Meet the President, Dr. Robert E. Hobbs: ‘Stay connected, for your benefit – and ours’

(Editor’s note: In his first wide-ranging interview since assuming the Alumni Association’s top post last July, Dr. Robert E. Hobbs offers his own frank perspective on the organization, his goals, special projects and his own profession.)

What’s the biggest benefit to belonging to an alumni association?

“Staying connected.”

That’s the opinion offered by Robert E. Hobbs, MD (CARD’79), President of the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association.

“Staying in contact with one another is beneficial to the Clinic and to you – personally and professionally,” he says.

Cleveland Clinic benefits from the many patient referrals from its trained physicians, oftentimes critical cases that cannot be handled locally, Dr. Hobbs says. And alumni gain from patient referrals from us, in addition to all of the continuing education offerings, networking opportunities, as well as the camaraderie of kindred spirits.

“When you train excellent people, you need to treat them well, keep them engaged and welcome them to come back to the institution that provided them with skills, knowledge and careers,” he says.

That engagement should start early, Dr. Hobbs suggests. “Right from medical school, we need to show our future graduates the benefits of staying in touch through their alumni association,” he says.

“One of my goals is to expand the already extensive range of services we offer to our alumni. (See related story, page 2.) Job one right now is to establish a viable

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Robert E. Hobbs, MD
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database, including accurate mailing lists. We hope that an energized communication effort – including events and regional meetings – will keep alumni fully informed and bonded. All 10,000 of us.”

Special projects
Two special projects have emerged for which Dr. Hobbs urges alumni support.

The first is this year’s celebration of Cleveland Clinic’s 90th anniversary.

“Our 90th anniversary celebration is a year-long opportunity for alumni to help highlight the roots and reputation of the institution,” Dr. Hobbs says. He asks that alumni send to the association’s offices their memorable recollections of Cleveland Clinic’s past, along with any relevant photos. Submissions will be considered for feature coverage in upcoming issues of Alumni Connection, and perhaps for other celebratory uses, as well. (See related story, page 3.)

The second is a unique oral history project begun this year by students in a first-year medical humanities class at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Under the direction of Martin Kohn, PhD, veteran physicians, nurses and others were interviewed about their own experiences at Cleveland Clinic. Retired Alumni Office Director Sandy Strancsak collaborated with Dr. Kohn and others to identify key individuals to be interviewed. Their personal stories have significant historical value, Dr. Hobbs says, and need to be captured while these individuals are here to tell them.

Career Choice
Dr. Hobbs is board-certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, and advanced heart failure and transplantation. He specializes in the evaluation and management of patients with heart failure, cardiomyopathies and cardiac transplantation.

His career choice was the result of a very personal process of elimination, where he finally discovered cardiology. “It seemed to fit me,” he says. “Emergencies. Split-second decision-making. Quick action. I’ve never looked back at my choice.”

Dr. Hobbs came to Cleveland Clinic 33 years ago from Philadelphia. He was impressed by Cleveland Clinic’s cardiologic accomplishments. “We’ve always been one step ahead here,” he says.

He taught cardiology to medical students, residents, fellows and other physicians and received the distinguished teacher award for his efforts. “My department is now five times the size, and I guess my interests have expanded along with the department,” he says.

His job is 12 hours a day. He also is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Lerner College of Medicine and an author of more than 100 professional articles. He has written on subjects such as natriuretic peptides, immunosuppressive drugs, newer heart failure therapies and coronary artery anomalies.

Among his many professional affiliations, Dr. Hobbs is President of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and a committee chairman with the American Heart Association.

On the personal side
Dr. Hobbs can be found meeting with legislators and government officials while advocating for healthcare issues. Or in a cath lab, ICU, clinic, or his office – where sticky notes with important messages festoon his cabinet doors.

At home, his pursuits are more epicurean. He’s an accomplished home cook, having studied and apprenticed in Europe and the U.S. His current

What your Alumni Association Offers You

Among the many services provided to Cleveland Clinic alumni are:

• The Cleveland Clinic Alumni Library and its vast resources, open to alumni who visit in person
• A variety of discounted continuing medical education programs through a dedicated Cleveland Clinic website: http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/welcome.htm
• Physician recruitment searches, conducted for alumni looking to hire from our resident/fellow and alumni directory. Free of charge.

In turn, here’s what alumni can do for their association to strengthen the relationship and to make their memberships more valuable and rewarding:

• Connect with your board representative and colleagues to keep engaged.
• Send us your career and life stories for the newsletter.
• Consider hosting an alumni soiree in your hometown.
• Provide your updated contact information so that emails and medical specialty communications will reach you. Contact us at alumni@ccf.org.

“Remember, there are four strong bonds that hold us all tightly together,” says Robert E. Hobbs, MD, president of the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association. “They are Cleveland Clinic itself, the physician-teachers we have known, our colleagues and the Alumni Association.”

“As alumni, we have accomplished a great deal along this incredible journey through medicine,” he says. “I ask that you share your enthusiasm, your excitement and the pride we all have in practicing what we enjoy most.”
projects include making sausage, cheese and brewing beer – a delicious combination of offshoots from his Irish-Polish heritage, he explains.

Dr. Hobbs strikes visitors as accommodating and personable. He has a dry humor, mixed with colorful storytelling.

He also enjoys the company of others. If you’re thirsty, for instance, he’ll lead you to the coffee room himself and even recommend blends. But oftentimes, he’ll opt for the less-caffeinated hot chocolate over the coffee. It must be the cardiologist in him.

A Call to Action for Alumni to Get Involved in Cleveland Clinic’s 90th Anniversary Celebration

Dr. Robert E. Hobbs calls upon all alumni to take an active role in Cleveland Clinic’s 90th Anniversary celebration this year.

“This happy occasion is going to be celebrated all year long through a variety of events and special programs,” Dr. Hobbs says. “We have a lot to share. Our recollections of the hospital’s past, for example, help to tell the story of what makes Cleveland Clinic the institution it is today. We can’t pass up this opportunity to add to our history.”

One way to do that is by sharing your memories with others. Please send your recollections and photographs to the Alumni Relations offices:

Office of Alumni Relations
9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195
216.444.2487; 800.444.3664
Email: alumni@ccf.org
www.clevelandclinic.org/alumni

“The theme of Cleveland Clinic’s anniversary is: ‘Celebrate, Honor and Inspire,’” Dr. Hobbs says. “I feel that our alumni are the perfect people to expound upon those virtues.”

Advanced Endoscopy Suite Opens

Better access and an improved patient experience originally topped the list of requirements for the Digestive Disease Institute’s (DDI) new 15,000-square-foot, advanced endoscopy facility. Those requirements now have been met. The facility opened in January in the Glickman Tower on Cleveland Clinic’s main campus.

The facility doubles the number of therapeutic suites for performing such procedures as endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, endoscopic ultrasound and deep enteroscopy.

Private recovery rooms include TVs and seating for family members. The facility is designed to maximize communication between patients and caregivers and to enable close interaction with staff from other specialties. New software provides for enhanced reporting and image access.

John J. Fung, MD, PhD, has been appointed Chair of DDI. Dr. Fung had served as Chairman of the Department of General Surgery. He is a professor of surgery at the Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western University with more than 25 years’ experience in kidney, liver, pancreas, islet and intestinal transplantation and also is an accomplished immunologist.

Dr. Fung received degrees from the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago. He completed his surgical residency at the University of Rochester and a transplant surgery fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, under the guidance of Thomas Starzl, MD. Dr. Fung’s principal research interests are in transplantation immunology, immunosuppressive therapies and liver-related immunology.
Dr. Gary Beven Continues to Soar to New Heights at Johnson Space Center

You can excuse Gary E. Beven, MD (TRS’90), for sometimes having his head in the clouds. That’s because he’s a NASA flight surgeon and psychiatrist at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The term “flight surgeon” hails from an era when all doctors were referred to as surgeons. Today, it applies to any physician, regardless of specialty, who has had formal training in aerospace medicine and who works closely with aviators and astronauts.

As Chief of the Behavioral Health and Performance Group and Chief of Aerospace Psychiatry, Dr. Beven interacts routinely with the nation’s astronauts and their families. He sees those who are in training – and even those in orbit, such as during International Space Station (ISS) missions.

“It’s rough on an ISS astronaut,” Dr. Beven says, and on their families, too. “There are long periods of isolation, heavy workloads, separation from spouse and family, physical rehabilitation and reintegration. All present their own unique psychological challenges.” Dr. Beven’s group is there to manage those behavioral health support services that can make all the difference.

“It’s a fantastic job,” Dr. Beven says. “I could not possibly find a more enjoyable or challenging place to work.”

When he’s not seeing astronauts, Dr. Beven sees inmates as a forensic psychiatrist at the Harris County Jail in Houston. It’s the nation’s third-largest lockup, housing more than 11,000 prisoners. He also is a consulting psychiatrist at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. And he still finds time to serve in the Air National Guard as a flight surgeon in the 121st Air Refueling Wing, treating KC-135 pilots and aircrews.

Dr. Beven’s service in 2010 took him to Qatar, where he flew with the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron. He logged more than 100 hours of sorties over Afghanistan. “It was the highlight of my military career,” he says.

But a highlight of his medical education was the time he spent at Cleveland Clinic.

“During college each summer, I worked in the Department of Vascular Surgery as a surgical assistant,” he says. “My father was the Chairman. I often spent time with my high school classmate – and then fellow pre-med student – A. Marc Gillinov, MD, who worked nearby in biomedical engineering. Marc is now a cardiovascular surgeon at Cleveland Clinic.”

A later influence was Gregory B. Collins, MD, of the Cleveland Clinic Department of Psychiatry and Psychology. Dr. Beven spent a month with him as part of an elective course and was later mentored by him. “He led me into the field of psychiatry.” Rotations, plus training in internal medicine and neurology, provided a foundation for Dr. Beven’s eventual specialization in psychiatry, forensic psychiatry and aerospace medicine.
Dr. Dworkin Heads Florida Surgeons Society

In 1967, when Gary H. Dworkin, MD (CATS’92), was only 10 years old, his eyes fell on the cover of an issue of LIFE magazine. The headline appeared above the picture of a bed-ridden patient attended by two medical staffers. It read: “Gift of a Human Heart.” The story was of the very first heart transplant, performed in Cape Town, South Africa. “That was my inspiration to become a cardiac surgeon,” Dr. Dworkin says. And he became one, with a long list of accomplishments to his credit.

His latest achievement is to be named President of the Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons. Established in 1967, the society’s membership includes the majority of all cardiothoracic surgeons actively practicing in the state. Its goal is to provide continuing education and advocacy for cardiothoracic surgeons to ensure the highest level of patient care. The society also holds an annual meeting to provide topical and valuable educational opportunities in science, as well as political and economic information useful to its members.

Dr. Dworkin is a board-certified cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon. He was a Clinical Associate in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at Cleveland Clinic from July 1991 to July 1992. Earlier, his bachelor’s and master’s degrees were earned from Northwestern University through its combined, four-year BA/MS honors program. His medical degree is from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. His internship, general surgery residency and cardiovascular and thoracic surgery fellowship were at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond.

After leaving Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Dworkin joined Cardiac Surgical Associates in Tampa Bay, Fla., contributing to its becoming one of the largest private practice cardiovascular and thoracic surgical groups in the country.

Among Dr. Dworkin’s accomplishments are observing, teaching and performing cardiovascular and thoracic surgery in Europe, Canada, China and Latin America. He has led five medical missions to the Dominican Republic, providing cardiovascular surgical care to the disadvantaged. Additionally, Dr. Dworkin, along with physician partners in South America, founded a global medical insurance company.

He is a member of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. He is also President-elect of the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association.

Dr. Dworkin and his two sons, Alex and Jack, enjoy foreign travel, fishing, scuba diving, running and being fluent in Spanish.

Ortho, Spine Physicians Quality Drive Under Way

Richard D. Parker, MD, chairman of Orthopaedics, is leading systemwide efforts to advance quality and efficiency in orthopaedics. As part of this overall initiative, a team of physicians under the leadership of George Muschler, MD, has created criteria for the selection of bone substitute that will standardize these products enterprise wide. This project has the potential to reduce Cleveland Clinic’s current $4.3 million bone substitute expense by as much as $350,000 a year.
When Your Patient is Critically Ill, Cleveland Clinic is Never Too Far Away

If you’re an alumnus with an active practice, what do you do when you have a critically ill patient urgently in need of complex and high-level medical treatment?

Regardless of your location, Cleveland Clinic is never too far away.

Consider its Critical Care Transport Program. Whether it’s an ambulance, a helicopter or a jet that’s needed to speed your patient to Cleveland Clinic, transport team members can help. The critical care transport program transfer line is 800.533.5056, and the acute care transfer line is 877.379.2633. With the acute transfer line, the referring physician does not have to wait for Cleveland Clinic to accept the patient before transportation is launched.

Travel – even to distant lands – is certainly not new to the team. They’ve been to 16 countries, including Portugal, Panama, Ecuador, China, Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Greece, Uruguay, Mexico, Switzerland, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. But the vast majority of its work is much closer to home. Almost two-thirds of the more than 4,600 transports the team makes annually are within Ohio and surrounding states. About 65 percent of patients are moved via ambulance, 30 percent by helicopter and 5 percent by fixed-wing aircraft.

Rarely is the team dispatched to the scene of an accident. Its forte is caring for critically ill individuals who have had strokes, heart attacks or other serious, often life-threatening, conditions.

So, why would someone from Steubenville, Ohio, or Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, or Nanjing, China, ask to be taken to Cleveland Clinic?

“There are many answers to that,” says Damon M. Kralovic, DO, Critical Care Transport Team medical director. “With some, it’s a loyalty issue. They were successfully treated here years ago and they want to be treated here again. Others do a little research and choose Cleveland Clinic. Or, they may be in another hospital and are referred to us, perhaps because of the complexity of the case.”

The transport team is ready 24/7, waiting for the next call.

Global CARE Program Just a Phone Call Away

Cleveland Clinic now provides a fee-based, annual plan for Critical Care Air Rescue and Evacuation services, called Global CARE. The program is designed to offer members Cleveland Clinic care anywhere in the world through just one phone call.

Program staff includes physicians, nurse practitioners, critical care nurses and allied health professionals.

If the ill member is hospitalized 150 miles or more from Cleveland Clinic and is unable to fly commercially, the Global CARE team can respond with its own contracted helicopters or jet aircraft. While airborne, the response team will provide patient care and remain in contact with other physicians on the ground at Cleveland Clinic.

The plan is unlike others that only provide medical transport to the nearest appropriate facility and give you no control over quality of medical care or destination.

Both individual and family Global CARE plans are available. To sign up, or for more information, call 866.442.5092, visit clevelandclinic.org/cct, or email: ccglobalcare@ccf.org.
For some time now, the medical community has been center stage in the battle against concussions and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Cleveland Clinic is immersed in that fight. Whether the injury is caused by helmet-to-helmet contact in football, a roundhouse blow from a boxer, or the punishments of war to a soldier in the field, the results can be equally devastating to the brain. Long-term effects can prompt dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease. There also have been links to suicide.

A team of Cleveland Clinic experts now is focused on amassing better data on TBIs that may lead to better solutions to brain injury challenges. The researchers are neurosurgeons Edward C. Benzel, MD, PhD, and Vincent J. Miele, MD (SSF’08), and biomechanical engineer Adam J. Bartsch, PhD, all of the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute’s Center for Spine Health.

“The problem we faced was that the only proven method to assess concussion or mild TBI has been a neurological examination by an experienced physician,” Dr. Benzel says. “Those results, however, were frequently hindered by subjective inputs from patients and subconcussive injuries that go completely undetected, yet take their accumulative toll. More objective data was needed. The question was how to get it.”

Particularly elusive had been specific information on linear and rotational head impact, the kind of head impact dosage data that then could be correlated with clinical injury diagnoses. Without this data, physicians would continue to struggle to answer questions such as: When should you remove a player or a soldier from the field? How can you most readily detect TBI? When is it safe to return the individual to competition or the conflict after sustaining mild TBI?

The answer may lie with what the researchers call the Intelligent Mouthguard. Initial data collection from boxers and football players is expected in July on the mouthguard, which seems to allow – for the first time – a widespread, accurate and objective assessment of concussion and TBI.

The mouthpiece measures head impact dosage by means of its instrumentation. It is designed to be used in both helmeted and non-helmeted sports, as well as in the military or any other arena in which head injury is a concern and impact dosage data is needed. Sensors now mounted inside football helmets can collect valuable information, but can also have up to a 40 percent margin of error. Mouth-mounted sensors produce the most accurate readings, with less than a five percent error margin.

Several wireless mouthguard prototypes mounted on circuit boards that were developed by the researchers between 2008 and early 2011 provided valuable insights. The key was a proprietary algorithm that related mouth-measured impact dosages to clinically relevant data. The current prototype, ‘V3,’ is an enhancement that uses a custom-molded mouthguard to guarantee a proper fit.

Through July, the Cleveland Clinic team and its partners will be conducting developmental work to produce additional pre-commercial ‘V3’ Intelligent Mouthguard prototypes and collect high-g data.

The Intelligent Mouthguard ‘V3’ prototypes will be produced through a multidisciplinary effort involving Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute biomechanical engineers and physicians, the Cleveland Clinic Electronics Core, Virtus Advanced Sensors and Sportsguard Laboratories. Efforts are aimed at rapidly producing 50 of the ‘V3’ prototypes for use in human studies. The work will be funded under an NFL Charities grant, through the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute and from Cleveland Clinic Product Development Funds.

Researchers Study Role of Neck, Spine in Head Injuries

Researchers in Cleveland Clinic’s Spine Research Laboratory, the Department of Neurosurgery and the Center for Spine Health recently won a $100,000 award from NFL Charities to study the influence of the neck and spine on football-related concussions, as well as conducting tests to benchmark youth football helmet injury protection.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that as many as 3.8 million sport and recreation concussions occur each year. And, according to the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, football player head injuries are the second most common reason for ER visits among children ages 14 and younger.
New Center Helps Customize Patient Care

Kathryn A. Teng, MD, a primary care physician, will lead Cleveland Clinic’s new Center for Personalized Healthcare. The center will operate as the focal point for the identification, analysis, adoption and integration of new services and technologies that allow for personalized patient care.

Initially, the center will provide physicians and nurses with the guidance and resources to create personalized care plans based on their patients' unique characteristics, such as genetics, environmental exposures, cultures and beliefs.

Dr. Teng says it is important to deliver relevant information to physicians at the point of care through clinical decision support tools.

"Ultimately, our goal is to help clinicians offer a wider range of considerations and options for patients and to empower patients to be more active partners in their own health plans," Dr. Teng says.

Dr. Teng, an Assistant Professor at Lerner College of Medicine, has committed her career to advocacy for her patients and to the education of medical students, residents, and other physicians.

She previously served as an instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. She also has served as Director of General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds at Cleveland Clinic since 2007, and Patient Experience Officer for the Medicine Institute of Cleveland Clinic since 2008.

Dr. Charis Eng Elected to Institute of Medicine

Charis E. Eng, MD, PhD, is one of 65 new U.S. members and five foreign associates elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in 2010. The honor is bestowed on those who have made unparalleled contributions to health and biomedical science.

The IOM addresses major healthcare issues and advises decision-makers and the public on these matters.

Dr. Eng is Chair and founding Director of the Cleveland Clinic Genomic Medicine Institute (GMI) and attending clinical cancer geneticist of GMI’s Center for Personalized Genetic Healthcare. She also is a professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Genetics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Her contributions relate to clinical cancer genetics translational research and involvement with human genetics and genomic personalized healthcare.

Dr. Eng’s career includes authorship of more than 320 peer-reviewed, original papers in such journals as the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, Lancet, and others. She has served on the board of the American Society of Human Genetics; chaired the Clinical Science Committee of the Personalized Medicine Coalition, and currently serves on the Board of Scientific Directors of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

In 2010, Dr. Eng was appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Secretary’s Advisory Committee of Genetics, co-chairing its task force, which is examining whole genome sequencing for clinical application.

She also has established a unique education program for training the next generation of clinical cancer geneticists, an emerging area of healthcare.

In November, Dr. Eng was interviewed by ABC anchorwoman Diane Sawyer for a feature on her research into the relationship between family history and cancer risk.

‘Let’s Move It’ App Now Available

Cleveland Clinic has released a free consumer mobile application for iPhone and iPod Touch that features a variety of local and world-wide mileage challenges. They help users get moving along with a built-in pedometer to track individual progress. The app is available as a download on iTunes.
Your Financial Health

As a Cleveland Clinic alumnus, you have been focused on the subject of patient health. But there is another kind of health that probably has been on your mind, as well: financial health. It may seem counterintuitive, but in this challenging economy, your best decision may be to make a charitable gift. You gain peace of mind in knowing that your gift is being used as you have designated, and with the addition of some creative charitable giving tools, you can make your assets and the economy work to your advantage.

A Gift of Stock

You may be familiar with the strategy of giving appreciated stock and being able to deduct the full current market value without paying any capital gain tax. However, you may realize a double benefit by selling the stock first and then giving the proceeds to Cleveland Clinic if:

- Your stock has decreased in value. You can use the loss on the sale of the stock to offset other capital gains.
- Your cash gift, from the proceeds of the sale of the stock, would generate a tax-saving, charitable income tax deduction.
- You are able to make a gift that has immediate impact on the area of your choice within Cleveland Clinic.

Or, if you feel you could use extra income from the stock you are gifting, you could establish a charitable gift annuity (CGA).

- In addition to the benefits above, you and/or your spouse will be guaranteed a stream of income for life.
- It is risk-free – the CGA is backed by the assets of Cleveland Clinic.
- The CGA payout rate may be a higher alternative to low-rate CDs or other income-producing investments.

If you don’t need the loss from the stock to offset other capital gains, you could just gift the stock directly to Cleveland Clinic to establish the CGA.

IRA Rollover

The popular IRA Rollover provision has been extended by the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. This extension expires Dec. 31, 2011.

If you are taking required IRA distributions that increase your taxable income, you may wish to make an IRA Rollover gift directly to Cleveland Clinic.

You qualify for a Charitable IRA Rollover if:

- You are age 70 ¼ or older
- The cash distribution is made directly to a qualified charity
- The distribution is $100,000 or less per year
- Your gift is outright (tax-free rollovers to a planned gift, such as a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust do not qualify)

Note – The gift will not be included in income, but it will not qualify for a charitable deduction.

Charitable Lead Trust

A charitable lead trust (CLT) is especially advantageous right now because federal discount rates remain low. A lower federal discount rate increases the charitable deduction for a charitable lead trust.

To establish a CLT, you transfer (appreciated) assets to a trust, which makes distributions to Cleveland Clinic for a number of years or a lifetime. At the termination of the trust, the principal then will be distributed to your children, grandchildren or other heirs. The principal passes to your heirs at greatly reduced gift and estate tax rates, and sometimes escapes them altogether.

Convert a Losing CRT into a CGA

As a result of recent stock market losses, many charitable remainder trusts (CRT) that were established in prior years with a high payout rate have declined in value and may be in danger of exhaustion. One possible solution to rescuing the income stream would be to convert an existing CRT into a charitable gift annuity (CGA).

The new CGA’s funding amount would be based on the present value of the anticipated future CRT payments. The annual payment from the CGA will be less than what you currently are receiving from the CRT, but the CGA payments are guaranteed for life, will never decrease, and are backed by the assets of Cleveland Clinic. You also would be entitled to a new charitable tax deduction.

If you wish to learn more about how you can make this economy work for you while making a gift to Cleveland Clinic, please contact a member of our gift planning team at 216.444.1245 or send an email to giftplanning@ccf.org. One of our gift planning professionals would be happy to discuss with you, in confidence, a plan that best fits you and your family’s needs.
“The Physician Scientist's Career Guide,” by Mark J. Eisenberg, MD (CARDIN’95), is a handbook aimed particularly at students and fellows either considering or actively pursuing the physician-scientist career path.

The book contains unique, first-hand experiences and practical advice and guides readers through each step of career development. It's all there, from choosing a degree and training program, to navigating the tenure track and the intricacies of applying for, and obtaining funding.

This career guide fulfills a special need and could prove invaluable to those interested in a career in research.

Dr. Eisenberg is a tenured Professor of Medicine at McGill University and a Staff Cardiologist at the Jewish General Hospital, Montreal, Quebec. He is the Director of Clinical Research of the McGill Cardiology Fellowship Program and an Associate Member of the McGill Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health.

In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Eisenberg is the Director of the Cardiovascular Health Services Research Group of the Jewish General Hospital and a Principal Investigator at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Community Studies. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, received funding for over 50 grants, and mentored about 100 students at all stages of medical and research training.

The book is available online both at Amazon.com ($22.47) and Springer.com ($29.95).

Dr. Edgar Achkar Retires:
A Great Doctor With An Unassuming Way

Ask Edgar Achkar, MD (GE’69, CF’76), what makes a great doctor and he’ll reply, “I don’t know. I don’t consider myself one of those.”

But press the retiring physician a bit more, and he’ll eventually admit: “It’s attention to patients’ complaints, having compassion for them and respect for their time and their needs.”

These are the same qualities Dr. Achkar’s peers have found in him during his more than 40 years in gastroenterology. His career dates back to a 1969 appointment to Rizk Hospital in his hometown of Beirut, Lebanon.

In 1976, he joined Cleveland Clinic’s Gastroenterology Department staff and has been there ever since, focusing on motility and esophageal disorders.

Among his accolades is a Father’s Day tribute written by his son, Jean-Paul Achkar, MD, who works in the Digestive Disease Institute. He describes his father as a dedicated and tireless worker and an extraordinary role model. “His work ethic, communication skills, leadership abilities and his no-nonsense approach to problems were all guiding principles for me as I developed into a physician, myself,” he says.

Dr. Achkar is Past President of The American College of Gastroenterology and former Digestive Disease Institute Vice Chairman. He holds masterships from the American College of Physicians and the American College of Gastroenterology. He has been named among the Best Doctors in America® and has received numerous awards, including the Samuel S. Weiss Award for Outstanding Service, the American College of Gastroenterology; Physician of the Year, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology; and Distinguished Clinician of the Year, American Gastroenterology Association.

He modestly sums up his career: “I consider myself fortunate to have been part of a group of excellent physicians – and that I had the chance to learn from so many good people.”

Edgar Achkar, MD
David L. Longworth, MD, has been appointed Chair of the Medicine Institute. Dr. Longworth returns to Cleveland Clinic after serving since 2002 as Chair of the Department of Medicine at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass. He served earlier as Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Infectious Disease. Prior to leaving for the East Coast, Dr. Longworth served as Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Infectious Disease. He joined Cleveland Clinic in 1986 as a staff physician in Infectious Disease.

Dr. Longworth earned his medical degree from Cornell University in 1978 and completed residency training at the University of California at San Francisco. His fellowships in infectious disease were completed at Brigham and Women’s, Beth Israel Hospitals and Harvard Medical School.

He is a dedicated instructor who has received numerous awards for his contributions to graduate medical education. He also is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene of London, a member of many professional societies, and the author of more than 85 journal articles.

R. Matthew Walsh, MD (S’91) has been appointed Interim Chair of the Departments of General Surgery and Hepato-pancreato-biliary and Transplant Surgery. He completed his residency and internship training at Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Ill. and fellowships at Massachusetts General Hospital and Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Walsh’s medical specialties include biliary and pancreatic surgery, gastrointestinal surgery, general surgery, hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, surgical endoscopy, portal hypertension, and surgical oncology.

Brian J. Bolwell, MD, has been named Interim Chair of Taussig Cancer Institute. Dr. Bolwell has served as Director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program since 1988 and as Chairman of the Department of Hematologic Oncology and Blood Disorders since 2006. Dr. Bolwell, who joined Cleveland Clinic in 1987, has held many leadership positions both at Cleveland Clinic and on many national and regional societies and organizations. He is Vice Chairman of the Office of Professional Staff Affairs, Executive Director of Strategic Space Planning and a member of the Cleveland Clinic Board of Governors. Dr. Bolwell attended Harvard University and received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University. He completed his medical internship and residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland and completed his hematology/oncology fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mariana Berho, MD, has been named Chair of the Department of Pathology at Cleveland Clinic Florida.

Edmund S. Sabanegh, Jr, MD (U/Mi’94), was elected Chairman of Urology at the Cleveland Clinic, leading one of the largest academic urology programs in the world and recently ranked in the top two urology programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

The Board of Governors announced the election of new members, effective Jan. 1, 2011: Abby M. Abelson, MD, Raed A. Dweik, MD (PULMCC’96), Alan H. Kominsky, MD, A. Deborah Lonzer, MD (PD’93), Roy L. Silverstein, MD and Robert Weil, MD.
Campus Clips

The Alfred and Norma Lerner Humanitarian Award – the highest physician honor granted at Cleveland Clinic – was presented by Mrs. Lerner to Richard S. Lang, MD, MPH (GL-1’80, IM’82), in practice for 25 years. Dr. Lang is Vice Chair of the Wellness Institute, Chairman of Preventive Medicine, former Chairman of the Department of General Internal Medicine and holder of the Arthur S. and Arlene M. Holden Endowed Chair.

The award was established in 2002 to honor physicians whose dedication, compassion and hard work have made the most profound and singular contribution to the good of humankind. Recipients personify the highest values of the medical profession and Cleveland Clinic.

In accepting the award, Dr. Lang told how, on his first night on call as a resident, he felt he had to call Dr. Mason Sones at 3 a.m. to get permission to discharge one of his patients who was demanding to go home – against medical advice. Dr. Sones gave his okay, but the next day called Dr. Lang into his office. Anticipating a rebuke, Dr. Lang was pleasantly surprised to be congratulated, instead. Dr. Sones credited him for putting the patient’s needs first and observed that other doctors would have been too afraid to make that phone call. Dr. Sones advised him always to do the right thing, especially when acting in the patient’s best interests. It was advice Dr. Lang said he has never has forgotten.


Ben Sullivan, Jr, MD, was honored with tributes and several birthday parties recently as he celebrated his 95th year. In a special letter from Toby Cosgrove, MD, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Sullivan is referred to as “a pioneering alumnus, distinguished physician and decorated military officer” who holds the Bronze Star.

A specialist in endoscopy, Dr. Sullivan formerly was a physician at Walter Reed Hospital, a gastroenterology consultant to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, and head of gastroenterology at three hospitals. He started at Cleveland Clinic in 1962 and achieved what Dr. Cosgrove called “wonders” with early endoscopy devices. He also was acknowledged for his devotion to both innovation and teaching and for being a role model to residents and fellows.

Sudhir Batchu, MD (N/I’95), and his wife, Priya, hosted a dinner party at their home for Cleveland Clinic Alumni in the Columbia, Mo., area in November. Attendees heard updates about Cleveland Clinic activity. (The Alumni Office encourages others to consider hosting small gatherings in their hometowns. Usually, a Sunday brunch is a great way to come together, stay connected and learn more about what is happening at the Cleveland Clinic.)

John A. Bergfeld, MD (GL-1’65, S’67, ORS’70), has received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater

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Isabella Laude, PhD, past director of post anesthesia recovery units at Cleveland Clinic, has authored a book about the history and contributions of the Lake Wales, Florida, branch of the American Association of University Women. In her book, Amazing Women, Laude highlights the 58-year history of this branch and refers to its members as community volunteers of extraordinary talent and generosity. It is the latest publishing effort of this versatile and veteran writer who earlier authored everything from society columns for local newspapers to medical manuals for hospitals and books of general public interest. Her works include a Procedural Manual for Recovery Rooms and Intensive Care Units, and the book Enjoying the Road to Fatherhood. She has been a faculty member of Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education and Johnston Willis School of Nursing. President Richard Nixon appointed her to the National Committee of the Task Force on Women in Service to the Handicapped. She was also appointed to the White House Commission on Children and Youth and to the Virginia Medicare Advisory Board. Isabella and her husband, Walter E. Laude, MD, (AN ’57), met at Cleveland Clinic before moving to Richmond, Virginia, and later to Florida. The Laudes have been generous donors to named scholarships, including the Cleveland Clinic Lerner School of Medicine in anesthesiology. The Laudes have five children and three grandchildren.

Isabella Laude, PhD and her husband, Walter E. Laude, MD, enjoy a relaxing moment together in Florida following the completion of Isabella’s latest book, Amazing Women.
Cleveland Sports Commission. The award honors those who have advanced sports in Cleveland through personal or career dedication and achievements. Dr. Bergfeld is a senior surgeon and director of operating rooms at Cleveland Clinic. He served as director of sports medicine at the Clinic for 34 years and for 48 seasons was head team physician for the Cleveland Browns football team and the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team. He remains a consultant surgeon for both teams and also is the team physician for Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

Richard A. Savage, MD, FCAP (LMED’76), has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The award recognizes those who have made a broad and positive impact on the pathology profession through their contributions to the college. Dr. Savage was cited for his strong support of CAP programs and guidelines. He has been a CAP Fellow since the 1970s and has represented Ohio, New York and Iowa in the CAP House of Delegates.

Douglas F. Naylor, Jr, MD (CC’91), a staff physician in the Department of General Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, has received the Schubin-Weil Award for Excellence in Critical Care Education from the Society of Critical Care Medicine. It is the highest honor given by the society to the best educators in critical care. Dr. Naylor also recently was elected President of the Ohio Critical Care Society.

Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr, MD (GL-1’62, S’66), has been elected to the Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame, an honor that commemorates being a member of Yale’s eight-man rowing crew – the underdog team – that won the 1956 Olympic Gold Medal during the Melbourne, Australia, games.

Patricia A. Chapak, ACGME, Administrative Director of Graduate Medical Education (GME), has received a recognition award from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education for the significant role she plays in developing GME services at Cleveland Clinic.

Michael P. Villaroman, MD (IM’02), has started a website for doctors who love cars. Find it at: CarScrubs.com. You will find the site’s forum at http://www.carscrubs.com/forums/. “I decided I would create a place where physicians can gather and converse about cars among their peers. I believe there is a certain ‘comfort level’ knowing others in our profession share the same enthusiasm for the automotive world,” he says. Registration is free for all physicians and medical students. Dr. Villaroman lives in Washington, DC, where he has worked for the past seven years as an internist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He also is Assistant Professor of Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, and Assistant Professor of Medicine, Uniformed Services, University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine.

Thomas J. Graham, MD, returned to Cleveland Clinic last June to serve as Chairman of Cleveland Clinic Innovations, the corporate venturing unit that commercializes Cleveland Clinic inventions. He also is Vice Chairman of orthopedic surgery. Dr. Graham began his career at Cleveland Clinic in 1994 and left six years later to head the Curtis National Hand Center in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Graham is one of the country’s foremost hand surgeons, trusted by professional sports teams to mend the hands and careers of some of the nation’s top athletes. He holds more than two dozen patents in his field, including a widely used elbow-replacement system. Dr. Graham says his inspiration to enter medicine began when he only 9 years old and saw coverage of the world’s first heart transplant, accomplished by Dr. Michael DeBakey. He wrote to the famous surgeon and received a reply, launching a 30-year-long correspondence.

Dale R. Shepard, MD, PhD (IM’06, H’O’09), recently worked with sixth-grade students at an Euclid, Ohio, school whose challenge it was to try designing medical devices geared to solving a human need. During Introductory Day, engineers and doctors worked with the children as mentors. The children then worked for six weeks on their own to refine those ideas. Dr. Sheppard called the experience “fantastic.”

Michael G. Levien, MD, Gosta B. Pettersson, MD, PhD, and Erin S. Murphy, MD (RO’10), have received the Bruce Hubbard Stewart Award for Humanistic Medicine. The award recognizes house or professional staffs who combine scientific skill, compassion and sensitivity towards patients. They know that optimal care combines technical skill and an understanding of the emotional and intellectual needs of patients; in particular, the impact that illness has upon their physical, emotional, social and spiritual lives.

Derek Raghavan, MD, PhD, past Chairman of Taussig Cancer Institute, has accepted a position with Carolinas Healthcare System in Charlotte, N.C. We are grateful to Dr. Raghavan for his contributions to Cleveland Clinic and for his innovative leadership of the Taussig Cancer Institute during his seven-year tenure. Cleveland Clinic extends its best wishes to Dr. Raghavan in his new endeavor. A national search is being conducted for his replacement.

Nagy A. Mekhail, MD, PhD (RES’88, AN’91, CFAN’92), Department of Pain Management, received the first annual Ohio Society of Interventional Pain Physicians “Outstanding Interventional Pain Physician Award,” presented at its September meeting in Columbus.
Bin Yang, MD, PhD, FCAP (ACLPTH’00), Anatomic Pathology, received the President’s Honors from Stephen N. Bauer, MD, President, College of American Pathologists. President’s Honors are given to individuals who have made substantial contributions to the organization.

Tracy L. Hull, MD (CRS’92, CFCSR’S93), Colorectal Surgery, was elected to the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, one of 24 medical specialty boards that work to establish and maintain common standards for doctors. Dr. Hull will serve a four-year term.

Andrew M. Zura, MD (AN’97), General Anesthesiology, was named this year’s Giorgio Zannetin Colleague of the Year by his associates for his outstanding professional skills. Maria R. Inton-Santos, MD, (CTA’02), General Anesthesiology, was named this year’s Colleague of the Year Alternate.

The Diabetes Center and the Center for Geriatric Medicine now are open in the X Building, at 10685 Carnegie Ave., formerly the podiatry building. The Diabetes Center offers patients access to a multidisciplinary team, including endocrinologists, diabetes educators, dieticians, nurse practitioners and a podiatrist. A primary focus is to offer both individual and group diabetes education classes, year round. Diabetic patients will continue to be seen at the F20 location, as well. For more information, or to schedule a diabetes appointment, call 216.444.6568. The Center for Geriatric Medicine offers geriatric learning, research and clinical activities and guidance for geriatric activities including protocols for falls and delirium. The renovated space features easily accessible restrooms and large examination rooms with space for the patient and up to two family members. A quiet consultation room provides privacy for patient and family counseling and education. The first floor includes 12 exam rooms, an on-site laboratory, a coumadin clinic and a library. For more information or to schedule a geriatric medicine appointment, call 216.444.8091.

Ajay Kumar, MD (END’86), Department of Hospital Medicine, was named a “Top Hospitalist” by the American College of Physicians. Top Hospitalists are chosen for making notable contributions to the field through clinical skills, innovation, community involvement, improved work flow, patient safety, research, teamwork, leadership, mentorship or quality improvement.

Jihad H. Kaouk, MD (U/LS’02), Director, Center for Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery, Department of Urology, performed the first robotic partial nephrectomy on a patient with a transplanted organ. He used a robotic approach to remove a tumor from the kidney of a 35-year-old woman who received a donor kidney at age 10. Dr. Kaouk used a modified robotic approach, which removed the tumor and allowed the patient to maintain a non-cancerous transplanted kidney.

Bashir R. Sankari, MD (U/RT’90), and Shih-Chieh (Jeff) Chueh, MD, PhD, of the Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute, completed their third case of single-port laparoscopic live donor nephrectomy at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, W. Va. Their program is the only one of its kind in that state.

Claudio Fiocchi, MD (IM’76, RES’78, GE’80), gastroenterology, hepatology and pathobiology, received the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundations of America’s (CCFA) 2010 Janowitz Lifetime Achievement Award in Inflammatory Bowel Disease. This award is presented annually by the CCFA to an inflammatory bowel disease research scientist who has demonstrated career-long dedication to the discovery and understanding of Crohn’s or ulcerative colitis.

Kandice K. Marchant, MD, PhD, (ACLPTH’90) Chair, Pathology and Lab Medicine Institute (PLMI), was featured in the November 2010 “Executive Snapshot” section of Medical Laboratory Observer Magazine. She spoke about her current challenges, the future of lab medicine and what tomorrow’s healthcare team will look like.

Maria Siemionow, MD, PhD, welcomed Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski to Cleveland Clinic on Dec. 9, 2010. The delegation of Cleveland Clinic’s Polish-born physicians presented him with a Cleveland Clinic lab coat. As he buttoned it up, the President noted that he and Dr. Siemionow come from the same town of Poznan, Poland.
Campus Clips
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Cleveland Clinic’s Top 10 Medical Innovations for 2011, selected by a panel of Cleveland Clinic physicians and scientists, were unveiled during Cleveland Clinic’s 2010 Medical Innovation Summit. The Top 10 Medical Innovations for 2011 are:

1. New molecular imaging biomarker for early detection of Alzheimer’s disease
2. Anti-CTLA-4 drug (ipilimumab), a targeted T-cell antibody for metastatic melanoma
3. First therapeutic cancer vaccine approved by the FDA
4. JUPITER study and statins for healthy individuals
5. Hepatitis C protease-inhibiting drugs
6. Telehealth monitoring for heart failure patients
7. Transoral gastroplasty, or TOGA
8. Exhaled nitric oxide (NO) breath analysis for diagnosing asthma
10. Capsule endoscopy for diagnosis of pediatric GI disorders

Nominated innovations were required to have significant potential for short-term clinical impact, a high probability of success, be on the market or close to being introduced, and have sufficient data available to support their nomination. For more information about this year’s Medical Innovation Summit, visit clevelandclinic.org/innovations/summit.

The American College of Rheumatology held its Annual Scientific Meeting recently for those involved in research or delivery of rheumatologic care or services. Colleagues from around the world participated in sessions and hands-on skill training and shared the latest science, research and treatment in the field. Cleveland Clinic hosted a reception in conjunction with the meeting. (see photo)

Elaine E. Wyllie, MD (CHN’84, EEG’85), Director, Center for Pediatric Neurology and Professor of Pediatric Medicine, welcomed Dr. Toby Cosgrove to help launch the fifth edition of Wyllie’s Treatment of Epilepsy: Principles and Practice, one of Lippincott’s best sellers. Dr. Cosgrove congratulated the authors from Cleveland Clinic and other major medical centers who collaborated on the project, spearheaded by Dr. Wyllie.

Do You Know About Cleveland Clinic’s Author Database?

Since 1993, the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Library, in conjunction with the Office of Professional Staff Affairs, has compiled and maintained a bibliographic database of publications authored by Cleveland Clinic staff and employees.

This database is a quick, easy way to see a list of your publications, as well as to let your patients/colleagues see what you or other Cleveland Clinic employees have written. Search results can be viewed, printed out, saved to a file, or exported into another bibliographic management program to which you may have an account/subscription (e.g., RefWorks, EndNote, Reference Manager). While the library staff always is available to prepare customized lists for you, a public-access version is available online (direct from the Library’s Internet or Intranet page) and can be searched by anyone, anywhere, for free. An ID/password is unnecessary to access this read-only version.

The database includes citations to published articles, editorials, letters to the editor, book chapters and books written by anyone affiliated with Cleveland Clinic in the calendar year of the publication date, or if Cleveland Clinic is listed as an institutional affiliation. (The database does not include “in press” or “submitted” publications, book reviews, meeting abstracts, presentations or poster sessions.) Department affiliations are added so that a search by department also is possible, without specifying each department member’s name. Journal citations are most often identified in PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, PsycInfo, or CINAHL. Books and chapters are identified through publishers, vendors, databases, library acquisitions or donations. (Books in the Alumni Library that include contributions from Cleveland Clinic staff/employees have a Cleveland Clinic logo label on the spine for easy identification.)

For more details, including tips on how to best use the product, when to use the product, and how to have any missing publications added to the database, see the Library’s homepage at: http://intranet.ccf.org/education/library/resources/ccfauthors.htm, or off-campus at: http://www.clevelandclinic.org/education/library/resources/ccfauthors.htm. You also can contact Marlene Englander at 216.445.7337 or by email: englanm@ccf.org.
Edwin L. Glazener, MD (AN’52), writes that he “finally” retired at age 87. “But it wasn’t an easy decision.” He looks back fondly at his time with Cleveland Clinic that began 61 years ago in 1950, following service in the U.S. Air Force. He was originally assigned to anesthesia responsibilities and worked with Dr. Barney Crile. “I stayed with it and did not get into surgery. Barney assured me it was OK.”

Dr. Glazener says he began with Cleveland Clinic and his training. “It has been a great source of pleasure to me to see how Cleveland Clinic has blossomed.” He added: “Barney Crile learned that I played the guitar and sang cowboy songs,” so Dr. Glazener became a much sought-after invitee to various gatherings.

Robert C. Long, MD, FACS (S’58,S’63), has retired after 30 years of surgical practice in Norton, Kansas, in the Indian Territory of the Great American Desert. He has also visited Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Australia. He gives thanks to Dr. George Crile, Jr., Dr. Rupert Turnbull and Dr. Stanley Hoerr, his mentors, for career assistance and calls his Cleveland Clinic years, “The best of times.”

Michael J. Spedick, MD, FACS, FAAP (OPH’85), has become Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Community Medical Center, Toms River, N.J. He also was elected Treasurer of the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, where he currently serves as Chapter Councillor.

David E. Beck, MD (CRS’86), is President of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons

Judith L. Trudel, MD (CRS’86), was elected Vice President of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.

Michael D. Linden, MD (ACLP’H’88), recently relocated to San Diego, Calif., where he is Chief of Anatomic Pathology for the VA San Diego Healthcare System and Clinical Professor of Pathology at the University of California at San Diego Medical School. For 20 years, he was a staff pathologist at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., and Director of the immunohistochemistry laboratory there. Daughter Emily and son-in-law Jake Aftergood also recently relocated to the Bay area. Son Marc is finishing law school at the University of Kentucky and plans a move to the San Diego area to become an attorney in the military. There also has been a new family addition, Lucy the greyhound.

Judith A. Aberg, MD (IM’93), serves as Interim Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at New York University (NYU). She is a Professor of Medicine and the Principal Investigator of the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at NYU. Dr. Aberg is a nationally recognized physician-investigator as well as a clinician, educator, and administrator. She is President-elect of the HIV Medical Association, the largest professional society of HIV practitioners in the country.

Orfeas Liangos, MD (IM’01), has recently moved to Bavaria, Germany, with his wife and family, where he works in the Division of Nephrology at Klinikum Coburg, a 500-bed academic teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Wurzburg.

Olympia A. Tachopoulou, MD (CHN’06), has been named to Seattle magazine’s list of top doctors in the area. She is an infectious disease specialist.

Hossam H.M. AbdelSalam, MD, FAAP (CHN’06), has joined Alexian Pediatric Specialty Group and is Medical Director of Child Neurology at Alexian Children’s Hospital in suburban Chicago.

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Theodore S. Cone, MD (IM’53), 87, of Northport AL, died Oct. 9, in Tuscaloosa Ala. He was a lifelong resident and physician of Tuscaloosa. He was a World War II and Korean War veteran, retiring with the rank of Captain in the U.S. Navy with a dual rank as Colonel in the U.S. Maine Corps. Dr. Cone received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Alabama in 1943 and his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1946. He did his internship at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Corona, Calif., in 1947, his medical residency at Mercy Hospital in Canton, Ohio, in 1950 and also at St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Cleveland, in 1951. Following his residency, he completed a medicine fellowship at Cleveland Clinic in 1952. He was known as a compassionate person who even made house calls for patients who were wheelchair bound or had difficulty getting to his office. On May 1, 2010, he was chosen to be on the inaugural flight to the WWII Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Survivors include his wife, Rebeca, four daughters and 11 grandchildren. Memorial donations can be made to the Holy Spirit Capital Campaign Fund. Please specify the fund name and mail to: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 733 James I. Harrison Jr. Pkwy., Tuscaloosa Ala., 35405.

Francesco Del Greco, MD (RES’54), 86, died Jan. 17, 2010, in Sarasota, Fla. Dr. Del Greco became a pioneer in the application of hemodialysis in the treatment of chronic renal failure and hypertension research at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and its predecessor, Passavant Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Ill. A native of Luciano, Italy, Dr. Del Greco received his medical education in Rome and joined Cleveland Clinic in the early 1950s as a research fellow. He continued at the Postgraduate Medical School and St. Thomas Hospital in London. He later returned to Cleveland Clinic’s Research Division. He published many articles on hypertension and other subjects. In 1957, Dr. Del Greco did residency training at Passavant and in 1958 established the metabolic and dialysis unit there, where he became its director. In 1961, the expanded unit was designated a Clinical Research Center by the National Institutes of Health; Dr. Del Greco was appointed its director and served in this capacity for 20 years. The doctor was also a Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and served as the Chief of the Section of Nephrology/Hypertension. He was a member of numerous professional societies and local and national committees, including the prestigious Cardiovascular and Nephrology Section of the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute. He is survived by his wife, Arlynn, former wife and also caregiver Geraldine Del Greco, son Paul, and two grandchildren. U.S. Memorial contributions can be made to: Northwestern Memorial Foundation, 676 North St. Clair, Suite 2050, Chicago, Ill., 60611.

Adolfo S. Fernandez, PhD. (CLCH’73), 77, died Sept. 13, in Cleveland. He was born in Asunción, Paraguay, where he earned a PhD in biochemistry. He continued his studies at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom, then received a post-graduate scholarship in 1961 to the Department of Biochemistry at Western Reserve University. Dr. Fernández was widely published. He continued his work and research at the clinical laboratories of Cleveland Clinic. He later served as a clinical chemist in the Department of Pathology at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, from which he retired in 1994. Survivors include his wife, Ana, four children, 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to the Center for Liver Disease Research, Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Ave., P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, Ohio 44193-1655.

Florence T. Takacy Guroy, MD (OTOCD’47), 97, died Nov. 17, in Willoughby, Ohio. Wife of the late John R. Loving; mother of John R. III, Andrew T., and Mary Ellen, MD, of California. Grandmother of John R. IV, Scott and Jason Guroy and Harriet Pohlman. Dr. Takacy Guroy settled in Willoughby in 1952, where she established a general medicine practice. She was an active staff member at Huron Road Hospital, Booth Memorial and Women’s Hospitals and the Lake County Health System. Contributions in her name can be made to: The Cleveland Botanical Gardens, 11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio, 44106.

Charles E. Henry, PhD., B.S.I., 95, former Cleveland Clinic Director of the EEG Laboratory, died Dec. 30, in Richmond, Va. He received his bachelor’s degree from Fresno State College, in 1937 and his master’s and doctorate from the State University of Iowa in 1938. He was a research associate at Brown University and then an instructor in neuroanatomy at Western Reserve University. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in its medical corps and later was a reserve officer. Afterwards, he became a psychophysiologist at the Institute for Juvenile Research in Chicago. He moved to Hartford, Conn., in 1948, and was an electroencephalographer at both the Institute of Living and Hartford Hospital. In 1963, he became Director of the EEG Laboratory at Cleveland Clinic. He retired from Cleveland Clinic in 1980 and moved to Richmond, Va., where he became Professor of Neurology at the Medical College of Virginia and Chief of Neurophysiology at McGuire Hospital. He was a pioneer in the field of EEG, actively contributing to both clinical and research aspects of the field. Dr. Henry was president of the American EEG Society and other regional and national societies and organizations. He authored and co-authored at least 150 scientific articles, as well as book chapters. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Hazel Henry, and four children and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made in his honor to your favorite charity.

Dana P. Launer, MD (CRS’79), 62, died Dec. 20, in San Diego, Calif. Dr Launer trained as a surgical intern at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y., from 1973-1974. He also trained there as a surgical resident from 1974-1978. After his surgical residency, he went to Cleveland Clinic and was trained in colon and rectal surgery from 1978-1979. Dr. Launer was on the medical staff at Scripps Memorial Hospital, La Jolla, Calif., since 1979 and held titles including Chief of General Surgery, Chief of the Department of Surgery and Chief of Staff. He was actively involved with the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation for many years and served as the Chairman of its Medical Advisory Committee. In 1985, Dr. Launer traveled to Europe to pursue the surgical management of complicated and debilitating intestinal disease. He became an accomplished practitioner of a procedure that allowed patients with certain intestinal diseases to avoid wearing an external bag to collect waste. In 1991 Launer was the first surgeon in San Diego to perform laparoscopic colon resection, allowing patients to return to their normal activities much earlier than after a conventional colon resection. He is survived by his wife, Elaine, two daughters, and twin sons. Memorial donations can be made to Jewish Family Services (JFSsd.org) and Scripps Foundation (Scripps.org).

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Paul S. Lavik, MD, PhD, 95, died Oct. 20, at Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Lavik formerly was on Cleveland Clinic staff in Radiation Oncology. He received his bachelor’s in science degree from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., followed by a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1943. For the next four years, he taught medical students at the wartime naval accelerated programs at Louisiana State Medical School, New Orleans, La., and Baylor School of Medicine, Houston. In 1947, he joined the faculty of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where he held joint appointments in the departments of Biochemistry and Radiology. Besides teaching medical students and radiology residents, he worked on the Manhattan Project and was actively involved in research supported by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Clinical application of radiation and radioactive isotopes became his primary research interest. Dr. Lavik pursued clinical medicine, with a goal of specializing in radiation oncology. He graduated from Western Reserve University Medical School and entered the radiology training program at University Hospitals of Cleveland, where he was certified in therapeutic radiology. The majority of his clinical years were spent as a member of staff at Cleveland Clinic, from which he retired in 1981. Survivors include four children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to Case Western Reserve University or the American Cancer Society.

Kenneth Lee, MD, 45, died on Jan. 4, 2011, in Westlake, Ohio. He was a member of Cleveland Clinic’s general surgery staff at Fairview Hospital. Dr. Lee was a 1987 graduate of Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., and graduated from Case Western Reserve University Medical School in 1991. He completed his residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland in 1997. He then maintained a successful practice in general surgery on the west side of Cleveland and joined Cleveland Clinic in 2006. Dr. Lee was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Among his honors was being chosen for the Chief Resident Teaching Award by the Department of Surgery, University Hospitals (1996-1997), and later being selected by the residents of Fairview Hospital for the Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Lee was passionate about caring for the environment, devoting his time and energy to the cause. During the past two years, Dr. Lee led his family and friends to raise over $20,000 for pancreatic cancer research and treatment with participation in the annual PurpleStride of Cleveland. Dr. Lee is survived by his wife, Amy, and three children. Memorial contributions can be made to support PANCAN.ORG (Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, National Headquarters, 1500 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, Calif., 90266).

Eugene Francis Poutasse, MD (U’50), 92, died Nov. 30, 2010, in Nellysford, Va. Dr. Poutasse graduated from Harvard College in 1939 and Harvard Medical School in 1943. During World War II, Dr. Poutasse became a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve Medical Corps. After an internship at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Mass., Dr. Poutasse was attached to the Marine Corps stationed on Guam and later served as medical investigator, assembling evidence of war crimes. Afterward, Dr. Poutasse received training in surgery and urology at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, and then in 1950 joined the Department of Urology at Cleveland Clinic as a renal surgeon. He pioneered surgical treatments for renal arterial disease and associated hypertension and was awarded the Amory Prize for his work by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1961. Dr. Poutasse practiced medicine in Norfolk, Va., from 1963 until he retired in 1983. He retired a second time in 1994 from the Medical Society of Virginia Review Organization. Dr. Poutasse belonged to many professional organizations, including the American Urological Association. Survivors include his wife, Catherine Arlene, sons and their partners, 29 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to: The Devine Chair in Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgery or the Paul F. Schellhammer, MD Professor in Cancer Research, Eastern Virginia Medical School Foundation, P. O. Box 5, Norfolk, Va., 23501. Or, you can make a gift online at www.evmsfoundation.com, and identify the fund you wish to support.

Nechemija Schein, MD (OB/GYN’57), 87, passed away in Amal Raanana, Israel, on Nov. 24, 2010. He was born in Lithuania and was a survivor of a WWII German concentration camp. He attended Philips-Universitat, Marburg, Germany, from 1945 to 1950. He received his medical degree from Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, in 1953 and became a rotating intern at Masonic Hospital, Chicago, Ill., from 1954 to 1955. He trained as an OB/GYN resident at St. Ann Hospital in Cleveland from 1955 to 1956. He was an OB/GYN fellow at Cleveland Clinic from 1955 to 1957. After Cleveland Clinic, he went to Huron Road Hospital for one year. His nephew in Israel, Ahitay Alony, writes, “He was a very kind and devoted uncle, and we will miss him very much.”
Cleveland Clinic alumni represent a constituency of physicians and scientists throughout the world who reflect the institution’s commitment to excellence. As an organization, we are committed to serving as a resource to alumni by providing access to information and programmatic support necessary to assure professional growth and success throughout your career. Our goal is to bolster the bond between the institution and alumni to create an atmosphere that encourages comradery and willingness to participate in the life of the Institution.

We encourage you to connect with your Alumni Board Representative by phone, mail or e-mail and provide them with feedback on ways we can enhance engagement, stay connected, and continuously improve our alumni network and services. In this 90th Anniversary of Cleveland Clinic, we hope you will take a moment to send us your best memory and help us record your history-making moments.
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Mitsuru Suzuki, MD 69. Dr. Suzuki was Adjunct Staff in the Artificial Organs Department (now Biomedical Engineering) from 1980 to 1999. He received his medical degree in 1969 from Tokyo Medical College in Tokyo, Japan. His influence in the nephrology community in Japan is well-known. Dr. Suzuki was a member of the Japanese Association of Dialysis Therapy and the Shoinkai Medical Corp. He served on the boards of the medical associations of Matsudo-City and Chiba and was a delegate of the Japanese Medical Association and Chiba Medical Association. He had served on the board of the Japanese Society for Apheresis, was Congress President for the Japanese Association for Dialysis Therapy, and a founding board member of the International Society for Apheresis. He is remembered by colleague Dr. Paul S. Malchesky, who says, “Dr. Suzuki was a very unassuming individual and spoke with a very soft tone, but there was seriousness about him both for the science, the technical issues, and the people he engaged.” He is survived by his wife, Kazuko.

Milton R. Watson, MD (VS’69), 75, died in Eugene, Ore., on July 1, 2010. Dr. Watson graduated from Whitman College in 1956 and from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1960, followed by an internship and general surgery residency at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, Calif. He served in the U.S. Army as Chief of surgery and professional services in Bremerhaven, Germany, from 1965–1968. Following military service, Dr. Watson completed a fellowship in peripheral vascular surgery at Cleveland Clinic in 1969. He practiced general and vascular surgery at St. Mary’s Hospital in Walla Walla, Ore., for 23 years from 1969 to 1992. He then practiced for five years at Silverton Hospital in Silverton, Ore., before retiring in 1996. During his practice and again after his retirement, he performed volunteer surgical procedures at mission hospitals in Liberia, Togo, Ecuador, Peru, the Republic of China, Pakistan and Kazakhstan. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Walla Walla and Central Lutheran Church in Eugene, Ore. Survivors include his wife, Shirley, three children and three grandchildren. Remembrances may be made to: Central Lutheran Church of Eugene, 1857 Potter St., Eugene, Ore., 97403, or Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA — A Powerful Voice for Abused Kids) of Lane County, Ore., 174 Deadmond Ferry Rd., Springfield, Ore., 97477.

Correction
In our Fall 2010, issue, we inadvertently omitted a name from our Teachers of the Year list, which identified individuals honored by Cleveland Clinic departments for excellence in resident and fellow education: Joseph V. Nally, Jr., MD, Nephrology/Hypertension.

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.

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