Dr. Strom Serves as Inaugural Chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

December, Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH, a renowned epidemiologist, teacher, and clinician, and longtime academic leader, became the inaugural chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences.

Dr. Strom’s arrival is the next exciting step in our integration with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, a process that is going extremely well. We expect continuing excellence and new growth in all of our programs, as collaborations with our Rutgers colleagues evolve.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD
Dean

He developed a university-wide program in global health and was instrumental in founding the International Clinical Epidemiology Network, which helps clinical faculty in developing nations better understand the impact of disease and improve the health of their fellow citizens. Dr. Strom worked to strengthen clinical care, research, and leadership within the Penn-affiliated Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center and maintained a primary care practice as a general internist. He holds a BS in molecular biophysics and biochemistry from Yale University, a MD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and a MPH in epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Strom was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 2001.

Dr. Strom Initiates Meetings with Community Physicians

Earlier this year, Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean, proposed Conversations with the Dean, a series of informative dialogues with community physicians. “The Conversations are based on the town halls held with our regular faculty and are a direct result of our strategic plan, which calls for improving communications within the medical school and enhancing ties to the community,” says Dr. Amenta. “Volunteer faculty fall into both categories: they teach our students and residents and care for patients throughout the region.”

Dr. Amenta has used the meetings to inform community physicians about

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From the Dean’s Desk

Medical Students Don Rutgers White Coats at Opening Ceremony

134 first-year students to the White Coat Ceremony, Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean, described the event as “both exciting and historic.” Among the day’s firsts: medical students received white coats embroidered with “Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.” Deans—or in some cases alumni and faculty parents—helped the students into the new coats.

At the same ceremony, 24 current medical students were inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding clinical and interpersonal skills.

Keynote speaker, Becky Quick, co-anchor of CNBC’s “Squawk Box,” and former editor-in-chief of the Rutgers Targum, said, “Thank you for choosing this path; we need you.” Ms. Quick described doctors who made house calls and took a personal interest in her brother, who suffered traumatic brain injuries when a car struck him while he was riding his bicycle. “Doctors do so much more than heal your body, they reach you on so many levels,” she said.

Dr. Amenta Initiates Meetings with Community Physicians

—Continued from page 1

details of institutional growth such as the integration with Rutgers and the proposed strategic plan. He has enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the volunteer faculty and others better and address the issues of greatest importance to them. “It’s a tremendous opportunity,” he says. “Not only do the meetings help keep the community abreast of what’s going on at the medical school, they help us in terms of appointments and annual recognition of volunteer faculty.”

Pediatric ENTs Join Department of Surgery

Michael Chee, MD, assistant professor of surgery, and Kelvin M. Kwong, MD, assistant professor of surgery, recently joined the faculty. Both physicians are fellowship-trained in pediatric otolaryngology and will provide a comprehensive range of services at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical Group’s Somerset offices and The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Fewer than three dozen pediatric otolaryngology fellowship programs exist nationwide.

Profile of the Class of 2017

The Class of 2017, the first class of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, consists of 134 students. Fifty-four percent are women and 31 percent are graduates of Rutgers University. Fifty-three percent are natives of New Jersey, and 19 percent were born abroad, in 15 different countries. The class includes four new MD/PhD students.
Division Offers Comprehensive International Travel Program

The International Travel Program, a service of the division of infectious diseases, allergy, and immunology, offers counseling, immunizations, and prophylaxis in preparation for international travel.

The program stocks and dispenses all licensed immunizations, including yellow fever vaccination, and provides an International Certificate of Vaccination, a complete immunization record. It offers detailed, itinerary-specific counseling, including prescriptions for malaria prophylaxis and advice about traveler’s diarrhea, insect bites, and altitude and motion sickness. It offers immunizations for people of all ages, taking into account the special needs of children and older travelers with underlying medical conditions.

Travelers may schedule appointments with physicians in the New Brunswick, Monroe, or Princeton offices by calling 732-235-7060.

IT Fellows’ Experience Will Advance Patient Care

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology announced that Frank Sonnenberg, MD, professor of medicine and medical director of clinical information systems, Robert Wood Johnson Medical Group, was a member of its inaugural class of Health IT fellows.

The fellows’ viewpoints are informed by their roles as office staff, clinicians, and administrators, as well as their different clinical backgrounds, specialty training, and practice location. Each fellow has taken meaningful IT and leveraged it to make his or her practice more efficient and innovative.

Health IT.gov featured Dr. Sonnenberg’s “Success Story” about the integration of electronic health records (EHR) in the medical group’s 40 specialty practices. Two efforts were key to group-wide implementation of EHR: with full support from the group’s leadership, he ensured that clinicians led the way in adopting EHR. Second, he headed the drive to improve adherence to recording smoking status in the EHR and was able to demonstrate a year later that patients had directly benefited from the effort.

Conference Addressed Issues of Maternal Health

To Have and to Hold: Maternal Safety and the Delivery of Safe Patient Care took place on November 6, with almost 300 people in attendance. The event was sponsored by Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the Tara Hansen Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, with support by an educational grant from the Tara Hansen Foundation.

Every year in the United States, almost 1,000 women die of pregnancy-related complications, while severe maternal morbidity affects approximately 52,000 women each year, according to studies reported in Obstetrics and Gynecology and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The U.S. mortality ratio is higher than in most developing countries, and the CDC expects the numbers of severe maternal complications and mortality to increase, based on these trends.

This in-depth conference provided information on ways to reverse these trends and reduce the devastating statistics using evidence-based standards of patient-centered care that support maternal safety and promote prevention of perinatal morbidity and mortality.
Melvyn H. Motolinsky Foundation Honors Dr. Rabson

The Melvyn H. Motolinsky Foundation presented its Distinguished Service Award to Arnold B. Rabson, MD, director, Child Health Institute of New Jersey and Laura Gallagher Endowed Professor of Developmental Biology, and professor of pediatrics, pharmacology, and pathology and laboratory medicine.

The foundation has supported several initiatives at the medical school. They include the Melvyn H. Motolinsky Laboratory for Hematology Research; the Melvyn and Abraham Motolinsky Fellowship, a permanently endowed fellowship that supports a postdoctoral hematologist researcher; and the Melvyn, Ab and Yetta Motolinsky Chair in Hematology. In addition to its recognition of Dr. Rabson, the Motolinsky Foundation honored the late Parvin Saidi, MD, professor of medicine, and director, Motolinsky Hematology Laboratory, who first held the Motolinsky Chair in Hematology. In addition to its recognition of Dr. Rabson, the Motolinsky Foundation honored the late Parvin Saidi, MD, professor of medicine, and director, Motolinsky Hematology Laboratory, who first held the Motolinsky Chair in Hematology. In addition to its recognition of Dr. Rabson, the Motolinsky Foundation honored the late Parvin Saidi, MD, professor of medicine, and director, Motolinsky Hematology Laboratory, who first held the Motolinsky Chair in Hematology. In addition to its recognition of Dr. Rabson, the Motolinsky Foundation honored the late Parvin Saidi, MD, professor of medicine, and director, Motolinsky Hematology Laboratory, who first held the Motolinsky Chair in Hematology. In addition to its recognition of Dr. Rabson, the Motolinsky Foundation honored the late Parvin Saidi, MD, professor of medicine, and director, Motolinsky Hematology Laboratory, who first held the Motolinsky Chair in Hematology.

Boggs Center Marks 30th Anniversary with Colloquium on “Listening”

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities celebrated its 30th anniversary with a highly successful colloquium, The Power of Listening in Building a Valued Future. “We discovered our theme by looking at our history,” says Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, professor of pediatrics and executive director, The Boggs Center. “We realized how much we had learned to guide our work by listening to people with disabilities and the families who care for them.”

Speakers and presenters ranged from family caregivers telling their stories, to national colleagues, recognizing the accomplishments of The Boggs Center as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. Throughout the program, members of The Boggs Center’s Writers Group for Family Caregivers read their poems and reflections, a deeply moving part of the colloquium.

The colloquium also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth M. Boggs, PhD, the formative leader in the field of developmental disabilities for whom the center is named.

National Organization Recognizes Quality of Care at Chandler Health Center

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) recently recognized the Eric B. Chandler Health Center as a Level 2 Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH). The NCQA established the recognition system to measure primary care delivery and encourage improvement. Sandra Adams, executive director, Chandler Health Center, says that Chandler earned Level 2 recognition by demonstrating the ability to meet the program’s key elements of the medical home. Leading the extraordinary team effort were Steven Levin, MD, associate professor of family medicine and community health, and medical director, Chandler Health Center, and Beverly O’Shea, MSN, RNC, AE-C, nursing director.

The PCMH program expedites partnerships between individual patients and their personal physicians, and, when appropriate, the patient’s family. It provides practices with clear and specific criteria that assist in organizing care around patients, working in teams, and coordinating and tracking care over time. Information technology and health information exchange are among the processes that ensure that patients receive indicated care when and where they need and want it, in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.
Dr. Scholz Retires after 30-Year Career at the Medical School

Peter M. Scholz, MD, James W. Mackenzie Professor of Surgery, retired on September 1, after 30 years on the faculty. Dr. Scholz served four years as chief of the section of cardiac surgery and five years as chief of the division of cardiothoracic surgery. Of his many achievements, however, he feels most proud of the thoracic surgery residency training program, which he helped establish and led for 15 years—the last 12 as director. The program trained 20 cardiothoracic surgeons, with many going into academic medicine and becoming innovators and leaders in the field.

Peripheral Neuropathy Center Provides Specialized Diagnosis and Treatment

The newly established Center for Peripheral Neuropathy offers comprehensive, specialized assessment, therapy, and counseling to patients suffering from peripheral neuropathy (PN). The condition is usually caused by toxic metabolic disturbances that damage the peripheral nervous system. Diabetes causes approximately 60 percent of about 20 million cases of PN in the U.S. Peripheral neuropathy may also stem from nutritional deficiencies, autoimmune, or drug/toxin-induced processes and can also result from hereditary gene mutations.

The Department of Neurology created the center as a single location where patients with PN can be referred for advanced diagnosis, symptom management, and remedial treatment. Diagnosis is made using electromyography, nerve conduction studies, skin biopsy, and spinal fluid analysis, as well as autoantibody or gene testing.

“The first symptoms are often slight tingling, numbness, or imbalance, often erroneously attributed to back problems or simply old age,” says the center’s director, Shan Chen, MD, PhD, assistant professor of neurology. “Prompt diagnosis and identifying the etiologies are critically important since, untreated, the condition will generally progress, causing severe disability.”

Women Scientists, Emerging as Leaders, Benefit from OASIS

Since 2009, 25 members of the faculty have participated in an interdisciplinary leadership series developed and run by the Rutgers Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Technology, and Mathematics. The Objective Analysis of Self and Institution Seminar (OASIS), an intensive, weeklong program, is designed to accelerate the career development and advancement of academic women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—including social and health science fields. Participants tend to be emerging leaders at different levels in their field. MDs as well as PhDs, they contribute diverse experience in research, patient care, education, and the physical sciences.

“OASIS reflects the current effort of the AAMC [Association of American Medical Colleges] to bring women forward in leadership roles,” says David Swee, MD, professor of family medicine and community health and associate dean for faculty affairs and faculty development.

Lisa Denzin, PhD, associate professor of pediatrics and member, Child Health Institute of New Jersey, participated in OASIS in the spring of 2013. The program combines lectures, peer-mentoring workshops, and one-on-one coaching, making it extremely effective, says Dr. Denzin, who particularly enjoyed the small group discussions with women who had faced similar challenges and found novel solutions.

JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute Earns National Ranking

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is proud to report that the latest U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings named the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute among the “Best Rehabilitation Hospitals in the Nation.” The institute was ranked third in New Jersey and number 14 in the New York metropolitan area. It ranked as number 17 nationwide in adult rehabilitation.
Schools Launch Dual PharmD/MD Program

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy have developed a dual-degree program combining a doctorate in pharmacy with a medical degree. The schools will launch the new PharmD/MD program within the coming year. “This new program builds on an established foundation of collaboration between our two institutions, and we are particularly indebted to Dean Joseph Barone for devising and bringing it to fruition,” says Peter S. Amenta MD, PhD, dean.

Health care education professionals believe that this program will be the first of its kind. They hope it will serve as a model to better prepare the experts who will drive national health care policy under the Affordable Care Act. To better train health care professionals as leaders in policy, research, and clinical settings, the program will integrate core instruction in basic and clinical sciences with clinical clerkships and rotations, says Dr. Amenta. It will provide students with a more complete understanding of both the diagnostic and treatment sides of health care, with the ultimate goal of providing more comprehensive patient care. The 10-year PharmD/MD program is available only to students enrolled in the PharmD program at the School of Pharmacy.

As a middle school student, Barbara Andrews was skeptical when her principal told her that she had been recommended for Rutgers Future Scholars (RFS). The program, now in its fifth year, annually selects 200, inner-city students as participants. “This was the only opportunity I had,” Barbara says. So she committed to spending every summer taking RFS classes—in which she would excel—and learning from the program’s mentors and counselors. Last spring, the Piscataway High School senior learned that she had been accepted to Rutgers’ New Brunswick campus. Out of 200 seventh graders selected for RFS, she was one of 183 who will start college this fall—including 98 who earned full scholarships to Rutgers.

Barbara is the second youngest of nine children of Lisa Andrews, a medical assistant in the division of urology. She had always assumed she couldn’t go to college because her family couldn’t afford it. “Barbara and her mother are cut from the same bolt of cloth,” says Joseph G. Barone, MD ’87, professor of surgery and surgeon-in-chief, Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital. “Lisa started with no certification and worked hard to earn it, while being mentored and supported at the medical school.”

Student Honors and Awards

■ U.S. Army Specialist Kevin Parks ’15 was among 10 recipients of the New Jersey Heroes “Heart of a Hero” Scholarship. Parks and two friends began RU-SERVS (Rutgers University-Services, Education and Resources for Veterans.)

■ Louis Chai ’16, was selected as vice chair of the National Community Service Committee for the medical student section of the American Medical Association. In this position, he will run the National Service Project at the biannual national meetings, working with the chair of the committee and other members.

Save the Date

■ January 14: 26th Annual Career Night ■ 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. ■ Great Hall ■ Piscataway ■ Contact: ribner@rwjms.rutgers.edu

4th Annual Scholarship Gala to Celebrate with Alumni and Friends

Saturday, April 12, 2014 ■ 6:30 pm ■ The Heldrich ■ New Brunswick

2014 Gala Award Recipients:

■ Meritorious Service Award: Eric B. Chandler Health Center

■ Distinguished Alumni Award: Jeffrey N. Bruce, MD ’83 Edgar M. Houseland Professor of Neurological Surgery, Vice Chair of Academic Affairs; Director, Bartoli Brain Tumor Research Laboratory; Co-Director, Brain Tumor Center, New York-Presbyterian/Columbia

■ Honorary Alumni Award: Joseph R. Bertino, MD University Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Associate Director and Chief Scientific Officer, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

From the Dean’s Desk

Published by Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Department of Communications and Public Affairs

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Background Information: Barbara Andrews

From the As a middle school student, Barbara Andrews was skeptical when her principal told her that she had been recommended for Rutgers Future Scholars (RFS). The program, now in its fifth year, annually selects 200, inner-city students as participants. “This was the only opportunity I had,” Barbara says. So she committed to spending every summer taking RFS classes—in which she would excel—and learning from the program’s mentors and counselors. Last spring, the Piscataway High School senior learned that she had been accepted to Rutgers’ New Brunswick campus. Out of 200 seventh graders selected for RFS, she was one of 183 who will start college this fall—including 98 who earned full scholarships to Rutgers.

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Alumni

Jeffrey Brenner, MD ’95 Receives MacArthur “Genius” Award

Jeffrey Brenner, MD ’95, was “simply stunned” to learn in an unexpected mid-afternoon phone call that he had been named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation. Each 2013 fellow will receive a no-strings-attached, five-year, $625,000 stipend, known informally as a “MacArthur genius grant,” to follow his or her own creative vision.

The award recognizes Dr. Brenner’s work in Camden as founder and executive director of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. Using data collected from the city’s public and private providers, the coalition identified the health care system’s small percentage of “superusers.” Each of these patients received a program of personalized, coordinated care that markedly improved their health, reduced their health crises, and decreased costs to the system.

His work in Camden follows a logical trajectory. As a second-year medical student with a passion for science and data, a gift for building collaboration, and a determination to develop young leadership, he co-founded HIPHOP (The Homeless and Indigent Population Health Outreach Project) at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. This student-directed clinic for the medically underserved would serve as a model for the work he has done in Camden over the past 20 years. “Now my goal is to continue bending the cost curve, to make Camden first in health care,” says Dr. Brenner. “The MacArthur award puts momentum behind that effort.”

Alumni Association Awards Hippocrates Scholarship to Anousheh Shafa ’17

The Alumni Association awarded this year’s Hippocrates Scholarship to Anousheh Shafa ’17, of Saddle Brook. The scholarship, annually awarded to a first-year student based on academic excellence, provides $20,000 toward tuition each year.

Anousheh’s premedical studies began at the Academy for Medical Science Technology, a magnet high school in Bergen County. Anatomy and physiology courses sparked an interest in neuroscience and behavioral biology, her major at Emory University, where her honors thesis investigated the development of children’s chronological memory.

After graduation, Anousheh taught for Teach for America in East Oakland, California, worked as an ER scribe in Paterson, and tutored science and math. “It gave me a clearer idea of what I wanted to do,” she says. “I connected well with the inner city population and learned a lot from them. When I decided to return to medicine, I wanted to be near my family, at a school in an urban setting.”

In visits to New Brunswick and Piscataway, she was attracted to the medical school’s congenial environment, the range of students and programs, and “the Rutgers spirit.” At an admitted-students’ reception last spring, she was astonished how many people remembered her. “Then came the phone call from Dr. Terregino offering me the Hippocrates Scholarship,” says Anousheh. “And that clinched it.”

Dr. Chada Identifies Role of Gene in Metastatic Breast Cancer

A study, led by Kiran Chada, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, shows that metastasis in breast cancer and the risk of death are reduced when the function of the gene HMGA2 is limited. This finding, published in Cancer Research, may be used to develop therapeutic treatments for patients. Only a subset of cancer cells in the primary tumor is potentially metastatic, says Dr. Chada, and these cells are found at the edge of the tumor in a region known as the invasive front. These potentially metastatic cells are distinct in their appearance and molecular profile as compared to the cells in the rest of the tumor.

Dr. Chada’s laboratory showed that normal cells do not express HMGA2, and the expression of this gene product converts normal cells into metastatic cells. In additional research, the researchers showed that mice unable to express the HMGA2 gene were found to have a substantially reduced incidence of breast cancer. “Further studies could result in the development of therapeutic treatments for patients with breast cancer, which could prevent HMGA2’s function, reduce the spread of cancer, and extend a patient’s life,” says Dr. Chada.

Grants:

- The State of New Jersey Commission on Spinal Cord Research awarded a $600,000 grant to Michael Matise, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and cell biology, primary investigator of “The Role of the Shh in Mediating the Response of Adult Spinal Cord Stem Cells to Injury.”
- The New Jersey Commission on Brain Injury Research awarded $360,000 to Smita Thakker-Varia, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and cell biology, principal investigator of “Ephrin Signaling in Axon Regeneration for the Treatment of TBI.” Co-investigators on this project are Janet Alder, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and cell biology, and Renping Zhou, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Chemical Biology, Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.
In Memoriam

Yacov Ron, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology

The medical school community learned with sadness of the passing of Yacov Ron, PhD, professor of pharmacology. Dr. Ron was an expert in cellular mechanisms of autoimmunity and gene transfer approaches for treatment of autoimmune diseases. Early in his career, he established his reputation by demonstrating B-cells as major antigen-presenting cells for T-cell priming, a novel concept that went against the then prevailing immunology ideology. Most recently, he studied T-cell tolerance in an effort to understand the mechanism of autoimmune neuropathies, such as multiple sclerosis, and how to use gene therapy to treat such illnesses.

Dr. Ron earned a doctorate in cell biology from The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Israel, and then completed fellowships at Yale University and The Scripps Research Institute. He joined the medical school faculty in 1988 and served as a member of the graduate program in molecular genetics and microbiology at Rutgers throughout his tenure.

Dr. Ron’s colleagues and students regarded him highly for his collegiality, deep understanding of immunology, scientific rigor and energy. A former student and close collaborator described him as an ideal mentor, helping students and young scientists.

Dr. Danish Discusses Laser Ablation in NeuroNews

NeuroNews, a London-based web site for neurointerventionists, featured an interview with Shabbar Danish, MD ’01, assistant professor of neurosurgery and director, stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, published on August 30. Dr. Danish discussed promising preliminary results using minimally invasive laser ablation instead of open craniotomy to treat inoperable brain tumors, refractory epilepsy, and refractory cancer pain. The procedure has been used to treat brain tumors since the 1980s but is much newer as a treatment for epilepsy. “This procedure aims to achieve the same outcome without having the patients undergo an open operation,” says Dr. Danish, who has performed more than 100 laser ablations. “The open or more risky alternative is always an option, but if we can achieve the same outcomes with a minimally invasive procedure, why would we not take that approach?”

Discovery May Lead to Targeted Therapy for Aggressive Prostate Cancer

Joseph Fondell, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology, was senior author of a study that identifies MED1 as a potential clue associated with aggressive prostate cancer. The findings were published in the July issue of Molecular Cancer Research and highlighted on the cover of the journal, a publication of the American Association for Cancer Research.

“As MED1 is a known co-activator of androgen receptors, its overexpression might facilitate alternative gene expression patterns that drive treatment-resistant cancer cell growth in the prostate,” Dr. Fondell says.

At the time of the study, Feng Jin, PhD, first author, was a graduate student in Dr. Fondell’s lab. “Our study showed for the first time that MED1 expression is elevated in malignant cells of a statistically significant number of patients with clinical prostate cancer and that this overexpression correlates with an increase in cancer cell growth and invasiveness,” says Dr. Jin. “In addition, it showed that overexpression of MED1 may also be involved with inflammation of the prostate.”

Further study using mouse models showed that two protein kinases, ERK and PI3K/AKT, were overactive and responsible for MED1 over-production, ultimately accelerating the progression and spread of prostate cancer.

Dr. Steinberg Recommends Raising Minimum Age for Cigarette Sales

USA Today published the recommendation of Michael B. Steinberg, MD ’94, MPH, associate professor of medicine and director, Tobacco Dependence Program, that the minimum age for legal cigarette purchase be raised to 21.

As of 2011, about 18 percent of high school students and 4 percent of middle school students were smokers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those numbers are declining, says Dr. Steinberg, but it is unacceptable that almost one in five teenagers leaves high school as a smoker. Dr. Steinberg’s proposal appeared in an opinion box accompanying recommendations by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force that physicians take an active role in advising children and teenagers about the risks of smoking. The task force findings, first published in the Annals of Medicine and Pediatrics, stemmed from studies showing that a physician’s anti-smoking message to patients can be more influential than counsel of a parent, teacher, or peer.
Cystic Fibrosis Center Receives National Quality Care Award

The Cystic Fibrosis Center of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital has been selected by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for the foundation’s prestigious Quality Care Award for 2012-2013. Instituted in 2008, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Quality Care Awards recognize centers that have continuously demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of care they provide to people with cystic fibrosis (CF). The Cystic Fibrosis Center has been consistently ranked among the best programs in the nation for lung function and nutrition status in individuals with CF. It is one of only three level III CF centers in the state that is accredited by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The center’s Adult CF Program, accredited by the foundation in 2007, is one of only 96 accredited programs nationwide serving adults with CF.

Kudos

Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD, dean, was asked to continue as a member of the Board of Trustees of Cooper University Health Care.

Oliver Choo, MD ‘09, one of the 2013 graduating residents in the Department of Anesthesiology, received the highest score in the country on the American Board of Anesthesiology Part I written exam. Dr. Choo is currently an attending anesthesiologist at University Medical Center at Princeton.

The American Society of Reproductive Medicine selected Kathleen Hong, MD, a second-year fellow in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, to receive a 2013 in-training award.

Fred A. Kobylarz, MD, MPH, associate professor of family medicine and community health and co-director, Geriatric Fellowship Program, was named to the New Jersey Alzheimer’s Disease Study Commission.

Michael Lewis, PhD, University Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, was honored by a Lectio Magistralis address, “Development of Typical and Deviant Emotional Development,” at the Sapienza University of Rome.

Barbara M. Ostfeld, PhD, professor of pediatrics, was honored in October at the Signature Chefs Auction, a benefit for the March of Dimes.

Marc L. Steinberg, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry, was appointed associate editor for the international peer-reviewed journal, Nicotine & Tobacco Research.

Nathan Treff, PhD, associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences, won the American Society of Reproductive Medicine’s young investigator award.

The Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Animal Care Facilities received full accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.

Robert C. Like, MD, professor of family medicine and community health and director, Center for Healthy Families and Cultural Diversity presented a webinar, "Best Practices for Improving Cultural Competency in the Health Care Workforce," at the invitation of the National Conference of State Legislatures. In addition, Dr. Like will be an invited participant in Qatar’s First Cultural Competence in Healthcare Symposium, sponsored by Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, in 2014.

Martha Lansing, MD, associate professor of family medicine and community health, was invited to be a member of the Family Medicine Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Appointments

Michael Kelly, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, was appointed associate dean for graduate medical education. Dr. Kelly joined the faculty in December 2001 and has served as chair of the Resident Education Committee in Pediatrics. An attending physician in the pediatric intensive care unit at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, he was the director for the pediatric critical care medicine sub-internship and has served as pediatric residency program director since 2006. In addition, he chairs the Graduate Medical Education Subcommittee on Strategic Planning.

Dr. Kelly holds a medical degree from SUNY-Downstate and completed his internship and residency in general pediatrics at New York Hospital. After serving as pediatric chief resident at New York Methodist Hospital, he returned to New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center to complete a fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine.

Dr. Gélinas Appointed Interim Senior Associate Dean for Research

Céline Gélinas, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, was appointed interim senior associate dean for research. Dr. Gélinas joined the faculty of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1988 as a resident member of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine. In 1995, she became a member of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and in 2008 was appointed associate dean for research.

In her internationally recognized research, Dr. Gélinas investigates the mechanisms involved in cancer development and progression. She has made significant contributions to understanding the role of the Rel/NF-kB signaling pathway in the regulation of gene expression, apoptosis, tumor development and chemoresistance. She was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology in 2010.

Dr. Gélinas earned her doctoral degree at the Université de Sherbrooke in Québec, where she had been a pre-doctoral fellow of the National Cancer Institute of Canada. She completed her postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Howard M. Temin, PhD, at the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied retroviruses and oncogenes as a King George V Silver Jubilee fellow of the National Cancer Institute of Canada.