

▶ **COVER TO COVER****In This Issue...****Lloyd D. Fricker**Department of Molecular Pharmacology  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Bronx, New York 10461▶ **MEDICAL REVIEW:****Trends in the Financing of United States Medical Schools from 1970-1999 (p.50)**

Philip Ozuah and Sheldon Stick review the sources of financing of United States Medical Schools over the past 30 years. While some sources of funding have changed dramatically over this time span, others have remained constant. The authors discuss the trend, and most importantly, the implications for the future.

▶ **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:****History of the Department of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (p.53)**

It is difficult to turn a vacant lot into a reputable medical school within a short time, and the history of how this transpired is fascinating from several angles. Milford Fulop describes the first 25 years of the Department of Medicine, while James Schener describes the ensuing 19 years, and they both comment on its future in this three part historical perspective.

▶ **INNOVATIVE MEDICAL EDUCATION:****Preparing Einstein Students to Practice Twenty-first Century Medicine (p.71)**

The Introduction to Clinical Medicine Program for students in the first two years at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine provides training in a number of skills that relate to the doctor-patient relationship. Susan M. Coupey, Mimi McEvoy, Daniel C. Myers, and Maria Marzan review the evolution of this course into its present form, which they describe as a "work-in-progress." The overall goal for this course is to help medical students face the demands of medical practice in the twenty-first century.

▶ **SOCIAL COMMENTARY:****Affirmative Action and Diversity in the Medical Profession (p.78)**

In 1849, the admission of three African-American students and one woman to Harvard Medical School was met by protest among the students. Harry Delany describes the events that occurred in 1849 and contrasts it with the current situation. It is interesting that while the percentage of female medical students in 2004 is close to the fraction of women within the general population, the numbers of African-American medical students do not reflect the population within the United States. Reasons for this, and possible solutions, are discussed.

▶ **COMMENTARY:****Death by Withdrawal of Nutrition and Hydration (p.81)**

The simple rule of "do no harm" worked for thousands of years, but with the numerous advances in medical care in the recent past it is hard to define what is meant

by harm. Obviously, it is harmful to a patient to withdraw critical life support with the intent of allowing the patient to die, but is it more harmful to maintain life at all costs even when the patient has been in a coma for many years with no hope for recovery? Fred Rosner discusses the ethical considerations of several recent right-to-die cases that have been, and are currently being, argued before the courts. While there are no clear answers to these difficult ethical issues, the commentary considers all sides and provides a balanced overview of the major issues.

▶ **COMMENTARY:****A Health Psychology Perspective on the Recent Medical Literature of Cardiovascular Disease (p.85)**

Early detection of any disease seems like a good thing – after all, it gives more time for intervention. However, in many cases the early diagnosis adds to the level of stress, and this added stress can exacerbate a number of diseases. Eliezer Schnall discusses the issue of cardiovascular disease and the relatively small life-style changes that can help those who are most at risk, which may include as much as one-third of the United States population.

▶ **COMMENTARY:****Bioinformatics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (p.87)**

In the old days, meaning ten years ago, scientists did experiments to test concrete hypotheses using techniques that narrowly focused on the genes or proteins under study. Many recent techniques, from genomics to proteomics, generate tremendous amounts of data that require a sophisticated "bioinformatics" analysis. In addition, the profusion of databases containing sequence information means that even a simple query often results in a large number of "hits" that require complicated analysis to comprehend. Kremena Star discusses the field of bioinformatics in general, with a specific focus on the newly created Bioinformatics Shared Resource Center at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

▶ **BOOK REVIEW:****Einstein's Luck: The Truth Behind Some of the Greatest Scientific Discoveries (p.91)**▶ **BOOK REVIEW:****Mechanics of the Cell (p.93)**▶ **BOOK REVIEW:****Ivory Bridges: Connecting Science and Society (p.94)**▶ **POEM:****Tell Me (p.96)**