

The Medical Scientist Training Program
School of Medicine & Dentistry - University of Rochester Medical Center

MSTP Newsletter



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

FALL/WINTER, 2009

Message from:

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of Pediatrics;
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PHYSICIANS AND SCIENCE

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A major goal of academic medical centers and their faculty is to assure improved health of the populace. This goal is accomplished through our three missions of research, education, and patient care. The care that our patients receive will improve greatly as a result of findings grounded in rigorous science.

Physician investigators, especially students/graduates of the MSTP, can integrate the research and patient care missions in a unique way. We have only to examine the goals of physicians, investigators, and the combined role of physician-investigators, to understand the power of this training in improving health.

The goals of physicians are to prevent disease, cure disease, and provide care/support for patients, especially those patients for whom cure is not possible. The goals of investigators are to prevent and cure disease for a larger group of individuals than may be possible by providing care to individual patients in the office. Physician-investigators can combine both goals simultaneously and apply rigorous research findings directly to patient care, or raise questions from patient care that translate into substantive research questions.

As a pediatrician I have been engaged in asking clinical research questions about adolescent health and disease over several decades. Currently our study team is focusing on the definition of the neurobehavioral mechanisms of restrictive anorexia nervosa (RAN) in adolescents. We chose this condition to study as the mortality and morbidity of RAN are disturbingly high; others know little about why the morbidity is high, and research findings might have direct applicability to improved outcome. Let me briefly review our approach to the question of the neurobehavioral origins of restrictive anorexia nervosa (RAN).

RAN is a devastating illness mostly of adolescent females. Approximately 0.5% of young women are diagnosed with this condition during adolescence. Major metabolic morbidities associated with severe malnutrition, and psychological morbidities are frequent. This condition has the second highest mortality rate of all psychiatric conditions. In the forty years of my caring for adolescents with this condition, treatment has changed little and is ineffective for many patients.

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With the explosion of knowledge in genetics, neurobiology, and psychology, we have learned that approximately 30-40% of these young people have a positive family history of eating disorders. We know that even though approximately one-half the patients are depressed, antidepressants are of little help. However, there is hope for improved understanding of this illness based on new findings using sophisticated cognitive and neurobiologic methods to study the neurobehavioral origins of the disease.

In an effort to begin to understand the neurobehavioral origins of RAN and then to be able to design targeted clinical interventions, we asked whether adolescent females who had RAN have more problems with executive function (the ability to organize thoughts) than do controls matched for age and intelligence quotient (IQ). We chose executive function since adults who had RAN were reported to have more executive function problems than controls. In addition, we wanted ultimately to link executive function findings with neuroimaging findings as executive function is thought to reside partially in the prefrontal cortex and related tracts.

For our study, we defined executive function as set shifting (the ability to change direction), memory, and attention. The only component of executive function that was significantly different between the RAN and control adolescents was the set shifting component. Adolescents who had RAN had poorer scores on set shifting than did control adolescents; this, too, had been reported in adults, but not previously in adolescents. We are now preparing to perform set shifting tasks simultaneously with fMRI evaluations to compare the neurocognitive findings of adolescents who have RAN with normal adolescent controls. New data indicate that there are changes in the fronto-striatal-thalamic tracts of persons who have difficulty set shifting. We are hoping that findings from this study will allow us to target an intervention to improve the outcome for these patients, the effectiveness of which will be evaluated by changes in set shifting on cognitive testing and fMRI findings.

Excellent research questions develop from rigorous patient care and a passionate quest for new knowledge to improve patients' health and well-being. Rigorous science is essential to the well-being of our patients. It is often the unexpected findings of carefully designed studies that provide the direction for significant breakthroughs.

In closing, I would like to quote an anonymous author who writes about what I believe is the unique privilege of being a physician (and a scientist):

***“TO BE A PHYSICIAN
To be permitted
To be invited by another human being ...
in illness
To be a trusted participant in the highest
of dramas
For these privileges
I AM GRATEFUL BEYOND WORDS.”***

Elizabeth R. McAnarney-10/09

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Calendar of Events:

December 3-4

Interview Date

December 4, 2009

Holiday Party
Helen Wood Hall
6:00-10:00 PM

December 9, 2009

First Dinner Seminar
Marc Halterman, M.D., Ph.D.
"Making the transition from residency
to P.I."

December 14, 2009

Admissions Committee
Meeting (second)

December 17-18

Interview Date

January 7-8, 2010

Interview Date

January 14-15, 2010

Interview Date

January 16, 2010

Curling Social Event
Rochester Curling Club

January 28-29, 2010

Interview Date (final!)

February (date TBD)

Polar Wave Snowtubing Social Event

February 8, 2010

Final Admissions Committee meeting

March 26-27, 2010

Revisit Weekend
for accepted applicants

April 30, 2010

Last day for MD/PhD Program
applicants to hold multiple acceptances

May 2, 2010

Graduation Party

Past Events

The annual **MSTP Revisit Weekend** was held Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, 2009. Nine accepted applicants returned to Rochester for the big event to help make a decision about whether to train here for the next 7-8 years! In addition to rock climbing, housing tour, a luncheon/poster session, there was also an invitation-only dinner Friday evening at Rochester Academy of Medicine, and a dinner for all students, staff and applicants at Lento Restaurant on Saturday evening.



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Scott Peslak (G2 in Pathology; Dr. Jim Palis, advisor) and **Sal Priore** (G2 in Chemistry, Dr. Doug Turner, advisor) are vocalists performing in the Eastman/Rochester Chorus
<http://www.esm.rochester.edu/ensembles/erc.php>

One of the monthly MSTP social events was to attend their concert held on March, 2009. **Anat Kohn** (G2 in Genetics; Dr. Matt Hilton, advisor) also recently joined the Chorus.



April 4, 2009 was the date of the 2nd annual **MSTP Outreach Conference** for high school and undergraduate students. Despite the rainy, cool weather, we had an amazing turnout of counselors, students and parents! Michael Jacob, G3 in Neurobiology & Anatomy, as well as the planning committee did a phenomenal job of coordinating the conference. Committee members were exhausted as seen in the picture below. The purpose of the conference is to inform and educate potential students about MD/PhD training. Many positive comments emanated from the questionnaires. The conference seems to be effective as three applicants interviewed last season learned about the MD/PhD Program specifically from attending this conference!



David Mathews, M.D., Ph.D., an alumni of the Program, gave a dinner seminar on April 21, 2009. Dr. Mathews is currently Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics here at UR. He graduated in 2003 and completed graduate work in the chemistry lab of Doug Turner, Ph.D., MSTP Associate Director. His talk was on "Career Pathway and Pathway Independent RNA Folding".

The annual **MSTP Graduation Party** was held on Sunday, May 3, 2009. An enormous brunch was enjoyed by students and staff at Mario's via Abruzzi for the 5 graduates: Cindy Duke, Amish Naik, Babak Razavi, Sol Shaftel and Christine Gorman Zanghi.

The final dinner seminar of the year was held May 12, 2009. It was presented by **Shawn Newlands, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, FACS**, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology at University of Rochester. Dr. Newlands spoke on "My Unique Path down the MD/PhD Road".

Four students represented the University of Rochester at the **annual MD/PhD Program National Conference in Keystone, Colorado** July 24-26, 2009 : Adam Dziorny, Candace Gildner, Ana Nunes and Ed Vuong. Director, Dr. Kerry O'Banion and Cathy Senecal-Rice, Administrator also attended the Directors/Administrators Conference. Dr. O'Banion has the honor of holding the office of Chair of the AAMC GREAT Group MD/PhD Section for the coming year. Cathy Senecal-Rice continued her tradition in Colorado of

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climbing a 13,000 foot peak: Mt. Sniktau (13,284)!



The annual **MD/PhD Program Retreat** was held at Steamboat Landing on Canandaigua Lake on August 7, 2009. Randy Rosier, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Orthopaedics at University of Rochester and alumni of the MD/PhD Program was keynote speaker. He was one of the first MD/PhD Program students at UR! Dr. Rosier spoke on "Translational Journeys in Orthopaedic Research". We were also honored to have Dr. Elizabeth McAnarney, acting Dean of the School of Medicine in attendance who spoke on "Physicians & Science: A Strong Union".

Student Council elections resulted in the following newly-elected officers:

Michael Jacob, President
Adrienne Chessner, Public Relations Chair
Danny Rogers, Events Chair
Rebecca Porter, Applicant Dinner Coordinator
Scott Peslak and Sal Priore, Admissions Chairs
Ed Vuong, Hosting Coordinator
Evan McConnell, Applicant Greeting
Jharon Silva, Outreach
Jonathan Langdon & Andy Cox: 1st/2nd year medical school curriculum committee
Adam Simning: 3rd/4th year medical school curriculum committee; Rebecca Porter & Keith Olsen, representatives to Honor Board

A picnic supper followed at Owasco Park where exquisite food was provided by Plunkett's Catering.

Rebecca Porter (G3, Pathology, Laura Calvi, M.D., advisor) completed her first marathon in October, 2009 – the Toronto Marathon. She finished in 3:49:13, a fantastic time! Fellow MSTP'er **Joanna Touger** (G2 in IMV; S. Dewhurst, advisor) ran the Toronto half-marathon and Dr. Matt Grunert (Rebecca's significant other and an Anesthesiology resident at SMD) and MSTP'er **Keith Olsen** (G3 in IMV; P. Sime, advisor) paced her by running the last few miles with her. Congratulations, Rebecca!



Happy Hour on November 12, 2009 at Tap & Mallet, a local contemporary pub, was the social event for the month of November. It also happened to be an MSTP interview date, so 7 applicants joined 20 students, 2 staff and 1 director. Some great microbrews were sampled as well as tasty pub food!

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BIRTHS

Kate Eisenberg (M4; PhD in Epidemiology; Edwin Van Wijngaarden, Ph.D., advisor) and husband Aaron Blumkin welcomed Oliver Wright Blumkin into the world on 11/22/09.

Ollie, as his parents affectionately call him, weighed in at a hefty 9 lbs., 3 oz., 22 inches long. Dylan, his older sister and Snuffy, his older dog are very excited with the new addition!



Jonathan (M2) and Melissa Langdon proudly announce the birth of their first child, Claire Jean Langdon on 12/5/09. Claire weighed 6 lbs., 8 oz. Wife Melissa now holds the URM C delivery speed record: 10 minutes!



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WEDDINGS



Jharon Silva (M2; graduate student in Microbiology & Immunology; Steve Dewhurst, Ph.D., advisor) married Ariane Jay on June 20, 2009 at the magnificent Taughannock Falls overlook, right outside of Ithaca, NY. Ariane is a 4th year veterinary student at Cornell University. They honeymooned in St Maarten, finding all of the local hotspots thanks to Dr. Robert Quivey (IMV, Director, Center for Oral Biology) who with painstaking detail, mapped out the island for them! Jharon and Ariane share their lives with 2 dogs, Dean and Poe, 2 cats, Louie Nickels and Onion and 3 African aquatic frogs: Maverick, Bully and Dubbya B. Best wishes to the happy couple for a lifetime of joy!



Alex Pearson (M4; Ph.D in Biostatistics, Derick Peterson, Ph.D., advisor) and Caroline Fisher (daughter of Susan Fisher, Ph.D., Chair of Community & Preventive Medicine and Richard Fisher, M.D., Director of the Wilmot Cancer Center) took the plunge (not the Polar Bear Plunge into Lake Ontario, as Kevin Makino did!) on January 10, 2009 in balmy Rochester, NY. The happy couple went skiing on a 4-day honeymoon in Aspen, Colorado but plan a more extended honeymoon in Argentina in 2010. Caroline is a manager with Avalere Health, a policy consulting firm in Washington (but she works from home in Rochester). Congratulations, Caroline and Alex!



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WELCOME!

Medical Scientist Training Program Entering Class 2009



(left to right: Amit Chowdhry, Alison Gaylo, Ethan Winkler, Aisha Siebert, Andrew Cox, Andrew Soroka, Evan McConnell, Danielle deCampo)

Eight students joined the MSTP in August, 2009.

Amit Chowdhry

Amit moved from southern California to Pittsford, NY at the age of 9, so is very familiar with Rochester. He graduated from Cornell University with B.S. in Biological Sciences, Biometry & Statistics in 2009. Amit is interested in research in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He enjoys spending time with friends, playing Frisbee, watching movies and listening to music in his spare time.

Andrew Cox

Andy, as he prefers to be called, is originally from Oklahoma City. He graduated from Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma, majoring in Chemistry and Biology with a B.S. in May, 2009. Andy received the honor of participating in a highly-competitive program for a semester abroad to study English Literature at Oxford University in 2008. His extracurricular activities include reading, running and bible studies.

Danielle deCampo

Danielle completed her undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame in psychology, then went on to Syracuse University where she received a master's in Biomedical Engineering in 2007. She then was accepted into UR School of Medicine, where she completed two years of medical school. After working with Dr. Julie Fudge during the summer of 2008, Danielle has decided to stay in Dr. Fudge's lab and work toward a Ph.D. in Neurobiology & Anatomy. She is an avid runner, having run cross country in high school and college. She also plays violin, beginning in elementary school and continuing through college.

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Alison Gaylo

Alison hails from Painted Post, NY and was born in Elmira, NY. She graduated in May with a B.S. in Cell Biology & Biochemistry from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. Alison played clarinet in the Pep band while at Bucknell. Restoring antique cars with her father and brother is one of her passions, including a 1958 Morris Minor 2-door saloon.

Evan McConnell

Evan attended University of Rochester as an undergrad, majoring in Neuroscience. He graduated in 2007 then chose to become a research assistant in the lab of Dr. Ed Vates in Neurosurgery, contributing to a number of neurosurgery research projects. Evan de-stresses by working out at the gym, being an avid sports fan, and spending time with his girlfriend.

Aisha Siebert

Aisha was born in Georgia, but raised in Nashville, Tennessee. She attended Dartmouth College, graduating in 2004 with a B.A. in English Lit. She went on to get a master's of public health in Molecular Epidemiology & Toxicology at Columbia University where she graduated in 2008. In order to gain experience in applied prenatal and neonatal exposure modeling, Aisha did an internship while working on her MPH, investigating prenatal gene-environment interactions and cancer risk at Columbia University Center for Children's Environmental Health before applying to the MSTP. She enjoys painting, sculpture and playing soccer in her free time.

Andrew Soroka

Andrew, as Brigid and Cathy prefer to call him (in order to alleviate confusion with Andy Cox) has literally lived all over the world. His father has a career in the Navy and moved the family frequently. Andrew graduated from Princeton in June, 2008 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He has traveled to Ethiopia twice to implement a water irrigation system with a Princeton group called "Engineers Without Borders". For fun, he enjoys soccer, guitar and art.

Ethan Winkler

Ethan comes to us from California, having been born in Long Beach. He had already completed two years of medical school when accepted into the MSTP. He took a year out to conduct research with Dr. Berislav Zlokovic, where he has decided to stay permanently for graduate school in Neuroscience. Ethan attended the University of Southern California, graduating in May, 2006 with a B.A. in Neuroscience. Among his many hobbies outside the lab, he enjoys synchronized swimming, knitting, jewelry-making (watch out Ana!) and figure skating.

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FAREWELL TO OUR GRADUATES!

Friday, May 15, 2009 was the **School of Medicine & Dentistry Commencement** at Eastman Theatre.

The five MSTP graduates this year were:

Cindy Duke, Intern/Resident in Ob/Gyn, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Cindy was featured by a local reporter in an article in the local newspaper on Match Day: Thursday, March 19, 2009.

<http://rochesterhomepage.net/content/fulltext/?cid=78101>

Amish Naik matched as an Intern/Resident in Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Babak Razavi matched as an Intern in Preliminary Medicine at URMC, then Neurology Residency, UC Davis

Solomon Shaftel matched as an Intern in Transitional Medicine, Austin, TX; then Residency in Ophthalmology, UCSD

Christine Gorman Zanghi matched as a Resident in Anesthesiology, UR Medical Center

Congratulations on this great accomplishment! It was a long road, but you all made it!



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HONORS AND AWARDS

Rob Ambrosini (graduate program in BME, Walter O'Dell, Ph.D., advisor) defended his thesis on June 23, 2009, passing with flying colors! The defense title was: "Automated Detection and Growth Rate Determination of Metastatic Tumors in the Brain and Lungs". To add to his exciting year, Rob also returned to third year medical school the first week of July!

Abdallah Bitar (graduate program in Chemistry, Alison Frontier, Ph.D., advisor) joined Rob in defending on June 16, 2009. Abdallah's thesis was titled "Progress Toward the Total Synthesis of Roseophilin". He returned to third year medical school as well in July.

Qi Cui (graduate program in NBA, Gary Paige, M.D., Ph.D., advisor) joined the crowd in also defending on August 11, 2009 on "Cross-sensory Plasticity and Integration in Human Audio-visual Spatial Processing". Qi joined the third year medical school class effective in August, shortly after defending.

Adam Dziorny (graduate program in BME; A. Luebke, Ph.D., J. Walton, Ph.D. co-advisors) defended his thesis on "Exposure to an Augmented Acoustic Environment (AAE) Improves Neural Correlates of Auditory Processing". He successfully passed on 10/1/09, but returned to third year medical school a bit ahead of time in July.

Yasser Elshatory (M4; graduate program in Neuroscience, Lin Gan, Ph.D. advisor) received the Ph.D. Doty Award for Excellence in Neuroscience Dissertation Research. Quite an honor, Yasser!

Michael Jacob (G3 in Neurobiology & Anatomy; Charles Duffy, M.D., Ph.D., advisor) was awarded the annual Gilbert B. Forbes Prize in Pediatrics at the School of Medicine Convocation on September 15, 2009. This award is chosen by the Pediatrics faculty for a student who has achieved the high standard of scholarship and originality in research established by Dr. Forbes, a renowned teacher, scholar and researcher.

Michael Jacob was also honored in the *URMC Today*, a UR medical center publication, for faculty, staff, students and volunteers. Michael instituted a "culinary lab", a mandatory component of Molecules to Cells, a required first year course that focuses on the biochemical laws governing how lipids, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals are utilized by the body's cells. The lab is Michael's brainchild after being disappointed that the basic science curriculum wasn't connected to real diets or real food. Three years after he took Molecules to Cells, the culinary lab is his answer: to teach biochemical nutrition hand-in-hand with simple cooking skills. Let's hear it for our MSTP "Foodie"! (not to take anything away from our other MSTP Foodie, Dr. O'Banion).

Anat Kohn (G2 in Genetics, Matt Hilton, Ph.D., advisor) was chosen to give an oral presentation at the ASBMR (American Society for Bone & Mineral Research) annual meeting in Denver, Colorado September 11-15, 2009. Anat presented her work on her abstract titled "RBP JK-dependent Notch Signaling Regulates Chondrocyte Maturation in a Cartilage Specific Manner" at this meeting.

Marlene Mathews (M4; graduate program in Pharmacology/Physiology; Brad Berk, M.D., Ph.D., advisor) was nominated for the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) award to be presented in Spring, 2010. This award is given to a 4th year medical student who exemplifies a lasting commitment to scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service. A lifelong honor, membership in the society confers recognition for a physician's dedication to the profession and art of healing. Congratulations, Marlene!

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Kofi Mensah (graduate program in Microbiology & Immunology; Eddie Schwarz, M.D., advisor) was presented the Melville A. Hare Award for Excellence in Research at SMD Convocation. This award was established by Dr. Hare's family in his memory and presented to graduate students in the department of Microbiology & Immunology for meritorious work in the classroom and in research.

Kofi also defended his thesis in June 22, 2009 (mid-June was very busy with MSTP defenses!) on "Type I Interferon Effects on Osteoclast Fusion: Insights into Non-Erosive Inflammatory Arthritis". He then followed suit with Rob Ambrosini, Abdallah Bitar, Cui Qi, Adam Dziorny, Conan Kinsey and Michael Moravan in entering third year medical school.

Tristan Nicholson (M2) won a travel award from the SBUR (Society for Basic Urologic Research) 2009 annual Fall meeting in New Orleans. Her abstract investigating bladder outlet obstruction was also accepted for poster presentation. This resulted from her summer lab rotation with William Ricke, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Urology, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine in the Wilmot Cancer Center.

Ana Tablante Nunes (G4 in Pharmacology & Physiology; Mark Noble, Ph.D., advisor) received a Diversity Travel award for the annual MD/PhD Student Conference held in Keystone, Colorado July 24-26, 2009. Ana was chosen to receive this award on a competitive basis by a review committee based on an abstract submitted from her graduate work in Dr. Noble's lab.

Nancy Ann Oberheim (M4; Graduate work in neuroscience; Maiken Nedergaard, M.D., Ph.D., advisor) received the Vincent du Vigneaud Award by the Offices of Graduate Education for her thesis. It is given to a graduate student with an outstanding thesis across all departments in the medical center.

Andrew Pistner (G1 in Pharmacology & Physiology; Burns Blaxall, Ph.D., advisor) received the New Investigator's travel award from the American Heart Association for the Basic Cardiovascular Science Conference 2009. His work focuses on molecular signaling and the prevention of heart failure. The conference took place in July, 2009.

Salvatore Priore (G2 in Chemistry; Doug Turner, Ph.D., advisor) received the Chemistry Department Sherman Clarke Fellowship effective 7/09; this Fellowship is given to graduate students in first and second year based on coursework and TA performance. Last year Sal received the Chemistry Department GAANN Fellowship. This is awarded to students with excellent academic records who demonstrate financial need given by the US Department of Education.

Babak Razavi (Intern in Preliminary Medicine, U. Rochester) defended his thesis on 6/12/09 in the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program. He was co-advised by Gary Paige, M.D., Ph.D. and William O'Neill, Ph.D. The topic of his defense was "Multi-Sensory Integration: Intra- and Extra-Auditory Factors that Influence Sound Localization".

Mercedes Szpunar (G3 in Pathology; Ed Brown, Ph.D., advisor) received a 3-year grant from the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. It is a Predoctoral Traineeship Award entitled "Augmentation of Breast Cancer Growth and Metastasis by Chronic Stressor Exposure". In other news, Mercedes passed her qualifying exam titled "The Effect of Chronic Stressor Exposure on Breast Tumor Growth and Angiogenesis via Beta-Adrenergic Receptors" on Monday, October 12, 2009. In addition, she received a trainee travel award based on an abstract submitted to the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society (PNIRS) meeting in June, 2009 which was held in Breckenridge, Colorado. Congrats!

Ethan Winkler (G1 in Neuroscience; Berislav Zlokovic, M.D., Ph.D., advisor) was chosen to receive the Walle J.H. Nauta Award for Excellence in Neurosciences at the SMD Convocation on September 15. This prize is awarded to a student who best exemplifies both scholarly achievement in the neurosciences and the qualities of kindness, compassion and concern for the well being of others shown by Dr. Nauta.

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PUBLICATIONS

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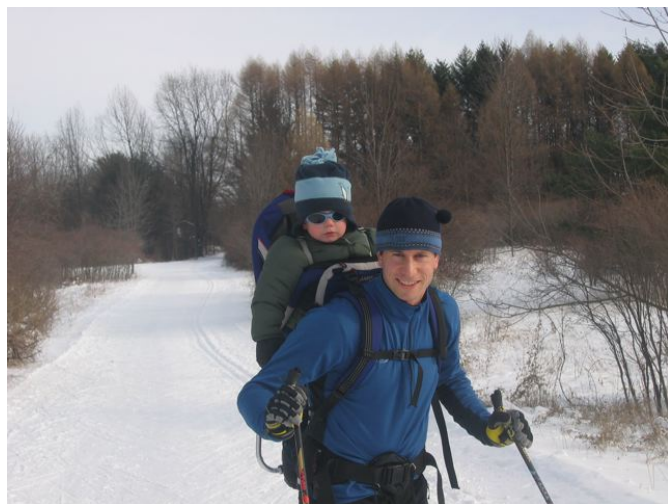
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Alumni News

Thank you to everyone who responded to our plea to contact us. Feel free to keep us up-to-date. Enjoy reading about your fellow alumni. We hope to hear from many more. Please send correspondence to: cathy_senecalrice@urmc.rochester.edu

Matthew Bellizzi, M.D., Ph.D. (2007) and wife Kellin King (M.D., 2007) were blessed with their second child, Linden Davis Bellizzi. Linden was born 12/14/08 at 7 lbs., 4 oz. and 21 inches long. Big brother Braden is VERY excited to have a little brother. He loves to cross-country ski with Daddy, as you can see below. Congratulations, Matt, Kellin and Braden!



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Willis Huang, M.D., Ph.D. (2003) and Jane Snyder (M, 2005) were married in Rochester, NY in October, 2009. Willis is doing a Diagnostic Radiology residency in Los Angeles at UCLA Medical Center. Jane is a Dermatology resident at Stanford University. Congratulations to the happy couple-finally!



David Mathews, M.D., Ph.D. (2004) and his wife, Ozden celebrated the birth of their first child Audrey on February 9, 2009. Audrey weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. Dave is Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics here at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. His research focuses on RNA secondary structure prediction.



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Ed Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. (1980) is Professor of Experimental Transplantation Immunology at the University Hospital of the University of Basel in Switzerland. His research focuses on how the immune system establishes a state of self-tolerance. In 1984, he started out as an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado and in 1993 moved to the Basel Institute of Immunology in Basel, Switzerland, which was supported by Roche until 2001, when it was closed by the company. In 2001, he joined the Medical Faculty at the University of Basel, where he continues his research.

Dr. Palmer tells us “I have good memories of Rochester (especially Smitty's Birdland #1). The M.D. Ph.D. program helped me figure out my life and allowed me to pursue a career as a basic scientist (I would have been a bad clinician). After working for 20 years in basic research, it was ironic to join a Medical Faculty; surprisingly, I can still understand what clinicians are talking about (as long as it doesn't involve reimbursements). Even though medical school wasn't always a walk in the park, it gave me a very broad biological education; it allowed me to be a better biologist. Living and working in Europe has been really interesting.”

“I've been married to Kathrin Lehmann for 27 years -- no kids, but we have a sweet 100 lb. Bernese Mountain dog. Warm regards to my Mud-Fud classmates. It would be great to see you sometime.”



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Tara Arndt Wenger, M.D. (2008), Ph.D. (2006) and husband **Jesse Wenger, M.D. (2008)** gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, daughter **Violet Elyse Wenger**. She weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz. and was born on 9/21/09, a mere week after her due date! Congratulations on your new family, Tara and Jesse. Tara is currently a resident in Pediatric Genetics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Jesse is also a resident at CHOP, but in Medicine Pediatrics.



MD/PhD Alumni – Let us hear from you.

Our goal is to hear something from each graduate of the program. When we hear from you we will **bold** your name as a sign of acknowledgement. We encourage you to contact us and watch us **boldly** grow. **We need current e-mail addresses for names in RED.** Please contact Cathy Senecal-Rice, Administrator, MD/PhD Program at: cathy_senecalrice@URMC.Rochester.edu

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Adam, Jamie, M.D. 2001, Ph.D. 2000
Anolik, Jennifer H., M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
Arceci, Robert J., M.D. 1981, Ph.D. 1980
Bahler, David W., M.D., Ph.D. 1987
Bellizzi, Matthew, M.D., Ph.D., 2007
Berk, Bradford C., M.D., Ph.D. 1981

Bertuch, Alison A., M.D., Ph.D. 1993
Bleicher, Paul A., M.D., Ph.D. 1983
Bliss, Joseph, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
Breneman, Stephen, M.D. 1998, Ph.D. 1996
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DiPersio, John F., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
Dragone, Leonard L., M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
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Duke, Cindy, M.D. 2009, Ph.D. 2007
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Feulner, Lisa Kale, M.D., Ph.D. 1995
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Gambello, Michael J., M.D., Ph.D. 1993
Goldstein, Barry J., M.D., Ph.D. 1982
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Grimsrud, Christopher, M.D., Ph.D. 2000
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Guillet, Ronnie B., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
Hall, Craig G., MD-PhD, 1984
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Hsu, Lewis L., M.D., Ph.D. 1988
Huang, Willis, M.D. 2005, Ph.D. 2003
Joseph, Luc, M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
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Kasckow, John, M.D. 1987, Ph.D. 1986
Kenny, Alan, M.D. 2002, Ph.D. 2000
Kim, James, M.D., Ph.D. 1999
Kim, Jin, M.D. 2000, Ph.D. 1998
Kimbrough, John, M.D., Ph.D. 2000
Koh, Sookyong, M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1989
Kruse, John, M.D. 1990, Ph.D. 1989
Kulas, Donald, M.D. 1997, Ph.D. 1995
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Lichtman, Andrew H., M.D., Ph.D. 1981
Lim, Kuei-Cheng, M.D., Ph.D., 2007
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Pallant, Adam D., M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1990
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Peale, Franklin V., Jr., Ph.D. 1989, M.D. 1990
Phung, Thuy L., M.D., Ph.D. 1999
Podell, David N., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
Profenno, Louis, M.D., Ph.D. 1999
Proweller, Aaron, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
Querfurth, Henry W., M.D., Ph.D. 1983
Razavi, Babak, M.D., Ph.D. 2009
Ribes, Julie A., M.D., Ph.D. 1990
Richards, Julie, M.D. 2004, Ph.D. 2002
Roberts, Alice, M.D., Ph.D. 1999
Roda, Ricardo, M.D. 2005, Ph.D. 2003
Roshal, Mikhail, M.D. 2005, Ph.D. 2003
Rosier, Randy N., M.D., Ph.D. 1978
Rubin, Edward M., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
Rumbaugh, Jeffrey, M.D., Ph.D. 2000
Sandhu, Faheem A., M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1994
Scully, Sean P., M.D. 1986, Ph.D. 1985
Seed, Patrick, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
Senyk, Oksana, M.D., Ph.D. 1984
Shaftel, Solomon, M.D., 2009, Ph.D. 2007
Shimamura, Akiko, M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1990
Snyder, Lawrence H., M.D., Ph.D. 1992
Storozynsky, Eugene, M.D. 2000, Ph.D. 1998
Tan (Formerly Cheun), Jane E., M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1993
Thertulien, Raymond, M.D. 1994, Ph.D. 1992
Thom, Stephen R., M.D., Ph.D. 1981
Toribara, Neil W., M.D. 1981, Ph.D. 1982
Waldman, David L., M.D., Ph.D. 1988
Webster, Ramothea, M.D. 2007, Ph.D. 2004
Wenger, Tara Arndt, M.D. 2008, Ph.D. 2006
Williams, Joseph, M.D., Ph.D. 1989
Williams, Marshall T., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
Wilson, Robert E., M.D., Ph.D. 1989
Wingrove, Douglas E., M.D. 1987, Ph.D. 1986
Winn, Virginia Dragone, M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
Zambidis, Elias, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
Zanghi, Christine Gorman, M.D. 2009, Ph.D. 2007
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We hope you have enjoyed reading about your fellow alumni and current MD/PhD students. We thank everyone who wrote and sent in pictures and hope it will inspire others to do the same. If you would like to communicate with any of your fellow alumni, please send an email with the name of the person to Cathy Senecal-Rice: cathy_senecalrice@urmc.rochester.edu. This may be an avenue for current MD/PhD Program students to network with alumni that have a common interest. In this way, privacy is secured and the recipient has the choice whether to reply or not. Again, thank you for participating.

This Newsletter was designed and distributed with the direction and approval of the Medical Scientist Training Program Executive Committee. If you do not wish to receive future mailings please e-mail this request to Catherine Senecal-Rice at: cathy_senecalrice@urmc.rochester.edu and your name will promptly be removed from our distribution list.