Alumni Reunion, CME Light Up Las Vegas

Cleveland Clinic's first alumni reunion west of the Mississippi – in Las Vegas in September – was a big winner. “Hot Topics in Healthcare,” held Sept. 24 and 25, combined a fun reunion with an in-depth continuing medical education program largely presented by distinguished alumni.

The event was held at Cleveland Clinic’s Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas.

It kicked off Friday with an Alumni Reunion Soiree at the Encore hotel. A warm welcome by Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman highlighted the importance of the partnership between Larry Ruvo, the Ruvo Center and Cleveland Clinic. The mayor acknowledged the significance of having Cleveland Clinic and this one-of-a-kind center in his community. He says he is honored to be part of this project and pledged his continuing support for the area’s development.

Scott A. Slavis, MD (U/RT’89), was recognized as the alumnus who brought the Cleveland Clinic and Larry Ruvo together, which resulted in the partnership.

Joseph F. Hahn, MD, MBA, Chief of Staff and Vice Chairman of Cleveland Clinic’s Board of Governors, gave a visual update of Cleveland Clinic with photos of the main campus and regional hospitals, and highlighted the many areas that are under development, including the new location in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He also shared information that continues to demonstrate Cleveland Clinic’s commitment to putting patients first.

Saturday began with a welcome from Robert E. Hobbs, MD (CARD’79), the new President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He proudly received his gavel from outgoing President Lilian V. Gonsalves, MD (P’81), Vice Chair of Psychiatry and Psychology at Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Hobbs says that the event exceeded his expectations.

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DeHaven Honored with Distinguished Alumnus Award

Kenneth E. DeHaven, MD (GL-1’66, S’67, ORS,’72), an orthopaedic surgeon, researcher and educator who has advanced the fields of orthopaedic sports medicine and orthopaedics, received Cleveland Clinic’s Distinguished Alumnus Award 2010 in September.

The award was presented at “90 Years of Orthopaedics at the Cleveland Clinic: Honoring Our Past and Vision for the

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Alumni Reunion and CME
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“It was great to see alumni from all over the United States and other countries reunite in Las Vegas. Everyone enjoyed catching up with friends and colleagues, meeting their CME requirements and taking needed time off to enjoy the warm weather,” he says.

“The Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health is unique and truly an extraordinary architectural concept. The program material was diverse and appealed to all medical specialties as well as their guests,” he adds.

Dr. Gonsalves agreed, saying she thoroughly enjoyed the event.

“I loved it! Seeing old and new faces, having an excellent CME program along with a fun soiree, and seeing the unique and interesting design of the Lou Ruvo building all made the trip a reunion to remember,” she says.

Jeffrey L. Cummings, MD, Director, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, called the event a great way to connect Cleveland Clinic alumni with the wonderful work at the Lou Ruvo Center.

New School Representative Named to Alumni Board

The new student representative on Cleveland Clinic’s Alumni Board is Garnett Smith, a member of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine Class of 2012.

Smith says he is excited to be on the board because it will provide him an opportunity to give something back to the Lerner College of Medicine.

“It will help me develop relationships that will benefit my colleagues and me in the future and continue my relationship with the Lerner College of Medicine and Cleveland Clinic, even as professional and personal pursuits take me elsewhere,” he says.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and Russian at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. Smith, 28, was born in Salt Lake City and is the oldest of six children. He has been married since 2004, and he and his wife, Julie, have three children, Savannah, Scott and Burke.

He is working on his thesis with his advisor, Medhat Askar, MD, PhD. The project, “The Effect of non-HLA Antibodies in Lung Transplantation,” examines the effects of pretransplant non-HLA antibodies on post-transplant graft function and patient survival.

Clinical presentations

Saturday’s clinical presentations started off with “The Skinny on Bariatric Surgery,” given by Philip R. Schauer, MD, Chief of Minimally Invasive General Surgery and Director of the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute at Cleveland Clinic. The upcoming Obesity Summit and the Cleveland Clinic Innovations Summit in Cleveland in November will bring world leaders together to discuss obesity. Dr. Schauer’s data emphasized the huge role that bariatric surgery plays in helping patients avoid long-term mortality.

“Obesity impacts all organs and bariatric surgery performed earlier in life can be a less risky, low-cost alternative strategy to coping with it,” he says.

Daniel E. Nickelson, former Director of Government Affairs at Cleveland Clinic, highlighted many key areas of the healthcare reform bill. He says four battleground areas remain – individual mandates, taxes/fees on businesses, delivery systems to purchase insurance state-by-state and Medicaid spending. While there are no simple solutions, the choices remain the same: cutting benefits, increasing premiums, lowering payments to doctors and hospitals and controlling costs.

He says that the underlying themes to these discussions are defining quality, boosting electronic health record capability, reducing system inefficiencies and looking at Medicare as delivery system reform.

“The political reality would see the push for change being in 2013 after the presidential election,” Nickelson says.

Michael T. Modic, MD (GL-1’76, DR’78, NR’79), Chairman of Cleveland Clinic’s Neurological Institute, spoke on the topic “The Physical Exam is Dead.” This humorous and yet serious review of the need to maintain the physical exam
showcased the shortcomings of what a technology-driven industry can become when it is not balanced with direct contact and communication with the patient. This is a must-see presentation for all medical students.

Jennifer L. Lucas, MD (D’09, DS’10), of Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Dermatology, spoke about “Lotions, Potions, Lasers and Peels: Aging Gracefully.” This comprehensive review of today’s anti-aging treatment options examined the pros and cons of each.

Leopoldo J. Pozuelo, MD (P’97), Section Head of Consultation Psychiatry and Associate Director of Cleveland Clinic’s Bakken Heart Brain Institute, spoke on “Brain-Heart Connections: Fact or Fiction?” He looked at heart patients’ personality, stress, mechanistic pathway (emotional distress), neuroimaging and biofeedback levels to identify connections and determine key indicators of outcomes.

Next, Samir R. Kapadia, MD (CARD’98, CARDIN’00), discussed “Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation: Will Surgical Replacement be Obsolete?” He described the incredible work his team has done since it began in 2006; it has done 120 cases to date. Although Dr. Kapadia describes the procedure as easy and fast, it requires a highly trained technical team. He called this the fast-growing subspecialty of the future.

The lunchtime Keynote Speaker was best-selling author Michael F. Roizen, MD, Chairman of Cleveland Clinic’s Wellness Institute. He spoke about “What is your RealAge? How to transform your health.”

Armed with a wealth of data, Dr. Roizen reviewed Cleveland Clinic’s goals for establishing its Wellness Program, Lifestyle 180, and encouraged everyone to enroll in the Health Care Risk Assessment program. He discussed Cleveland Clinic’s commitment to removing toxins from our environment by making healthy food choices and eliminating sugars, salt, syrups and trans-saturated fats from food. These efforts, combined with physical activity, lead to longer, healthier lives, he said.

The CME portion of the event wrapped up with Dr. Cummings’ talk on “Risk Factors for Alzheimer’s Disease – Can We Prevent It?”

The first step in protecting your brain against Alzheimer’s disease is education, he said. Other measures include engaging in cognitive/physical activity, following a diet high in antioxidants, controlling any diabetes or high cholesterol, and avoiding head injuries such as by wearing seat belts.

“While there are factors that we cannot modify such as our age and genetic make-up, there are areas that we can change, such as our psychological stress, hypercholesterolemia and hyperhomocysteinemia,” he says.

“The good news is that there are improved current treatments and emerging treatments on the horizon.”

Afterward, Dr. Cummings and a volunteer team led tours of the new facility. As Dr. Cummings described, “it is like being inside a piece of art.” The building was designed to embrace visitors and enhance their sense of well-being.

Attached to the Lou Ruvo Building is a four-story clinic. Tours started on the first floor in the imaging area. Here, technicians conduct tests that are sent back to Cleveland for final evaluation and results. On the second floor, patients are greeted immediately upon arrival and taken to a private patient room –

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Family Remembers Beloved Baby through Rocking Chair Donations

Rochelle M. Friedrich, DDS (DENT/G’00), and her husband, David, a Cleveland Clinic staff perfusionist, endured a heartbreaking time when their third child, Eleonore Grace, lived for just six days in 2009. They only were able to hold their baby daughter once without the impediment of wires and tubes.

Dr. Friedrich yearned for a comfortable rocking chair in which to cradle and bond with Eleonore, but there were none on the pediatric intensive care unit at Cleveland Clinic. So, shortly after Eleonore’s death in November 2009, when friends started asking what they could do to help, the Friedrichs came up with an answer. They created the Eleonore Rocks foundation and used donations to buy beautiful Amish-built rocking chairs for patient rooms. Each chair has a special engraving noting that it is from Eleonore Rocks.

They made their first donation of chairs on Good Friday this year and a second one in July. Altogether, 22 chairs were donated to Children’s Hospital on the main campus. Each PICU room now has one.

Money still is being raised, and the foundation has a “wish list” of other areas on the main campus and at Hillcrest Hospital to place them. St. Jude’s Hospital in Memphis has expressed an interest too. Each chair costs $390.

“We feel there should be something comfortable for all families in these situations, something that feels normal,” says Dr. Friedrich, who has a private dentistry practice in Berea, Ohio. “Few people understand how precious our time with Eleonore was. We want to give other families a chance to bond with their child as much as possible.”

To learn more about Eleonore Rocks, please visit EleonoreRocks.org.

Changes to the Alumni Association Board

President-Elect: Gary H. Dworkin, MD (CATS’92)
Secretary: Susan J. Rehm, MD (IM’81, ID’83)
Immediate Past-President: Lilian V. Gonsalves, MD (P’81)
International VP: Albrecht H. Kramer, MD (S’76, VS’77)
House Staff 2010-2011: President: Sara Lohser, MD Vice-President: Dana Darwish, MD
CCLCM Student Representative: Garnett Smith (Class of 2012)
Interim Executive Director, Alumni Relations: Lois A. Sumegi

General Surgery: Conrad H. Simplendorfer, MD (S’04, FIM’05, S/HEP’06)
Obstetrics / Gynecology: Jonathan D. Emery, MD
Otolaryngology & Communicative Disorders: Toribio C. Flores, MD (OTOCD’82)
Urology: Thomas J. Maatman, DO (U’85)
Endocrinology: Mario Skugor, MD (END’85)
Psychiatry & Psychology: Mayur M. Pandya, DO (P’07)
When Arthur D. Steffee, MD (GL-’61, S’62, ORS’67), decided it was time to retire and leave Cleveland in 1998, he and his wife, Patricia, moved to Foxburg, PA, a small town near his childhood home of Oil City, PA.

“I tried to move close to home, but I didn’t quite make it,” he says with a laugh.

In Foxburg, they found a town greatly in need of new life. “At the time, the only restaurant in town was a greasy spoon with a muddy parking lot,” he recalls.

They committed to investing in the charming location along the Clarion River, opening a restaurant, a winery, an arts center and, eventually, a 24-room hotel, as well as remodeling downtown buildings that now house a pizza shop and a general store. They donated land for a biking trail and contributed in other ways to help the town of about 270 residents attract more visitors.

“The key to the success of revitalizing downtown was utilizing the waterfront,” Dr. Steffee says. “We put in a lot of nice landscaping and made it a very pleasant place to walk around.”

The town also is home to one of the nation’s oldest golf courses and many beautiful homes and churches, he adds. “It’s a lovely place to be.”

The Steffees’ main goal in revitalizing the town was to rejuvenate an estate formerly owned by the Fox family, which played an important role in early Quakerism. The home was once the Fox family’s summer retreat, but the family sold it in 1964. By 1998, it was in need of significant restoration.

“But the land was good – 1,200 acres surrounded by the Clarion and Allegheny rivers,” Dr. Steffee says. “So, we decided to make it our home.”

Today, the Steffees frequently open their restored home to tours and events to help raise money for local causes. On the day this photo was taken of the couple, the Allegheny River Stone Center for the Arts was holding its Second Annual Scottish Festival on the estate with food, music, games and demonstrations. Dr. Steffee flipped hamburgers at the festival, and he says he enjoys seeing how much fun people have when attending these events in support of the community.

Dr. Steffee makes other philanthropic gifts, as well. He is devoted to Allegheny College, which he attended, and is actively involved in its scholarship program. Supporting medical education has been an important part of his life, and he also contributes to Cleveland Clinic, where he trained as an intern in 1960-61 and later as an orthopaedic resident, following his military service, in 1965. Cleveland Clinic is honored to be a beneficiary of the Steffee Fund, benefiting Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital.

At the time of his orthopaedic residency, Cleveland Clinic had only 70 employees and 300 beds, he says.

"My department had just three physicians," he says. “The one-on-one feeling we had was very nice.”

After his medical training, Dr. Steffee established a practice at St. Vincent Charity Hospital, an affiliate of the Cleveland Clinic training program. In 1988, he and fellow alumnus John S. Collis Jr., MD (S’57, NS’61), went to Lutheran Hospital to start a spinal center. Their work helped revolutionize spinal surgery in the United States.

Dr. Steffee also started a successful company, Acromed, which provided devices for spinal surgery. The company was sold in 1997.

Today, Dr. Steffee takes great pride in helping to build the City of Foxburg and contributing to the history, natural resources, education and traditions of this community.
Cleveland Clinic is launching two unique education programs that will give healthcare executives new opportunities to learn from experienced peers.

“Participants will appreciate the unique peer learning aspect of our programs. They will emerge with insights directly from the professionals involved in the everyday business of leading a complex healthcare organization,” says Program Director Caryl A. Hess, PhD, MBA.

**Executive Visitors’ Program**

The two-day Executive Visitors’ Program is designed for healthcare executives, including physicians, nurses and administrators, who are interested in learning how Cleveland Clinic executes its mission and achieves strategic goals through an integrated system of healthcare delivery.

Cleveland Clinic’s unusual physician-run group practice model has generated national and international attention. This program will provide rare insights into Cleveland Clinic’s success through dialogue with renowned healthcare leaders in key positions.

The program will consist of a series of conversations with Cleveland Clinic leaders about their mission and how they achieve strategic goals. Visits will include time for questions and answers and a social program permitting one-on-one discussion. In advance of the session, we will explore visitors’ specific interests to assure that they are addressed in the program.

Upcoming dates:

- Dec. 2–3, 2010
- June 2–3, 2011
- Sept. 15–16, 2011
- March 3–4, 2011

Attendees will stay at the InterContinental Hotel & Bank of America Conference Center on Cleveland Clinic’s campus. All hotel and meal expenses are included in the $3,000 fee.

**Samson Global Leadership Academy**

Another novel educational opportunity is the two-week Samson Global Leadership Academy for Healthcare Executives. This program, scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011, will prepare healthcare executives to navigate the challenges of leading, managing and growing large organizations, domestically and globally.

The program comprises four components:

- A didactic program with participatory sessions introducing new tools, strategies and frameworks to increase long-term value.
- A leadership roundtable in which small groups will meet with Cleveland Clinic leaders to understand what they do, what skills are needed in their roles and how their leadership evolves.
- An immersion/shadowing program during which participants will observe activities in various departments showcasing Cleveland Clinic’s organization and culture.
- A one-on-one mentoring program in which participants are paired with leaders to discuss how Cleveland Clinic works on the front line. There will be opportunities to maintain these relationships once the program is completed.

Session dates:

- Oct. 23–Nov. 4, 2011
- April 22–May 4, 2012
- Oct. 7–19, 2012

Attendees will stay at the InterContinental Hotel & Bank of America Conference Center. All course, hotel and meal expenses are included in the $15,000 fee.

For more information about these programs, please visit clevelandclinic.org/ExecutiveEducation or contact Dr. Hess at 216.445.8898 or hessc@ccf.org.
Integrated Health Systems: Can They Improve Quality and Bend the Cost Curve?

By Daniel E. Nickelson
Former Director of Government Affairs, Cleveland Clinic

For about 50 years, healthcare expenditures have grown at roughly twice the rate of the general economy. These expenditures have led to major improvements in outcomes, but the costs are staggering. We have reached the point where this growth adversely affects the bottom line for business, government and individuals. Further, there is growing evidence of significant cost variation by geographic area, as well as significant variation in the quality of care people receive. But, what to do?

The past several decades saw a number of attempts to address these issues, but all have fallen short in one way or another. The approaches ranged from prospective payment for hospitals, to a fee schedule for physicians, to health maintenance organizations and managed care, to name only the most notorious. Gradually, it has seeped into the political intelligence in Washington that price controls have a limited effect. Insurance oversight has had only a marginal effect on cost and quality, as well.

The new kid on the block identified to tackle these challenges is the care delivery world itself, but organized into systems of care. Both Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic have been cited in the healthcare reform debate as role models for the delivery of high-quality, low-cost care. Most medical practices in the United States are far from these models, though.

For all the rhetoric surrounding healthcare reform legislation, its core features aimed at improving quality and moderating cost are vested in the Medicare program. As has been the case with other innovations, the assumption is that as the government, through Medicare, goes about discovering how to encourage physicians and other providers to come together in various forms of systems to manage care more effectively, these reforms will expand to the private sector.

There is no single right answer because local politics differ so much from community to community. Thus, one can anticipate that we will see a number of approaches, ranging from the “medical home” concept, to “get physicians to interact better in the ambulatory management of chronic care patients,” to more formalized systems addressing not only the ambulatory setting, but also inpatient. All of these will be coupled with more explicit measures of results and cost.

No one can say whether integrated care approaches can meet this formidable challenge. Considering the alternatives, let us hope that these models are successful.

Mr. Nickelson can be reached at dnickelson921@comcast.net.

Band Resumes its Rocking Ways

A rock band of Cleveland Clinic residents that developed a local following from 1997 to 2003 is back on the local scene.

“Skin and Bones,” formed by a group of orthopaedic residents and a dermatology resident, took a break for almost seven years as members moved on to fellowships and permanent jobs and started their families. But they have resumed performing about twice a year in Cleveland. Their most recent appearances were in November 2009 and July of this year.

The band kept its name, although the dermatologist left long ago and was replaced by a cardiologist, says Wael K. Barsoum, MD (ORS’00), Vice Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Cleveland Clinic, who is the band’s lead guitarist and an occasional singer.

His co-rockers are lead singer Ryan C. Goodwin, MD (ORS’03), on staff on the main campus and at Cleveland Clinic’s Solon Family Health Center; bass player David M. Sickle, MD (ORS’04), who practices in Tennessee; and drummer Gian M. Novaro, MD (CARD’01, CARD/I’02), who is on staff at Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston.

Traveling to Cleveland for gigs a few times a year isn’t hard for Drs. Sickle and Novaro, who both have family in the area, says Dr. Barsoum.

The band usually performs at The Blind Pig, a sports bar on Cleveland’s West 6th Street. Dr. Barsoum describes their genre as rock bordering on classic rock because many of their tunes come from the 1990s and early 2000s. “We have a great time and really enjoy the camaraderie,” he says.
House Staff Receive 2010 End-of-Year Awards

Cleveland Clinic House Staff are honored at the Annual End of Year Recognition and Celebration Reception sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, Graduate Medical Education, the House Staff Association and the House Staff Spouse Association.

Here are this year’s winners:

The William & Roxanne Michener Award for the Development of Leadership: This self-nominating award goes to an individual who is recognized for having true leadership qualities based on his or her submitted statement of intention. The recipient must demonstrate a commitment to learning, superior communication abilities and a mastery of medical skills, as well as embody the courage, integrity and compassion that represent the highest ideals of clinical medicine.

This year’s winner is Molly Michelle Wimbiscus, MD (P’09), of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, for her project "A Year in Perspective: Examining, chronicling, photographing and composing new perspective in the lives of teenagers living in Cleveland’s near West Side neighborhoods.”

The Alumni Association Graduate Level 1 Award: This award demonstrates the association’s belief in Cleveland Clinic physicians-in-training. The recipient is selected from nominations by staff, house staff, teachers and mentors based on clinical excellence/knowledge, interpersonal communication skills, character and unique accomplishments.

This year’s winner is Kiranpreet Kaur Khurana, MD, of Urology.

William E. Lower Award: Established in 1936 by William E. Lower, MD, a founder of Cleveland Clinic, the award encourages original investigation and professional excellence in residents’ and fellows’ preparation of scientific papers. Papers are judged in both clinical and nonclinical categories, with honorable mentions in each.

The first-place clinical award winner is Jiang Wu, MD, of Anesthesiology, for “Regional analgesia reduces volatile anesthetic and opioid requirement, and improves analgesia after breast cancer surgery.”

Clinical honorable mention went to Hideki Makishima, MD, PhD, of Translational Hematology/Oncology Research, for “Mutations of e3 ubiquitin ligase cbl family members constitute a novel common pathogenic lesion in myeloid malignancies.”

The first-place/nonclinical award winner is Pallavi Bhattaram, PhD, of Cell Biology, for “Organogenesis relies on Sox4, Sox11, and Sox 12 for survival of neural and mesenchymal progenitor cells.”

The nonclinical honorable mention went to David Kennedy, PhD, of Cell Biology, for “CD36 mediates a pro-inflammatory signaling loop in fat and contributes to insulin resistance.”

Cash Memorial Award: This award was established by friends, family and colleagues of the late Joseph Cash, MD, former Chairman of the Department of General Internal Medicine.

The honor is intended to encourage original investigation and professional excellence in the preparation of clinical papers on health outcomes, including, but not limited to, health resource use, cost effectiveness and pharmacoecnomics.

The award went to Shikhar Agarwal, MD, MPH, Internal Medicine Residency, for “Influence of age on revascularization-related costs of hospitalization among patients of stable coronary artery disease.”

Peskind Memorial Award: This award was established by a group of grateful patients, friends and family of the late Adolph Peskind, MD. It recognizes excellence in preparation of a scientific publication by residents and fellows.

This year’s winner is Michael Jolly, MD, Cardiovascular Medicine, for “Impact of phase II cardiac rehabilitation on heart rate recovery.”

Robert C. Tarazi Fellowship Award for Cardiovascular Research: This award was established in memory of Robert Tarazi, MD, Vice-Chairman of the Division of Research from 1977 to 1984, to recognize papers that make an outstanding contribution in clinical or basic cardiovascular research and are aimed at bettering the understanding and/or treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Young Mi Park, MD, Cell Biology, received the first-place award for “CD36 modulates migration of mouse and human macrophages in response to oxidized LDL and may contribute to macrophage trapping in the arterial intima.”

Bruce Hubbard Stewart Award: This award was established by friends and family in memory of Bruce Stewart, MD, who was a staff member of the Department of Urology at Cleveland Clinic from 1964 until his death from cancer in 1983 at age 53. He served on Cleveland Clinic’s Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, and was Chair of the Division of Surgery from 1979 to 1983. The award honors a recipient who shows Dr. Stewart’s ability to combine sensitivity and compassion with knowledge and skill in the practice of medicine.

This year’s winner is Erin S. Murphy, MD (RO’10), of Radiation Oncology.

George & Grace Crile Traveling Fellowship Award: Made possible by a grant from the Crile family, the award is presented to outstanding surgery residents/fellows-in-training who demonstrate exceptional capability and effort.

This year’s winner is Christopher J. Weight, MD (U’10), of Urology.

The Crile Research Fellowship Award: This award honors highly meritorious basic science research proposals. Winners are selected based on scientific quality of the project and mentoring environment and offered a one-year basic science opportunity the following year.

This year’s winner is Ronald Charles, MD, of General Surgery.
Construction of Pathology and Lab Medicine Institute Begins

Ground was broken July 30 for Cleveland Clinic’s Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute, led by Cleveland Clinic Alumna Kandice Kottke-Marchant, MD, PhD (ACLPTH’90).

“The new building will feature state-of-the-art laboratories for testing of tissues and other samples to help the medical community detect, diagnose and treat diseases,” says Dr. Kottke-Marchant, the Institute’s Chair.

The $75 million, 136,000-square-foot facility that is being constructed near East 105th Street and Carnegie Avenue (formerly the site of the EE building) will house specialized laboratories, such as central processing, microbiology, molecular pathology, immunopathology and special chemistry. The new building also will support Cleveland Clinic Laboratories at the Institute’s commercial reference laboratory venture.

The three-story building has been designed to serve as a cornerstone of Cleveland Clinic’s main campus, welcoming patients, visitors and employees arriving from the city’s east side. Construction is expected to be complete in late 2011.

Cleveland Clinic’s Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute already is the largest clinical hospital laboratory in Ohio and the 15th largest in the United States. It is staffed by about 1,300 employees, approximately 80 of whom are pathologists, and processes more than 15,000 specimens each day for Cleveland Clinic and other hospitals, as well as commercial and government organizations. The new facility not only will greatly expand Cleveland Clinic’s medical testing capabilities, it also is expected to generate hundreds of new jobs.

The institute “will attract new business opportunities through our reference laboratory, Cleveland Clinic Laboratories and fuel development of better, faster tests,” Dr. Kottke-Marchant says.

Noting that the facilities will operate 24 hours a day, she says, “We will provide accurate, reliable testing with rapid turnaround times. Clients will be able to select from more than 2,400 routine and esoteric clinical laboratory tests, complemented by expert consultative services on request.”

In preparation for this expanded laboratory, Cleveland Clinic created several allied health programs to develop new, skilled employees. A medical technologist training program began in 2007, and a medical laboratory technician training program started earlier this year, in conjunction with several regional colleges.
RESEARCH ROUNDP

Vaccine to Prevent Breast Cancer in Women Over Age 40 or Who Are at High Risk

Researchers at Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute have made one of the most promising cancer discoveries in medical history – a first-of-its-kind vaccine to prevent breast cancer that has shown very favorable results in animal models.

The researchers found that a single vaccination with the antigen α-lactalbumin safely prevents breast cancer tumors from forming in mice, while also inhibiting the growth of existing tumors. Human trials could begin within the next year. If successful, it would be the first vaccine to prevent breast cancer.

The research was published online May 30 at www.nature.com/naturemedicine and in the June 10 issue of Nature Medicine. The research team spoke at a standing-room-only congressional hearing in July asking for $6 million to begin the human trials.

“We believe this vaccine someday will be used to prevent breast cancer in adult women in the same way that vaccines prevent polio and measles in children,” says Vincent K. Tuohy, PhD, the study’s principal investigator and an immunologist in the Lerner Research Institute Department of Immunology. “If it works in humans the way it works in mice, this will be monumental. We could eliminate breast cancer.”

In the study, genetically cancer-prone mice were vaccinated – half with a vaccine containing α-lactalbumin and half with a vaccine that did not contain the antigen. None of the mice vaccinated with α-lactalbumin developed breast cancer, while all of the other mice did.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved two cancer-prevention vaccines, one for cervical cancer and one for liver cancer. However, these vaccines target viruses – the human papillomavirus (HPV) and the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) – not cancer formation.

In terms of developing a preventive vaccine, cancer presents a quandary not posed by viruses. While viruses are recognized as foreign invaders by the immune system, cancer is not. Rather, cancer is an overdevelopment of the body’s own cells. Trying to vaccinate against this cell overgrowth effectively would be vaccinating against the recipient’s own body, destroying healthy tissue.

The key, Dr. Tuohy says, is to find a target within the tumor that is not typically found in a healthy person. In the case of breast cancer, Dr. Tuohy and his research team targeted α-lactalbumin – a protein found in the majority of breast cancers, but not found in healthy women, except during lactation. Therefore, the vaccine can rev up a woman’s immune system to target α-lactalbumin – thus stopping tumor formation – without damaging healthy breast tissue.

The strategy would be to vaccinate women over 40 – when breast cancer risk begins to increase and pregnancy becomes less likely. (If a woman were to become pregnant after being vaccinated, she would experience breast soreness and would likely have to choose not to breastfeed.) For younger women with a heightened risk of breast cancer, the vaccine may be an option to consider instead of prophylactic radical mastectomy.

“Most attempts at cancer vaccines have targeted viruses, or cancers that already have developed. (This) approach of attacking the tumor before it can develop is completely different. It is a simple concept, yet one that has not been explored until now.”

– Joseph P. Crowe, MD
Director of Cleveland Clinic’s Breast Center

Dr. Tuohy believes that the findings of this study go beyond breast cancer, providing insight into the development of vaccines to prevent other types of cancer.

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Orthopaedic Surgeon Writes Book for Young Athletes

When Michael J. DeFranco, MD (ORS’07), was a resident at Cleveland Clinic, he became so committed to helping young athletes avoid musculoskeletal injuries, arthritis and osteoporosis that he created a program called Protect Your Bones.

The program, supported by Cleveland Clinic, was implemented in public and private high schools in Cleveland. The United States Bone and Joint Decade adopted it for use in cities across the country, and the Academy of Medicine gave it a Presidential Citation.

Dr. DeFranco, now in private practice in New York, has continued his resolve to help student athletes by writing a book, Surviving a Season: Essential Advice for Young Athletes, Coaches, and Parents on Staying Healthy and Avoiding Sports Injuries.

He notes that at least 7 million sports and recreation-related injuries are reported each year, with more than half of them in patients between the ages of 5 and 24. The actual number of injuries is likely higher than that, he says, because many athletes do not seek medical care until an injury causes significant pain or limits their performance.

“Many injuries can result in lifelong disabilities, he adds. “The purpose of Surviving a Season is to present important issues surrounding sports injuries in young athletes and to provide a commonsense approach on how to solve them,” Dr. DeFranco says. “The first step in avoiding sports injuries is to understand the problem. The second step is to take the appropriate preventive measures. The information in this book helps young people, as well as their coaches and parents, accomplish both goals.”

He is working with the New York schools to distribute the book to student athletes.

He also recently began hosting a radio program, “Sports Injury Forum,” which is broadcast live on the Artist First Radio Network, an affiliate of CBS News Radio, from 8 to 9 p.m. Sundays. On the show, he discusses injuries related to specific kinds of sports and interviews athletes who sustained those types of injuries. He also interviews other medical experts. The show can be accessed at www.artistfirst.com.

Dr. DeFranco, who served as Chief Resident in Orthopaedic Surgery from 2005 to 2007, calls his Cleveland Clinic training a definitive moment in his career.

“The first step in avoiding sports injuries is to understand the problem.”

– Michael J. DeFranco, MD
Campus Clips

Donald A. Underwood, MD (CARD’80), received the Master Clinician award as part of the 2010 Maria and Sam Miller Professional Excellence Awards. These awards recognize Cleveland Clinic physicians’, scientists’ and employees’ dedication to excellence. Other winners are Alan Hull, MD, PhD, Master Educator; Stanley Hazen, MD, PhD, Scientific Achievement Award in Clinical Research; Jaroslaw Maciejewski, MD, PhD, Scientific Achievement Award in Basic Science; Katherine Kelly Hancock, MSN, RN, Nurse of the Year; and Paul Radolovic, Police Officer of the Year.

Andrew J. Fishleder, MD (GL1’79, LMED’82), Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, has stepped down from his position for personal reasons and returned home to Cleveland. Since he was appointed CEO in December 2008, Dr. Fishleder has contributed greatly to the initial stages of this world-class medical center. He has overseen substantial growth of the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi team and provided the necessary leadership to ensure a successful foundation for the project. Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, under construction on Sowwah Island in Abu Dhabi, is a 364-bed, multi-specialty hospital. Construction is on track for completion in the last quarter of 2012. Mark McPhee, MD, Chief Operating Officer, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, will serve as the interim CEO while retaining his current role in hospital operations as Mubadala Healthcare and Cleveland Clinic search for a new CEO. Dr. Fishleder left his position on Oct. 6 with plans to retire from Cleveland Clinic. We thank Dr. Fishleder for 32 years of dedicated service to Cleveland Clinic, including his role as Chairman of the Division of Education from 1991 to 2008. Please join us in wishing him and his family the very best.

Editor’s Note: The Office of Alumni Relations will be happy to forward your email and/or letters to Dr. Fishleder.

Tommaso Falcone, MD, Chair, Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women’s Health Institute, and Jeffrey M. Goldberg, MD, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, have written a book, Basic, Advanced, and Robotic Laparoscopic Surgery, published by Elsevier. It is part of the Female Pelvic Surgery Video Atlas Series. Dr. Falcone also recently received the B’nai Zion Foundation Award for numerous contributions to his field.

Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Continuing Education has been recognized for academic excellence and distinction by being awarded an Accreditation with Commendation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). This is the highest level of accreditation, awarded to less than 10 percent of the 704 providers. The ACCME found the Center to be compliant with all 22 accreditation criteria. The accreditation period also was extended by two years, to November 2015.

Cleveland Clinic’s Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart & Vascular Institute has entered into its first affiliation with Central DuPage Hospital in the western Chicago suburbs. The agreement involves academic, clinical and research collaborations between Cleveland Clinic and the 313-bed hospital.

The Education Institute at Cleveland Clinic has created its 16th center – The Center for Multidisciplinary Clinical Simulation will oversee implementation and execution of Cleveland Clinic’s growing multidisciplinary clinical simulation activities. J. Eric Jelovsek, MD (UG/PS’06), will provide medical leadership for the center.

Cleveland Clinic has created the Center for Ethics, Humanities and Spiritual Care by merging four groups – Bioethics, Spiritual Care, Medical Humanities and NeuroEthics. The new center is under the leadership of Eric Kodish, MD. Dr. Kodish is the F. J. O’Neill Professor and Chairman of the Department of Bioethics at Cleveland Clinic, Executive Director of the Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics and Professor of Pediatrics at the Lerner College of Medicine.

Cleveland Clinic researchers have received a $3.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how our food intake, combined with microscopic organisms residing in our intestines (“gut flora”) and our genes, influences the risk of developing atherosclerotic heart disease. Stanley L. Hazen, MD, PhD, Section Head of Preventative Cardiology and a staff member of the Lerner Research Institute’s Department of Cell Biology, is the principal investigator, along with colleagues.
Biomedical engineering researchers at the Lerner Research Institute have received $3 million from the Ohio Third Frontier program, a funding initiative designed to make Ohio a technological hub. The project is a collaboration of Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation of the Center for Geriatric Medicine, Case Western Reserve University and the Advanced Platform Technology Center of Excellence at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. The funding will support research and development of an innovative approach to rehabilitation through clinically applied rehabilitation engineering.

Cleveland Clinic researchers have been awarded a five-year, $11.65 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the role of HDL in heart disease. The grant will fund three inter-related projects that may lead to new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to cardiovascular risk assessment and therapy. Principal investigator Stanley Hazen, MD, PhD, cardiologist and cell biologist at Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute, will focus on how HDL, or high density lipoprotein, is rendered dysfunctional in heart disease patients. His group hopes to develop a diagnostic test for dysfunctional HDL. The grants also will fund research on treatments. In 2004, Dr. Hazen discovered an enzyme — myeloperoxidase — that inhibits the ability of HDL to perform its job through a process called oxidation. Cleveland Clinic cell biologist Jonathan Smith, PhD, one of the researchers on the 2004 discovery, will lead a second project to see whether engineered versions of HDL that are resistant to oxidation may work as treatments for hardening of the arteries. The third project, to be led by cardiologist Edward Fisher of New York University Medical Center, will focus on understanding the cellular mechanisms behind the shrinking of plaque.

A book about the history of cardiology at Cleveland Clinic, Pathfinders of the Heart — The History of Cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic, by William C. Sheldon, MD (CD’62), Chairman Emeritus, Department of Cardiology, is available for purchase.

“We lived in interesting times,” Dr. Sheldon says of his tenure at Cleveland Clinic. “A lot of history was made, and I didn’t see any one else writing about it. I thought it should be put down on paper before it escapes us.”

It took him several years to compile the book, which he calls “a concise history.” Since he wanted to include the years through 2006, “I interviewed all of Dr. Eric Topol’s section heads, and they added much insight to help me fill out this time period,” he explains.

“This is really a story about people,” he adds.

Pathfinders of the Heart — The History of Cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic, published by Xlibris Corp. (www.Xlibris.com), is available at many local bookstores and at Amazon.com. To purchase an autographed hardbound or paperback copy of the book, contact alumni@ccf.org.

Volunteers Needed for 2011 Peru Trip

Lamay Clinic Project (lamayclinic.org) is a project started by medical students from Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and Case Western Reserve University to provide medical care to people in Sacred Valley in Peru.

The project was started in 2009 as a medical school elective, and the group made its second trip to Peru in June. Participants from the Lerner College this year included Marcella Luerco (Class of 2014); Nika Bagheri and Michael Hendel (Class of 2012); and coordinator Satoko Kanahara (Class of 2011). Other Lerner College coordinators included Rachel Roth and Jacqueline Chu (Class of 2011), and Alida Gertz and Anna Brady (Class of 2010).

Forty-nine volunteers participated in the project in June, including other medical students, physicians, nurses, dental students, a pharmacist and family members.

The group spent half of the time working in the health post in the town of Lamay and the other half visiting mountain villages in the surrounding district, providing ambulatory medical and ophthalmologic care to more than 1,500 patients.

The group needs volunteers for the next trip in June 2011. A wide variety of skills is needed, including nurses, pharmacists, ophthalmologists or optometrists, physical therapists, dentists, obstetricians/gynecologists and dermatologists.

To learn more, contact the group at info@lamayclinic.org.
M. Deborah Lonzer, MD (PD’93), Chair, Department of Community Pediatrics in the Pediatric Institute & Children’s Hospital, was named President of the Medical Staff until June 30, 2011. As President, Dr. Lonzer sits on the Board of Governors, the credentialing committee, physician conduct committee and the doc.com advisory board. She is a liaison between leadership and the professional staff and serves with President-elect Matt E. Kalaycio, MD (H/O’94), and Secretary Mark I. Froimson, MD, MBA.

Jihad H. Kaouk, MD (U/LS’02), Director, Center for Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery in the Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, is the first to hold the new chair. The chair supports Dr. Kaouk, the first surgeon at Cleveland Clinic to perform laparoscopic surgery through the navel. He is among a handful of surgeons in the nation pioneering single-port laparoscopy and robotic applications.

Cleveland Clinic has named a regional hospital executive leadership team to drive efficiency and ensure quality and safety throughout the health system. Robert Stall will serve as Assistant to the President of the Regional Hospitals while maintaining his duties as President of Medina Hospital. He will assist David Bronson, MD, President, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals, in the planning and implementation of business activities in the nine regional hospitals. Stall’s appointment is accompanied by the following appointments to the Regional Hospitals Executive Leadership Team:

- Catherine Keating, MD, Chief of Regional Hospitals Medical Affairs and Quality
- Andrea Kanter Jacobs, Executive Director, Regional Hospitals Administration
- Mark Nussbaum, Senior Director, Regional Hospitals Operations
- Paul Monahan, Senior Director, Regional Hospitals Human Resources
- Jeffrey Jones, Senior Vice President, Regional Hospitals Finance
- Michael Meehan, Senior Counsel, Law Department

Robert Wyllie, MD, has been appointed a Vice Chair of the Office of Professional Staff Affairs (OPSA). He will address financial planning and interpretation for the OPSA as it relates to departments and institutes. Dr. Wyllie joins Brian Bolwell, MD, Cynthia L. Deyling, MD (IM’87), and Tommaso Falcone, MD, as vice-chairs. Dr. Wyllie is Chair of the Pediatric Institute & Children’s Hospital and Interim Chair of the Digestive Disease Institute. He also is a member of the Cleveland Clinic Board of Governors, the Cleveland Clinic Board of Trustees and the Fairview/Lutheran Hospital Board of Trustees.

Eric D. Hsi, MD, has been named Chair of the Department of Clinical Pathology. Dr. Hsi is a nationally and internationally respected hematopathologist who will continue to serve as Section Head of Hematopathology and Vice Chair of Research in the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute.

Laura Dorr Lipold, MD, is the new Director of Primary Care Women’s Health for the Medicine Institute. She has been on staff in the Department of Family Medicine since 2001, with a joint appointment in the Women’s Health Institute since 2004. In her new role, she will be responsible for the continued development and quality of the Medicine Institute’s Women’s Health Services and serve as a liaison with the OB/GYN and Women’s Health Institute, with a goal of providing coordinated, comprehensive women’s health services at Cleveland Clinic.

Rebecca Starck, MD, has been named Chair of the newly created Department of Regional Obstetrics & Gynecology. Dr. Starck is a member of the Fairview/Lutheran Hospitals Board of Trustees, the Combined Planning Committee of the Western Regional Board and Fairview/Lutheran hospitals board and the Cleveland Clinic Community Physician Partnership Clinical Integration Protocols subcommittee.

Shannon C. Phillips, MD, MPH, has been appointed Quality Officer on main campus. She will provide leadership and oversight to integrate high-quality outcomes and patient safety into daily practice. She also will lead the Quality and Patient Safety Institute.

Kendalle Cobb, MD, has been appointed Director of Multicultural Recruitment and Development for Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Continued from page 1

Attendees at “90 Years of Orthopaedics at the Cleveland Clinic: Honoring Our Past and Vision for the Future” included (front row, from left) Garron G. Weiker, MD, James E. Culver, MD, C. McCollister Evarts, MD, Elliott B. Hershman, MD (ORS’85), Alan R. Gurd, MD (ORS’76), Karl S. Alfred, MD, Roy Collins, MD, Joseph Seder, DPM, and Kevin P. Black, MD (SM’87). Back row, from left, are Alan H. Wilde, MD, John J. Brems, MD (ORS’83), Richard D. Parker, MD, Lester S. Borden, MD, Joseph P. Iannotti, MD, PhD, John A. Bergfeld, MD (GL-1’65, S’67, ORS’70), Kenneth E. De Haven, MD (GL-1’66, S’67, ORS’72), and Charles J. Gat Jr., MD (SM’95).

Future,” an event hosted by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the Orthopaedic & Rheumatologic Institute (see sidebar at right).

In bestowing this award, the Alumni Association noted that Dr. DeHaven, who now lives in Rochester, NY, has served his profession as a teacher, administrator and officer of national organizations and has been an outstanding example to a generation of orthopaedists and sports medicine leaders. A pioneer of arthroscopic surgery, Dr. DeHaven earned a national reputation for excellence as a clinician and team physician for high school, college and professional sports teams.

John A. Bergfeld, MD (GL1’65, S’67, ORS’70), Alumni Director for Orthopaedics and co-chair of the orthopaedics course with Richard D. Parker, MD, praised Dr. DeHaven’s organizational skills and his ability to analyze difficult political situations and offer clear insight and solutions.

“He is the person we turn to when we are at a stalemate,” he says. “I feel privileged to have worked and played alongside Ken since our days as residents together at Cleveland Clinic.”

Dr. DeHaven says he was touched by this honor. “When I think about how many residents there have been at Cleveland Clinic through all the years, I realize what a special award this is. It’s pretty awesome. My years at Cleveland Clinic were truly formative years of my professional life.”

He recalls coming to Cleveland intending to go into medicine. However, Robert E. Hermann, MD, and Rupert B. Turnbull Jr., MD (S’49), helped guide him into the surgical arena. C. McCollister Evarts, MD, then encouraged him to pursue orthopaedics, and Royer Collins, MD, fostered his interest in sports medicine.

“All of those relationships were critical to me,” he says. “I left Cleveland with a lot of Cleveland Clinic stamped indelibly in my DNA – the overwhelming and relentless commitment to excellence in patient care and a seamless integration of all the various specialties and subspecialties in the treatment of complicated cases.”

As a professor, he has helped make the University of Rochester an outstanding center of orthopaedic sports medicine. Dr. DeHaven’s research added significantly to the understanding and treatment of injuries of the hip and knee, and, in particular, repairs of the meniscus.

He has been a selfless contributor of time and energy to professional organizations, including as past president of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, as well as the Arthroscopy Association of North America, the International Society of the Knee and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He also is known by his colleagues as a generous editor, administrator and volunteer.

In July 2005, he transitioned to part-time Professor of Orthopaedics at the University of Rochester, continuing to be involved in teaching, clinical research and providing nonsurgical care for sports-related knee problems. He also has started a hobby business repairing clocks.

Orthopaedic Surgery Congress

The event, “90 Years of Orthopaedics at the Cleveland Clinic: Honoring Our Past and Vision for the Future,” took place Sept. 23-25 at the InterContinental Hotel & Bank of America Conference Center on Cleveland Clinic’s main campus. Hosted by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the Orthopaedic & Rheumatologic Institute, the conference educated attendees on advances in orthopaedic surgery and gave orthopaedic alumni a chance to revisit their alma mater.

Past Cleveland Clinic Orthopaedic Department chairmen also were honored, some posthumously. All surviving past chairmen attended and gave presentations about their tenure. They are:

Richard D. Parker, MD, Chair, 2009 to present
Joseph P. Iannotti, MD, Chair, 2000 to 2009
Kenneth E. Marks, MD (GL1’71, ORS’75), Chair, 1991 to 2000
Alan H. Wilde, MD, Chair, 1976 to 1991
Royer Collins, MD, Chair, 1974 to 1976
C. McCollister Evarts, MD, Chair, 1970 to 1974

Also speaking was Karl Alfred, MD, Chairman of St. Vincent Charity Hospital from 1966 to 1987. Many Cleveland Clinic orthopaedic residents rotated through St. Vincent Charity Hospital as part of their training in the care of trauma patients.
Luebert Doctor, MD (OPH’48), is now 94 years old and living in a retirement home. His daughter, Kay, writes that Dr. Doctor grew up in a poor farm family and worked his way through Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and then medical school at the University of Cincinnati. He served for more than four years in World War II and was awarded a Bronze Star for medical combat on Okinawa. He served as a medical officer in the 102nd Medical Brigade in support of the 27th Infantry. He then maintained perennial flower gardens. In 1949, he and his family moved to Grand Rapids, MI, where he practiced ophthalmology until retiring in 1982. His hobbies included beekeeping and maintaining perennial flower gardens.

William V. Martinez, MD (S’56, TS’57), wife, Marilyn (at left), and daughter Susan visited Cleveland Clinic in July for a walk down memory lane. Inspired by a photo in the spring issue of Alumni Connection that featured the “Original 1956 Open Heart Team,” of which he was a part, they toured the Heart Center, took in the rooftop view of the city, visited the Alumni Library and looked at photos of friends and colleagues at the Alumni Office. The couple met at Cleveland Clinic and, after more than 40 years away, traveled from Arizona to see the campus.

Atassi wins Ellis Island Medal of Honor

Mohamed A. Atassi, MD, FACC (CD’67, CD’75), a member of the Cleveland Clinic Cardiovascular Medicine Staff at the Willoughby Hills Family Health Center, was honored on May 8 as a 2010 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient. Dr. Atassi joins an elite group of individuals who have received this honor, which is presented annually to a group of distinguished living American citizens meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Exemplifies a life dedicated to the American way of hard work, self-improvement and community service.
- Preserves and celebrates the history, traditions and values of his or her ancestry group(s).
- Dedicates himself or herself to supporting and defending the values of American life.
- Builds bridges between ethnic, racial and religious groups in the United States and/or abroad.
- Reinforces the bonds between an American heritage group and its land(s) of origin.
- Nurtures the life of a particular ethnic or heritage group, enabling that group to participate more fully in American society.
- Shares his or her personal and professional gifts with the local, national, or international community.
- Contributes distinguished service to humanity in any field, profession or occupation.

Dr. Atassi received his medical degree from Damascus University—Faculty of Medicine in 1962 and joined Cleveland Clinic on Jan. 1, 2010. He was president of Heart Specialists Inc. at Lake West Medical Center and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He is a past Chair of the National Arab American Medical Association.

Edgar Achkar, MD (GE’69, CF’76), Cleveland Clinic Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, recently received a Mastership in the American College of Physicians. Masters of the College comprises a small group of highly distinguished physicians who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. Dr. Achkar is also a Master of the American College of Gastroenterology.

Cynthia L. Deyling, MD (IM’87), was honored by Speaking of Women’s Health with its 2010 Speaking of Women’s Health Achievement Award for her more than 20 years of medical practice and dedication to health and wellness of women and families in our community. Speaking of Women’s Health is a national women’s health education program whose mission is to educate women to make informed decisions about their health. Dr. Deyling is Institute Chairman for Regional Operations at the Cleveland Clinic.

Lilian V. Gonsalves, MD (P’81), became the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award for the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology on June 11. The award was presented by George E. Tesar, MD (IM’80), Chairman of Psychiatry & Psychology, and Omar A. Fattal, MD, MPH (P’05), Alumni Specialty Director on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, during the Annual Psychiatry and Psychology Residency Graduation Ceremony at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Dr. Gonsalves has been instrumental in re-engaging departmental alumni for over a decade, helping to organize a departmental 40th anniversary celebration. She also served as the President of the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association (2008-2010) and two terms as the Psychiatry and Psychology Alumni Specialty
Alumna Visits Abu Dhabi Facility

Daria P. Schooler, RPh, MD (NS’93), visited Cleveland Clinic’s Abu Dhabi facility and spent time with Andrew J. Fishleder, MD (GL-’79, LMED’82), then Chief Executive Officer, and Robert R. Lorenz, MD (OTO’02), Chief Medical Officer, in May. She reports that learning about the new facility was one of the highlights of her visit to the United Arab Emirates. She says that her neurosurgery residency training at Cleveland Clinic prepared her to create and implement the neuromuscular service line at Columbus Regional Hospital in Columbus, Ind., and develop modern neurosurgical spinal surgery services at Schnecko Medical Center in Seymour, Ind. No such neurosurgical services existed at either of these hospitals prior to the opening of her solo neurosurgery practice in 1993 in south-central Indiana. She has offered to return to Abu Dhabi to help with the development of the neurosurgery program.

Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi is recruiting for clinical and leadership positions, and building a pipeline of physician leadership talent for future roles. Candidates for current roles should be willing to commit to preferably four years abroad, with the opportunity to return to Cleveland Clinic. Opportunities are available in various levels of organizational leadership from clinical to department chairs. The pay package, international benefits and other perquisites are competitive. For more information, contact Cindy Roth in the Office of Professional Staff Affairs at rothc@ccf.org or 216.445.2305.

See related article on Dr. Fishleder, page 12.

Michael F. Murray, MD (IM’91), was one of three authors to write a perspective piece in the New England Journal of Medicine on the topic “Risks of Presymptomatic Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing.” The article, published Aug. 18, discussed the danger for consumers who make complex medical decisions without adequate clinical guidance, particularly when it involves over-the-counter testing kits to analyze genetic risks. Dr. Murray practices with Biltmore Associates in Psychiatry & Psychology, Asheville, NC.

Feza H. Remzi, MD (S’96, CRS’97), Cleveland Clinic Department Chair of Colorectal Surgery, was awarded honorary fellowship/membership at the Annual National Surgical Congress in Turkey. He is the first recipient of this award.

Carol A. Burke, MD (GE’93), Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and a team of Cleveland Clinic technical, clinical, clerical and marketing experts have deployed a new online Colorectal Cancer Risk Assessment. Since March, more than 3,000 people have taken the assessment. Personal and family history of polyps and colorectal cancer are used to calculate a risk score, and patients receive screening recommendations based on American College of Gastroenterology guidelines. High-risk patients are advised to have a genetics evaluation, and all patients are given tips on how to minimize risk, as well as contact information.

90s

Feza H. Remzi, MD (S’96, CRS’97), Cleveland Clinic Department Chair of Colorectal Surgery, was awarded honorary fellowship/membership at the Annual National Surgical Congress in Turkey. He is the first recipient of this award.

Ali A. Rizvi, MD (IM’93), is settled in Columbia, SC, with his wife and two teenaged children. He is on the faculty at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, where he was awarded the A. T. Chalk Endowed Professorship in Internal Medicine for diabetes care and research in 2008. He also is Chief, Division of Endocrinology, and Endocrine Fellowship Program Director. His practice interests include diabetes, insulin resistance, the metabolic syndrome, thyroid disorders, dyslipidemia, adult growth hormone replacement and general endocrinology. He plans to run his third marathon this fall.

Narendra S. Trivedi, MD (CTA’90), works for Kaiser Permanente in Southern California, is President of the California Society of Anesthesiologists for 2010-2011, and is a delegate for the California Medical Association and the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He also is Chairman of the Board for Shanti Charities, a nonprofit foundation that teaches life-saving skills, such as CPR, and he organizes free health screening fairs in Southern California for the uninsured. Dr. Trivedi and his wife, Trupti, have two sons, Akash, who works for the healthcare industry, and Nick, a senior at the University of California Los Angeles.

John J. Vargo II, MD, MPH (GE’90), Interim Chair of the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Cleveland Clinic, has been named to the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy’s (ASGE) Governing Board. His term will continue through May 2013. He has served on numerous ASGE committees, including his current service on the ASGE Institute for Training & Technology Center Steering Committee, and he represents ASGE on the Multisociety GI Curriculum Committee Taskforce. He has chaired the Training Committee, the Upper GI Section Scientific Review Committee and the Sedation, Preparation and Miscellaneous Section. He also is a past member of the ASGE Standards of Practice Committee. Dr. Vargo is an associate editor of the Society’s journal, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

Continued on page 18
Eight years at Cleveland Clinic. The move takes Memorial Hospital in Lake Charles, LA, after of the Digestive Health Center at Lake Charles University of Korea.

Mary Hospital, College of Medicine, the Catholic Department of Laboratory Medicine at Seoul St. Oh, MD, PhD

a staff surgeon and professor in Thoracic and Kyung-Hwan Kim, MD, PhD

the best clinical research podium presentation.

Defining Phenotypes and Cancer Risk in Hyperplastic Polyposis Syndrome” at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. The award is presented to the best clinical research podium presentation.

a retired Colonel from the U.S. Army Reserves. He is retired from private surgical practice in 1986 and worked seven hospitals on Cleveland’s west side. He retired was on the staffs of, and performed surgery at, all

in molecular biology. He expressed his sincere appreciation for his training in Janet A. Houghton, PhD’s, Department of Cancer Biology and says he cherished his stay at Cleveland Clinic.

Jorge, Cristina (also Hammarberg), died July 28, 2010. Dr. Hammarberg, born in 1935, was on the team that performed the first heart transplant at Cleveland Clinic and was involved in the earliest stages of coronary artery bypass graft development. Early in his career, he served as the Air Force’s thoracic surgery consultant for South Vietnam and received a Bronze Star. Later, Dr. Hammarberg had a private practice in cardiothoracic surgery. He and Tatiana Falcone, MD (P’05, CHP’07), of Cleveland Clinic’s Pediatric Epilepsy Center, received a $796,000 award from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop project COPE, which will help children and families with epilepsy cope with depression, anxiety and difficulties with social skills, as well as work to decrease bullying of children with epilepsy at school. This is a three-year project that she will develop with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Asma Mohheet Ahmed, MD (N’08), is a neuro-intensivist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Dawn A. Sparks, DO (AN’08, PNMD’09), is now assistant professor of Anesthesiology, Pain and Pediatrics at Dartmouth Medical School with the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) and a pediatric pain specialist at Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD) in Hanover, NH. Dr. Sparks is the only pediatric pain specialist in the Tri-State Area (New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine). She teaches medical students, anesthesia residents and pain fellows. When DHMC opened a new outpatient surgery center in July, she returned to her roots. She provides anesthesia and regional nerve blocks there, as well. Dr. Sparks is credentialed to provide both anesthesia and pain management at Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, VT, an alliance hospital of DHMC. She has written two book chapters and reviews articles for Journal of Opioids. She and her husband, John E. Nemeth, and their three children enjoy living on four acres abutting a conservatory. Dr. Sparks’ father, David Sparks, is a Thoracic Physicians’ Assistant who participated in the first lung transplant in Ohio with Thomas Rice, MD, and has been with Cleveland Clinic for almost 25 years. Dr. Sparks misses the times that she and her father would grab a coffee at Starbucks and chat. She says, “My dad taught me everything I know about surgery and suturing. I miss you lots, Daddio!”

Mohammad Azhar Aziz, PhD (RES/CB’10), has joined King Abdullah International Medical Research Center at King Abdul Aziz Medical Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as an independent research scientist in molecular biology. He expressed his sincere appreciation for his training in Janet A. Houghton, PhD’s, Department of Cancer Biology and says he cherished his stay at Cleveland Clinic.

Emil E. Aftandilian, MD (GL’15, S’59), 79, died June 4, 2009. He attended medical school at the University of Maryland and completed surgery residencies at Cleveland Clinic and Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. Dr. Aftandilian practiced General Surgery at VAMC in Marion, IL, and VAMC Montgomery, AL, before going into private practice in Senatobia, MS. He was a retired surgeon and also a retired Colonel from the U.S. Army Reserves. He is survived by his wife, Amy, sons, Edward and David; and one grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to Senatobia Church of God, Paradise Church or HOPE Ministries.

Adolfo S. Fernandez, PhD (CLCH’73), 77, died Sept. 13, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Ana (nee Aguero); children Jorge, Cristina Chasser (John), Alfred (Claudia) and Gloria Bownas (Michael); daughter-in-law, Jean; 16 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; siblings Federico, Marta Facetti and Juana; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by son Adolfo. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185th St., Cleveland, OH 44119.

Larry D. Hammarberg, MD, FACS (S’67, TCS’69), (also Hammerberg), died July 28, 2010. Dr. Hammarberg, born in 1935, was on the team that performed the first heart transplant at Cleveland Clinic and was involved in the earliest stages of coronary artery bypass graft development. Early in his career, he served as the Air Force’s thoracic surgery consultant for South Vietnam and received a Bronze Star. Later, Dr. Hammarberg had a private practice in cardiothoracic surgery. He and
Please Keep in Contact

Cleveland Clinic Alumni Relations wants to stay on top of significant changes in your life. Have you moved? Taken on a teaching position? Received an academic promotion or professional recognition of some sort? Decided to retire? Have an interesting hobby or avocation you’d like to share? Your former Cleveland Clinic colleagues really want to know what you are up to. Please take a few moments to complete this coupon so that we can keep them informed via “Contacts” (starting on page 16 of this issue) or e-mail alumni@ccf.org.

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS:  q  HOME  q  OFFICE

CITY, STATE, ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Harris Henry Kanel, MD (ORS’62), 77, died June 3, 2010. Dr. Kanel was a longtime member of the Riverside, CA, community, active in numerous community and professional organizations. He was a partner of Riverside Medical Clinic and Orthopaedic Medical Group, and Past President of Riverside County Medical Association and Temple Beth El. Dr. Kanel attended the University of Buffalo for his undergraduate work and was accepted into medical school at SUNY Buffalo. He did 2½ years of residency at Cleveland Clinic, finishing his last 6 months in Buffalo because Cleveland Clinic did not have a pediatrics rotation. He was drafted into the U.S. Army for 2 years. He relocated to California with his wife and high-school sweetheart, Anita; children, Jeffrey, David and Laura; grandchildren, Shauna, Jason, Naomi, Joshua and Jackson; sister Penny; brother Charlie; and three nephews.

Malcolm G. Robinson, MD (GLM-1’69), 67, died June 5, 2010. Dr. Robinson served three years as a research gastroenterologist in the neuropsychiatry division at Walter Reed Institute of Research. His military responsibilities included creating a program to investigate the clinical pharmacology of heroin use in Vietnam. He practiced medicine at the University of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma City Clinic, as well as in private practice. He was Founder, President and a Medical Director for the Oklahoma Foundation for Digestive Research. In 1995, he received the Janssen Award for achievement in clinical gastroenterology. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Susan; his parents, Frances and H. Malcolm; his brother, Rick (Linna); nephew, Josh; and grandniece, Keiko. Memorial contributions can be made to any local food bank.

Thomas L. Smith, MD (OTOCD ’41), 96, died Aug. 14, 2010. Dr. Smith received his medical degree from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine and served with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II. He was a valued member of the St. Joseph and Lorain Community Hospitals staff and the Lorain National Bank Board. Dr. Smith was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Mary Louise (nee Moriarty), and brothers Robert and Fr. John SJ. He is survived by his eight children and their spouses: Tom (Lois), Maureen (Ron) DiGiacomo, Rita (Tom) Harper, Kate (Jim) Kimmet, Carol (Bruce) Miller, Jeannne (Tim) Regan, Marian (Joe) Guzzo and Martha (Dan) Cotton, 22 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and brothers James and Fr. Frank SJ. Memorial contributions can be made to Crossroads Hospice, 9775 Rockside Road, Suite 270, Valley View, OH 44125.

Joseph T. Tesar, MD (IM’61), 85, died May 14, 2010, in Bethesda, MD. He worked at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from 1977 to 1996, where he helped develop a training program for rheumatology fellows. He also spent much of his career on the medical faculty at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda. Dr. Tesar grew up in what was Czechoslovakia and received his medical training at Palacky University. He defected to West Germany in 1956 and worked at a U.S. Army hospital there before immigrating to the United States in 1958. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Rita Munch Tesar; son, Thomas Tesar; and three grandchildren.
Teachers of the Year

For a decade, Cleveland Clinic departments have awarded Teacher of the Year honors to recognize excellence in resident and fellow education. This year’s winners were featured on the multiple plasma screens on the skyway, sharing the news with thousands of employees and visitors. This year’s recipients are (alumni names in bold):

- **Carlos M. Isada, MD** (IM’90, ID’92, CAID’93)
  Infectious Diseases

- **Ajit A. Krishnaney, MD** (NS’05, SSF’05)
  Neurosurgery

- **Paul M. Saluan, MD** (ORS’98)
  Orthopaedic Surgery

- **Balaji Saravanan, MD** (IM’05, P’07, PSYM’07)
  Psychiatry & Psychology

- **Mikaela A. Sekeres, MD, MS**
  Hematologic Oncology & Blood Disorders

- **Muralei Sundaram, MD, MS**
  Diagnostic Radiology

- **David O. Taylor, MD**
  Heart Failure & Cardiac Transplant Medicine

- **Donald A. Underwood, MD** (CARD’80)
  Cardiovascular Surgery

- **Sandip P. Vasavada, MD** (U’97)
  Urology

- **David P. Vogt, MD** (GLS-1’76, S’80, VS’81)
  Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Transplant Surgery

- **Lee Wallace, MD**
  Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

- **Ping Xia, PhD**
  Radiation Oncology