include

- patients who do not have the capacity to understand medical information
- children who are suffering from child abuse
- patients treated inappropriately by another physician
- getting patients reimbursed for your care
- requests from family members for personal information that violates confidentiality
- referral issues
- noncompliant patients
- patients who want written medical excuses that are not true
- advanced directives issues
- drug-seeking patients
- dealing with impaired colleagues
- dealing with moral issues such as a request for abortions
- testing patients without consent

Changes in law have followed the changes in ethical decisions. The 1978 Abe Perlmutter case in Florida established and supported the principle that a patient once connected to a respirator could be disconnected and allowed to die. Perlmutter was a 78-year-old taxi driver

being kept alive by artificial means. He was of sound mind and did not want to continue living. He had suffered with Lou Gehrig’s disease, and he tried to pull the plug himself, but the caretakers at Florida Medical Center in Lauderdale Lakes reconnected him. The courts supported his decision not to extend his death, and soon after, in the presence of his family, his son pulled the plug and Perlmutter died the next day. Two years later, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that people with similar conditions had the right to end their own lives as long as they had no minor dependents.

By 1984, Florida passed the living-will law that allowed people to predetermine whether or not they wished heroic measures when they were considered terminal. Federal law supporting the Florida decision was passed in 1992 and was known as the self-determination act. However, interpretations of the living-will laws are still being debated today. A recent example is the Terri Schiavo case in Florida, which became a national news story when her parents challenged Schiavo’s husband’s decision to end her life. Her parents appealed her husband’s decision all the way to the federal courts and Congress and argued that she was not in a persistent vegetative state in spite of evidence resulting from eight physicians saying she was. Since her husband was next of kin, she was allowed to die. Thorny questions arise almost daily in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice facilities concerning how to treat specific cases.

The AOA and the AMA have both developed similar guidelines for its member physicians. They include such things as maintaining patient confidentiality except when required by law. Physicians must give a candid account of the patient’s condition and always tell the truth. They must also build a relationship based on mutual trust, and even though they can choose not to treat certain people, they cannot base that decision on race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Once that relationship exists, a physician should not abandon a patient without proper notice. In addition, there is a recognized standard of care based on current data collected through careful study. Fees can only be collected for actual services, and it is unethical to accept fees for the referral of patients.

Doctors, patients, politicians, and nearly all of us have concerns about medical care. Sometimes there are great conflicts between what is the right thing to do. Almost daily there are new headlines debating issues such as “Should we have stem cell research” and “Should we transplant organs from babies who have little chance of survival?” At times, the arguments on both sides may be reasonable. The birth of the field of medical ethics, which really started in the humanities, has provided a structure for solving many of these dilemmas. Most hospitals and nursing homes today have an ethics committee to help physicians solve these issues. The big question these groups raise is how can we serve people who are ill or dying in a manner based on



justice, fairness, and compassion? When a recent famous baseball player was given a liver transplant, there were a dozen other patients who needed the same match and were on a waiting list long before the case in question. They were bypassed in favor of the celebrity, who died four weeks later. The hospital ethics committee maintained this was not fair, and they argued that “first come, first served” was an important principal that was being violated.

All health care problems are not just medical because they involve values that are often in conflict. While technology for the past four decades has made it possible to keep people alive forever, technology does not make the decisions. Should all babies, for example, be treated without considering their quality of life? Should every form of intervention be used regardless of futility or cost? If the doctor-patient relationship is the foundation of medical ethics, how does that concept fit with the quality of medicine today, which tends to be large scale, fast, impersonal, evidence based, and action oriented? Doctors are under the gun to provide cost effective treatments, which often means spending less time with each patient. It also means that confidentiality is sacrificed when physicians bill third-party payers. In addition, computer access and insurance company demands make private information available to nearly anyone.

The conflict between the paternalistic physician making all the choices and autonomous decision-making by the patient is still raging. The notion of informed consent as a right of every patient is valid but difficult to follow. Explaining a particular disease in a manner understandable to the patient in his language and the consequences of the proposed treatment are a real challenge when a physician might see 70 or 80 patients a day. Just to explain alternative treatments and the prognosis if treatment is not started can take many minutes. But if the rules of informed consent are not followed, then the process is ineffective. Very often, patients hear what they want to hear and cannot understand medical jargon. Since medical practice has shifted from individual doctors to corporate practice, the emphasis has been getting people well as quickly as possible. However, patients then feel they are being processed—a concept not very well received.

NOWPA /American Medical Women's Association



As the College of Osteopathic Medicine has grown, so has its collection of student organizations, which now numbers 31 official clubs and numerous other student-interest groups. One of the newer additions to the NSU-COM student organization roster is the National Osteopathic Women Physician Association (NOWPA)/American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), which has been an on-campus fixture for four years.

NOWPA/AMWA's objectives are to further the study of women's interests and concerns in relation to the field of medicine and promote osteopathic medicine as a philosophy, a science, and an art. However, although the club is clearly a female-driven entity, it freely welcomes participation from its estrogen-deprived male counterparts. "We currently have one male member," said M3 student Sarah LaRosa, who served as president of NOWPA/AMWA in the 2005-06 academic year. "Some of our meetings are interesting to men because we try to coordinate speakers who discuss issues that deal with both women as physicians and women as patients. In fact, many of our male students would benefit from these meetings because they're going to be dealing with these problems if they have women as they're patients, which most will."

The 32-member organization currently features a mix of activities that revolve around two central themes: education and fund-raising. During the past academic year, the club maintained its educational emphasis by bringing in a range of speakers that discussed an array of topics. "We coordinated a couple of joint meetings with the Student Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (SAOG) on issues like breast cancer and domestic

violence," LaRosa explained. "We also had faculty members such as Dr. Hilda DeGaetano speak about being a woman in medicine and having a family, while Dr. Elaine Wallace discussed what it's like being a woman in medicine and breaking into a male-dominated profession."

On the fund-raising front, NOWPA/AMWA members are involved in a range of worthy causes that benefit organizations such as the American Heart Association and Women in Distress of Broward County. "We sold pink ribbons with SAOG during Breast Cancer Awareness Month last October to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation," said LaRosa. "We also raised about \$225 for the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign, which helps bring awareness to women about the differences in heart disease between men and women."

In February, the club organized its largest fund-raiser by staging a production of the acclaimed play *The Vagina Monologues* that was held in the HPD's Hull Auditorium and raised \$600 for Women in Distress of Broward County, which is a local organization that helps victims of domestic violence. Approximately 120 people attended the production, which was sponsored by NOWPA/AMWA and the Student Osteopathic Surgical Association.

Now that LaRosa has handed off leadership duties to the next group of officers, she hopes the club will be able to accomplish some of the things that couldn't be implemented during her one-year term in office. "One of the things we wanted to do was organize a women's health fair at the school, but because of the hurricanes last year, we had to put our plans on hold," she explained. "I also hope to see the membership grow, but it's difficult to get students to join because they understandably want to join the clubs that are focused on whatever specialty they're planning to go into once they graduate. There will be joint presidents and vice presidents for the 2006-07 academic year, so hopefully the officers will be able to get a lot more done that way."

A final goal would be to do a better job of educating both male and female students about domestic violence. "Many doctors, both male and female, don't screen for domestic violence—and they should," LaRosa stressed. "We especially need to make male physicians more aware of what to look for, such as bruises, of course, but also for repeat injuries their female patients don't go to the doctor or hospital for. In addition, if a patient says something like, 'Oh, I have to check with my husband,' or 'Oh, I can't tell him I'm on birth control because he doesn't want me to be on it,' the physician needs to ask a simple question such as 'Has anybody ever hurt you or tried to hurt you physically or emotionally?' Sometimes that one question will make someone open up to the physician—and help put an end to the cycle of abuse."

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- Living Tribute Honorees**

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2003 - Arthur Snyder, D.O.
2004 - Lori Dribin, Ph.D.
2005 - Edye Groseclose, Ph.D.
2006 – Howard Hada, Ph.D.

Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)
2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)
2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)
2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)
2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)
2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)
2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)

Alumni in the News

Victoria Dreisbach, D.O. ('97), who is board certified in general psychiatry and forensic psychiatry, completed a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine in 2003 and currently works at Connecticut Valley Hospital as a forensic psychiatrist with 1998 alumnus Paul Engleman, D.O. She also serves as an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine and recently completed a one-year term as president of the Connecticut Psychiatric Society.

John Geake, D.O. ('93) of Moore Haven, Florida, was presented with the Excellence in Service Award in August from the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) during its 35th Anniversary Recognition Dinner in Reston, Virginia. Dr. Geake, a former NHSC scholar who works closely with the AHEC Program on a range of rural health initiatives in Glades County, was honored for his dedication and commitment to provide quality health care to the nation's most vulnerable populations and his significant contribution to improving the health of the underserved. In addition, letters of esteem from NSU leadership were read in Dr. Geake's honor.

Mark Kranis, D.O. ('02) was accepted into the Cardiovascular Fellowship Program at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts. He will enter the fellowship in 2007 after he completes his year as the hospital's chief resident in internal medicine.

Gwen Levine Pearlman, D.O. ('00) has joined the Holy Cross Medical Group in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to practice endocrinology. She and her family recently relocated from Stony Brook, New York, where she had completed her training in internal

medicine with a subspecialty in endocrinology. Her husband, Scott Pearlman, D.O., also from the class of 2000, accepted a position with Neurological Consultants in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Seth Politano, D.O. ('05) was named Intern of the Year by the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas at Houston. He also received the Humanitarian and Excellence in Teaching Award.

Michael Pritchett, D.O., M.P.H. ('02) had his case report entitled "Successful Treatment of Refractory Methemoglobinemia with Red Blood Cell Exchange Transfusion accepted for publication in *CHEST* and for presentation in slide form at CHEST 2006, which is the annual international scientific assembly of the American College of Chest Physicians.

Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90), current president of the NSU-COM Alumni Association, went above and beyond the call of duty while serving as chief medical officer for the Florida Army National Guard squad stationed at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan. When he came into contact with two local children who were in dire need of intricate heart surgeries, Dr. Renuart personally arranged for them to be flown to Jacksonville, Florida, to receive lifesaving treatment.

James Turner, D.O. ('88) was named residency director of the new Osteopathic Emergency Medicine Residency Program at the Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, West Virginia. The facility is a level-one trauma center that handles about 90,000 patient visits per year and houses three emergency medicine departments under one umbrella, including a pediatric facility.

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fundraising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact Lynne Cawley in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029 to rectify the matter.

2006 Donors

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

Dr. John ('93) and Ellen Geake
(in memory of John D. Geake, Sr.)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

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Dr. Joel Rush ('85)

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Drs. Christopher and Catherine Cooper ('98)

Dr. Michael Gervasi ('87)

*Dr. Christopher Guzik ('97)

Dr. Claude Kassim ('97)

Dr. and Mrs. Rubin Kesner ('89)

*Dr. Joseph D. Paulding ('89)

Dr. Eric Hegybeli ('95)

Dr. William H. Stager ('89)

Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)

Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)

Friends (up to \$99)

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Dr. Diana Johnstone Graves ('86)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

*Dr. Cecylia Kelley ('02)

Dr. Ronnie and Sherri Martin

*Dr. Joseph Morelos ('97)

Dr. Dafna Trites ('94)

** in honor of 2006 Living Tribute Award honoree Dr. Howard Hada*

Cumulative List
(1999-2006)

Heritage Circle

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

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

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

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

Dr. George Linsey

Chancellor's Council (\$5,000+)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. ('93)

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

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)

Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)

Dr. Stanley Zimmerman ('91)

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

Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)

Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)

Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)

Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)

Dr. John N. Harker ('89)

Dr. Robert Hasty ('00)

Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)

Dr. Gregory James ('88)

Drs. Kenneth ('91)/Michelle Johnson

Dr. Carlos Levy ('87)

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Dr. Roger Boyington ('94)

Dr. Charles Chase ('89)

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Dr. Joseph Corcoran ('86)

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Dr. Jennifer Hayes ('86)

Dr. James T. Howell

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Dr. Michael Ross ('88)

500 Club (continued)

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Dr. Gregory Serfer ('97)

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Dr. Sonia Talarico ('03)

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Dr. Diane Haisten ('93)

Dr. Jason D. Hatcher ('99)

Dr. Michael Krutchik ('88)

Dr. Stephen MacDonald ('90)

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Dr. Edward Packer

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Mr. John Potomski

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Dr. Steven Reeves ('95)

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Dr. Mary Jo Villar ('94)

Dr. Ira Weiner

Dr. Richard Wolonick ('91)

Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

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Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)

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- Dr. Dafna Trites ('94)
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- Dr. Michael Williams ('00)
- Dr. Charles A. Wilson ('96)
- Dr. Paul Winner
- Dr. Stephen Yandel ('89)
- Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)

Submission of Alumni News



In my role as editor-in-chief and graphic designer of *COM Outlook*, I am always seeking ways to enhance the publication's content and make it as informative as possible for our readership. One of the ways I hope to accomplish this is by providing expanded coverage of the myriad individuals who comprise NSU-COM's distinguished alumni base. If you have published a book, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position, please contact me at (954) 262-5147 or submit the information via email to scottc@nsu.nova.edu.

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1985 Alumnus Believes in Giving Back to Alma Mater



Although it's been over two decades since Ross Zafonte, D.O., graduated from the inaugural Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) class in 1985, he has never lost touch with the institution that provided him with his entrée into the osteopathic realm.

"You have to remember where you came from," explained Dr. Zafonte, who serves as professor and chair of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh. "You have to understand that someone gave you an opportunity, which is why I feel a responsibility to help those who are coming up behind me so they can have a similar, or even better, opportunity."

Putting his words into action, Dr. Zafonte became the first alumnus to participate in NSU-COM's newly formed academical societies by making a sizable contribution to the worthy cause. "I was happy to give back to the college in this way because it's a mechanism that allows us to help younger people grow in specific areas of interest and in areas where they need to become

more accomplished or develop further thought processes," he stated. "The future is fraught with all sorts of change, and those students who learn to think dynamically and innovatively are more likely than not to be the ones who succeed."

By the time he graduated from the University of Georgia in 1981 with a B.S. degree in psychology and biochemistry, Dr. Zafonte was unaware that a profession named osteopathic medicine even existed. Fortunately, a chance encounter with several D.O.s in Georgia resulted in his being informed about the profession—and a new osteopathic medical school that was opening in North Miami Beach. "I thought some of the approaches they explained were interesting," he said, "so I decided to apply to SECOM."

As a member of the inaugural SECOM class in 1981, which Dr. Zafonte affectionately refers to as "the great laboratory experience," he and his fellow matriculants embarked on an osteopathic odyssey that was marked by both challenge and achievement. "Back then it was essentially a single classroom in a building that was across the street from Southeastern Medical Center, and both the administration and students were learning as they went along," he admitted. "But we all shared a supreme sense of closeness, and there was a deep and direct relationship with the people at the top because there were only 40 students initially. Everybody from that first class has gone on to be reasonably successful, so, in hindsight, the administration actually did a very good job."

After completing his internship at Detroit Osteopathic and Bi-County Hospital in 1986 and his residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York in 1989, Dr. Zafonte continued his education by doing a research fellowship through the University of Missouri and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation. He then returned to Detroit to work at Wayne State University for nine years in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, where he helped develop a large research program that focused on brain injury and neuro-trauma.

In 2000, he decided to relocate to Pennsylvania to accept his current position at the University of Pittsburgh. "I help coordinate a lot of the rehab services for the health system," said Dr. Zafonte, who has been married to wife Cheryl since 1994 and has a seven-year-old son named Alex. "I'm also the vice president of clinical rehabilitation services for the UPMC health system and executive director of the UPMC Institute for Rehabilitation and Research."

Dr. Zafonte, who serves as principal investigator on a number of federal grants, is especially proud of the fact that he has helped develop the department into a topflight one that went from unranked status to a top 10 listing in regard to National Institutes of Health funding. "Our goal here at Pitt is to get better every day," he stressed. "If we're not thinking differently and reinventing ourselves all the time, we're doing a less-than-optimal job."

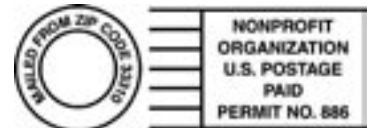
Dr. Jose Hernandez Ford Receives Inaugural Dr. Bradley Silverman Scholarship



Class of 2006 alumnus Jose Hernandez Ford, D.O., recently became the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Bradley I. Silverman Memorial Scholarship, which was established to honor outstanding NSU-COM students who showcase compassion, commitment, community involvement, and other laudable traits exemplified by Dr. Silverman.

Dr. Hernandez Ford was selected from a pool of several dozen applicants by the scholarship committee, which consisted of NSU-COM administrators, Dr. Silverman's parents Marilyn and Stanley, and close friends Dr. and Mrs. Michael Storch. The scholarship will be presented annually to students who complete a clinical rotation with a physician whose primary practice is in Aventura, Florida, and later utilize their skills at Aventura Comprehensive Cancer Center or Aventura Hospital and Medical Center.

Dr. Silverman, who passed away in 1999, was a member of NSU-COM's charter graduating class in 1985. During his career, he became passionately involved in the breast cancer field and went on to become chief of surgery and then chief of staff elect at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center. Pictured at the presentation ceremony are scholarship recipient Dr. Jose Hernandez Ford, Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, and Marilyn and Stanley Silverman.



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