

Winter 2004

# COM Outlook Winter 2004

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

# COM Outlook

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Winter 2004

Volume 5, Number 1



**Research on  
the Rise at  
NSU-COM**



## Dean's Message



After attending a recent Curriculum Committee meeting, Dr. A. Alvin Greber, who serves as the college's associate dean for program development and distinguished chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, penned an eloquent email to the collective faculty that succinctly

encapsulates the collegial spirit that exists here at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In his email, Dr. Greber stated, "Since I joined the college 14 years ago, I have noted significant additions to our faculty. With increasing diversity, differing philosophies, and particular talents, our faculty has become a unique academic body. During a recent meeting, the interaction of various faculty members with differing philosophies produced lively and vigorous discourse. Following the meeting, the mutual respect and appreciation of each faculty member for the other's point of view was evident. No residual rancor, acrimony, or harbored feeling of disaffection has ever surfaced in subsequent interaction. We are a unique group with different ideas toward a common academic goal, and such collegiality deserves attention and notice."

When a longtime faculty member like Dr. Greber publicly acknowledges the existence of such an open atmosphere that embraces philosophical differences and promotes insightful debate concerning educational concepts, it is indeed a compliment to both the administration and the communal faculty.

We are a diverse mix of faculty comprised of many backgrounds, different degrees, various specialties, and wide-ranging educational experiences. However, rather than being a detriment, these differences have instead produced a robust educational engine that is driving the college in a very beneficial way—a fact that is reflected in our students' productivity academically, personally, and professionally.

By leading by example and serving as mentors, the NSU-COM faculty, in concert with the basic science faculty from the College of Medical Sciences, has brought out the best in our students, which is amply illustrated by their caring, their compassion, and their willingness to devote copious amounts of time to various community activities as well as local and international medical missions.

The faculty's positive impact on our student body is also evidenced by the high level of esteem our students are receiving from outside institutions. As NSU-COM dean, it is deeply gratifying to see how desired our students are by various institutions and programs, and how they are being actively recruited for both clinical rotation positions and postgraduate residency programs.

I truly believe that faculty participation at all levels of academia and the opportunity for faculty to analyze, dissect, and recommend all aspects of our student education is what's responsible for the implementation of so many educational innovations that have helped boost the college's academic reputation. And while there is always room for continued enhancements, I am confident that sometime in the near future our curriculum will serve as a paradigm of excellence that will be emulated by other colleges in the years to come.

Thanks to the symbiotic and synergistic energy of our faculty and staff, we have evolved into a great school. I applaud each of you for your contributions to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the dynamic direction in which we are moving. Those of you who have heard me speak of our school know the great pride and respect I have for our administration, faculty, staff and students. Thanks to the NSU-COM "team," the pursuit of excellence has become a daily reality at our college.



*Anthony J. Silenzi, DO*

# Health Professions Division Executive Administration

## *Communiqué*



Morton Terry, D.O., M.Sc., FACOI  
Chancellor



Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

This has been a productive fall/winter season for us as the Health Professions Division. The community outreach programs we sponsor and/or participate in are an important part of our mission. Not only do they benefit the community, they serve to challenge us to be the best we can be.

In October, we hosted A Link to Education, a special event that was held to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Rita Silverman, a co-chair of the event and NSU-COM director of clinical research, said "Our goal was to link cancer resources with community needs by educating men and women about breast cancer. This was a wonderful opportunity for people to hear from experts who were willing to share their knowledge about the resources available in South Florida."

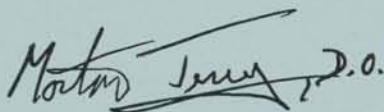
Among the distinguished participants were

- ◆ Charles Vogel, M.D., medical director of the Cancer Research Network
- ◆ Nicholas Tranakas, M.D., medical director of the Women's Comprehensive Breast Center and Cancer Services of the North Broward Hospital District
- ◆ Kenneth Johnson, D.O., medical director of NSU's Women's Health Center

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Johnson once again took a prominent role in the daylong Speaking of Women's Health Conference, a national event cosponsored by WPBT, our local PBS station. Dr. Johnson served on the steering committee and was a presenter on the topic of female sexual dysfunction.

Most recently, we hosted the third annual A Glimpse of the Future of Health Care In America symposium on health care access. Under the direction of Conference Planning Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a state senator who serves as HPD director of external and community affairs, the conference placed a particular emphasis on the health care obstacles that Americans face. We were honored to host insightful speakers such as Florida Senator Ken Pruitt and Lisa Simpson, who serves as ACH Guild endowed chair in child health policy at the University of South Florida.

The executive administration is proud of the outstanding dedication to excellence we see here at the Health Professions Division. Our deans, faculty, student body, and staff are among the best in the country. We hope you all had a joyous holiday, and we send to you and your families our wishes for a very healthy and happy new year.





## Health Professions Division

*Morton Terry, D.O., M.Sc., FACOI*  
Chancellor

*Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.*  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

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## College of Osteopathic Medicine

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

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# FEATURES

## **Student Effort Targets Substance Abuse Prevention - 10**

Substance abuse may be a controversial subject most people are reticent to tackle head on, but that is not dissuading M-1 student Michael Dekker from his goal of establishing a student organization that will benefit all undergraduates matriculating in NSU's Health Professions Division colleges.

## **Research Endeavors Foreshadow Future Success - 14**

Over the past several years, research activities at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine have increased markedly thanks to an infusion of extramural funding and the development of a faculty infrastructure to support these essential endeavors.

## **Clinical Research Enhances Reputation of Osteopathic Profession - 18**

Over the past four years, NSU-COM has participated in over a dozen clinical trials—ranging from diabetes and asthma to hormone replacement therapy and cholesterol—that have positively impacted both the patients and the college at large.

## **Dr. James Howell Makes Public Health a Lifelong Priority - 21**

Throughout his four-decade career as both an advocate and leader in the public health field, Dr. James Howell has exhibited the same admirable work ethic and broadminded approach to life that was inculcated in him as child growing up in the Jamaica area of Queens, New York.

## **Division of Geriatrics Undergoes Dramatic Facelift - 26**

Enhancing the curriculum, establishing closer bonds with other Health Professions Division programs, and expanding the geriatric patient base are just a few of the augmentations Dr. Naushira Pandya is looking to bring to NSU-COM's Division of Geriatrics, which has been radically reconfigured in the past six months.

## **Rare Disorders Diagnosed at NSU's Student Medical Center - 30**

Many people resist change in favor of the status quo, but change is a concept Dr. Sandi-Scott Holman wholeheartedly embraced when it came to modifying the name of NSU's Student Health Center to the more descriptive Student Medical Center.

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# News Briefs...News Briefs



*Tony Shalash (right) poses with Miami Dolphins Quarterback Jay Fiedler.*

**O**n September 23, M-2 student Tony Shalash imparted important information about cystic fibrosis to attendees at the 15th Annual Miami Dolphins Superbowl of Fashion, which was

held at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. Shalash, who was representing NSU-COM's Association of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine student chapter, also had the opportunity to meet many of the Miami Dolphins players and other assorted dignitaries during the event, which raised money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "It was a magnificent evening, to say the least," said Shalash, who was amazed at how interested people were in hearing about the debilitating physical effects caused by cystic fibrosis. "At one point, I had a crowd of cheerleaders, players, and auctioneers listening as I discussed how difficult life can be for a person afflicted with the disease."



*Chelsea Jerry at the 2003 AMSA/AHEC Florida Rural Mission for Health.*

**M**-3 student Chelsea Jerry was recently awarded a prestigious honor when she was accepted into the 2004 Osteopathic Health Policy Intern (OHPI) Program, which is sponsored by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). The OHPI

Program provides a rewarding opportunity for two osteopathic medical students to spend one month in each of the government relations departments of the AOA and AACOM. During her two-month internship, Jerry will be involved in a range of activities, including observing and participating in the legislative and regulatory process and monitoring ongoing policy issues for the AOA and AACOM.

## Did You Know?

Since 1985—the year its inaugural class earned D.O. degrees—2,142 individuals have graduated from NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.



*The event's success was directly attributable to the three women who chaired the Link to Education seminar. Pictured (from left) are Rita Silverman, Sandy Tate, Kenneth Johnson, D.O., who served as the event's moderator, and Helen Somerstein.*

**O**n October 15, the Health Professions Division hosted a free breast cancer awareness event entitled Link to Education: Sharing Knowledge, Creating Awareness that attracted more than 175 attendees. As a service to the community, a panel of medical research and breast cancer experts were on hand to share their knowledge by linking cancer resources to the community.



**O**n October 2, Daryl A. Beehler, D.O., who currently serves as president of the American Osteopathic Association, paid a special visit to NSU-COM to discuss his "Year of the Mentor" philosophy and field questions from the M-1 and M-2 students on topics ranging from residency slots to COMLEX concerns. Pictured (from left) are: Dr. Beehler; Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of academic affairs and chair of the Department of Family Medicine; Alicia Czander, president of NSU-COM's Student Osteopathic Medical Association chapter; Victoria Hutto, president of NSU-COM's Student Government Association; and Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, associate dean of alumni affairs.



**T**he medical staff at NSU's Student Medical Center got into the Halloween spirit by dressing as characters from *The Wizard of Oz*. Pictured (from left) are: "The Tin Man" (Sandi Scott-Holman, D.O.); "Dorothy" (April Lawner); "The Scarecrow" (Derin Davila); Dr. Fred Lippman; "Glenda the Good Fairy" (Inez Lopez); and "The Cowardly Lion" (Peter Ehlers, PA-C).

# News Briefs...News Briefs



*Pictured (clockwise from left) are: Luzan Phillpotts; Mary Elengical; Mudit Jain, M.D., clinical assistant professor of internal medicine; Alan Morrison, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine; Mija Vail; Sara Rizk; Sara Ansari; and Iris Saleh.*

**T**he Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine Association (SOIMA) held its annual Internal Medicine Specialties Dinner on November 13 at the Buca di Beppo restaurant in Davie. During the event, 15 local internal medicine physicians and specialists spoke to the 70 assembled M-1 and M-2 students about their specialty and the postgraduate opportunities that are available to them.



*Cyril Blavo, D.O.*

**O**n December 11, NSU held its annual Employee Anniversary Luncheon at the Signature Grand in Davie to recognize staff and faculty members who have reached significant employment milestones. Following are the College of Osteopathic Medicine honorees:

### 15 Years of Service

Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. & T.M.

### 10 Years of Service

Raul Cuadrado, Ph.D.      Mark Sandhouse, D.O.

### 5 Years of Service

Barbara Arcos, D.O.      Iris Berman      Annette Clarke  
Johneta Goodwin      Kevin Nugent      Carmen Robledo  
Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D.

**T**he first global osteopathic research conference in the United States will be held September 10-12, 2004, at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) in Erie, Pennsylvania. The symposium—entitled International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research (ICAOR)—will bring together local global leaders in osteopathic medical research. Scientists, clinicians, and students interested in submitting abstracts can access submission instructions at the conference Web site: [www.bcom.ac.uk/research/ICAOR.asp](http://www.bcom.ac.uk/research/ICAOR.asp).



*Attendees included (from left): Alberto Caban, Jr., M.P.H. student; Dr. Perez; Chuck Culver; Stephanie Anderson; Linda Simunek; Elizabeth Pendo; Kathy Cerminara; and Bruce Winick.*

**O**n October 28, the South Florida Bioethics/Health Law Working Group, which is chaired by Alina M. Perez, J.D., assistant professor of public health, was held at the University of Miami School of Law. During the meeting, the group held a roundtable discussion on the impact of law on public health issues. Discussion centered on a legal and ethical analysis of issues such as HIV super confidentiality laws, bioterrorism, and mental health courts.



*Rita Silverman, M.P.S.*

**R**ita Silverman, M.P.S., director of clinical research, was a featured speaker at the BioFlorida, Southeast Chapter seminar entitled Building Bridges in BioScience Innovations, which was held on the Health Professions Division campus last fall. Her insightful presentation centered on the theme “The Impact of HIPAA on Clinical Research at Academic Medical Centers.”



*Kristophe J. Karami (right) and K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D.*

**M**-2 student Kristophe J. Karami recently coauthored an article with several individuals, including K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., who serves as associate professor of biochemistry in the College of Medical Sciences. The article, entitled “Isolation, Partial Purification, and Characterization of a Novel Petromyzonol Sulfotransferase from Petromyzon Marinus, Lamprey (Larval) Liver,” has already appeared in the online edition of the *Journal of Lipid Research* and will appear in the printed edition in March 2004.

## Track Day Provides Rotation Options



**O**n October 24, NSU-COM held its annual Track Day event, which allows M-2 students to meet with representatives from the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education (CEME)

and other hospitals to discuss third- and fourth-year rotation possibilities.

“Track Day is something Dr. Marge Wilkinson, who is the executive director of our CEME program, and I initiated five years ago,” said Elaine Lefkowitz, who serves as the college’s director of clinical education. “It’s an event the various directors of medical education really appreciate, and it’s extremely beneficial for our students because they learn what each hospital has to offer them and the way each hospital conducts its training.”

*Following are the facilities that attended Track Day:*

- Broward General Medical Center
- Columbia Hospital West Palm Beach
- Florida Hospital - East Orlando
- Gulf Coast Hospital
- Kendall Regional Medical Center
- Miami Heart Institute
- Mount Sinai Medical Center
- North Florida Reception Center
- Osteopathic Institute of the South
- Palmetto General Hospital
- Parkway General Hospital
- Sun Coast Hospital
- Westchester General Hospital
- West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center



*Track Day proved to be a beneficial experience for all involved.*

## Three Generations Call NSU Home

**T**he family atmosphere exhibited throughout the NSU campus is more than just a celebrated philosophy; it’s also a truism in the case of three family members who happen to work at NSU-COM and the Health Professions Division.

When Shorty Rallis, who works in the HPD’s purchasing/maintenance department, began his NSU employment in February 1993, he couldn’t have envisioned that a decade later both his daughter and granddaughter would be working in such close proximity at the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Rallis’ daughter, Debbie Chase, joined the NSU-COM staff in September 2002 as a secretary in the Office of Clinical Education and Graduate Medical Education. A year later, Debbie’s daughter, Donna, extended the family’s generational impact at NSU by becoming an administrative assistant who provides assistance for several NSU-COM departments.



*NSU generational trio: Debbie Chase, Shorty Rallis, and Donna Chase strike a familial pose in front of the Terry Building.*

Having the opportunity to work together has been a blessing in many ways for the close-knit family members, who relish the chance to spend additional time with each other. “At 8:15 each morning, my grandfather, mother, and I meet for a brief summary of how our lives are going,” Donna explained.

“Time passes us by so quickly, and we forget to remember the people who mean the most to us in our lives,” she added. “Nova Southeastern University is not only a wonderful place to work, but it is bringing three generations of my family closer every day.”



# Pediatrics Club Brings Cheer to Needy Children

*By M-2 Josh Kellett, Pediatrics Club Webmaster*

Over the past several months, the NSU-COM Pediatrics Club has been very active in moving beyond the scope of the NSU community. While we continue to concentrate on educating students and faculty about pediatric concerns, we believe that the experience of sharing our lives with children is where true learning is gained. During the fall 2003 semester, we encountered a new arena of service while at the same time continued a rich tradition.

On October 31, several members of the Pediatrics Club brought fun and joy to the children at Joe Dimaggio's Children's Hospital. Thanks to the generosity of the student body, which contributed to our inaugural Halloween Costume Drive, we were able to dress every child at the hospital. Trick-or-treating has never been so much fun, especially while walking beside these wonderful kids, many who are suffering from tragic systemic disease.

On December 10, many NSU-COM students joined together at our annual Holiday Toy Drive Wrapping Party. This has been a long and storied event for the students as we prepare for the holiday season. With the spirit of giving in the air, we wrapped over 100 gifts for Broward County children while at the same time enjoying live music, wonderful food, and joyful camaraderie. On Friday, December 19, we delivered these gifts to three local children's centers as Santa made his annual toy drive delivery appearance.

Be on the lookout for additional Pediatrics Club events in the spring 2004 semester. To learn more about the club, please check out our website at [www.nova.edu/pedsclub](http://www.nova.edu/pedsclub).



*Pictured at the wrapping party are (from left) Edward Packer, D.O., chair of the Department of Pediatrics, and Pediatrics Club officers Laura Drach, Santa Claus (a.k.a., Josh Kellett), Andrea Ali, and Erin Gerhart.*



*Laura Drach spreads some Halloween happiness at Joe Dimaggio's Children's Hospital.*

## Dr. Lori Dribin to Receive Living Tribute Award

Lori B. Dribin, Ph.D., who serves as professor of anatomy and assistant dean for student affairs at NSU's College of Medical Sciences, has been selected as the recipient of the Third Annual NSU-COM Alumni Executive Committee Living Tribute Award, which will be presented on February 7, 2004, during the Eighth Annual Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education Program.



*Lori Dribin, Ph.D.*

The award was established to provide graduates with a heartfelt way to honor outstanding faculty/staff members and administrators who have made significant contributions to the college and the osteopathic profession. Since 1982, Dr. Dribin has been devoted to the education and nurturing of her students, first at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (the forerunner to NSU-COM), and now the Health Professions Division of Nova Southeastern University.

Over the years, a multitude of grateful students have benefited from her knowledge, sense of humor, and dedication to their education and success.

# NSU-COM Well Represented at American Public Health Association Conference

**I**n November, a number of the college's master of public health faculty, alumni, and students attended and/or served as presenters at the 131st American Public Health Association Conference in San Francisco, California. Presentations included:

*Long Term Effectiveness of a Wellness Program on the Lives of People with Multiple Sclerosis: A Randomized Controlled Trial (Phase III)*

Presenters

**Lou J.Q.**, **Pierce C.**, **Alvarez J.**,  
**Hardigan P.**, and **Classen S.**

*Assessment of Provider and Patient Compliance with Preventive Medicine Guidelines Using a Computerized Reminder System*

Presenters

**Singer J.**, **Lou J.Q.**,  
**Malecki J.**, and **Rubin D.**

*A Case Control Study to Assess the Association Between Vitamin D Serum Levels and Multiple Sclerosis*

Presenters

**Greenberg B.L.**, **Lou J.Q.**,  
and **Farrar-Koch R.**

*Bringing Cardiovascular Health to Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Communities in Florida*

Presenters

**Legros J.**, **Foster R.**,  
**Zucker S.**, **Saldias G.**,  
**Peters J.**, and **Leconte F.**

(Names in bold are NSU-COM master of public health professors, alumni, or students.)



The conference served as a reunion of sorts for NSU master of public health alumni Dr. Jesse Singer, Dr. Conseula Maggie, and JoEllen Alvarez.



Dr. Cyril Blavo chats with visitors at the NSU booth.



Drs. Jesse Singer and Jennie Lou presented their preventive medicine guideline study at the conference.

## SNMA Members Wrap Up Busy Semester



The SNMA in action at the Joe DiMaggio Health Fair in October.

**T**he college's Student National Medical Association (SNMA) membership served as a model of community service commitment during the fall 2003 semester by participating in an array of South Florida health fairs, administering flu shots to the community, and coordinating a pre-professional conference for local high school students.

During the semester, SNMA members volunteered their time and medical expertise at the Tabernacle of Christian Faith Church Health Fair, the Christway Baptist Church Health Fair, the Joe DiMaggio Health Fair, and the Delray Beach Health Fair.

# Student Effort Targets Substance Abuse Training and Intervention

**S**ubstance abuse may be a controversial subject most people are reticent to tackle head on, but that is not dissuading M-1 student Michael Dekker from his goal of establishing a student organization that will benefit all undergraduates matriculating in NSU's Health Professions Division colleges.

"I'm currently working to form a club on campus that will be called the American Osteopathic Academy for Addiction Medicine," said Dekker, who recently attended a two-day Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy (PLNDP) meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. "Once it becomes a sanctioned student organization, our goals will be to advocate substance abuse training for all the disciplines and to help any health professional students that are in distress due to substance abuse issues."

Dekker, who was one of 11 students representing various U.S. medical schools and health professions programs at the PLNDP meeting, says the information he gleaned at the seminar armed him with the knowledge he needed to address this incendiary issue at NSU. "Health professional students are under an immense amount of stress," he explained. "And the PLNDP determined that the majority of substance abuse problems relating to physicians or other health professionals began when they were students in medical school or their respective discipline schools."

As a result, the PLNDP—which is an advocacy group that stresses a public-health approach to addiction treatment—created an initiative that it hopes will galvanize health professional students nationwide to coordinate educational and advocacy activities on their respective campuses in the form of Health Professional Students for Substance Abuse Training (HPSSAT) programs.

"It is my understanding that second-year students here at NSU-COM are exposed to the substance-abuse aspect of each system during their systems courses," Dekker stated. "I have heard that the information is very thorough and that it complies with—and

exceeds—the AOA requirements. However, the issue of physicians in substance-abuse issues should be addressed earlier than it currently is based on the pervasiveness of the problem."

Although the creation of the American Osteopathic Academy for Addiction Medicine is still in its formative stages, Dekker already envisions a heady agenda for the student chapter, which should receive sanction to officially launch in the fall of 2004. "My role at NSU would be not only to help people on campus but to work with administration and with my classmates to increase the level of drug abuse training here on campus and provide extraneous lectures above and beyond the curriculum from guest speakers," he explained.

"While the American Osteopathic Academy for Addiction Medicine would essentially be an offshoot of the PLNDP, with a focus on health professional students, we're not going to limit ourselves to any particular health profession," he added. "We're also not limiting membership to the generally accepted health professions, so we will target social workers and any peripheral workers on the health care team at a hospital, HMO, or clinic. Basically, anybody in that student chain would be eligible for this organization."

Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., a former secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services who currently serves as president emeritus at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, thinks the student-based initiative makes perfect sense because, "Health care professional students are the frontline doctors and nurses of tomorrow," he stressed. "They play a crucial role in helping to improve the prevention and treatment of substance abuse. Education and training about alcohol and substance abuse is still too little, too late at most schools."

If you would like to learn more about the proposed American Osteopathic Academy for Addiction Medicine student organization, please email Michael Dekker at [dekker@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:dekker@nsu.nova.edu).



Michael Dekker

# Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Kenneth Johnson, D.O.

In September, Kenneth Johnson, D.O., assistant professor of OB/GYN and director of NSU's Women's Health Center, was quoted in the online publication *ePregnancy* for an article entitled "You Want to Eat What? Understanding Pica." He also appeared on the *Mom Talk Radio* show that airs on WFTL 1400 AM every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. and was quoted in an article entitled "When Will You Show?" on the *Pregnancy and Baby* Web site.



Leonard Levy, D.P.M.

Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., professor and associate dean of education, planning, and research, was quoted in the October 22 issue of the *Palm Beach Post* in an article titled "Get a Leg Up by Wearing Proper Shoes." In the article, Dr. Levy stressed that the issue of falls, especially in older people and particularly in women, has become a major public health problem.



Eric Shamus, Ph.D.

Eric Shamus, Ph.D., assistant professor of osteopathic principles and practice, recently coauthored a textbook entitled *Effective Documentation for Physical Therapy Professionals*. Dr. Shamus also contributed three incisive case studies in a new handbook entitled *Clinical Cases in Physical Therapy*.



Gary Hill, D.O.

Gary Hill, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, served as a speaker at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida Convention, which was held in November at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center in West Palm Beach, Florida.



Elisa Ginter, D.O.

Four faculty participants in the annual medical missions to Guatemala recently coauthored an abstract that was published in the autumn 2003 issue of *Florida Scientist*. The article, entitled "Human Intestinal Parasitic Infections in Villages Located Around Lake Atitlan in Guatemala,"

was coauthored by

- Camille Bentley, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine
- Elisa Ginter, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine
- Joel Spalter, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine
- Harold Laubach, Ph.D., dean of the College of Medical Sciences



James Howell, M.D.

In November, James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., professor and chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, received the Apollo Award of Merit from the Palm Beach County Medical Society (PBCMS) for his "exceptional and outstanding service to the profession of medicine." The accolade was presented to Dr. Howell at a ceremony held during the PBCMS's Annual Installation Gala at the Delray Beach Marriott Hotel. Dr. Howell was also named to the Palm Beach County Medical Society's Board of Trustees.



Ronnie Martin, D.O.

Ronnie Martin, D.O., FACOFP, who serves as professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine and associate dean for academic affairs, was quoted in a November article entitled "More Teen Boys Pumping Iron to Lift Egos" that appeared in *The Herald* newspaper. In the

article, Dr. Martin addressed the repercussions adolescents can experience by lifting more weight than they can handle.

# Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



*Barbara Arcos, D.O.*

**I**n September, Barbara Arcos, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, served as the featured speaker at the college's Christian Medical Association student chapter commissioning ceremony, which was held at First Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale. In November, she presented a lecture on "Primary

Care and the Osteopathic Physician" to the student chapter of the America Medical Student Association and volunteered along with 10 Christian Medical Association student members at the annual Feast of Plenty at First Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale. During the event, Dr. Arcos and the participating students provided free medical screenings for approximately 80 homeless individuals.



*Camille Bentley, D.O.*

**C**amille Bentley, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, and Lauritz "Larry" Jensen, D.A., director of preclinical education and professor of family medicine, were recently reelected to DOCARE International's Board of Trustees. Dr. Bentley will serve as the organization's first

vice president, while Dr. Jensen, who is a past president of DOCARE, was elected to another two-year board term. Over the past several years, Drs. Bentley and Jensen have organized and participated in DOCARE outreach missions to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.



*Alina Perez, J.D.*

**O**n October 7, Alina M. Perez, J.D., assistant professor of public health, served as a speaker at the Florida Bar/Elder Law Section Conference in Miami Lakes. The symposium, which was designed to foster cultural awareness among practicing elder law attorneys, addressed

the differences among diverse cultural groups in dealing with advance directives and end-of-life/health care issues of the elderly.



*Maureen Campbell, D.O.*

**M**aureen Campbell, D.O., FACEP, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine and medical director of NSU-COM's Department of EMS Education and Training, was recently recognized by the American Heart Association for her work in the fight against heart disease and stroke. Dr.

Campbell has also been appointed as chair of Florida Regional Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC), a volunteer committee of the American Heart Association. The committee is charged with strengthening the "Chain of Survival" in every community and for implementing the ECC training program in its geographic region. Additionally, Dr. Campbell has been appointed to the national faculty on advanced cardiac life support, which is the committee that oversees all training in the program to ensure that standards are followed.



*Michael Patterson, Ph.D.*

**I**n November, Michael M. Patterson, Ph.D., professor and assistant chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, presented a poster entitled "Modern Animal Stereotaxis in the Neurosciences: The Kopf Instrument Company" at the Society for Neuroscience

Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. He also served as a guest lecturer at the

- Canadian College of Osteopathy in Toronto in October, where he discussed "Osteopathic Research Design"
- College of Osteopathic Studies in Montreal in December, where he chatted about "Neurophysiology and Osteopathic Research Design"
- Conference of Prolotherapy, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison, Wisconsin, in October, where he presented a lecture series on the "Neurophysiology of Chronic Pain"

Dr. Patterson also played a major role at the AOA's 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, which included chairing the research conference poster judging and presenting four posters at the competition.

# Faculty Focus...Faculty Focus



Edward Packer, D.O.

**D**uring the fall 2003 semester, Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, initiated monthly presentations for parents at NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. Subjects discussed included childhood

immunizations, attention deficit disorder, and primary nocturnal enuresis. During the university's A Day for Children event in October, Dr. Packer and the college's Pediatrics Club provided an estimated 1,500 children with growth charts as well as hands-on exposure to assorted medical instruments. On the academic front, Dr. Packer served as a moderator at the recent American College of Osteopathic Pediatrician's educational conference and presented a lecture on "Childhood Obesity" at the Southwest Division of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association conference. He also penned an editorial on the use of personal digital assistants in pediatrics that was published in the *Journal of International Pediatrics*.



Robin McFee, D.O.

**R**obin McFee, D.O., M.P.H., assistant professor of preventive medicine and director of NSU-COM's Center for Education and Research in Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction, served as a speaker at a number of fall events. In October, she discussed "Chemical Threats: WMD

Preparedness" at the annual Regional AORN Conference. Her November agenda included a "Tox Doc: The Where's Waldo of WMD Preparedness/Creating a BT Program" discussion at an NSU-COM faculty meeting. She also presented a seminar on "WMD Preparedness: Addressing the Needs of the Geriatric Population" at the Gerontology Society Association Conference in San Diego, California.

**B**radley S. Feuer, D.O., J.D., clinical associate professor of family medicine, recently became the first police surgeon in the State of Florida Highway Patrol. Dr. Feuer will volunteer his services through the Florida Highway Patrol auxiliary network.



Loretta Graham, Ph.D.

**I**n November, Loretta Graham, Ph.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and medical education specialist, was elected as a member-at-large for the Association of Standardized Patient Educators. Dr. Graham's two-year ASPE term officially commenced on January 1, 2004.

**T**he following faculty members, students, and alumni made presentations at the AOA's 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, which was held October 12-16 in New Orleans, Louisiana:

Barbara Arcos, D.O. - *Female Sexual Dysfunction and Osteopathic Perspectives*

Camille Bentley, D.O. - *Prevalence of Cryptosporidiosis in Children Experiencing Abdominal Pain*

Marin Dawson-Caswell (M-4 student) - *Atypical Kawasaki's Disease: A Unique Case Presentation*

Tyler C. Cymet, D.O. - *Anthrax in America/Gender: Cases Are Treated Differently*

Lisa DeWitt, D.O. - *Travel Medicine and Mission Medicine/Reptile Envenomation*

Fred Lewis, D.O. - *Exploring Complex Mood of Bipolar Disorder*

Robert M. Klein, D.O. - *Exploring the Complex Moods of Bipolar Disorder*

Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H. - *Research/Grant Writing*

Ronnie Martin, D.O. - *Erectile Dysfunction and Osteopathic Perspectives*

Robin McFee, D.O., M.P.H. - *Weird Pets, Toxic Exposures, and Things that Go Bump in the Night*

Michael Patterson, Ph.D. - *Determination of Pressures Used in OMT/Osteopathic Palpatory Diagnosis*

Joel Rush, D.O. - *Lidocaine Patch 5% in Chronic Low Back Pain*

Eric Shamus, Ph.D. - *Lumbar Rotation Range of Motion with Lumbar OMT*

Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D. - *UTI Overview/ Human Sexuality Overview*



# Research Endeavors Foreshadow Future Success

*By Scott Colton*

*Director of Education Communications*

**O**ver the past several years, research activities at the College of Osteopathic Medicine have increased markedly thanks to an infusion of extramural funding and the development of a faculty infrastructure to support these essential endeavors. And that's a trend that's destined to continue on an even grander scale if the Health Professions Division receives the requisite federal funding to build a cutting-edge research center on the university campus.

In 1999, NSU-COM took its first significant step toward establishing itself in the research arena by creating the Office of Education, Planning, and Research and recruiting Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., to oversee this exciting new venture. Then came the acquisition of several key grants that have allowed both students

and faculty to hone their investigative skills and participate in diverse research projects that have since brought additional esteem to the college, the Health Professions Division, and the university.

## Multi-pronged Approach to Research

"What we have done is evolved a multi-pronged approach that includes both students and faculty," said Dr. Levy, who serves as professor of family medicine and public health and associate dean of education, planning, and research. "Most students are not interested in doing research, but they still need to understand the research process so they can assess the world literature to help make choices in clinical practice. An additional benefit of this is that during the educational process, we are cultivating their interest in research."



In December 2000, student research efforts escalated significantly when Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell established a \$50,000 endowment at NSU-COM to provide awards for students who developed research projects in both clinical medicine and biomedical science. "Every year there are more and more students participating,"

Dr. Levy stated. "What's really exciting is that as a result of their research efforts, students who received the Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards over the past three years also submitted their papers for consideration in the Eastern-Atlantic Student Research Forum. We were the first osteopathic medical school to enter this competition. Over the past three years, our students have been invited to present their papers and have gone on to capture a prestigious first-place prize in two of those years in the poster competition."

Another key goal in the evolving research paradigm involved providing similar opportunities for interested faculty members, which was fueled in 2000 by the acquisition of a three-year, \$665,000 Academic Administered Units in Primary Care Training Grant from the U.S. Public Health Service/Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant, which was used to establish a Division of Primary Care Research, also provided funds for three faculty members to engage in primary care-related research:



*Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O.*, assistant professor of family medicine - conducted a study involving people in poor rural and urban areas of Jamaica who are afflicted with diabetes

*Barbara Arcos, D.O.*, assistant professor of family medicine -

studied the effect of physical fitness activity on medical student performance

*Anjali Noble, D.O.*, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine - investigated the effect of breast cancer education and self-examination on the prevention and early detection of the disease



The faculty members, who worked individually with Dr. Levy on a topic of their choice, were guided through the various research process components, which included everything from methodology and hypothesis development to how to critically conduct a background search of world literature. An ancillary benefit has already been evidenced by the generation of articles, including one titled "Breast Cancer and Women in Prison: Preventive Attitudes and Risk Factor" that has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Correctional Medicine*. In addition, a similarly themed article will soon be published in a special issue of *Academic Medicine*.

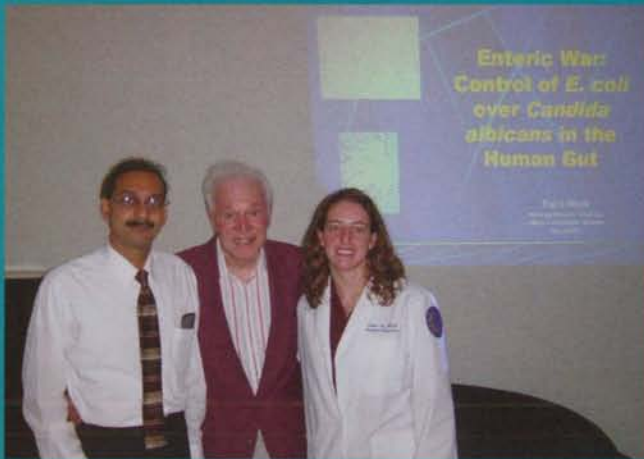
The college's research efforts received another significant boost in 2001 with the addition of the Kenyon Primary Care Cancer Research Endowment, which allows NSU-COM faculty to pursue vital primary care, cancer-related research. Faculty members can also submit proposals to receive funding through the NSU President's Faculty Research and Development Grant program, which offers annual awards of up to \$10,000 for scholarly research projects.

In addition to providing faculty research opportunities, the aforementioned Academic Administered Units in Primary Care Training Grant provided the college with funding to develop a number of research-





## Dr. S. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Awards



*M-1 student Dana Block (right) recently presented her research project to Dr. Burnell (center) and Dr. Venkatachalam, who serves as associate professor of biochemistry in the College of Medical Sciences.*

oriented problem-based learning modules. "All students are required to complete one of these modules as part of their second-year educational experience," Dr. Levy explained. "Every student participates in small groups of six to develop research protocols in a module that is integrated into the curriculum. This year it was related to the gastrointestinal system, while in the previous year it was associated with the reproductive system."

### Research Center Looms in NSU's Future

Because of the increased amount of research being conducted at NSU-COM and the five other Health Professions Division colleges, plans are underway to secure funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a cutting-edge research center. The facility, which would be constructed on the NSU campus near the Terry Building, will focus on an array of endeavors, including chronic disease and aging-related research.



"I am currently working with Dr. Robert Uchin, the dean of the College of Dental Medicine, who has been designated by Dr. Fred Lippman to spearhead this effort along with Dr. Arthur DeCarlo, who is an associate professor in the dental school," said Dr. Levy. "Dr. DeCarlo and I are preparing an application

that seeks \$4 million from the NIH for a large research facility that could eventually be as much as twice the size of our dental school. Half of the building will be supported by federal funds, while the other half would remain shell space so we could complete it at a later date. The university will match the grant we are seeking with \$4 million, and we have already received a letter from NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., authorizing this match."

Each of the HPD colleges will be allotted space in the pending structure to conduct clinical, biomedical, and basic science research. NSU-COM research initiatives will focus primarily on chronic diseases and geriatrics.

To prepare for the establishment of an onsite research facility, several faculty researchers are already being recruited. "NSU-COM has begun recruiting for a researcher who could either be a physician or Ph.D. who has a significant funded research track record," Dr. Levy said. "In addition, other HPD colleges will also be expanding their faculty with additional researchers. This will add faculty infrastructure that possesses experience in research as well as experience in being able to acquire extramural funds to support research. Most universities, including those that are renowned for their research capabilities, support their research by grant money that is acquired by the researchers."

According to Dr. Levy, the addition of a research facility to the burgeoning NSU campus seems a natural step in the evolution of a university that has grown exponentially both in size and esteem since its establishment. "It's part of the natural maturation of a university," Dr. Levy stated. "NSU started with 17 students in 1964, and now it's a completely different paradigm."

"Part of the university's mission, in addition to education, training, and community service, is scholarly activity and research," he explained. "And while we are not a research university, we still have to meet that component of the mission. And as the university grows, each component of the mission will correspondingly grow. This may not be a complete change in the paradigm of the university, but it will certainly include a rich research base."

"I sometimes quip that the university is growing so rapidly that it feels as if the floor in my office is moving," he added. "But to quote a cliché, I think we're just beginning to see the tip of the iceberg."

# Student Research Abounds at NSU-COM

Several NSU-COM students are collaborating with K.V. Venkatachalam, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry in the College of Medical Sciences, on the following projects:

## Title

**Isolation, Partial Purification, and Characterization of a Novel Petromyzonol Sulfotransferase from Petromyzon Marinus, Lamprey (Larval) Liver**

## Students

Kristophe J. Karami (M-2)  
Domingo E. Llanos (lab assistant)

## Description



Bile acid in general serves as a detergent in solubilizing the dietary lipid during digestion. Interestingly, in lamprey, a bile acid derivative serves as an odor molecule for homing in, for the spawning adults.

The researchers are interested in the molecular cloning of petromyzonol sulfotransferase and the enzymatic synthesis of petromyzonol-sulfate. This work was recently published in the *Journal of Lipid Research*, which is part of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

## Title

**Role of Acetyl CoA Carboxylase (ACC) in Relation to the Biochemistry of the Brain**

## Student

Kristophe Karami (M-2)

## Description



Acetyl CoA carboxylase (ACC) catalyzes the formation of malonyl CoA using the substrates ATP, acetyl CoA, bicarbonate and bound coenzyme biotin. Malonyl CoA serves as the committed

metabolite for the fatty acid biosynthesis. In addition malonyl CoA has been purported to serve as a regulatory molecule of the hunger. The researchers have looked at the ACC activity levels in different parts of the brain under various starvation regimens using mice as a model system. These findings are under preparation for submission into peer-reviewed journals like *Nature Neuroscience*.

## Title

**Enteric War: Control of E. coli Over Candida Albicans in the Human Gut**

## Student

Dana Block (M-1)

## Description



In the human gut, the ecology includes the normal growth and life cycles of bacteria (e.g. E. coli) and fungus (Candida albicans). Due to physiological changes in the gut (e.g., antibiotic therapy, hormone

fluctuations) the Candida albicans undergoes morphogenesis into a pathogenic filamentous fungal form, which for example causes erosions of the gut walls leading to various clinical manifestations. The research will focus on the isolation and characterizations of the natural compounds that would keep the C. albicans under check by maintaining them in the non-pathogenic yeast like form. The invasive fungal form of C. albicans can cause diseases like vaginal Candidiasis. The researchers hope to isolate the natural product(s) secreted by the E. coli that will be of therapeutic use.

## NSU Commemorates National Osteopathic Medicine Week



NSU-COM did its part to promote National Osteopathic Medicine Week in September by displaying an eye-catching banner in front of the university's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center.



Rita Silverman (right) shares information with a patient at NSU's Women's Health Center.

## Clinical Research Enhances Reputation of NSU, Osteopathic Profession

*By Scott Colton*

*Director of Education Communications*

**W**hen Rita Silverman, M.P.S., attended her first clinical trial investigator meeting as an NSU-COM representative in 1999, she was shocked by the paucity of osteopathic medical participation she witnessed. "During that first meeting, it was revealed that of the 60 physician sites involved, only three D.O.s were participating, including Dr. Kenneth Johnson, who is director of NSU's Women's Health Center," said Silverman, who has served as the college's director of clinical research since October 1999.

While reviewing subsequent studies, Silverman discovered that osteopathic physicians frequently represented as little as three percent of the physician workforce involved in

national trials. "Part of the problem was that because the pharmaceutical companies that fund the clinical trials are global in scope, many of them did not previously recognize D.O.s," she explained. "That's why it's the responsibility of osteopathic medical schools to train their faculty and physicians in clinical research to ensure equal representation."

Over the past four years, NSU-COM has participated in over a dozen clinical trials—ranging from diabetes and asthma to hormone replacement therapy and cholesterol—that have positively impacted both the patients and the college at large. "Because our dean, Dr. Anthony J.



Silvagni, is both a Pharm.D. and a D.O., he understood the importance of integrating clinical trials and making them a priority," Silverman explained. "As a clinical and teaching facility, it was paramount that we provide the latest therapies for disease and wellness."

In what basically amounts to a win-win situation for all involved, clinical research efforts bring additional revenue to the college, improve patient wellness at no cost to the patient, and provide faculty, students, and residents with exposure to current and emerging treatments. "By having various faculty members involved in clinical trials, they remain abreast of the emerging therapies, which they can then share with our students who are the next generation of physicians," Silverman explained.

NSU-COM students and residents also play a pivotal role in clinical research due to their daily interaction with patients at NSU's clinics in Davie and North Miami Beach. "They can get involved by assisting with the screening process, reviewing medical charts, and helping identify patients that may be suitable for a particular study if they have a condition that would qualify them for participation," Silverman stated. "In fact, several of our residents are currently involved in the new GOT diabetes study that is being conducted at both clinical sites. Dr Ronnie Martin is leading the investigation in Davie and Dr. Michelle Powell-Cole is serving as principal investigator at our North Miami Beach site.

"One of the benefits of this six-month diabetes study is that we can put the patients on insulin to stabilize their hemoglobin A1c," she added. "They don't need to be on it for the rest of their lives, and they can adjust their insulin usage weekly because it's customized to work with their bodies. It's exciting to be able to offer patients

a new treatment option because it helps them be more proactive in managing their diabetes."

Another significant aspect of clinical research trials is the positive health benefits certain members of the patient population receive by participating in these investigative therapies. "Volunteers who live in an underserved area or are not covered by health insurance receive comprehensive screenings and tests at no charge," Silverman stated. "And there is often a financial benefit because certain studies offer monetary compensation to the patient."

Even patients who don't qualify for a study can find themselves benefiting in critically important ways. "Sometimes potential patients who may not normally receive health care attention come in to be screened," she added. "And since we require comprehensive lab work and do everything from x-rays and pap tests to mammograms and bone-density screens, sometimes we discover a significant medical problem the patient was totally unaware of. If this occurs, we can refer the patient to the appropriate place for help and actually end up saving a life."

The diverse array of clinical trials that have been coordinated at NSU-COM have concentrated primarily on women's health issues, although diabetes research





*Rita Silverman discusses a case with Dr. Ronnie Martin, who is serving as principal investigator on the current GOT diabetes study being conducted at NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center.*

has and will continue to remain a prime investigative topic. "We were concentrating on women's health issues, especially the area of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) risks and benefits," Silverman stated. "However, due to recent findings, women's health has been redirected to a newer formulation of HRT and alternative solutions to treat osteoporosis, urinary incontinence, and heart disease.

"Additionally, because diabetes is very prevalent in our clinic patient population, we have been working with several pharmaceutical companies in developing and testing diabetes medications," she added. "We are currently conducting three diabetes trials and have been invited to work on an investigational drug with a new mechanism to arrest the disease. The trial, which will be starting in early 2004, should prove to be very exciting because the treatment could be as major a breakthrough for diabetes as the protease inhibitors were for HIV."

Although the process of conducting clinical research can be grueling at times, Silverman says the rewards far outweigh the hassles. "I derive a great deal of personal satisfaction from what I do because I get to interact with so many wonderful professionals throughout the college, the HPD, and the university," she said. "Conducting clinical trials at NSU-COM is far more rewarding than working in the private sector because I am able to engage the faculty and residents and share the research goals with them."

Silverman also goes that proverbial "extra mile" to ensure both the comfort and safety of her patients. "I truly

enjoy interacting with the volunteers, but I also make sure they get the extra care and attention needed because their safety is of primary importance above everything else in the study," she stressed. "In fact, they are our unsung heroes because without them we wouldn't have new treatments to aid mankind."

## NSU-COM Clinical Research Summary



### CURRENT

\$150,000 – Contraception "Lunelle" (Pharmacia)

\$88,860 – Diabetes "Starlix" (Novartis)

\$10,000 – Diabetes "GOT" (Aventis)

### RECENT

\$32,270 – Cholesterol/Heart Disease BELLES (Pfizer)

\$25,000 - Hot Flash (Pfizer)

\$24,500 – Hormone Replacement Therapy/ FEMHRT II (Pfizer)

\$22,000 – Hormone Replacement Therapy/ FEMHRT 1 (Pfizer)

\$3,000 – Asthma (GlaxoSmithKline)

### NEW

\$24,651 – Diabetes (Novartis)

\$31,676 – Stress-related Urinary Incontinence (Lily)



# Dr. James Howell Makes Public Health a Lifelong Priority

*By Scott Colton  
Director of Education Communications*

**T**hroughout his four-decade career as both an advocate and leader in the public health field, James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., has exhibited the same admirable work ethic and broadminded approach to life that was inculcated in him as child growing up in the Jamaica area of Queens, New York.

Regardless of where his circuitous career has taken him over the years, Dr. Howell has never forsaken the lessons he learned from his compassionate father, who always championed the cause of people in need and those striving to “get ahead” in life.

“I’ve always had an altruistic side—a trait I inherited from my father,” said Dr. Howell, who serves as professor of public health and chair of NSU-COM’s Department of Rural Medicine. “We never had any prejudice in my family, and there was never a hint of racism or religious intolerance. My father was an advocate for the little guy because he was a little guy who came from the streets of Brooklyn. Although he never attended high school and went to work when he was 14, he was a very smart man who ended up with a very responsible position at a major international Wall Street brokerage firm. He also gave me a broad vision of the world, which is why I gravitated



*Dr. Howell outside his home in Jamaica, New York, in 1945.*

toward medicine, because it's a giving profession."

Medicine, however, wasn't the only career pursuit Dr. Howell considered while attending Manhattan's Xavier High School in the late 1950s. Like many young men, Dr. Howell harbored a desire to join the military. But his hopes were dashed when he failed to receive sponsorship into the prestigious U.S.

Military Academy at West Point in New York. Swallowing his disappointment, Dr. Howell decided to enroll at St. John's University and pursue a premed degree.

Ironically, during his freshman year at St. John's, Dr. Howell received a telegram from New York Senator Jacob Javits' office offering the desired sponsorship to West Point. However, the message—which would have elicited a celebratory cheer a year earlier—was now met with a distinctly different response. "By that time I had become extremely interested in my premed studies, so I had no interest in attending West Point anymore," he explained. "Had I gotten into West Point a year earlier, my whole world would have changed and I would have spent most of my career in the military."

### **Public Health Edges Psychiatry in Career Clash**

During his matriculation at St. John's University, Dr. Howell experienced an epiphany that nearly presaged a career in psychiatry instead of public health. "One of the books we had to read in my literature course was *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and it actually changed my life," he stated. "It was the greatest novel I had ever read. I thought it was such a breakthrough in terms of profound insight and getting into the depths of human existence."

The thought-provoking novel so impressed Dr. Howell that he was convinced a career in psychiatry was to be his destiny once he began attending New York Medical College in 1962. However, once he began taking psychiatry courses, he slowly realized that he and psychiatry were an ill-suited match. "Psychiatry in those days, especially in the Northeast, was Freudian-based," said Dr. Howell, who turned down invitations to

matriculate at prestigious institutions such as Georgetown University so he could remain in New York." After I heard about the Oedipus complex and the concepts of id, ego, and superego, I knew that psychiatry wasn't for me."

After earning his M.D. degree in 1966, Dr. Howell began performing a rotating internship at New York's Staten Island Hospital. During this time, he was drafted into military service, which altered his plans to enter a pediatrics residency. "The Vietnam War was being waged, so I made out a wish list of what I wanted to do in the army," explained Dr. Howell, who surprisingly placed preventive medicine as his first choice. "I told them I was interested in preventive medicine, and before I knew it I was being sent to the U.S. Army Medical Field Service School at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas."

Once he completed his training, Dr. Howell relocated to Fort Sill in Oklahoma, where he spent the next two years serving as head physician of the fort's Nuclear, Biological, and Radiation Accident Incident Control Board and overseeing the Preventative Medical Division. In this role, Dr. Howell was responsible for a range of preventive medicine and public health programs that impacted a military population that included over 40,000 troops and their dependents.

"By this time I had developed a true passion for public health," stated Dr. Howell, who served as a captain in the Medical Services Corp at Fort Sill. "Working at Fort Sill was like running a county health department because I had to oversee everything from infectious disease control to restaurant, water, and sewer surveillance. At one point



*Dr. Howell, looking dapper at his 1958 graduation from Xavier High School in Manhattan.*

we only had 18 physicians to treat over 40,000 troops and probably an equal number of dependents. It was hard work, but I learned a lot."

After spending two years in the U.S. Army, Dr. Howell was convinced he had found his niche. "I truly enjoyed what I was doing and was seriously considering a career as a preventive medicine physician in the service,"



*Dr. Howell with then Florida Governor Bob Graham at a proclamation presentation in Tallahassee during the 1980s.*

said Dr. Howell, who was offered the chance to attend Harvard University's School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts. "The army wanted to send me to Harvard to earn my M.P.H. degree and then place me into their preventive medicine residency, but I ended up leaving the service after two years for family reasons."

### **Dr. Howell Starts Anew in Florida**

In 1966, during his senior year of medical school, Dr. Howell married Cathy, his longtime sweetheart, which was followed a year later by the birth of their first son, David. Consequently, even though a military career seemed alluring both financially and professionally, Dr. Howell decided to put his family first. "It was a family decision for me to leave the army," he explained. "In those days soldiers moved around a lot; it was just a way of life. But I never wanted to be separated from my wife and children, so I started looking around for residency programs once I left military service."

Because Dr. Howell's parents and sister had recently migrated to South Florida, Dr. Howell decided to pursue a residency program in the same vicinity. Then, in one of those cosmic events that totally reshapes a person's life, Dr. Howell met a man who would become both a trusted mentor and beloved friend. "While I was attending a two-week training course in environmental hygiene

instruction in Edgewood, Maryland, I met Dr. Carl Brumback, who was a colonel in the army reserves," he recalled. "As luck would have it, Dr. Brumback ran a preventive medicine residency program at the Palm Beach County Public Health Unit."

Not surprisingly, Dr. Howell was accepted into the residency program (the same one that is currently jointly operated by NSU-COM and the Palm Beach County Health Department), which he completed in 1971. He followed that achievement by earning his master of public health degree from Harvard University in 1972 and returning to Florida to begin his climb to the summit of public health leadership in the Sunshine State.

In 1972, Dr. Howell was named assistant director of the Palm Beach County Public Health Unit, which was administered by Dr. Brumback. "It was a very fun and dynamic job," he said. "I enjoyed the wide diversity of public health because it allowed me to meet so many different people and tackle so many different challenges."

Dr. Howell would be afforded the opportunity to tackle many new challenges when he joined the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) in 1976. Over the next 10 years, Dr. Howell would play a pivotal role in redefining public health throughout the state as he rose through the administrative ranks, starting with his new role as health program supervisor of HRS District IX in West Palm Beach.

### **New Challenges Beckon in Tallahassee**

In 1979, Dr. Howell and his family—which now included son Jim—relocated to Tallahassee so he could assume the position of state health officer and staff director of HRS's



*During his tenure in Tallahassee, Dr. Howell dealt with a range of health issues that had a major impact on the state of Florida, including the Mariel Boatlift of 1980.*



Health Program Office. In this role, he was responsible for the oversight of all essential public health services in the state of Florida, including the operations of 67 county health departments.

That was followed in 1981 by a four-year stint as deputy secretary of the Department of HRS, where he assisted in the operation of all health and human services provided throughout the state, including welfare, developmental disabilities, elder affairs, juvenile justice, Medicaid, child abuse and neglect, alcohol and drug abuse, and public health. "It was a daunting task," he admitted. "At that time, Florida's HRS department was the second largest health and human services organization in the United States, with a budget in excess of \$10 billion and a workforce of 40,000 employees."

In 1985, Dr. Howell returned to his position as state health officer and staff director of HRS's Health Program Office in Tallahassee to deal with a deadly virus that was sweeping across Florida, the nation, and the global landscape: AIDS. "It was a scary time, so I returned to this position so I would be able to devote my undivided attention to the development of Florida's public health response to this newly identified health threat."

Hungering for a return to South Florida, Dr. Howell revisited his residency roots by becoming director of the Palm Beach County Health Department in 1986, which was followed in 1989 by his appointment as deputy district administrator for health of HRS District IX in West Palm Beach. In 1991, Dr. Howell ascended the leadership ladder once again when he was named district administrator of HRS District IX, where he was responsible for the oversight of all state health and welfare activities within a five-county region of southeast Florida.

However, before he could become too settled in this new role, Dr. Howell received a phone call that would precipitate a move back to Tallahassee. "The Florida Medical Association (FMA) called me one day and asked if they could submit my name for a position as a senior manager in this new organization called AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration)," he explained. "I gave them my okay even though I knew nothing about it. Ultimately, I was offered the job, so we moved back to Tallahassee in 1992."

### **Personal Tragedy Clouds Professional Triumphs**

For the next four years, Dr. Howell served as AHCA's



*Posing for a photo in the mid 1990s are Ed Feever, secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, Mrs. Feever, Governor Lawton Chiles, Rhea Chiles, Marie Howell, and Dr. Howell.*

division director for health policy and cost control, where he directed health-planning activities throughout Florida. Unfortunately, Dr. Howell's professional success was soon clouded by personal tragedy when his wife Cathy developed terminal breast cancer shortly after returning to Tallahassee. Her untimely death in 1994 would mark an undeniable low point in Dr. Howell's life.

"I always worked 70 to 80 hours a week because I also served on the boards of numerous professional and community organizations," said Dr. Howell, who had never even paid a bill himself prior to Cathy's death. "Between my activism and night work, Cathy was the one who stayed home, ran the house, paid the bills, coordinated our moves, and raised the kids. We may have led busy lives, but we always made sure we reserved Sundays so we could spend quality time with each other and our kids."

Working through his grief, Dr. Howell expended even more energy to make AHCA a success. In addition to collaborating with the FMA and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association to develop and distribute practice guidelines for the treatment of various disease entities, he also supervised the Florida State Center for Health Statistics, which gathered and analyzed data related to service provision and costs in various health care facilities.

In 1996, Dr. Howell would tackle his most challenging position to date when Governor Lawton Chiles appointed him secretary of the newly formed Florida Department of Health—an agency with a \$1.5 billion budget and 13,000 employees. "It was terrifically challenging to develop a new department," said Dr. Howell, who fell in love and married his second wife, Marie—an obstetrical nurse—in 1997. "But after two years I knew I needed to

take a break from all the personal and professional stress I'd been under. I was going through one of those crucial passages people often go through in life, and I was ready to move on."

### **Sabbatical Leads to New Role at NSU-COM**

After spending a year decompressing and serving as a health care consultant, Dr. Howell's life took another surprising turn when two old friends approached him about a job opportunity that had become available at Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. "I had gotten to know Dr. Steve Zucker and Dr. Rosebud Foster very well over the years because of our numerous collaborations in regard to the AHEC Program," Dr. Howell stated. "I also had close ties with Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine because I had worked with Dr. Morton Terry and Dr. Arnold Melnick in the early 1980s in regard to setting up the initial clinical rotations in Belle Glade."

Because he's never been one to pass up a promising opportunity, he applied for and was hired as chair of NSU-COM's Department of Rural Medicine in December 1999. "It's been quite a learning experience, but I believe in being a lifelong student," said Dr. Howell, who teaches problem-based learning courses and coordinates and assesses the required three-month rural rotations M-4 students participate in throughout Florida and other southern states. "I have given a few lectures to students in the University of Miami's Public Health Program over the years, but I had never taught full-time in an educational program at a medical college. It's been a fascinating journey."

Throughout his four-year affiliation with NSU-COM, Dr. Howell has brought numerous enhancements to the rural medicine program, including the establishment of a popular correctional medicine rotation. "We have sort of reshaped rural medicine here at NSU-COM," he admitted. "We now allow our students to go out of state to conduct their rural rotations. And starting in 2004, the program will be altered to allow fourth-year students to perform a two-month required rural medicine rotation as well as a selective one-month rotation in a rural and underserved area.

"I am so proud to be associated with this university," added Dr. Howell, who played a pivotal role in establishing the college's Center for Education and Research in Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Preparedness. "We have a wonderful faculty and an enthusiastic student body. It's also been a joy to watch

the college grow in stature over the years, and I feel Dr. Anthony Silvagni deserves a great deal of credit for making that happen."

Like most successful people, Dr. Howell has adhered to a philosophy geared around taking risks—not playing it safe. "I'm definitely not a flat liner when it comes to life," he admitted. "I'll take the lows if I can hit the highs. To quote a baseball cliché, if you only bunt in life, you can never hit a homerun. That's why my advice to the students is 'Don't be a bunter in life. Swing for the fences and dare to be great.'"

## **Key Accomplishments**

- Collaborated with representatives of multiple private and public funders and agencies to guide the development of an innovative Children's Behavioral Health Project that is the first of its kind in the nation
- Worked with other governmental leaders in 1998 to establish KidCare—a program that made health insurance available to 275,000 Florida children who were previously uninsured
- Developed the original AIDS prevention and response program in Florida
- Collaborated with other public health leaders to guide the creation of the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida
- Played a key role in initiating the organization of modern emergency medical services in Palm Beach County by originating the first countywide paramedic training and service as well as the first 911-based communication system and the establishment of two trauma centers
- Worked in partnership with the Florida Public Health Association and other leaders to found the Haitian Public Health Association



*Dr. Howell helped coordinate the 2003 AHEC Rural Medicine Retreat in Stuart, Florida, with assistance from NSU-COM colleagues Johneta Goodwin, Sherri Martin, Dr. Robert Perraud, and Scott Colton.*



*The Division of Geriatrics is bringing a multifaceted approach to education and health care thanks to the teamwork of Dr. Naushira Pandya, Medical Assistant Cassandra Sulzbach, Dr. Monica Warhaftig, and Dr. Susan Ledbetter.*

# Division of Geriatrics Undergoes Dramatic Facelift

*By Scott Colton*

*Director of Education Communications*

**E**nhancing the curriculum, establishing closer bonds with other Health Professions Division programs, and expanding the geriatric patient base are just a few of the augmentations Naushira Pandya, M.D., C.M.D., is looking to bring to NSU-COM's Division of Geriatrics, which has been radically reconfigured in the past six months.

Included in the reconfiguration was the addition of several new faculty members—Monica Warhaftig, D.O., and Susan Ledbetter, D.O.—who were brought on board in recent months to help broaden the college's geriatric practice

capabilities and steer the division to new levels of efficiency and excellence. Both Drs. Warhaftig and Ledbetter have completed residency training in family medicine and fellowship training in geriatric medicine.

"We are continuing several of the projects that were initiated by Dr. Charlotte Paolini (the former division chair) as well as expanding into new and exciting clinical areas," said Dr. Pandya, who joined the faculty in August 2003 as associate professor of internal medicine and chair of the Division of Geriatrics. "We are maintaining our



*Dr. Pandya discusses a patient's case with students at the state veterans' nursing home in Pembroke Pines.*

affiliation with the John Knox Village Professional Center in Pompano Beach, which has an outpatient geriatric clinic where Dr. Paolini had developed a loyal patient base. Dr. Warhaftig is currently there two days each week, and the plan is to gradually expand the patient base in the coming months. We have also enhanced our clinical services by providing home visits to elders who require close medical supervision but are not homebound. Dr. Warhaftig is currently doing home visits in the John Knox Village community, while Dr. Ledbetter is doing the same in the North Miami Beach clinic catchment area.

"The other clinical area we are based at is the state veterans' nursing home in Pembroke Pines," she added. "In my role as the facility's medical director, I'm directly responsible for supervising the medical care of about 60 of the home's 100 patients and making sure care standards are met. I also ensure that other private physicians in the facility are providing proper care and attend the facility's risk management and quality assurance meetings to advise the staff and department heads on various issues. Each of us spends a full day a week there, and Drs. Warhaftig and Ledbetter spend an extra half-day there each week."

The Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, Jr., State Veterans' Nursing Home also serves as one of the college's primary teaching sites for students during their third-year geriatric core rotations. "During their rotations, the students are assigned their own patients to follow," said Dr. Pandya, who previously served as an assistant professor at the University of Missouri in Kansas City and as a faculty member of the Geriatrics Fellowship Program at William Beaumont Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. "It's a wonderful teaching site because every patient gets to be seen by a

student, and the patients really love the interaction they have with the students. We also plan to have optometry and geriatric dentistry students rotating at this facility, making it a true interdisciplinary site."

### **Geriatrics Division Tackles New Challenges**

In addition to the preexisting clinical sites, the college has expanded its geriatric outreach by establishing a presence at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in Pembroke Pines and opening a geriatric consultation clinic at NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center. "The Southwest Focal Point Senior Center has traditionally had nurses and social workers at the facility and offered wellness and other patient education classes, but it has never housed an onsite medical clinic," said Dr. Pandya of the popular senior daycare center. "NSU has established a small outpatient geriatric clinic there, and Dr. Ledbetter and myself are now seeing new patients. We have also hired a medical assistant who will assist us at both the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center and John Knox Village. There is much excitement in the community about a local clinic capable of providing medical care and education for frail elders, and we are fortunate in having a lot of support from the college and the university"

According to Dr. Pandya, the recent establishment of a geriatric consultation clinic at NSU's Sanford L. Ziff Health Care Center, which is currently open two half days a week and staffed by Drs. Pandya and Ledbetter, is yet another significant indication of the college's commitment to addressing the specific needs of older adults. "There are a number of patients who see other NSU health care professionals, such as optometrists and dentists, who don't have a primary care physician or who need special services from a geriatrician," Dr. Pandya explained. "In addition,



*Dr. Pandya exhibits a compassionate approach to patient care.*

older adults currently being seen at our family practice clinic may now be referred to the geriatric clinic if they have multiple complex medical problems requiring several medications, psychosocial issues, functional decline, or the onset of dementia.”

Because the current managed care climate rarely allows for lengthy office visits, many seniors get lost in the patient shuffle at a time when they require the most attention. “That’s the whole crux of geriatrics,” admitted Dr. Pandya. “It’s very difficult to see geriatric patients in an efficient manner in most clinics unless they are extremely healthy and ambulatory and just came in for a checkup for their arthritis or hypertension. Most geriatric patients need at least an hour of the physician’s time on an initial visit and require about 30 minutes on a follow-up visit because you are frequently addressing a variety of issues. Ideally, a geriatrics clinic will have onsite availability of social workers or care managers and access to rehabilitation services.

“In addition to dealing with multiple medical problems and various medication issues, someone could come in with four or five new complaints during any visit,” she added. “A patient may say, ‘I’m here for my diabetes, and by the way I fell and I have a bruise, and I feel dizzy, and I can’t control my urination anymore, and I’ve lost weight.’ Those can all present at the same time. I call it the ‘peeling the onion’ exam because you are dealing with so many layers of issues, and you often cannot do justice to all those complaints in one visit, especially if you have a busy clinic. What you then do is deal with two or three of the most pressing complaints and bring the patient back sooner, perhaps in a week or two. In the elderly, disease may present in an atypical or insidious manner. However, many symptoms and problems that are accepted as ‘normal’ consequences of aging may have treatable causes, or further decline can be prevented.”

While spending additional time with the patients is a primary goal, Dr. Pandya also hopes to implement a policy

that proved immensely successful while she was working at the University of Michigan. “During my fellowship training, the progress note from every patient visit was dictated in the form of a letter and sent to the patient,” Dr. Pandya explained. “I think it would be a good idea to implement this procedure in our geriatric clinic because the letter would inform the patients of what transpired during their examination and what changes were made to their medications or treatment strategies.”

The obvious benefit, says Dr. Pandya, is that patients “have more time to digest the information when they receive their letters a week or so after a visit. I think it’s so valuable if you can provide that service. I’ve told patients to keep the letters in their handbag or wallet so if they are traveling and an emergency medical situation arises, everything is

summarized concerning allergies, medications, and basic history and recent lab work. That will really help a physician who doesn’t know the patient.”

#### **Students Receive Revised Exposure to Geriatrics**

In addition to helping restructure the college’s clinical approach to geriatrics, Dr. Pandya is revising the 12-hour geriatrics course that is taught during the second year by incorporating more didactic knowledge and de-emphasizing a disease-based approach. “We’re not going to give them long treatises on particular diseases,” she said. “We’re

going to approach it by syndromes and provide lectures on common problems encountered in the elderly that may not fit into any system course, such as gait and balance disorders, incontinence, sexual dysfunction, sleep disorders, malnutrition and dehydration, dementia and delirium, and psychosocial aspects of aging. Hopefully the course will equip our students with the tools to go out into the clinical arena and evaluate problems rather than try to recall a lot of facts and then try to apply them to a clinical setting.

“What I’m trying to do is have the students understand some of the physiology of aging,” she added. “I want them to comprehend what the alterations are in the



**“What I’m trying to do is have the students understand some of the physiology of aging. I want them to comprehend what the alterations are in the different body systems as we age, and then in terms of diseases how those alterations come into play and make an older person more vulnerable to the diseases.”**

different body systems as we age, and then in terms of diseases how those alterations come into play and make an older person more vulnerable to the diseases. Basically, I'm trying to equip the students with a mental algorithm of how to approach a problem."

Dr. Pandya also hopes to encourage recent family medicine residency graduates to enter the college's one-year Family Medicine Fellowship Training Program in Geriatrics, which is coordinated in conjunction with the North Broward Hospital District. The subspecialty-training program, which was established in 2001, is designed to provide geriatric fellows with a high-quality educational experience involving close collaboration with skilled teaching faculty.

"It is very difficult to recruit people into geriatrics because it's a very detailed, painstaking field," Dr. Pandya admitted. "And some people don't find it rewarding and only see the negative side because many of the outcomes aren't good. But even in poor outcomes there can be many positive things. It is always possible to improve the medical care of a frail elder by preventing injuries and decline in medical condition while enhancing function and quality of life. Death is inevitable, but it's often how you die that makes a difference. The message I try to impart to the students is the wealth of experience they'll gain, and how intellectually challenging a field it is, and what a great difference they would make. It may not be regarded as glamorous as doing cardiology or neurology, but you need to have a very thorough knowledge of medicine to be a geriatrician."

The final piece in Dr. Pandya's geriatric puzzle involves forming symbiotic ties with the university's vast network of aging experts to enhance all phases of her departmental efforts. "There are so many people in this university that have expertise in aging, so we are hoping to form tighter bonds and collaborate in both our educational and clinical efforts," she stated. "For geriatric medicine to thrive, that's exactly what we need. And to have everything from dentistry and speech pathology to optometry, audiology, and physical/occupational therapy on one campus is an incredible bonus. When I organize the monthly rotations for our students, I'm collaborating with optometry, audiology, speech pathology, geropsychology, and dentistry and making sure our students spend some time in those disciplines during that month so they can gain some valuable exposure to those fields. Geriatrics cannot exist in isolation; you need all the disciplines to help you in the care of a patient."

## Staff Snapshot

### Getting to Know: Anthony Allen

*Secretary, Office of Clinical Education*



**Family Facts:** Happily married to wife Michele and the proud father of sons Micah and Mikhale.

**Date of Hire:** September 2000

**Official Responsibilities:** I assist the Office of Clinical Education with coordinating the third- and fourth-year student

rotation requirements.

**Reasons I enjoy working at NSU-COM:** Being a "people-person" by nature, the interaction I have with the staff and students is something I find quite enjoyable.

**What did you do professionally before joining NSU-COM?** Prior to my employment at NSU-COM, I owned and operated a computer services business and an auto detail business.

**Greatest achievement in life:** I would have to say that the greatest achievement in my life was marrying my lovely wife Michelle and having my two boys, Micah and Mikhale.

**My coworkers would be surprised to know this about me:** There was a time in my life when circumstances led to my being homeless and living, for a time, in my vehicle on the streets of Atlanta. While this was not a very enjoyable experience, it greatly impacted my perspective on, and my appreciation for, life and the many blessings that we often take for granted.

**Favorite way to unwind when not at work:** My favorite way to unwind when I am not at work is to spend quality time with my family. This consists of time actually spent enjoying each other, as opposed to sitting in front of the television or carrying out household chores.

**Three words that best describe me:** According to my coworkers, the three words that best describe me are debatable, charming and encouraging—not necessarily in that order.



*The NSU Student Medical Center is ably operated by Inez Lopez (medical assistant); April Lawner (coordinator); Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman (director); and Derin Davila (chief medical assistant).*

## Rare Disorders Diagnosed at NSU's Student Medical Center

*By Scott Colton*

*Director of Education Communications*

Many people resist change in favor of the status quo, but change is a concept Sandi-Scott Holman, D.O., wholeheartedly embraced when it came to modifying the name of NSU's Student Health Center to the more descriptive Student Medical Center.

Dr. Scott-Holman, an assistant professor of family medicine who has served as the center's director since its inception in November 2001, says the name change was implemented to eradicate the misperception that a student health center was "simply a place where you'd

stop in to see the nurse to get a Tylenol or a Band-Aid. Many people are not aware of the wide range of medical services we provide."

Clearing up that misconception took on a humorous personal spin for Dr. Scott-Holman when her mother expressed concern about her daughter's role as director of the formerly named Student Health Center. "My own mother said, 'You're still in student health? Please promise me that you don't get out of touch with seeing patients.' I was like, wow, just come sit with me for

eight hours and you'll see the patient contact I have," said Dr. Scott Holman, who typically sees several dozen patients each day.

In fact, thanks to positive word-of-mouth from the NSU student community, Dr. Scott-Holman and her exceptional medical staff—which includes two recent physician assistant graduates—are encountering ailments that run the gamut from mundane (runny noses) to mysterious (echinococcus).

"Over the past year we've come across a number of medical conditions that you wouldn't think you'd normally see in a student medical center," said Dr. Scott-Holman of the diverse array of disorders that have been diagnosed at the center. They include:

- Sporotrichosis - a fungal disease characterized by nodules and abscesses in the superficial lymph nodes, skin, and subcutaneous tissues that occurs especially in humans and horses and is usually transmitted by entry of the fungus through a skin abrasion or wound.
- Echinococcus - a tissue infection caused by the *Echinococcus granulosus* worm. Humans become infected when they swallow eggs in contaminated food. The infection is carried to the liver, where cysts form. Cysts can also form in the lungs, as well as in the brain, bones, skeletal muscles, kidney, spleen, and other tissues.
- Marfan's syndrome - a disorder of connective tissue that is inherited as a simple dominant trait and is caused by a defect in the gene controlling the production of fibrillin. It is characterized by abnormal elongation of the long bones and often by ocular and circulatory defects.
- Gaucher's disease - a rare hereditary disorder of lipid metabolism that is caused by an enzyme deficiency of glucocerebrosidase. It is characterized by bone lesions, enormous enlargement of the spleen, and pigmentation of the skin.
- Sjorgen's syndrome - a condition where there is autoimmune destruction of the glands responsible for producing tears and saliva. It most commonly occurs in association with other autoimmune diseases,

particularly rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus, but it can arise in isolation.

- Ramsey Hunt syndrome - a herpes zoster virus infection of the geniculate ganglion of the facial nerve. Ramsey Hunt syndrome causes paralysis of the facial muscles on the same side of the face as the infection. It is usually associated with a rash (vesicles or tiny water-filled bumps in the skin) in or around the ear and sometimes on the roof of the mouth.

Because of the exotic nature of many of these maladies, Dr. Scott-Holman has had to dig deep into her memory bank and do some keen investigative work to ensure a proper diagnosis. "I frequently find myself saying, 'Oh wait, I've heard of that, I know what that is.' Oftentimes it's something that's hidden in the very back of my mind," she said.

"Diagnosing some of these ailments can be challenging because I'm not a specialist in any of these areas," she added. "It requires a lot of reading and talking with infectious disease and hematology and hepatology experts to figure out what to do with certain patients."

To learn more about NSU's Student Medical Center, please call (954) 262-1262 or visit [www.nova.edu/smc](http://www.nova.edu/smc).





# Student Organization of the Month "DOCARE"



Since its establishment in 1961, the members of DOCARE International have exhibited abundant compassion and ceaseless concern for the health care plight of isolated and indigent citizens in various countries, including Ecuador, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Founded by an osteopathic physician to provide vital medical outreach, the all-volunteer membership includes D.O.s and M.D.s, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists, optometrists, podiatrists, physician assistants, and interested lay people who contribute their own brand of skills.

The NSU-COM student chapter of DOCARE has exemplified that health care commitment by participating in six medical missions to Guatemala over the past four years as well as a range of local health fairs that target South Florida's diverse population. For dedicated members like Olga Martinez, an M-2 student who serves as president of the college's DOCARE chapter, participating in the various medical missions and health fairs is a true labor of love.

"For me and the majority of my classmates, the medical school experience is not just about coming to school and passing exams," she explained. "It's much more than that. I feel it's important to become involved, be a leader, and make a difference in people's lives whenever possible. And that's what DOCARE does."

The college's DOCARE chapter currently comprises about 150 members who willingly devote what little free time they have to providing health care assistance both locally and internationally. On the local front, DOCARE members frequently volunteer their weekends to provide vital health

screenings at local health fairs like the recent Viva Broward event, which is the largest Latin festival in Broward County.

However, the lion's share of attention revolves around coordinating the college's medical outreach programs in Guatemala, which normally take place in January and June each year. "Our general membership usually meets once or twice a semester," Martinez stated. "However, in the months leading up to a mission trip, those of us who are participating meet every week for a two-hour evening meeting. We do presentations on different pathologies, discuss logistics, and address the numerous preparations that need to be made."

Because students and faculty must pay all their own expenses during these humanitarian excursions, a number of fundraisers are coordinated to help defray costs, including a golf tournament, bake sale, and car wash. The students also contact local churches, physicians, and corporations regarding donations that will be used to benefit the Mayan villagers in Guatemala.

The latest medical outreach program to Guatemala, which took place January 9 through 17, 2004, promised to be yet another fulfilling experience for the 34 M-2 and 10 M-3 students—some of who will be participating in their inaugural medical mission.

"Many of the students have never been out of the United States before, so it's a little difficult at first for them because they're not used to seeing such poverty and the radical differences in social classes," said Martinez, who participated in four medical missions to Guatemala as an undergraduate student. "You don't really have a middle class there; you're either poor or rich. It's a really great experience for the students because they get to witness the major culture shock that comes from leaving America—the land of opportunity—to see how people live in other countries. Every time I come back, I feel like a new person."

"To me, DOCARE is an organization that gives the students and the doctors a chance to go above and beyond the call of duty," she added. "It's such a rewarding experience to give back to those who really need it the most, especially in places like Guatemala that lack a strong health care system and where villagers sometimes have to walk for days just to see a doctor. We make a difference in their lives, but we also make a difference in our lives because the experience helps us develop a stronger character and mature in many new ways."

# Alumni Corner...Alumni Corner

## Alumni Association Executive Committee

### 2003-2004 Officers

Dr. Glenn Moran, President (1988)  
Dr. Kenneth Johnson, President Elect (1991)  
Dr. Ronald Renuart, Vice President (1990)  
Dr. Steven Cimerberg, Secretary (1987)  
Dr. Gregory James, Treasurer (1988)  
Dr. Jeffrey Grove, Immediate Past President (1990)

### Committee Chairmen

Dr. Kenneth Johnson – Program Chair  
Dr. Daniel McBath – Fundraising Chair  
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli – Webmaster  
Dr. Michael Gervasi – Editor

### Living Tribute Honorees

2002 - Mary Smith Allegro  
2003 - Dr. Arthur Snyder  
2004 - Dr. Lori Dribin

### Past Presidents

Dr. John Geake (1993)  
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)  
Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)  
Dr. Orlando Garcia (1994)  
Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)  
Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)

### Trustees at Large

Dr. Raimundo Pastor (1993)  
Dr. Ronald Tolchin (1989)

### NSU Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni Honorees

1998 – Dr. Archie H. McLean (1988)  
1999 – Dr. James Turner (1988)  
2000 – Dr. Daniel McBath (1990)  
2001 – not held  
2002 – Dr. Joel Rush (1985)

## Alumni in the News

In December, 1987 alumnus Tamer Gozleveli, D.O., was elected president of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Gozleveli succeeds 1985 alumnae Deidre Bergman, D.O., as organizational president.

1988 alumnus Gregory James, D.O., M.P.H., who serves as clinical associate professor of family medicine, has been named program chairman of the upcoming American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF) 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention. The event will be held March 10-14, 2004, at the Tampa Bay Convention Center in Tampa, Florida.

2001 alumnus Jason A. Zell, D.O., M.P.H., served as coauthor of the article entitled "Evaluation of Myocardial Blood Flow Reserve in Patients with Chronic Congestive Heart Failure Due to Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy" that appeared in the November 15, 2003, issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

1998 alumnus Adrian M. Zachary, D.O., who is in the process of completing his M.P.H. degree through NSU-COM, coauthored an article concerning "Minimally Invasive Options to Disc Surgery" that appeared in the October 2003 issue of *Pain Physician*.

On December 21, M-1 student Mark Beard hosted a holiday gathering at the home of his parents Dr. Donald and Sue Beard for alumni and friends in the Chicago area. Beard coordinated the party to network and get acquainted with other NSU-COM graduates living and working in his hometown while on his holiday break. Any NSU-COM alumni that might be interested in hosting a gathering in their area should contact the alumni office.

Have you published a paper, received an award, or been promoted or elected to a lofty professional position? If so, *COM Outlook* wants to know. If you have alumni news of note to report, please submit the information via email to [scottc@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:scottc@nsu.nova.edu).

## Alumni Directory Promotion

The College of Osteopathic Medicine has selected University Publishing Corporation (UPC) to publish a revised and updated alumni directory in 2004. Located in Bloomington, Indiana, UPC specializes in the publication of high school, college, and professional school directories nationwide. The company's unique methods will allow us to provide an attractive and accurate directory to all participating alumni at no cost to the college. The program will be funded entirely by your voluntary contributions, with a share of the profits going to NSU-COM.

Please watch the mail for more information. Your participation will simply be a matter of completing and returning an information card. You will also receive a request for a contribution specifically to support the directory program. Do not confuse this with your annual Alumni Association Fund contribution. Your enthusiastic response is crucial to the program's success. Distribution is scheduled for late 2004.

## Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

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. If you would like to learn more about the Alumni Association Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (954) 262-1029. Following are the altruistic individuals who have contributed to the Alumni Association Fund since its inception:

### 2003 Alumni Association Fund Donor List

#### Dean's Council (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. (1993)  
\*Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)  
Dr. Donald C. Howard (1985)  
Dr. Gregory James (1988)  
Dr. Stanley Zimmelman (1991)

#### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

Dr. Brad Glick (1989)  
Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)  
Dr. James T. Howell  
Dr. Carlos Levy  
Dr. Robert Sammartino (1990)  
\*Ms. Lorraine Snyder

#### 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek (1992)  
Dr. Charles Chase (1989)  
Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)  
\*Dr. Thomas Green (1998)  
Dr. Glenn Moran (1988)  
\*Ms. Louise Todaro  
\*Drs. Ron Tolchin(1989)/Susan Yahia (1991)  
\*Dr. Richard Wolonick

#### Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

\*Dr. Richard Appleby (1993)  
Dr. Maureen Campbell (1989)  
\*Dr. Maria Catalano (1989)  
Dr. David Cislo (1988)

#### Century Club (continued)

Dr. Richard Cottrell (1990)  
Dr. Tyler Cymet (1988)  
Dr. Alan David (1992)  
Dr. Bruce David (1988)  
\*Ms. Harriet Deissler (1987)  
Dr. John DeCosmo (1987)  
\*Ms. Marcia Groverman  
\*Dr. Thelma Jamison  
\*Drs. Kenneth and Michelle Johnson (1991)  
Dr. Sharon Johnston (1993)  
\*Dr. Robert Klein (1991)  
Dr. Cindy Marika (1987)  
\*Dr. Arnold Melnick  
\*Dr. William E. Osborn, III (1996)  
Dr. Ronald Renuart (1990)  
Dr. Saul Rigau (1989)  
Dr. Hector Rodriguez (1990)  
\*Dr. Colene Stout  
Dr. Mary Jo Villar (1994)

#### Friends (up to \$99)

Dr. Lee Adler  
Dr. Albert Alessi (1994)  
Dr. Barnet Alpert  
Dr. Barbara Arcos (1994)  
Dr. Mujdi Astichi (1989)  
Dr. Donald Auerbach  
Dr. Michael Band  
Dr. Dan Barkus

## NSU-COM Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll - Friends 2003 (continued)

- Dr. Paul Bates (1986)  
 Dr. Bridget Bellingar (1986)  
 Dr. Peggy Benzing  
 Dr. Adam Berko (1996)  
 Dr. Andrew Biondo (2000)  
 Dr. Bob Blackburn (1986)  
 Dr. Barry Blumenthal (1991)  
 Dr. Robert Boltuch  
 Dr. William Borkowsky  
 Dr. Rogelio Brito (1992)  
 \*Dr. Melissa Broadman (1998)  
 Dr. Jaunita Brown (1991)  
 Dr. James Burnett  
 \*Dr. Francine Carattini-Eley (1988)  
 Dr. James Caschette  
 Dr. Jules Cohen  
 Dr. Paul Cohen  
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 Dr. Joseph Corcoran (1986)  
 Dr. Beverly Cypen-Greenberg  
 Dr. Aaron S. Dubrnsky  
 Dr. Bonnie Pollock Ellenoff (1999)  
 Dr. Perry Farb  
 \*Dr. Eileen Farwick (1989)  
 \*Dr. Julie Fernandez (1998)  
 Dr. Ira Fialko  
 \*Dr. and Mrs. John Fischer  
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 Dr. Judith Fitzgerald (1990)  
 Dr. Walter Flesner  
 Dr. Joseph Fortunato  
 Dr. Lucille Frial-Carrasco  
 Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek (1990)  
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 Dr. Mitchell Ghen  
 Dr. Diana Johnstone Graves (1986)  
 Dr. A. Alvin Greber  
 \*Dr. Leslie Kram Greco (1987)  
 Dr. Harry Grossman  
 Dr. Edward Hartwig  
 Dr. Ian Hassin  
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 Dr. William Hayes (1989)  
 Dr. Leslie Herzog (1987)  
 \*Dr. Michael Higgins (1996)  
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 \*Dr. Donna Jacobsen (1991)  
 Dr. Michael Jervis (1993)  
 Dr. James Johnson  
 Dr. Marc Kaprow  
 \*Alfred and Beatrice Karg  
 Dr. Scott Kazdan (1991)  
 \*Dr. Moulton Keane  
 Ms. Patricia Kennedy  
 Dr. Marc Kesselman  
 Dr. Robin Kesselman (1985)  
 Dr. Frank Kiick (1988)  
 \*Dr. Mi Kim (1990)  
 Dr. Richard Knapp  
 Dr. Ronald Knaus  
 Dr. Stephen Krathen  
 \*Dr. Mark A. Kucker (1989)  
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 \*Ms. Fay Lampert  
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 Dr. Michael Landman (1988)  
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 Dr. Jeffrey Lebow  
 Dr. Tracie Leonhardt (1992)  
 Dr. Andrew Lepoff (1986)  
 Dr. David Levine  
 Dr. D. Mitchell Levinson (1988)  
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 Dr. Albert Lopez (1992)  
 \*Dr. Jason Lue (1999)  
 Dr. Jeffrey Lyons (1994)  
 Dr. Stephen MacDonald (1990)  
 Dr. Diane Mainwold (1990)  
 Dr. Marvin Malamut  
 Dr. Gary Marder  
 Dr. Samuel Martino  
 Dr. Keith Marshall  
 \*Dr. Patrick McGrail  
 Dr. Clyde Meckstroth (1985)  
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 Dr. Mark Morganstein  
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 Dr. Alan Netzman  
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 Dr. Jeff Newfield (1991)  
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 Dr. Raymond Oenbrink (1985)  
 Dr. Nelson Olaguibel (1987)  
 Dr. Robert Oller  
 Dr. James Otis (1985)  
 Dr. Jilleen Pannocho (1989)  
 \*Dr. Herbert Pardell  
 Dr. Christopher Patterson (1993)  
 Dr. Todd Patterson  
 Dr. Greta Amy Peck (1986)  
 Dr. Jorge Perez (1990)  
 Dr. Anthony Perrotti (1987)  
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 Dr. Thomas Quinn  
 Dr. Antonio Ramirez (1990)  
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 Dr. Inciya Rangwalla (2001)  
 Dr. Charles Readdy (1992)  
 \*Dr. Steven Reeves (1995)  
 Dr. Marcos Rejtman (1994)  
 Dr. Gerald Reynolds  
 Dr. Jeffrey Rich  
 Dr. Marc Ritch  
 \*Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg (1990)  
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 Dr. Melvin Sarnow  
 Dr. Judy Schaffer  
 Dr. Sandra Schwemmer  
 Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman (1993)  
 Dr. Robert Sculthorpe  
 Dr. Craig Shapiro  
 Dr. Benjamin Shore  
 Dr. John Shover  
 \*Dr. Leslie Simon  
 \*Dr. John Simons (1992)  
 Dr. Rita Sivils (1992)  
 Dr. Stanley Skopit  
 Dr. Snaro Skordas  
 Dr. Scott William Smith (1994)  
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 Dr. Margret Starr  
 Dr. Michael Stazel (1994)  
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 Dr. Mark Stich (1987)  
 Dr. Stanley Stockhammer  
 Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan (1988)  
 Dr. Richard J. Susi  
 Dr. Cheryl Tapp (1997)  
 Dr. Frederick Taylor  
 Dr. James H. Taylor  
 Dr. Richard Thacker (1992)  
 Dr. Niel Tytler  
 Dr. Ruben Valdes  
 Dr. Douglas Walsh  
 Dr. Robert Waskin  
 \*Ms. Martha Weber  
 Dr. Richard Weisberg (1993)  
 Dr. Sharon White-Findley (1986)  
 \*Dr. Annette M. Wilder (1995)  
 Mr. Mark Wilder  
 Dr. Paul Winner  
 Dr. Stephen Yandel (1989)  
 Dr. Melissa Young (1994)

\*Contribution made in honor of 2003 Living Tribute Award winner Arthur Snyder, D.O.

# Cumulative List of Donors (1999-2003)

## Heritage Circle

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

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

## Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 and Up)

Dr. John Geake, Jr. (1993)

## Dean's Council (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Dr. Jeffrey Grove (1990)

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Dr. Tamer Gozleveli (1987)  
Dr. Donald C. Howard (1985)  
Dr. Gregory James (1988)  
Drs. Kenneth and Michelle Johnson (1991)  
Dr. Robert Sammartino (1990)  
Dr. Stanley Zimmelman (1991)

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Dr. Joseph Corcoran (1986)  
Dr. Richard Cottrell (1990)  
Dr. Bruce David (1988)  
Dr. Judith Fitzgerald (1990)  
Dr. Brad Glick (1989)  
Dr. John Gordon (1992)  
Dr. James T. Howell  
Dr. Robert Klein (1991)  
Dr. Carlos Levy  
Dr. Joel Rush (1985)  
Dr. Gregory Serfer (1997)  
Ms. Lorraine Snyder

## 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

Dr. Eric Alboucrek (1992)  
Dr. Edgar Bolton  
Dr. Janet Bradshaw (1992)  
Dr. Daniel C. Carney (1995)  
Dr. Kenneth Chan (1992)  
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Dr. Tyler Cymet (1988)  
Dr. John DeCosmo (1987)  
Dr. Stephen Dyke (1991)  
Dr. Michael Gervasi (1987)  
Dr. Lee L. Gibson (1985)  
Dr. Sandy Goldman (1986)  
Dr. Thomas Green (1998)  
Dr. Sharon Johnston (1993)  
Dr. Armando L. Hassun, Jr. (1992)

## 250 Club (continued)

Dr. Ronnie Martin  
Dr. Glenn Moran (1988)  
NSU-COM Class of 1994  
Dr. Nelson Onaro (1992)  
Dr. Mitchell Pace (1987)  
Mr. John Potomski  
Dr. Isidro Pujol (1994)  
Dr. Ronald Renuart (1990)  
Dr. Sandi Scott-Holman (1993)  
Dr. Theodore Spevack (1985)  
Ms. Louise Todaro  
Drs. Ron Tolchin(1989)/Susan Yahia (1991)  
Dr. Mary Jo Villar (1994)  
Dr. Richard Wolonick (1991)

## Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

Dr. Kelly Adams (1988)  
Dr. Richard Appleby (1993)  
Drs. Seth and Mary Baker (1988)  
Dr. Michael Baron (1988)  
Dr. Paul Bates (1986)  
Dr. Shaughn Bennett (1986)  
Dr. Andrew Biondo (2000)  
Dr. Kenneth Bresky (1992)  
Dr. Douglas Bushell (1998)  
Dr. George Campbell (1999)  
Dr. Maureen Campbell (1989)  
Dr. Maria Catalano (1989)  
Dr. Charles Chodorow (1989)  
Dr. David Cisko (1988)  
Dr. Robert Darrel Collins (1993)  
Dr. Anthony Dardano (1990)  
Dr. Alan David (1992)  
Dr. Christopher Davis (1989)  
Ms. Harriet Deissler (1987)  
Dr. George Elias (1999)  
Dr. Gary Gary  
Dr. John Gordon (1992)  
Ms. Marcia Groverman  
Dr. Elizabeth Pepe Hancock (1986)  
Dr. Jennifer Hayes (1986)  
Dr. Richard Herman (1989)  
Dr. Thelma Jamison  
Donna Kaplan  
Dr. Mi Kim (1990)  
Dr. Laura Kimbro (1990)  
Dr. Kim Lark (1994)  
Dr. Tracie Leonhardt (1992)  
Dr. Stephen MacDonald (1990)  
Dr. Frances Martinez-Mally (1993)

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Dr. Arnold Melnick  
Dr. Patricia J. Moore (1989)  
Dr. Brian C. Moraes (1992)  
Dr. Nelson Olaguibel (1987)  
Dr. William E. Osborn, III (1996)  
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Dr. Bruce Rankin (1985)  
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Dr. Steven Reeves (1995)  
Dr. Marcos Rejtman (1994)  
Dr. Saul Rigau (1989)  
Dr. Hector Rodriguez (1990)  
Dr. Robert Ruffolo (1988)  
Dr. Steven Sager (1990)  
Dr. Stuart A. Sandler (1986)  
Dr. Stuart Shalit (1990)  
Mr. Stanley Silverman  
Dr. Rita Sivils (1992)  
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Dr. James Sullivan (1987)  
Dr. Donald Teplitz (1985)  
Dr. Richard Thacker (1992)  
Dr. Peter A. Tomasello (1991)  
Dr. Douglas P. Webster  
Dr. Michael Weiss (1986)  
Dr. John E. Williams (1996)  
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Dr. Ross Zafonte

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Dr. Lee Adler  
Dr. Albert Alessi (1994)  
Dr. John Allred (1997)  
Dr. Barnet Alpert  
Dr. Barbara Arcos (1994)  
Dr. Mujdi Astichi (1989)  
Dr. Donald Auerbach  
Dr. Paul Avadonian (1994)  
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Dr. Dan Barkus  
Dr. Bridget Bellingar (1986)  
Dr. Peggy Benzing  
Dr. Deidra Bergmann (1985)  
Dr. Adam Berko (1996)  
Dr. Bob Blackburn (1986)  
Dr. Alice Blavo

Dr. Barry Blumenthal (1991)  
Dr. Robert Boltuch  
Dr. William Borkowsky  
Dr. Rogelio Brito (1992)  
Dr. Melissa Broadman (1998)  
Dr. David Brown (1987)  
Dr. James M. Brown (1993)  
Dr. Jaunita Brown (1991)  
Dr. James Burnett  
Dr. Francine Carattini-Eley (1988)  
Dr. James Caschette  
Dr. Naili Chen (1995)  
Dr. Jules Cohen  
Dr. Paul Cohen  
Dr. Robert Contrucci  
Dr. Beverly Cypen-Greenberg  
Mr. Paul DeBlasi  
Dr. Ronald J. D'Orazio  
Dr. Aaron S. Dubrnsky  
Dr. Bonnie Pollock Ellenoff (1999)  
Dr. Tarek Elrafei (1995)  
Dr. Perry Farb  
Dr. Eileen Farwick (1989)  
Dr. Sheldon Feldman  
Dr. Julie Fernandez (1998)  
Dr. Ira Fialko  
Dr. and Mrs. John Fischer  
Dr. Walter Flesner  
Ms. Margaret Foye-Payne  
Dr. James Fish  
Dr. Paul Friedman (1996)  
Dr. Joseph Fortunato  
Dr. Lucille Frial-Carrasco  
Dr. Jorge Gadea (1995)  
Dr. Basilio Garcia-Sellek (1990)  
Dr. Gary Gary  
Dr. Andrea Gault (2000)  
Dr. Mitchell Ghen  
Dr. Randy Gould (1995)  
Dr. Diana Johnstone Graves (1986)  
Dr. A. Alvin Greber  
Dr. Leslie Greco (1987)  
Dr. Harry Grossman  
Dr. Bethany M. Harris (1990)  
Dr. Maria Ruiz Harris  
Dr. Edward Hartwig  
Dr. Ian Hassin  
Dr. William Hayes (1989)  
Dr. Eric Hegybeli (1995)  
Dr. Sarah J. Heringer (2001)  
Dr. Marc Herschelman (1991)  
Dr. Leslie Herzog (1987)

Dr. Michael Higgins (1996)  
Dr. Joseph Hodge (1987)  
Dr. James Homan  
Dr. Douglas Hughes (2002)  
Dr. Shasi Husain  
Dr. Donna Jacobsen (1991)  
Dr. Lawrence Jacobson  
Dr. Michael Jervis (1993)  
Dr. James Johnson  
Dr. Marc Kaprow (2001)  
Alfred and Beatrice Karg  
Dr. Scott Kazdan (1991)  
Dr. Moulton Keane  
Dr. Thomas C. Kelly (2000)  
Ms. Patricia Kennedy  
Dr. Marc Kesselman  
Dr. Robin Kesselman (1985)  
Dr. Youssef Khodor (1995)  
Dr. Frank Kiick (1988)  
Dr. Lance Kim (1993)  
Karen Kirkland  
Dr. Richard Knapp  
Dr. Ronald Knaus  
Dr. Stephen Krathen  
Dr. Donald Krieff (1992)  
Dr. Mark A. Kucker (1989)  
Dr. Michael Lamoyeux  
Fay Lampert  
\*Dr. Christopher P. Lampson (1985)  
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Dr. James Landreau (1998)  
Dr. Jerry Langseth  
Dr. Jeffrey Lebow  
Dr. Alan Lee (1985)  
Dr. Andrew Lepoff (1986)  
Dr. David Levine  
Dr. D. Mitchell Levinson (1988)  
Dr. Robert Lewis  
Dr. Soling Li (2000)  
Dr. Deborah Longwill-Fox (1988)  
Dr. Albert Lopez (1992)  
Dr. Leonardo Lopez (1999)  
Dr. Anne M. Lord (1995)  
Dr. Jason Lue (1999)  
Dr. Jerold Lynn  
Dr. Jeffrey Lyons (1994)  
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Dr. Diane Mainwold (1990)  
Dr. Marvin Malamut  
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## NSU-COM Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll - Friends Cumulative Report

Dr. Keith Marshall	Dr. Paul Rodriguez (1994)	Dr. Mark Stich (1987)
Dr. Bach A. McComb (1998)	Dr. Gary N. Rosenberg (1990)	Dr. Stanley Stockhammer
Dr. Patrick McGrail	Dr. Allan Rubin	Dr. Joseph W. Sullivan (1988)
Dr. Clyde Meckstroth (1985)	Dr. Gerald Safier	Dr. Richard J. Susi
Dr. Joseph Morelos (1997)	Dr. Susan Sager (1989)	Dr. Cheryl Tapp (1997)
Dr. Mark Morganstein	Dr. David Saltzman	Dr. Frederick Taylor
Dr. Alan Morrison	Dr. Melvin Sarnow	Dr. James H. Taylor
Dr. Linda Murray (1998)	Dr. Patrick Sayavong (1992)	Dr. David Thomas (1990)
Dr. James Napier	Mr. Lawrence J. Scalzo (1994)	Dr. Dafna Trites (1994)
Dr. Alan Netzman	Dr. Judy Schaffer	Dr. Todd Trites
Dr. Aron Newfield	Dr. Lawrence Schwartz (1990)	Dr. Niel Tytler
Dr. Jeff Newfield (1991)	Dr. Sandra Schwemmer	Dr. Ruben Valdes
Dr. Nam Nguyen (1999)	Dr. Robert Sculthorpe	Dr. Steve Vanni (1995)
Dr. Hue Nguyen (1989)	Dr. Craig Shapiro	Dr. Douglas Walsh
Dr. Layne Nisenbaum (1985)	Dr. Benjamin Shore	Dr. Colleen Ward (1988)
Dr. Robert Nisenbaum (1990)	Dr. John Shover	Dr. Alex Wargo
Dr. Merideth Norris	Dr. Leslie Simon	Dr. Robert Waskin
Dr. Raymond Oenbrink (1985)	Dr. John Simons (1992)	Ms. Martha Weber
Dr. Robert Oller	Dr. Stanley Skopit	Dr. Richard Weisberg (1993)
Dr. Samuel Orr (1990)	Dr. Snaro Skordas	Dr. Sharon White-Findley (1986)
Dr. Ralph Ortiz (1998)	Dr. Scott William Smith (1994)	Dr. Annette M. Wilder (1995)
Dr. James Otis (1985)	Dr. Kathleen P. Soe (1999)	Mr. Mark Wilder
Dr. Sheryl Pearlman Movsas (1992)	Dr. William Stager (1989)	Dr. Gregg Wilentz (1997)
Dr. Steven and Carolyn Newman	Dr. Margret Starr	Dr. Robert L. Wilkinson (1995)
Dr. Jilleen Pannoza (1989)	Dr. Joseph Stasio (1991)	Dr. Paul Winner
Dr. Herbert Pardell	Dr. Michael Stazel (1994)	Dr. Stephen Yandel (1989)
Dr. Christopher Patterson (1993)	Dr. Wynn Steinsnyder	Dr. Melissa Young (1994)
Dr. Todd Patterson		
Dr. Greta Amy Peck (1986)		
Dr. Lourdes Pelaez-Echevarria (1994)		
Dr. Jorge Perez (1990)		
Dr. Anthony Perrotti (1987)		
Dr. Harvey Pflanzner		
Dr. Tammy Pruse (1999)		
Dr. Thomas Quinn		
Dr. Antonio Ramirez (1990)		
Dr. and Mrs. Vincent Randaisi (1993)		
Dr. Inciya Rangwalla (2001)		
Dr. Michael Rappa (1988)		
Dr. Charles Readdy (1992)		
Dr. Eric Rentz		
Dr. Gerald Reynolds		
Dr. Jeffrey Rich		
Dr. Marc Ritch		

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**Bayer Corporation**  
**Collier County Medical Society**  
**Florida Osteopathic Medical Association**  
**Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**  
**GlaxoSmithKline**  
**Orth-McNeil Pharmaceutical**  
**Pace Travel**  
**Palm Beach County Medical Society**  
**Pfizer Inc.**  
**Sankyo, Inc.**  
**Schering Sales Corporation**  
**Tap Pharmaceutical, Inc.**  
**Wyeth Pharmaceuticals**

# Alumni Spotlight

*Jimmy Steven Hankins,  
D.O., M.P.H.*

**Class of 1988**



*Balancing professional obligations and personal commitments is a goal Dr. Hankins has worked hard to achieve. Pictured with Dr. Hankins are his wife JoAnn and their children Michael and Gloria Ann.*

Since NSU-COM graduated its first class in 1985, a number of the college's 2,142 alumni have gone on to become pivotal figures in the osteopathic medicine landscape. That certainly is the case for 1988 alumnus Jimmy Steven Hankins, D.O., M.P.H., who has established himself as a dedicated osteopathic advocate and leader in Alabama.

In addition to providing compassionate patient care through his recently established pain management and occupational medicine practice in Alabaster, Alabama, Dr. Hankins maintains a busy professional agenda that includes serving as president of the Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association and the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Hankins, who was born in Jackson, Mississippi, began his medical odyssey by graduating from the University of Mississippi in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in zoology, which was followed by a three-year stint working as a research physiologist at the University of

Mississippi Medical Center. In 1984, he continued his educational adventure by matriculating at Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (now NSU-COM) and earning his D.O. degree in 1988.

After conducting his rotating internship at Southeastern Medical Center in North Miami Beach and completing his family practice residency at Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Hankins decided to pursue his interest in public health and occupational medicine. While working as associate medical director at Carraway Methodist Medical Center, he also earned his master of public health degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1994.

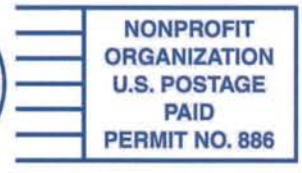
In 2000, after a nine-year affiliation with Caraway, Dr. Hankins accepted a new position at the University of Alabama, serving as occupational medicine division/residency director. In this role, he was responsible for the business development of several comprehensive programs as well as teaching medical students, residents, and nurse practitioner students.

Like most proactive physicians, Dr. Hankins maintains membership in a host of local and national professional associations in both the osteopathic and allopathic professions. He also sustains board certifications in family practice from the American Board of Family Practice and occupational medicine from the American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine and serves as a certified medical review officer and certified aviation medical examiner.

In between all his professional accomplishments, Dr. Hankins also achieved personal happiness thanks to his lovely wife, JoAnn, and their children Michael and Gloria Ann. Striking a healthy balance between professional ambition and personal pursuits, Dr. Hankins also finds the time to act as a deacon at his local church and indulge in hobbies such as camping, hiking, tennis, cooking, and horticulture.

"Dr. Hankins has an intense interest in his profession and in the medical fields in which he has obtained additional education," said Howard Neer, D.O., FACOFP, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs. "He competently and enthusiastically represents our profession and his osteopathic alma mater throughout the state of Alabama and the southeastern United States."





Health Professions Division  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018



*"Commitment to Caring"*

**NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine**