Dr. Tirone David Earns Distinguished Alumnus Award

Described by presenter Gary Dworkin, M.D. (CATS’92) as “one of the most technically, academically and socially talented cardiac surgeons in the world,” Tirone E. David, M.D. (S’75) was awarded the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumnus Award on Oct. 5.

Dr. David trained in General Surgery at Cleveland Clinic from 1971 to 1975 before traveling to Toronto for subspecialty training cardiac surgery. As the head of the Division of Cardiovascular Surgery at Toronto General Hospital and professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto, Dr. David has earned a worldwide reputation for quality and compassion. He maintains a 30-year database of his own patients, from which he draws a consistently useful stream of clinical information to share with his colleagues.

Hundreds of heart surgeons from around the globe visit his operating theatre every year to study under the master. He has developed numerous operative procedures to treat patients with heart valve disease, complications of myocardial infarction and thoracic aneurysms.

Dr. David was born and raised in Brazil and completed medical school and a surgical internship there. “Upon realizing his passion for surgery, he found the courage to travel, arriving in Brooklyn, NY to begin a general surgery internship in 1970,” said Dr. Dworkin.

“Bob Hermann, Caldwell Esselstyn, Edwin Beven, the late Al Humphries and other surgeons from the Cleveland

Graduates Honored at Celebration

Cleveland Clinic graduates and their guests were recognized for completing their training during a festive dinner dance at the Intercontinental Hotel on June 2.

Alumni Relations Medical Director Robert E. Hermann, M.D., congratulated the graduates, welcoming them into the world-wide ranks of the Alumni Association. He presented the annual Alumni Association Graduate Level One Award to Kevin El-Hayek, M.D., Surgery.

The GL-1 Award demonstrates the Alumni Association’s belief in, and recognition of excellence in Cleveland Clinic physicians-in-training. The recipient is selected from nominations by house staff, Cleveland Clinic teachers and mentors, based on his or her clinical excellence/knowledge, interpersonal communication skills, character and unique accomplishments.

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Alumni Board Adds Student Representative

The Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association was pleased to welcome Carl Koch to the fall board meeting on Oct. 5. Carl, a member of the class of 2009, is serving as the student representative from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Carl comes to Cleveland Clinic from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, where he worked for two years at the National Cancer Institute after graduating with a BA in Biology from Carleton College in Northfield, MN.

Coming to Cleveland Clinic was a homecoming of sorts for Carl, who grew up in Oberlin, OH, a small college town just a stone’s throw west of Cleveland. He says he plans to pursue a career in Otolaryngology or Pediatric Hematology/Oncology after graduation. His research interests include cancer biology and hearing loss.

Carl told Alumni Association board members that he and his fellow students are very interested in networking with Cleveland Clinic alumni. He said they have particularly enjoyed alumni speakers, such as Regina James, M.D. (CPH’97, P’99), who came from NIH to share cutting edge research. Another hit was dinner at a local restaurant for students and the Alumni Board in May.

A member of the first class to enter CCLCM, Carl says that he and his classmates are eager for help with career planning, since the research-focused, problem-based curriculum of the school is the first of its kind. Students also are seeking help with the growing indebtedness facing all medical students. The Association of American Medical Colleges recently reported that the average educational debt of graduates of the class of 2006, including pre-med borrowing, has reached a staggering $130,000.

Finally, Carl shared the medical students’ concerns over recent discussions regarding the college’s affiliation with Case Western Reserve University.

Cleveland Clinic has had a longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship with Case Western Reserve University to advance research, medical education and other institutional projects. Recently, Case announced a new, 50-year, primary affiliation with University Hospitals of Cleveland that strengthened the relationship between those two organizations, a move that could impact the Clinic in the future.

Kathleen N. Franco, M.D., Associate Dean of Admissions & Student Affairs at CCLCM, said Cleveland Clinic is fully committed to the Lerner College of Medicine and that the program will not be changed regardless of its affiliation. She told the Alumni Board that the Clinic has a number of relationships with colleges and universities across the country and will continue to explore opportunities as they arise.

“The college is a strong and independent entity that will continue to thrive,” said Dr. Franco. “It is amazing to be around these young people, like Carl, who have embraced what it means to be a ‘physician in training’ as opposed to a learner. Our students are dedicated to becoming physician leaders. They participate actively in various academic activities, give their time to nonprofit organizations as volunteers, and achieve numerous awards.”

Carl credited the school’s faculty. “The resources available to students are almost limitless. Faculty jump at the opportunity to explain a concept, take you on rounds or invite you into their lab to do research,” he said. “Coming to CCF from a research-centered institution, I am extraordinarily impressed by the environment of translational research and the clear path from the lab to the bedside. I appreciate the active role we, as students, have in carrying it there.”
Cleveland Clinic’s most expansive group of alumni – graduates of the Internal Medicine Residency Program – are perhaps the most difficult to keep connected.

“At least two thirds of our graduates go on to subspecialty training, either here or elsewhere,” says former Program Director Byron Hoogwerf, M.D. “When they are able to attend medical meetings, they tend to be those in their specialties. But most would agree that the friendships they made during their IM training were among the most meaningful. During residency, they are a very tight-knit group held together by the chief residents.”

Dr. Hoogwerf estimates that with 120 categorical residents as well as 16 first-year residents heading to other programs each year, there may be as many as 2,000 program alumni throughout the world.

Several former chiefs continue to be actively involved in the Internal Medicine training program. In fact current Program Director, Craig Nielsen, M.D. (IM’97), served as chief during Dr. Hoogwerf’s tenure. He is eager to attract former graduates back for the spectacular May 2009 reunion, planned to coincide with the graduation of the first class from the Lerner College of Medicine and the opening of its expanded and improved facilities.

“Our graduates are the face of the Cleveland Clinic outside of the organization,” says Dr. Nielsen. “It would be great to be able to share recent developments, like the new campus, with our alumni.

“I feel fortunate that I had the opportunity to establish my career at Cleveland Clinic. After serving as chief, I knew that I wanted to stay involved in education,” he continues. “Being involved in resident education really keeps me on my toes. Our residents demand the latest information.”

He says it’s the residents themselves that make the program so special. They are a group of the best and brightest, who interact well and get along.

Senior Associate Program Director Lori Posk, M.D. (IM’94), was chief during Dr. Nielsen’s Internal Medicine training. Dr. Nielsen says he enjoys being able to continue his interaction with her through their shared interest in the program.

“Teaching and interacting with residents is something I feel very privileged to do,” says Dr. Posk, now on staff at the Regional Medical Practice.

Former chief Marie Budev, D.O. (IM’99) also has chosen to continue her ties to the Internal Medicine training program as an associate program director.

“As a teaching attending in Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine, the daily teaching rounds with the house staff are the focal point of the day,” she says. “The friendly culture of the residency program here has allowed for formal as well as many informal interactions among attendings and residents. I, and many of my associates, maintain an open-door policy in regards to residents. I have found this to be a rewarding experience for both myself and my advisees.”

Associate Program Director Carlos Isada, M.D. (IM’90, ID’92), says that the Cleveland Clinic’s approach to education is what has kept him here for more than 20 years.

“I was an intern in this program in 1986 and was extremely impressed by the quality of the teachers and mentors, the camaraderie of the housestaff, the wealth of clinical material, and the culture of respect and cooperation. I have trained many of the residents in infectious diseases as it relates to the general internist and would love to see as many of them back for the reunion as possible.”

Eighteen additional former chief medical residents continue their careers on the Cleveland Clinic faculty. They look forward to reconnecting with graduates at the upcoming reunion. Watch future issues of Cleveland Clinic Alumni Connection for details.
Early IM Graduate Remembers First Cleveland Clinic Building

For a brief period before starting preschool, Ferdinand J. Hruby, M.D. (IM’44, IM’48) considered a career as a coalman. He loved seeing the big horse and wagon traveling the streets, delivering fuel to his and his neighbors’ homes. But by the time he was 7, he knew he would follow in his grandfather’s footsteps and become a physician.

Dr. Hruby’s grandfather, J.V. Kofron, M.D., taught him about anatomy while dissecting squirrels and rabbits on his estate in Chagrin Falls, OH. He also took young “Fred” along on weekend rounds at St. Alexis hospital in Cleveland, where his close colleagues included Cleveland Clinic founders and cousins George Crile, M.D., and William Lower, M.D.

Dr. Hruby’s first memory of going to Cleveland Clinic was when he was 11 or 12 years old. “I had an accident on my bike. I went right over the handlebars.” A neighbor called his grandfather, who took him straight to Dr. Crile. He underwent emergency surgery for a strangulated hernia that same day.

“I don’t remember too much about the Clinic from that day, but I remember my grandfather getting me a canary as a get-well gift,” says Dr. Hruby, who clearly remembers his next encounter with Cleveland Clinic in 1929.

“It was a nice spring day and my friends and I were leaving school at St. Ann’s in Cleveland Heights. One after another, fire engines and ambulances were racing down the hill into the city,” says Dr. Hruby. The students and their parents followed to see the emergency first-hand.

“We couldn’t get very close because of the smoke and fumes, but we knew that it was the Cleveland Clinic going up in flames,” he says. The fire caused the deaths of 123 people and nearly destroyed the fledgling organization.

But the Clinic rose again from the ashes, and Dr. Hruby returned in 1942, the summer of his junior year of medical school at Georgetown. His grandfather picked him up at the train station at 55th Street and drove him directly to work, where he served as an extern at Cleveland Clinic for the rest of the summer.

After graduation, Dr. Hruby married Mary Jane Parfitt, whom he had met on his first day of medical school. The couple returned to Cleveland, where Dr. Hruby completed an internship at St. Luke’s before accepting a position at the Cleveland Clinic as a special fellow. “There was no formal residency program at that time, but every accredited hospital had to offer three years of training,” he says. “Anyone who wanted to take the board exam had to have at least three years of practice.”

Dr. Hruby assisted John Tucker, M.D., one of Cleveland Clinic’s original staff members and later, the first chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine. The special fellows were a tight-knit group. Dr. Hruby remembers “drawing lots as to who would walk up the street to the Southern Tavern at 105th and Carnegie to get our evening snack.”

Saturday nights were particularly special for the young trainees, as they were allowed to have their wives come down to the Cleveland Clinic for dinner.

“We had considerable training in diagnostic medicine,” says Dr. Hruby, who recalls that the fellows did a complete history and physical exam on every patient before they were seen by an active staff member. “It was our responsibility to see that everything was done appropriately. I can’t conceive of having better training than I had at that time. I had a lot of individualized attention as Dr. Tucker’s assistant.”

Like many physicians of his era, Dr. Hruby’s training was interrupted by service in World War II. Two years as a medical officer in India and Burma were followed by a year at Walter Reed Hospital in Virginia. He returned to Dr. Tucker’s service in 1947 to complete training. Dr. Hruby fondly remembers his participation in a barbershop quartet that year with Guy Williams Jr., M.D., W. James Gardner, M.D. and William Engle, M.D. “We would perform at the drop of a hat! We even sang at the AMA meeting.”

Music always had featured prominently in Dr. Hruby’s life. His father, five uncles and two aunts were musicians, and the family had started the Hruby Conservatory of Music in Cleveland in 1916. Before it was closed in 1968, all eight Hruby siblings, as well as three grandchildren had taught there. Dr. Hruby mastered the drums and played in the Academy of Music band, as well as several other ensembles throughout his career.

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Doctors Defy the Odds in Ultra Marathon Running

Most of us have a hard time imagining being able to run a 26.2-mile marathon. But can you fathom what it’s like to run 100 consecutive miles?

Although some say it’s impossible, Jack T. Andrish, M.D. (GL-1’70, S’71, ORS’76), Orthopaedic Surgery, and Tom Bauer, M.D., Ph.D., Anatomic Pathology, know firsthand that with a lot of determination, it can be done.

Drs. Andrish and Bauer recently competed in the Leadville Trail 100, an annual 100-mile trail race that winds through Colorado and spans points between 9,200-12,600 feet in elevation. Beginning at 4 a.m., the runners have 30 hours to complete the course, which includes checking in at 11 stations along the way. At each station, runners are weighed to ensure they have not lost too much weight, receive any necessary medical treatment, eat and drink, and change clothes if necessary. Along the course, family members and “pacers,” volunteers who may accompany the runners during the last 50 miles of the race, play an important role in supporting runners, especially during the overnight portion of the race. “It truly is a family affair,” says Dr. Andrish, whose wife, son and daughter also run ultra marathons. Dr. Bauer was paced at Leadville by his wife, alumna Paula S. Bauer, M.D. (ACLPTH’90), daughter-in-law and cousin.

Twenty-eight hours after the 2007 race began, Dr. Bauer crossed the finish line and completed his inaugural 100-mile race. Dr. Andrish, who missed a cut-off point at mile 40 due to a knee injury, was there to congratulate Dr. Bauer on his success. “He did incredibly well,” says Dr. Andrish, who has participated in 10 100-mile ultra marathons.

“Less than 50 percent of entrants finish this race.” As a reward for his success, Dr. Bauer received a handcrafted silver belt buckle, which is the coveted award in ultra marathon running.

Motivation for training and running in ultra marathons comes from within – and from family members and colleagues’ support, say Drs. Bauer and Andrish. “There is pure joy in finishing a 100-miler, but the real joy is in the training,” Dr. Andrish says. “You set a goal and work for it, and it’s great fun.” And, they say, although sometimes their motivation wanes, they always are satisfied after a run. “Occasionally, after a long day of work, the last thing I want to do is go out and run eight miles,” Dr. Bauer says. “But I have never finished a run and regretted it – it’s always a positive experience.”

Hruby (continued)

Upon completing training, Dr. Hruby was asked to join the founding staff of Marymount Hospital in Cleveland. In later years, as director of medicine, Dr. Hruby had the task of developing a three-year residency training program at the hospital, which was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Marymount was one of the smallest hospitals to reach this degree of accreditation. He also opened a private practice with his brother, Charles Hruby, D.D.S. “at the end of the Van Aken Line in Beachwood.” During his career he served as a medical consultant at Charity Hospital and St. Ann’s Hospital, and was assistant clinical professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University.

“I was exceedingly active in those years, which were very fulfilling. I liked my patients and did my best to take very good care of them. I was never sued in 62 years of medical practice,” says Dr. Hruby proudly.

Dr. Hruby retired in 2004 following cardiac surgery and continues to reside on the property owned by his grandfather in Chagrin Falls. He still entertains, playing the maracas in local bands.
Crile Family Physicians Reflect on Personal Significance of Cleveland Clinic History

While most staff and alumni have an allegiance to Cleveland Clinic, the ties run much deeper for staff physicians and siblings Halle Crile Foster Moore, M.D., Taussig Cancer Institute, and Charles Foster, M.D., Pediatric Institute and Children's Hospital. Drs. Moore and Foster are grandchildren of George “Barney” Crile Jr., M.D., and great-grandchildren of George Crile, M.D., one of Cleveland Clinic’s founders.

Drs. Moore and Foster recently addressed several questions about their Cleveland Clinic connection.

**How are you related to Dr. George Crile, Sr., and Dr. Barney Crile?**

**Halle:** Our mother, Joan, was the daughter of Dr. Barney Crile and Jane Halle. She married our father, Roger Foster, and they had four children. Our grandparents also had four children. Ann, who is the oldest, is married to Caldwell “Essy” Esselstyn, who was a staff surgeon at Cleveland Clinic.

**Charles:** Our father was Essy’s medical school roommate at Western Reserve, here in Cleveland. They both went on to become surgeons.

**Halle:** The two roommates married two Crile daughters.

**Did you know that Cleveland Clinic was part of your history growing up?**

**Halle:** We always knew that our family was part of Cleveland Clinic’s history. But we lived in Vermont, so it was more of a historical item. When we would come and stay with our grandfather at Christmas, he would drive us around campus.

**Charles:** I always remember that he appreciated the growth. He’d walk us through the Clinic, and we were able to see it change and grow, too.

**How did you end up at Cleveland Clinic?**

**Charles:** We both went to Case Western Reserve for medical school. We have a lot of extended family members in Cleveland, which was a big factor in both of our decisions to return.

**What are some of your fond memories of your grandfather?**

**Halle:** Oh, he told it like it was. There was no stepping on eggshells to get around a topic.
A new documentary video from Cleveland Clinic has the answers to these questions, and much more. “All For One: The story of the Cleveland Clinic” weaves interviews, rare archival footage and animated computer graphics into an uplifting survey of 86 years of Cleveland Clinic history. Far from the usual corporate video, it’s a frank and revelatory look at Cleveland Clinic’s ups and downs. You may think you already know Cleveland Clinic, but “All For One” will surprise you.

A parade of brilliant physicians passes through “All For One.” Familiar faces such as George Crile Jr., M.D. (S’37), Willem Kolff, M.D., and Ralph Straffon, M.D., are featured; and we’re also introduced to some lesser-known, but no less talented physicians and researchers such as Otto Glesser, M.D., who developed Cleveland Clinic’s first major medical innovation, the condenser dosimeter, which measures radiation. Current President and CEO Toby Cosgrove, M.D., shares stories from his early days at Cleveland Clinic where he shared a cramped locker room with surgical superstars such as Rupert Turnbull, M.D. (S’48, S’49), and Rene Favaloro, M.D. (TS’62, TS’65). Also appearing are Floyd D. Loop, M.D. (TS’70), William Kiser, M.D., Bernadine Healy, M.D., and John Clough, M.D. (GL-1’66, IM’67, IM’71), to share recollections and insights.

Narrated by Edward Herrmann (“The Aviator,” “Gilmour Girls”), and directed by Thomas Ball and Brian Neff, “All For One” is a compelling narrative with an evocative score. The music is composed by Ralph Vaughn Williams, who drove an ambulance in World War I not far from where Dr. George Crile later served. “All For One” includes animated computer graphics showing how Cleveland Clinic buildings rose one by one and how the campus expanded block by block.

Informative, emotional and unforgettable, “All For One” must be seen by employees, alumni, patients and anyone who would like to know how Cleveland Clinic and its revolutionary model of medicine took root in the world, overcame challenges, and rose to become one of America’s great medical centers.

Movie review by Steve Szilagyi, Cleveland Clinic Marketing Communications

To order a copy of “All for One: The Story of the Cleveland Clinic,” please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 216.444.2487; or by e-mail at alumni@ccf.org.

Charles: I remember his enthusiasm for life, learning and medicine. Although many of our family members aren’t physicians, enthusiasm is a family trait.

Halle: He also really appreciated seeing the naming of the Crile building shortly before he died. He was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer in 1992, and he said that there were two things he wanted to see before he died – the dedication of the Crile building and the publishing of his autobiography. He lived to see the dedication, which he was thrilled about.

When you think about the history of Cleveland Clinic, what touches you most?

Halle: It’s amazing what has become of this hospital that these guys started so that they could do things their own way – what they believed was the right way to help patients.

Drs. Moore and Foster’s interviews coincided with the release of a new movie, “All For One: The Story of the Cleveland Clinic,” produced by Telos Productions, narrated by Edward Herrmann and co-directed by Thomas Ball and Brian Neff. Mr. Ball has produced more than a thousand programs over the past several decades, including the “25th Anniversary of Myocardial Revascularization” and other programs for Cleveland Clinic. “My objective was to capture the prestigious history of Cleveland Clinic for everybody in the organization,” Mr. Ball says. Working with Carol Tomer and Fred Lautzenheiser in Archives, Ball was able to use all original pictures and film to capture the history of Cleveland Clinic. “From the very beginning of Cleveland Clinic, you can see its determination to be different, to go against the status quo. As we were making this film, I liked to imagine Dr. George Crile, Sr., and the other founders walking out the front door of the old Cleveland Clinic building and seeing the new Miller Family Pavilion going up next door. Could they ever have guessed that their dream could have grown into something like this in only 85 years?”
An Innovative Way to Promote Innovations

Cleveland Clinic Innovations (CCFI) recently has been developing mechanisms to drive innovation through “Structured Invention,” a process that involves identifying an industry need and assembling a cross-section of experts to invent solutions to solve the need.

CCFI has been piloting this approach while working with three leading surgeons within the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

In October 2006, Peter Brooks, M.D., Orthopaedic Surgery, identified a need for an improved hip resurfacing device. Two of the current options are a ceramic hip replacement device and a metal resurfacing device. Each has traits that are beneficial for certain patients. “When we present these two options to patients, they often wonder why we can’t make the metal resurfacing device out of ceramic,” Dr. Brooks says. “What would be ideal is a device that has the strength of metal with the bio-compatibility of ceramic.”

Dr. Brooks began working with Pete O’Neill, a CCFI commercialization manager who was originally trained as an aeronautical engineer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to discuss ways to address the challenge. In assembling the team of experts to invent the new device, O’Neill tapped into experts at NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Brookpark, Ohio – NASA’s lead center for advanced materials research and development. In May, CCFI convened a structured invention team meeting, which included Dr. Brooks, Viktor E. Krebs, M.D. (ORS’97), Orthopaedic Surgery, and Wael K. Barsoum, M.D. (ORS’00), Orthopaedic Surgery; materials experts from the research center; and representatives from Cleveland Clinic’s Biomedical Engineering Department. “This is the perfect way to collaborate,” Dr. Brooks says. “We bring knowledge of orthopaedics to the table while they bring expertise on materials.”

After the meeting, CCFI generated two project plans. The team hopes the outcome leads to licensing the new inventions to orthopaedic companies. “If we did a good industry assessment, the inventions that result from this structured invention process should lead to license opportunities or potentially the establishment of a new company,” says Christopher Coburn, Executive Director of CCFI. “We feel confident this project will be successful, and we hope to conduct structured invention sessions with other leading Cleveland Clinic departments.”

Do you have a bright idea or innovative invention and desire some assistance getting it “to market”? Contact Alumni Relations with your information and we’ll be happy to put you in touch with our CCF Innovations personnel.
Top Innovations Revealed at Recent Summit

Cleveland Clinic hosted the fifth annual Medical Innovation Summit Oct. 1-3, one of the nation’s premier gatherings of healthcare leaders.

The event once again included the announcement of the 10 innovations that Cleveland Clinic doctors believe will have the most impact on the practice of medicine in the coming year.

This is the second year the doctors have created a list. It took months for about 20 Cleveland Clinic doctors to agree on the 10 innovations that are poised for widespread use or are so revolutionary that clinicians are clamoring for them now.

Top 10 medical innovations of 2008

1. Flexible intralumenal robotics: A catheter-based technology to let surgeons manipulate tiny tools in places where their hands don’t fit, such as inside the heart. The flexible robotic system could be used for urology, cardiology, cardiac surgery and other specialty procedures.

2. Percutaneous aortic heart valves: Aortic heart valves are delivered via catheters through a groin or small incisions in the chest wall and then expanded inside the heart. X-ray screening lets doctors monitor the valve as it is positioned.

3. RNA-based therapeutics: Gene-based therapies that reduce a protein that carries the bad cholesterol and triglycerides in the bloodstream. This could help reduce heart disease.

4. Convergence of advances in genome scanning and informatics to support clinical applications: Genetic testing that can produce personalized health risk assessments to head off future disease.

5. New drugs to prevent blood clots or bleeding: Newer anticoagulant treatments, which include low molecular weight heparins, are being introduced to curb complications such as bleeding and thrombosis.

6. Nasal drops that deliver flu vaccine to infants: Nasal drops containing live attenuated flu can be used as a vaccine instead of needles and provide protection from influenza for the high-risk population of children as young as 6 months.

7. Image fusion for diagnostic and therapeutic use: Merging of different types of medical imaging technology to better diagnose both anatomic and physiologic problems and guide minimally invasive procedures.

8. Implanted devices intended to restore movement to the severely disabled: Neural control devices that could restore movement of arms and legs to patients with spinal cord injuries, stroke, ALS and other central nervous system injuries.

9. Engineered cartilage products for joint repair: Natural biomaterials are used to replace joint cartilage tissue damaged from injury or arthritis. The engineered cartilage is surgically implanted into the joint with the intent of avoiding artificial joint replacement.

10. Dual energy source computed tomography imaging: Computed tomography (CT) scanners use two radiation sources and detectors, speeding medical imaging and exposing patients to less radiation. It will allow imaging of patients with high or irregular heart rates, previously a limitation.

The three-day summit drew nearly 1,000 of the world’s top doctors, researchers, business people and investors to learn about innovations in heart and blood vessel care.

A robotic system – the da Vinci System made by Intuitive Surgical Inc. in Sunnyvale, Calif. – was the hit exhibit of this year’s summit. Passersby took turns using a virtual reality-like station and viewfinder to manipulate a set of tiny tweezers to make stitches on a plastic model of a heart.

Participants included chief executive officers from Eli Lilly, 3M, Medtronic, UnitedHealth Group, Cardinal Health, AstraZeneca and Edwards Lifesciences, among others. Experts spoke on drug-eluting stents, cardiovascular devices, stem cells, arrhythmias, personalized medicine, wellness and venture capital. The Cleveland Orchestra also performed a private concert for attendees.
Chief Experience Officer Focuses On Patient Empathy

“Patients First” Goes Hand in Hand With Employee Experience

“Patients First” is, and always will be, Cleveland Clinic’s mission. But putting patients first is more than just delivering high-tech clinical care.

Patients also want their emotional needs addressed – especially when they’ve been diagnosed with a serious illness. However, showing compassion and empathy as an employee can be a challenge when you work long hours and care for some of the sickest patients in the country, says newly appointed Chief Experience Officer M. Bridget Duffy, M.D.

To deliver on the patient experience, we have to understand the employee experience and how that impacts our ability to improve the patient experience, says Dr. Duffy. She will work closely with staff and employees at all levels to enhance both patients’ and employees’ experiences, and hopes to set a new industry standard for what the patient experience should look like.

Mapping the experience

To better understand Cleveland Clinic culture, Dr. Duffy spent her first few weeks shadowing front-line employees. One of the first things she noticed is that despite employees’ long work hours and the high volume and acuity level of patients, they are fiercely dedicated to patient care. After returning to leadership, she recommended “mapping” patients’ clinical and emotional experiences to better understand how to meet their needs, and mapping the employee experience to better support their ability to deliver superb patient care.

Part of her focus will be partnering with Employee Wellness and Nursing Wellness to help employees take better care of themselves. Through a pilot project in nursing units, she’s had water dispensers installed in nursing break rooms and food carts with healthy items brought to the units. She also will pilot a leadership development program for nurses.

Dr. Duffy says that one of the greatest opportunities to improve the employee experience and in turn, the patient experience, is to make employees feel valued and respected. A collaborative team approach to patient care also improves patient outcomes.

Seeing patients as people

Throughout her career, Dr. Duffy has been working to humanize the way medical technology is delivered, and she says Cleveland Clinic is one of the first hospitals to make a formal effort to improve the patient experience. “It’s about addressing all of a patient’s needs – physical, emotional and spiritual,” she says.

James Goldfarb, M.D., Director of In Vitro Fertility Lab Services at the Beachwood Family Health Center Fertility Center, who is known for his empathetic nature, puts it even more simply, “Physicians who don’t appreciate their patients as people are missing out.” Unfortunately, he says, because compassion can’t be measured, it’s often pushed aside in favor of other goals that are measurable. “In some ways, trying to be empathetic is like trying to roll a boulder up a hill.”

Though some say that it’s difficult to teach compassion and empathy, Dr. Duffy will try. She’s already begun to work with the Neurological Institute to create a leadership development program that promotes these approaches to patient care. “It can’t be scripted,” she says. “We have to help people remember why they’re here in the first place and know that whether they are cleaning a room or implanting a device, they impact the patient experience.”

Building on best practices

“I don’t want people to think that my being here means there is currently no empathy at Cleveland Clinic,” Dr. Duffy says. “I have never met more compassionate, dedicated or caring individuals. It’s more a matter of ensuring a consistent approach across the entire system.”

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To build on existing best practices, Dr. Duffy will reach out to leadership for its support. “We’re all here to help people heal,” she says. “But it takes a manager leading by example and valuing and rewarding everyone on the team who demonstrates this behavior.”

Currently, she is piloting several initiatives, including the creation of a “Voice of the Patient Advisory Council,” led by a patient who, as a local business leader, won national recognition for improving customer service, and members will recommend ways to improve the patient experience.

“Never in my lifetime did I expect to be in this position,” says Dr. Duffy. “I didn’t think that I would find an organization that would make the commitment that this effort will require. To be at an institution like this, to have the opportunity to help set a standard for what patient experience should be like, is incredible.”
New Chairmen

Edward C. Benzel, M.D., has been appointed Chairman of Neurosurgery. Dr. Benzel also fills the roles of Director, Center for Spine Health; Director, Neurological Surgery Residency Program; and Co-Director of the Spine Surgery Fellowship Program. He has been actively involved in the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, North American Spine Society (NASS) and Cervical Spine Research Society. Dr. Benzel also recently completed his tenure as Chairman of the World Spine Society (WSS), a division of NASS, whose mission is to “improve spine health worldwide.”

Dr. Benzel holds several patents and has participated in many medical advances. He is perhaps best known as an educator. He directed the Neurosurgery Residency Training Program and the Spine Fellowship Programs at the University of New Mexico, and currently directs these programs at Cleveland Clinic. His innovation in Neurosurgery Resident Education has won accolades and numerous awards.

Isador H. Lieberman, M.D., a nationally and internationally recognized minimally invasive spine surgeon, has been named Chairman of the new Medical, Interventional and Surgical Spine Center at Cleveland Clinic in Florida. His new responsibilities will include: overseeing the expansion and development of multi-disciplinary spine care, recruiting additional physicians, establishing new programs and forging collaborative links with the medical and patient community. He also plans to recruit a nationally recognized team of medical and surgical spinal physicians by June 2008. As programs develop, additional recruits will be sought and a fellowship and scholarly program will be established.

Elaine Schulte, M.D., MPH, has recently been named Chair of the Department of General Pediatrics, main campus practice, at Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital. She is the former professor of pediatrics and founder of the International Adoption Program in the Department of Pediatrics at Albany Medical College, Albany, NY. Dr. Schulte is a native Clevelander and a board-certified pediatrician. She is an executive committee member of the Section on Adoption and Foster Care in the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the Joint Council on International Children’s Services.

Former Chief Medical Resident Honored with Memorial Lecture

The Lawrence “Chris” Crane Memorial Lecture was held this year on July 26th. John M. Flack, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Medicine and Physiology, Interim Chairman and Chief, Division of Translational Research and Clinical Epidemiology at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, was the invited lecturer speaking on “Ruminations Regarding the Excess Cardiovascular-Renal Disease Burden in U.S. Blacks: Clues from Interlinked Deranged Physiological Pathways.”

Contributions to the fund are welcome and may be made to the Lawrence “Chris” Crane Memorial Lecture, Internal Medicine Residency Office/NA10, Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195.

John M. Flack, M.D., M.P.H., with former Program Director Byron Hoogwerf, M.D.
Two Institute Chairs Named

As an institution, Cleveland Clinic is moving toward organizing its clinical areas around organ and disease systems, rather than individual specialties.

By fully integrating multiple specialties along disease lines, institutes can create a synergy among medical professionals with similar clinical, research and educational interests, centering on patient care.

Cleveland Clinic announced the appointment of Bruce Lytle, M.D., as Chairman of its newly established Heart and Vascular Institute. In this capacity, Dr. Lytle will oversee more than 2000 employees, which include more than 130 heart specialists that comprise Cleveland Clinic’s Heart and Vascular Institute. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Lytle, a 29-year veteran of Cleveland Clinic, had served as Chairman of the hospital’s Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery since September 2004.

“Bruce Lytle is an outstanding physician leader, dedicated to his patients and advancing the treatment of heart disease,” says Joseph Hahn, M.D., Chief of Staff, Cleveland Clinic. “His leadership skills, combined with his global reputation and clinical and surgical talent, strongly position him to lead the continued development of the Heart and Vascular Institute.

“I am excited to lead the Heart and Vascular Institute at a time when innovation and research are revolutionizing the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease,” Dr. Lytle says. “The continued development of Cleveland Clinic’s Heart and Vascular Institute uniquely positions our institution to take on a comprehensive approach to patient care, medical education and research. I look forward to working with the talented team of individuals who are the backbone of this prestigious institute.” A member of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery since 1978, Dr. Lytle has become internationally recognized in cardiac and thoracic re-operations and aortic surgeries. He specializes in coronary artery disease, arterial bypass grafting, valvular heart diseases, idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis, and laser transmyocardial revascularization surgery. Dr. Lytle has published numerous articles and papers in leading scientific journals and textbook chapters on cardiovascular disease.

Joseph P. Iannotti, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed Chairman of the new Orthopaedic and Rheumatologic Institute, which will bring together all employees and staff who treat musculoskeletal impairments, such as arthritis, osteoporosis, metabolic bone diseases, immunologic diseases of the joints and connective tissues, athletic injuries, bone fractures, musculoskeletal cancer and congenital and pediatric diseases.

“This is an opportunity for us to work as a team in treating these disorders efficiently and effectively using a multidisciplinary approach afforded by both the departments of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rheumatology,” says Dr. Iannotti. “My main responsibility will be to integrate clinical care, education and research.” The Institute also will bring together the sections of Musculoskeletal Radiology, Anesthesia and Rehabilitation.

As part of his overall goal to integrate the Institute, he plans to develop a uniform patient access and triage system for people who have both rheumatic and orthopaedic disorders. What this means to patients, according to Dr. Iannotti, is that, “Through the use of clinical care pathways, they will get care that is considered industry wide to be the best available, evidence-based medicine.”

Dr. Iannotti also will integrate clinical outcomes and clinical trials within the Institute, and integrate common education programs to create a core curriculum for the training of fellows and residents in the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders. Since his appointment at Cleveland Clinic in 2000, Dr. Iannotti has served as Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and was the founding Co-director of the Orthopaedic Research Center. He holds the Maynard Madden Professor for Arthritis Research in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner School of Medicine. Last year, he received the Cleveland Clinic Resident Teaching Award in Orthopaedic Surgery.
“Elementary, My Dear Fränkel...”
Genetic Investigation Saves Lives

Combine the 123-year-old autopsy report for a young woman who died suddenly, a little old-fashioned detective work, and modern technology and the result is new insight into an inherited and potentially deadly condition of the adrenal glands.

One of the sleuths is Charis Eng, M.D., Ph.D., Chair of the Institute’s Genomic Medicine Institute. The work uncovered the genetic mutation, called a germ line mutation, behind an inherited condition called pheochromocytoma.

This condition causes tumors of the central portion of the adrenal gland (called the adrenal medulla) which produce excess adrenaline. The adrenal medulla is responsible for the normal production of adrenaline which the body requires to help maintain blood pressure and to help cope with stressful situations. A tumor of the adrenal medulla can overproduce adrenaline and be deadly because of the severe elevation in blood pressure it causes.

The genetic detective story starts in 1884, when 18-year-old Minna Roll, a resident of Wittenweier, Germany, suddenly became ill and died. An autopsy discovered bilateral adrenal “sarcoma and angio-sarcoma” – tumors on both of her adrenal glands. Years later, Felix Frankel would review the case and give bilateral adrenal tumors a name – pheochromocytoma.

The modern detective team wanted to answer two questions. Was Dr. Frankel’s diagnosis of pheochromocytoma accurate? And was Roll’s disorder inherited?

The researchers contacted the village church to get Roll’s family records to identify relatives. From this information, they built a pedigree, or family tree, and traced family names through several generations.

Using telephone directories for Wittenweier and nearby Hamburg, the team sent inquiries to 74 potential relatives. Six people responded and contributed genomic DNA, and more family histories were collected. The researchers found six descendants between the ages of 36 and 44 had evidence of pheochromocytoma, and four had medullary thyroid carcinoma.

The culprit? Initially believed to be the VHL gene, modern mutation analysis and knowledge of the various pheochromocytoma susceptibility genes, which Dr. Eng and her colleagues have uncovered over the last few years, led to the surprising answer that the culprit was the RET proto-oncogene.

Indeed, Minna Roll had multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 and this mutation was uncovered in her descendents by Dr. Eng and her collaborators. Because of this mystery, novel technology has led to pinpointing the diagnosis and the gene involved. Now, they are able to recommend clinical screening and pre-emptive strikes before full-blown disease and death in the descendents of Minna Roll.

“This work shows how far we’ve come in technology and understanding the human genome, and how that knowledge can benefit today’s patients,” says Dr. Eng. “If genetic and family screening were available 123 years ago, Minna most likely would have lived because the tumors would have been diagnosed earlier, and the lives of all those subsequent family members could have been saved. It shows the power and potential of personalized genetic healthcare. It also gives us a new diagnostic tool to help identify the condition in today’s patients.”

Dr. Eng was joined by Hartmut P.H. Neumann, M.D., Zoran Erlic, M.D., Birke Bausch, M.D., and Alberto Cascon, M.D., of the University of Freiberg (Germany) Medical Center’s Department of Nephrology; Dieter Schmidt, M.D., of the medical center’s Department of Ophthalmology; Martin Werner, M.D., of the medical center’s Department of Pathology; Alexander Vortmeyer, M.D., of the National Cancer Institute’s National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; and Andrzej Januszewicz, M.D., of the Institute of Cardiology in Warsaw. Notably, clinical translational sciences investigation which changes the practice of medicine is often accomplished in a consortium fashion. This Consortium and Registry/Study Group of 12 years standing has been led by Drs. Eng, Neumann and Januszewicz.

The research appeared in The New England Journal of Medicine (www.nejm.org/, 2007;357:1311-5). The research was supported in part by grants from the National Institutes of Health, The Deutsche Krebshilfe, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and the European Union.
Dr. Hermann also presented the second William & Roxanne Michener Award for the Development of Leadership to Joseph Austerman, D.O., Psychiatry. Dr. Austerman has demonstrated a commitment to learning, superior communication abilities and a mastery of medical skills. He also embodies the courage, integrity and compassion that represent the highest ideals of clinical medicine.

Several additional awards were presented during the celebration:

**William E. Lower Awards**
Established in 1936 by Dr. Lower, one of the Cleveland Clinic founders, to encourage original investigation and professional excellence in the preparation of scientific papers by residents and fellows.

**Lower Clinical Award**
First Place:  
Kenneth Civello, M.D. | Cardiovascular Medicine  
Honorable Mention:  
Douglas Johnston, M.D. | Thoracic Surgery

**Lower Non-Clinical Award**
First Place:  
Xiangdong Zhou, Ph.D. | Neurosciences  
Honorable Mention:  
Partho Sarothi Ray, Ph.D. | Cell Biology

**Peskind Memorial Award**
Established by a group of grateful patients, friends and family of the late D. Adolph Peskind, M.D. to recognize residents and fellows in medicine who achieve excellence in the preparation of scientific papers.

Salva Epelman, M.D., Ph.D. | Internal Medicine

**Robert C. Tarazi Fellowship Award**
Established in memory of Robert Tarazi, M.D., past vice chairman of the Division of Research from 1977 to 1984, to recognize papers that make an outstanding contribution to clinical or basic cardiovascular research aimed at better understanding and/or treatment of cardiovascular disease.

First Place:  
Zeneng Wang, Ph.D. | Cell Biology  
Honorable Mention:  
Partho Sarothi Ray, Ph.D. | Cell Biology

**Bruce Hubbard Stewart Award**
Established in memory of Bruce Stewart, M.D., who was a member of the Department of Urology for many years and later chairman of the Division of Surgery. His friends and family established the award in recognition of his ability to combine sensitivity and compassion with knowledge and skill in the practice of medicine.

Ryan Hedgepeth, M.D. | Urology  
Mark Rizzi, M.D. | Otolaryngology

**George and Grace Crile Traveling Fellowship Award**
Made possible by a grant given by the Crile family, this award is presented each year to an outstanding trainee who demonstrates exceptional capability and effort.

Brian Lane, M.D., Ph.D. | Urology

**Crile Research Fellowship Award**
Awarded by the Division of Education for highly meritorious basic science research proposals. Award winners are selected based on scientific quality of the project and mentoring environment, and are offered a one-year basic science opportunity the following year.

Julian Sanchez, M.D. | Colorectal Surgery  
Edina Swartz, M.D. | Allergy and Immunology

**Joseph Cash Memorial Award**
Established by friends, family and colleagues of the late Joseph Cash, M.D., former chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, to encourage original investigation and professional excellence in the preparation of clinical papers on health outcomes.

Khaldoun Tarakji, M.D. | Cardiovascular Medicine
Surgical Tourism (Part 2): Surgeons Seeking Practice Abroad

Paul J. Ford, Ph.D.
Bioethics and Neurology

Ruth Farrell, M.D.
Bioethics and OB/GYN

The issue of surgeons traveling abroad to provide medical care to resource-poor parts of the world has become increasingly controversial.

Though most physicians embark on these travels with humanitarian intentions, some are drawn by the idea of “surgical tourism” where rare training or medical experiences can be acquired while traveling abroad. Even with the most humanitarian intentions, physicians can cause harm if they practice medicine within a culture with which they are not familiar. Western values may not be compatible with those of the local community. This provides the converse of the topic discussed in the previous Controversies column which addressed the care of patients traveling abroad to seek surgical interventions.

The ease of travel and transport of both medical supplies and personnel and increased awareness of global health disparities are shaping the globalization of medicine. As a result, physicians are traveling overseas to practice medicine in greater numbers than previously observed. In most cases, physicians are traveling to underserved parts of the world, those areas that lack adequate medical resources or infrastructure to deliver health care. While abroad, these physicians encounter medical and surgical conditions rarely seen here in the United States. As a result, many may not have the specific training, experience, or competence to provide appropriate medical care before being confronted with these types of health issues. In addition, physicians may be presented with medical equipment that they are not accustomed to using, is outdated, or does not meet basic quality standards to use. In other cases, physicians may face the challenge of providing adequate follow-up care to their patients so that health care can be continued after they return to their home countries. These scenarios present just a sample of the practical and ethical challenges faced by physicians who travel abroad. This raises questions about how physicians can best serve the needs of their patients without causing harm in the process.

One example of the challenges that physicians face when they travel overseas to provide health care is obstetric fistula. This is a devastating condition in which young women develop a defect between the vaginal, bladder, and/or rectum that causes them to leak urine and feces uncontrollably. Fistula develops when a pregnant woman labors for days without adequate obstetric care and massive injury to the pelvic floor results from prolonged pressure from the entrapped fetal head. This condition can only be surgically corrected and, without adequate care, these women will have chronic and progressive illness. The growing awareness of obstetric fistula has brought many physicians from the United States to Africa to perform surgical repairs for these women.

On the surface, the influx of physicians into Africa to perform these activities does not appear to be problematic. Patients receive health care that could not be provided otherwise because of a lack of financial resources or trained local medical personnel. Surgeons acquire further training through treatment of patient conditions rarely seen in the United States or for which regulation might not permit. However, underlying controversy arises when patients are left worse off because of poor aftercare and with the potential for ethically problematic clinical or research activity.

First and foremost, medical ethics require that more benefit be done than harm. This harm analysis must take into account the entire medical condition, healthcare services available, and cultural context. For instance, helping these women may not be so simple as traveling to repair the worst cases. Although fistulas cause long-term disability and suffering, doing surgery when there is inadequate follow up with antibiotics and health care may have a significant mortality rate. Further, just fixing the fistula may or may not have a real effect on the patient’s overall morbidity, which would argue potential futility.

Next, if the motivation is to help patients in less resource rich environments, then a question of maximal resource use should be explored. One could argue that contributing the cost of travel, lodging, and expertise that an individual surgeon would expend instead fund a few surgeons for a longer duration would be much more financially effective. Or, even funding health care services that could avoid the problem such as good prenatal/obstetrical care to avoid fistulas. A resistance to this idea of charity argues against a purely “altruistic” reason for traveling abroad to perform surgeries. We are left with the questions of how self-serving these trips are and at what point does it become unacceptable to use people for training purposes?
A third layer of controversy exists in surgical research tourism when the surgeries are performed as innovation or research that could not be undertaken in the context of American regulation. People try to argue that since the patient population will not receive the American “standard” intervention that a controlled study would be permissible with only some patients receiving a surgery. Further, it is argued that this innovation and research will occur whether American surgeons participate or not. Hence, participating provides an opportunity to contribute and improve quality of data and to provide experience so that when (if) the procedure becomes viable, they can easily do the studies. However, participating in this manner risks moral culpability for research subject abuse as well as responsibility for facilitating and supporting an unethical practice.

In considering the appropriateness of traveling abroad to undertake surgery, the ethical principles of justice, and avoiding using people as primarily a “means to an end” must be addressed. As an ethical principle, people should not be used primarily for training without the appropriate commensurate benefit. Careful reflection and transparency are necessary when considering going abroad as a surgeon tourist. Those with fewer resources and options are vulnerable and thus must be treated charitably while being afforded protection.
For the 13th consecutive year, Cleveland Clinic’s cardiac care has been ranked No. 1 in the U.S., according to the 2007 U.S. News & World Report “America’s Best Hospitals” survey.

The survey recognized Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation’s best hospitals overall, ranking the Clinic as No. 4 in the country. The Clinic ranked in all 16 specialties surveyed by the magazine. Twelve of its specialties were listed among the Top 10 in the United States. All of Cleveland Clinic’s specialties placed in the nation’s top 20.

The 18 hospitals selected for the magazine’s 2007 Honor Roll, with Cleveland Clinic ranked No. 4, “displayed the marked breadth of expertise” and high scores in at least six specialties, according to U.S. News.

The National Institutes of Health has granted $64 million to four Cleveland organizations to become part of a nationwide consortium to transform how clinical and translational research is conducted at academic health centers across the country. It is believed to be the largest NIH grant awarded to Northeast Ohio. Cleveland Clinic joins Case Western Reserve University, MetroHealth Medical Center and University Hospitals as part of what will be a consortium of 60 institutions by 2012. The group will work together to bring new treatments to patients faster and more efficiently. The Cleveland institutions will use patient-based research to improve the health of local patients.

Richard Rudick, M.D., vice chairman of the Neurological Institute joins Case Western Reserve University, MetroHealth Medical Center and University Hospitals as part of what will be a consortium of 60 institutions by 2012. The group will work together to bring new treatments to patients faster and more efficiently. The Cleveland institutions will use patient-based research to improve the health of local patients.

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“Translational and clinical research are the pathways linking new knowledge to medical advances to benefit our patients,” Dr. Rudick says. The consortium, he added, will train “leaders for the nation’s clinical research enterprise by promoting collaborative research efforts across our region and by developing advanced research.”

Cleveland Clinic has received a $3.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the communication and decision-making process that surrounds Phase I or early stage clinical trials involving pediatric cancer patients for whom other treatments have failed. The grant will enable the study of informed consent at six of the most active Phase I pediatric cancer clinical trial programs in the country. The Department of Bioethics at Cleveland Clinic will serve as the coordinating center for data entry and analysis.

The study aims to provide qualitative and quantitative insight into how Phase I trials and other options, such as hospice or palliative care, are presented to patients and their families. Researchers will examine what parents and older children understand from the communication process and how comprehension and decision-making are influenced by the communication process, incorporating how parental and clinician-investigator perspectives may vary.

“Communication is one of the most important aspects of practicing medicine and of doing clinical research,” says Eric Kodish, M.D., study Principal Investigator and Chairman of the Department of Bioethics at Cleveland Clinic. “Better communication will lead to better care of children with cancer, and the lessons we learn will apply in many other settings. Long-term, in addition to better understanding the nature of communicating Phase I trials, we’ll gain a greater understanding of this very complicated issue.”

Shuvo Roy, Ph.D., Lerner Research Institute, was awarded a $3.2 million, three-year grant to develop a bio-artificial kidney using silicon nanotechnology.

Dr. Roy and his team are using MEMS (microelectromechanical systems) technology to create an implantable, self-regulating bio-artificial kidney that will filter toxins and absorb necessary salts and water like human kidneys. The team includes physicians and engineers from the Lerner Research Institute’s Department of Biomedical Engineering and Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Nephrology.

The implantable bio-artificial kidney Dr. Roy and his team are developing could substitute for kidney transplantation, thereby giving hope, independence, and mobility to more than 300,000 patients presently tethered to thrice-weekly in-center dialysis. Dr. Roy’s grant is one of four awarded by NIBIB’s Quantum Grants program.

Cleveland Clinic is one of seven academic medical systems selected to take part in a national cardiothoracic research network. A $35 million, five-year grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute will finance evaluations of new surgical techniques and technologies and how they are used to treat cardiovascular diseases. The institute has partnered with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to create the Network for Cardiothoracic Surgical Investigations in Cardiovascular Medicine to promote the adoption of evidence-based medicine in cardiothoracic surgery.
Clinic investigators involved are thoracic and cardiovascular surgeons Eugene Blackstone, M.D., and A. Marc Gillinov, M.D.

“Cleveland Clinic is excited to be a part of this important network of institutions that is charged with evaluating the latest, most innovative cardiothoracic surgical methods to ensure they are of maximum benefit to the patient,” Dr. Blackstone said.

Others included in the network are Columbia University Medical Center, Duke University Medical Center, Emory Healthcare, Montreal Heart Institute, University of Virginia Heart Center and Montefiore-Einstein Heart

Four Cleveland Clinic spine surgeons recently helped lead EgyptSpine 2007. Spine surgeons Edward Benzel, M.D., Director of the Center for Spine Health, Isador Lieberman, M.D., Doug Orr, M.D., and Richard P. Schlenk, M.D. (NS/ SF’03), along with eight other spine surgeons from around the world, presented and led labs sessions for 125 participants from more than 20 countries. The Egyptian Spine Review and Hands-on Course was the first of its kind in Egypt and was the result of a unique collaboration between Cleveland Clinic and Ain Shams and Cairo Universities in Egypt. Aura Lopez, Global Patient Services, Steve Halton, cSITe, and Martha Tobin, Neurological Institute, also assisted at the conference.

The Google company has announced formation of the Google Health Advisory Council for the purpose of better understanding consumer and provider healthcare issues. Cleveland Clinic CEO and President Toby Cosgrove, M.D., has been named to this new 22-member council, which includes experts from a number of health-related industries. Bernadine Healy M.D., former head of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Health Editor and Columnist, U.S. News & World Report, also will serve on the council. Dr. Healy headed the Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute from 1985 to 1991 and is married to Floyd D. Loop, M.D. (RO’70, RO/A’79), who was CEO of the Cleveland Clinic for 15 years before stepping down in 2004.

Cleveland Clinic’s Syncope Clinic performed its 10,000th hemodynamic procedure on July 10. Syncope, or a short-term loss of consciousness, is a complex syndrome because it can be produced by one of various causes. Cleveland Clinic houses the only structured Syncope Clinic in the world and uses a variety of complex testing methods to determine the cause of a patient’s syncope. The hemodynamic procedure, which is one testing method, records a patient’s blood flow while the heart muscles contract and pump blood throughout the body. Since 1976, Cleveland Clinic has served as an international leader in syncope testing and diagnosis. “We have always been a step ahead of other centers,” says Fetnat Fouad-Tarazi, M.D. (RES’79) Medical Director of the Syncope Clinic.

Cleveland Clinic alumni staff are on the “cutting edge” of a new treatment for brain tumors. The Clinic is only the second hospital in the United States to offer the most targeted, minimally invasive device, Gamma Knife Perfexion. Specialists at Cleveland Clinic’s Gamma Knife Center used the new device for the first time on a 20-year-old Bowling Green man who has a tumor deep under his brain.

“This treatment offers one of the most efficient and effective methods to stop the growth of certain brain tumors and treat other brain disorders,” says John H. Suh, M.D. (RO’94, RO/A’95), Chairman of Radiation Oncology and Director of the Cleveland Clinic Gamma Knife Center. “With this new technology patients will only need to receive one outpatient treatment as opposed to other methods that can require multiple radiation treatments over weeks or even traditional brain surgery.”

Gamma Knife Perfexion will be used to treat benign brain tumors, malignant brain tumors, arteriovenous malformations (AVM) – an abnormal connection of blood vessels in the brain, and trigeminal neuralgia.
“We are hopeful that this will allow us to help more patients and be more effective in our treatments,” says Gene H. Barnett, M.D. (S’81, NS’86), Director, Cleveland Clinic Brain Tumor and Neuro-Oncology Center and Associate Director of Gamma Knife Center.

Cleveland Clinic neurosurgeon Ali Rezai, M.D., performed the first deep brain stimulation (DBS) on a patient with severe traumatic brain injury in a minimally conscious state. Dr. Rezai, Director, Center for the Advanced Study of Therapies for Brain Injury, and collaborators from a multicenter team investigated the responses of a single patient in a minimally conscious state following a traumatic brain injury. The findings appear in the Aug. 2 issue of Nature.

Cleveland Clinic’s NanoMedicine Program received a $1 million grant from Telomolecular Corp., a nanotechnology company based in California, to create and test pharmaceutical compounds to treat degenerative diseases and some cancers. Dr. Vinod Labhasetwar, director of the Cleveland Clinic’s NanoMedicine Program, will direct the study.

“Cancer and degenerative diseases affect millions of people worldwide,” Dr. Labhasetwar said. “Our goal is to move nanomedicine from the laboratory to the bedside and provide new therapies and treatment for conditions for which there have been limited or no treatment options to date.”

Cleveland Clinic announced in August the executive staff for its new healthcare venture, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City (SKMC) in Abu Dhabi. The capable team of Scott A. Strong, M.D. (CRS’92), Mila Henn, and Sulaiman H. Sulaiman will join Kenneth Ouriel, M.D., who was appointed Chief Executive Officer of SKMC in July.

In June, Cleveland Clinic announced a partnership with the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi, to integrate its medical expertise and Best in Class practices with SKMC in order to achieve the highest clinical outcomes possible and enhance research and training.

“This team of outstanding professionals will help integrate our medical expertise and best-in-class practices as we expand our longstanding relationships in the Middle East,” said Toby Cosgrove, M.D., CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic. “As a global healthcare institution, Cleveland Clinic has sought to cultivate opportunities to further expand our presence abroad, sharing state-of-the-art medical practices, procedures and administrative capabilities and raising healthcare standards worldwide. This partnership stands to redefine what is possible in healthcare worldwide.”

In partnership with Cleveland Clinic, LiveMed hosted the third annual International Cardiology Conference Sept. 28-29 in Mexico City. Regarded as one of the most important international cardiology conferences in the Americas, the conference focuses on diagnostic and treatment advances in the field of cardiology. Videoconferences, speakers and live clinical case studies were presented to the 1,500 cardiologists and internists in attendance. Again this year, the conference was video transmitted to physicians in South America. Cleveland Clinic speakers included keynote speaker Steven Nissen, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine; William Carey, M.D.; Leslie Cho, M.D. (CARD’00, CARDIN’02); Milind Desai, M.D.; Stephen Ellis, M.D.; Gary Francis, M.D.; Brian Griffin, M.D.; I. Leonardo Rodriguez, M.D. (CARD’95); Walid I. Saliba, M.D. (CARD/E’99); and Tomislav Mihaljevic, M.D.

Three Cleveland Clinic researchers have received federal grants totaling nearly $3.4 million. Kwaku Dayie, Ph.D., who studies molecular genetics, will receive $480,000 over three years from the National Science Foundation; Robert Fairchild, Ph.D., whose specialty is immunology, will get $1.9 million over five years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and Takao Sakai, M.D., Ph.D., biomedical engineer, will receive a $1 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases over five years.

Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, the MetroHealth System, Southwest General Hospital, the Louis Stokes VA, and the Summa Health System, have joined forces to address the region’s healthcare labor shortages. Believed to be the first of its kind, the Northeast Ohio Health, Science and Innovation Coalition (NOHSIC) was formed to develop and implement solutions to counter the severe labor shortages affecting some areas of healthcare, including nursing, respiratory therapy, laboratory and radiology services. The labor shortages, if left unaddressed, stand to hinder the region’s ability to maintain and grow its position as a nationally recognized center of healthcare excellence.

The mission of the Coalition is to build a sustainable system that effectively aligns employer, public and private sector resources for the development, recruitment and retention of a skilled healthcare workforce. The Coalition recently gained public support through a memorandum of understanding with the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board.

The Coalition is seeking ways to maximize this growth and make the most of the region’s human resources, develop-
ing specific programs centered on training, professional development, recruitment and regional branding.

**Michael Roizen, M.D.,** former Chairman of Cleveland Clinic’s Division of Anesthesiology, Critical Care Medicine and Comprehensive Pain Management, has taken on a new role. As the Clinic’s new Chief Wellness Officer, Dr. Roizen will be responsible for creating a healthier work force, patient population and community. Dr. Roizen is co-founder of RealAge Inc., a San Diego-based company focused on health and wellness for consumers. He co-authored three best-selling books with Dr. Mehmet Oz - “You: The Owners Manual,” “You: The Smart Patient” and “You: On a diet.” He has appeared frequently on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

Dr. Roizen’s position as chief wellness officer is the first of its kind in the country. He says that making the Cleveland Clinic “a more health-friendly place for our employees” is at the top of his agenda. He is reaching out to visitors, patients and the community “to make everything healthier,” he said. Visit Dr. Roizen’s Web site at realage.com.

**Peter R. Cavanagh, Ph.D., D.Sc.,** Chair, Biomedical Engineering and staff member, Orthopaedic Surgery, received the International Diabetic Foot Award, the highest honor bestowed in the multidisciplinary field of the prevention and treatment of foot complications caused by diabetes.

This prestigious quadrennial prize is given to a person “who is the most outstanding specialist in the field and has been pivotal in the development of better diabetic foot care throughout the world.” Dr. Cavanagh, the fourth recipient, accepted the award on May 11 at the Fifth International Symposium in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands. Representatives from more than 80 countries were present at the ceremony.

In making the award, the Selection Committee wrote that Dr. Cavanagh “has taken the lead in the development of better insight in the biomechanics of the foot, footwear design, and off-loading in the past century. By so doing, he has initiated a new era in the field of diabetic foot care.”

The International Diabetic Foot Award is accompanied by a sculpture specially designed for the award by the internationally renowned Dutch artist Pépé Gregoire.

**David R. Strand** has been named Chief Emerging Businesses Officer for Cleveland Clinic. In this role, Mr. Strand will oversee strategic ventures and emerging businesses, and lead in the evaluation, selection, growth and operation of new services, products and business opportunities to help expand our presence nationally and abroad.

Mr. Strand’s leadership in this area will build upon Cleveland Clinic’s history of innovation and entrepreneurship, and enable us to respond to emerging trends in healthcare and thrive globally, says Toby Cosgrove, M.D., CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic. Mr. Strand has more than 26 years’ experience serving as an executive officer of industry-leading healthcare organizations. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, he was Chief Executive Officer of LifeMasters Supported SelfCare, Inc., a San Francisco-based provider of disease management services.

**Fredric Hustey, M.D.,** Emergency Medicine, was awarded a $40,000 grant by the American Geriatric Society, John A. Hartford Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies for the development of a geriatric acute-care curriculum for emergency medicine residents.

**Gary Falk, M.D.,** Digestive Diseases Institute, was appointed co-chair of the National Cancer Institute’s Division of Cancer Prevention workshop, “Barrett’s Esophagus Translational Research,” a program to help set the agenda for this disease in the future.

**Martin Weinhous, Ph.D.,** Chief of Medical Physics, Radiation Oncology, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), which is the world’s premier scientific and professional society for medical physicists.

**Gerard Banez, Ph.D.,** Director of the Behavioral Pediatrics Treatment Service, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the executive council for the Society of Pediatric Psychology.

**Charles Modlin, M.D.,** Director, Minority Men’s Health Center and Clinical Outreach, has been selected by Gov. Ted Strickland to serve on the Governor’s Commission on African-American Males.

**Ralph O’Brien, Ph.D.,** Quantitative Health Sciences, Education, has been selected winner of the 2007 Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS) Distinguished Achievement Award.

**George F. Muschler, M.D.,** Director, Orthopaedic Research Center, was featured in an interview on “Nightline” on Oct. 1. The segment detailed cell therapy in orthopaedic surgery.
Calendar

NOTE: All courses are at the spectacular state-of-the-art InterContinental Hotel & Bank of America Conference Center on the Cleveland Clinic campus in Cleveland, OH, unless otherwise noted.

Contact Information
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Center for Continuing Education
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Alumni Receptions, “Mini Reunions” and other Alumni Events:
The Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association and various department chairmen are pleased to be sponsoring alumni gatherings at the following major national medical meetings and other venues. All local alumni, as well as those attending the meetings, are cordially invited to these Alumni Events with their spouse/companion. Watch your mail for more information, check the Alumni home page at www.clevelandclinic.org/education/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 216.444.2487, toll-free, 800.444.3664, fax, 216.445.2730, or via e-mail: alumni@ccf.org

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Alumni Events

December

January 2008

12
Glaucma Management in 2008: Pearl and Pitfalls

February

1
8th Annual Orthopaedics Excellence through Education

3
Hysterectomy: From the Office to the O.R.
Harbor Beach Marriott
Fort Lauderdale, FL

4
Distology & New Echo Technologies Summit featuring Contract Echo Mini Symposium
The Hilton Daytona
Oceanfront Beach
Daytona, FL

9
Ophthalmic Oncology Update

13
International Society of Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgeons
Jointly sponsored with Case Western Reserve University
Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six
Fort Lauderdale, FL

14
Endorectal Ultrasonography Course
Cleveland Clinic Conference Center, Weston, FL

16
19th Annual Colorectal Disease Symposium (ACDS) 2008
Harbor Beach Marriott
Fort Lauderdale, FL

19
10th Annual Pain Management Symposium
Coronado Bay Resort & Spa
Coronado, CA

16-20
7th Annual Surgery of the Foregut Symposium & Endoscopy/Natural Orifice Surgery Workshop
Biltmore Hotel
Coral Gables, FL

20
Endoscopic Natural Orifice Surgery Workshop
Cleveland Clinic Florida
Conference Center
Weston, FL

20
Surgery of the Foregut
Biltmore Hotel
Coral Gables, FL

21
Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM)
Hands-on Workshop
Harbor Beach Marriott
Fort Lauderdale, FL

22
2nd International Symposium on Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy & Stereotactic Radiosurgery
Grand Floridian Resort & Spa
Lake Buena Vista, FL

March

8
Female Pelvic Floor Disorders
Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six
Fort Lauderdale, FL

8
Innovations in Ocular Inflammatory Diseases

14-15
Palliative Medicine 2008
The Westin-Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, AZ

14-16
10th Annual Innovations in Plastic Surgery Symposium
Fort Lauderdale Grande Hotel & Yacht Club
Fort Lauderdale, FL

28
2nd Annual Innovations in Ophthalmology
Marquis Los Cabos
Los Cabos, Mexico

April

5
7th Annual Cleveland Clinic Otolaryngology Symposium
Sponsored by Physicians Regional Medical Center (formerly Cleveland Clinic Florida, Naples)
Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, Naples, FL
Contact: Physicians Regional Medical Center, Dept. of CME
1-7
United States & Canadian Academy of Pathology
Denver, CO

5-9
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
San Francisco, CA

4/1
American College of Cardiology, Chicago, IL

29-3/1
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
Philadelphia, PA

14-16
American Academy of Neurology
Chicago, IL

April

12-19
American Academy of Neurology, Chicago, IL

26-
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
Chicago, IL

Association for Research in Vision & Ophthalmology
Fort Lauderdale, FL

For information on these events as well as an online CME, medical publications and how to register for free e-mail updates, please visit: www.clevelandclinicmeded.com
Inderbir S. Gill, M.D. (RES’90, U/R’91), vice chairman of the Cleveland Clinic’s Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute, was awarded the St. Paul’s Medal for outstanding contributions to the field of urology by the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) at their 61st annual meeting in Manchester, England. Dr. Gill was the unanimous choice for the medal, which is the highest award presented by the BAUS.

Terence L. Gutgsell, M.D. (H/OPC’96) joined the Solid Tumor Oncology Department at the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute on Aug. 6. Previously he was Chief Medical Officer at the Hospice of the Bluegrass in Lexington, KY for more than a decade and helped foster a major expansion of hospice and palliative care services in the region. Dr. Gutgsell thinks hospice needs to be better understood by physicians and that end-of-life care should be more visible to patients. He and his wife, Katherine, have four children, Andrew, Luke, Michael and Jessie.

Tracy L. Hull, M.D. (CRS’92, CFCRS’93) was named the first holder of the MUS Foundation Endowed Chair in Pelvic Floor Disorders. A member of the Cleveland Clinic Colorectal staff, she was recognized for her dedication to the field and, most importantly, her patients. The chair is supported by an anonymous donor who wanted to provide assistance to a specialty that provided a second lease on life. The $1.5 million commitment will last in perpetuity at the institution and brings recognition to the donor as well as honor to the work of a talented member of academia. Dr. Hull is a native of Fremont, OH where her parents, Dr. Keith and Lucy Hull, still reside.

Samer S. Kabbani, M.D. (IM’98, RES/MC’97) left the University of Vermont where he was an assistant professor, to return to his native country nephrologists at Ohio Permanente Medical Group, joined Cleveland Clinic Florida on Sept. 4. The couple has two children, Justin and Danielle.

Jill R. Dietz, M.D. (S’98, S/BD’99) See David W. Dietz, M.D., 00s, below.

Raed A. Dweik, M.D. (PULMCC’96), Director of the Cleveland Clinic Pulmonary Vascular Program, Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine, received the Division of Medicine Distinguished Teacher Award for the 2006-07 academic year. The award is given to one staff member in the Division of Medicine annually, and the recipient is nominated by residents. This is the fourth time Dr. Dweik has been selected for this award.

John A. Bergfeld, M.D. (GL-1’65, S’67, ORS’70), Director of the Operating Room Management Team at Cleveland Clinic, recently concluded his presidency of the International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine in May 2007 at their biannual meeting in Florence, Italy. ISAKOS advances the worldwide exchange and dissemination of education, research and patient care in arthroscopy, knee surgery and orthopaedic sports medicine.

Andrew C. Novick, M.D. (U’77), Chairman of the Cleveland Clinic’s Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute, recently was named a Laureate of the SIU Astellas Award at the 29th Congress of the International Urological Society in Paris, France. This is the most prestigious award given by this society in recognition of outstanding personal contributions to the field of urology and to its development. The award has been presented only seven times in the 100-year history of the SIU. Dr. Novick is the first Cleveland Clinic urologist to receive this award.

Conrad C. Simpfendorfer, M.D. (CARDF’78), while attending the First International Congress of Atherosclerosis in Ecuador in early August, 2007, was declared “Guest of Honor of the City of Guayaquil” by the mayor during the Opening Ceremony. The honor was in recognition of Dr. Simpfendorfer’s care of so many patients from Ecuador over the years. Several local newspaper and television interviews followed.

Felix H. Unger, M.D. (RES’74) chairs the University Clinic for Cardiac Surgery Salzburg in Austria. As president of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and president of the European Institute of Health, he writes that “Health is Wealth-Toward a 5020 European Lead Market” is their main focus in cooperation with the European Union. For additional information, please contact Dr. Unger at f.unger@salk.at or felix.unger@european-academy.at
Alumni “Docs Who Rock”

Terry A. Gordon, D.O. (CARD’87), performed at the Fourth Annual United Way of Summit County’s “Docs Who Rock” physician talent show held on Oct. 13, at E. J. Thomas Hall on the University of Akron (OH) campus. Over the past years, Terry has imitated a variety of pop music’s icons including Rod Stewart, Austin Powers, Mick Jagger and Tina Turner. Among the ten physician acts he helped pull together, three other alumni performed: V-Tach, featured Thomas G. Javorsky, M.D. (AN’94, CC’94) and Joseph F. Pietrolungo, D.O. (IM’88, CARD’93, VM’94); George Z. Markarian, M.D. (NS’01) performed a piano solo.

Editor’s Note: Maybe we can get a “reprisal” at our May, 2009 Alumni Reunion in Cleveland!

and is now Director of the Cardiology Department at Rafik Hariri University Hospital, a 500-bed teaching hospital in Beirut, Lebanon.

Michael Lincoff, M.D. (CARD’92, CARDIN’93), Vice Chairman, Research of Cardiovascular Medicine, and Director of the Cardiovascular Coordinating Center at Cleveland Clinic is the first chair holder of the Charles and Charlotte Fowler Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Research. Charles and Charlotte Fowler, longtime friends and patients, have committed their $1.5 million gift in honor of Bruce Lyyte, M.D., Chairman of the Heart and Vascular Institute.

Michelle Medina, M.D. (PD’99) was appointed to the Pediatric staff at the Cleveland Clinic Independence Family Health Center, July 16. She will be working out of the Marymount office in the fall of 2007, and will be seeing newborn babies as well as new patients in their medical office building. Dr. Medina has been in Alabama for the last eight years, working in Elmore County and practicing general pediatrics. In her role as medical director of a rural health clinic, she has worked closely with the local community promoting obesity awareness in children and addressing the needs of foster children. She is now living in North Royalton with her husband Ben, 22 month-old daughter Emma, and their sheltie, Liam.

Richard A. Prayson, M.D. (ACLPTH’93), Section Head of Neuropathology at Cleveland Clinic, received the 2007 John Beach Teaching Award. Residents of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine give this award annually to a faculty member who is deemed the best teacher. This is the third time Dr. Prayson has received this award.

Walid I. Saliba, M.D. (CARD/E’99), formerly Director of the Electrophysiology Lab at Cleveland Clinic, was recently named Interim Section Head of Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing. Widely considered to be one of the largest EP programs in the country, Cleveland Clinic continues to apply innovative and advanced techniques to treat the most complex cases. “Under the mentorship of experienced leaders, we have built an extraordinary department of physicians who have deep skills in treating delicate and complex diseases such as atrial fibrillation,” says Dr. Saliba. “I am proud to lead this talented group of physicians to provide the best treatment possible for our patients.

John D. Varley, M.D. (P’91), a psychiatrist at Summa Health System, Akron, OH, has been named as the first holder of the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, made possible by a $1.5 million gift by Mr. & Mrs. Oelechlager. Dr. Varley is involved in a national Mind Brain Consortium, which is a research program to incorporate neuroscience into clinical practice. Under that consortium, Dr. Varley is conducting clinical trials to determine if there is a drug that can treat multiple sclerosis. Mr. Oelschlager, who is founder and CEO of investment firm Oak Associates, and his wife also support the Oak Clinic for Multiple Sclerosis Treatment in Green, which is where they met Dr. Varley. Mr. Oelschlager has multiple sclerosis.
Mohammad A. Al-Haddad, M.D. (IM’04) finished Gastroenterology training at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL and has recently moved to Indianapolis, IN where he accepted a position as assistant professor of Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine. His practice will primarily focus on advanced endoscopy and endoscopic ultrasound. He and his wife, Hiba, have two children: Ali, 4, and Sarah, 2. Dr. Al-Haddad added, “Thanks for all your efforts in keeping us connected!”

Toni K. Choueiri, M.D. (IMPC’04, H/O’07) now lives in Boston, MA where he works as a staff attending physician in the Department of Genitourinary Malignancies at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He also has an appointment at Harvard Medical School.

David W. Dietz, M.D. (S’95, CRILE’97, S’00, CRS’01), most recently assistant professor of Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and his wife, Jill R. Dietz, M.D. (S’98, S/BD’99), most recently assistant professor of Surgery, Surgical Oncology, both at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, were welcomed back to the Cleveland Clinic staff on Aug. 20 and Sept. 1, respectively. The Drs. Dietz relocated from Cleveland Clinic to Washington University in December 2001. The couple, both graduates of Jefferson University, have a daughter, Audrey, 7, and a son, William R., nearly 4.

Matthew F. Kalady, M.D. (CRS’06), Colorectal Surgery at Cleveland Clinic, received a two-year Career Development Award from the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.

Anne S. Kanderlan, M.D. (IM’04, CARD’07) was awarded First Place, Clinical Research, in the F. Merlin Bumpus Junior Investigator Awards presentations at the 27th Annual Cleveland Clinic Research Day on Oct. 16. Research Day highlights the essential role played by laboratory-based and clinical research in Cleveland Clinic’s mission to provide exceptional patient care. The Bumpus Awards, named after F. Merlin Bumpus, Ph.D., who served as Chair of the Division of Research (now Lerner Research Institute) from 1966-1985, were created to highlight excellence in research by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in both laboratory-based and clinical research. Dr. Kanderlan is currently completing an Advanced Cardiac Imaging Fellowship at Cleveland Clinic.

Jihad H. Kaouk, M.D. (UL’S’02), Cleveland Clinic’s Glickman Urological Institute, and his surgical team were able to successfully destroy a kidney tumor in a patient by inserting instruments through a single “port” thereby performing the first kidney surgery that requires only a single tiny abdominal incision. This surgical approach, known as a retroperitoneal single-port procedure, will leave little to no scarring and reduce complications that commonly occur after traditional open and even minimally invasive abdominal surgery. This single-incision approach is an improvement on laparoscopic surgery, a minimally invasive surgery extensively used throughout the past decade.

Cumhur Kilincer, M.D. (RES/NS’03) completed his research fellowship in the Cleveland Clinic’s Spine Research Laboratory and is currently a neurosurgeon at Trakya University in Edirne, Turkey. Some of his recent achievements, important for his country and his institution include winning the “Best Spinal Paper Award at the Turkish Neurosurgical Society 2007 Scientific Congress for one of his spine biomechanics studies, “Load Sharing within a Human Thoracic Vertebral Body: An In Vitro Biomechanical Study,” which he completed at the Cleveland Clinic Spine Research Laboratory in collaboration with Cleveland Clinic staff; receiving forth place for the same study when he presented it at the Turkish Neurosurgical Society 2007 Scientific Congress; and winning the AO Spine/European Association of Neurosurgical Societies’ Fellowship at Nijmegen/Netherlands.

Jacobo Kirsch, M.D. (SP’02, DR’06) completed a Cardiovascular Imaging Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, and joined the Radiology staff at Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston, Aug. 1. His interests are in Cardiac CT and MRI.

Jeffrey (Jeff) T. Landers, M.D. (S/FE’07) has joined Puget Sound Surgical Center’s Bariatric Surgery team, also specializing in endoscopy in Edmonds, WA.

Michael B. Lehman, LCDR MC USN (ACLPTH’04) writes that he was named Head of Surgical Pathology at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, and is on staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and on the faculty of the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences. He and his wife, Jenny, have two sons: Jack, 9, and Patrick, 7; and a daughter, Genevieve 4.

Orfeas Liangos, M.D. (IM’01) is currently assistant professor of medicine, Division of Nephrology, at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, MA. He married Agnieszka Szydelko of Gorzow Wielkopolski, Poland and the couple welcomed their first child, Anastasia Wanda Liangos, on July 30.

Jihad H. Kaouk, M.D.
Cumhur Kilincer, M.D.

M. Michael  Lehman, LCDR MC USN (ACLPTH’04)

Liangos family

Invited Cleveland Clinic speakers to a military joint forces Neurology conference in November, 2003, the late Dr. Asa Wilbourn (1938-2007), left, and Dr. Patrick Sweeney, right, flank Dr. Jinny Tavee, in uniform, and Mrs. Eileen Wilbourn, R.N. (former CCF Cardiovascular nurse).
Chandar S. Thakur, Ph.D. (RES/CB’07) received the First Place Graduate Student Award in Basic Science presented at the 27th Annual Cleveland Clinic Research Day on Oct. 16. The Graduate Student Award is given for an outstanding manuscript on which the student is first author and which is directly related to the subject of the student’s dissertation research. Research Day highlights the essential role played by laboratory-based and clinical research in Cleveland Clinic’s mission to provide exceptional patient care.

Michael P. Villaroman, M.D. (IM’02) staff physician in Internal Medicine at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC, wrote, “One of the enjoyable parts of working here is teaching the internal medicine residents and medical students from Georgetown University and George Washington University, as we are one of their main teaching hospitals.” Dr. Villaroman contacted the Alumni Relations Office to seek a Cleveland Clinic-trained colleague to care for a friend in Florida. He added, “CCF is and always will be the GOLD STANDARD by which I measure every other medical center/system. There is no place like it! The unfortunate part of that it that there is only a handful... a very small handful ... maybe five places in the world that are comparable. Once you leave CCF, any other place you go from there falls way short.” He also wanted to say “Hello to all of my CCF friends and colleagues” and invite them to contact him anytime at m_villaroman@hotmail.com

Luke J. Weber, M.D. (GE’03) joined the Cleveland Clinic staff in Gastroenterology and Hepatology on July 1. He had been practicing at Marymount Hospital for the last four years. He will be seeing patients at both the main campus and the Solon Family Health Center. Dr. Weber and his family recently visited Columbus to celebrate his 10th reunion from medical school at Ohio State University.

Susan E. Williams, M.D., M.S. (NT/S’07) is now an adjunct instructor in Biochemistry on the faculty of Boonshoft School of Medicine of Wright State University in Dayton, OH, specializing in Clinical Nutrition & Metabolism.

| Future Alumni |

Debbie Newcomb, M.D., Anesthesiology, taught cello lessons before becoming a doctor. And one of her students, Hannah Moses of Stow, Ohio, has a Cleveland Clinic connection of her own. Hannah, now 12 and cancer free, was diagnosed at age 6 with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. During her treatment, Hannah often played cello for Cleveland Clinic staff and other patients. She especially enjoyed playing for babies when they were crying. Hannah, who began playing cello when she was 3, recently entertained guests at Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital’s 10th annual reunion picnic for cancer patients, survivors and their families in August.

| In Memoriam |

A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.

— Dr. D. Elton Trueblood author, educator, philosopher, and theologian (1900-1994)

Alfredo E. Duarte, M.D. (S’69), 76, a resident of Broadview Heights, OH, died on July 17 in Sarasota, FL where he moved early this decade after retiring in August 1999 from his long surgical practice in Cleveland, OH. He was born Dec. 8, 1930. He is survived by his four children, Christine, Brenda Rizzo, Steven and David; grandchildren, Britanny, Nicholas and Taylor, and his five siblings; brothers, Alfonso and Guillermo, both of Bogota, Columbia; sisters Blanca Wright, Carmenza Anton and Irma. Memorials may be made to the Sarasota Patient Care Foundation, 1921 Waldemere St. # No. 107, Sarasota FL 34239.

Frank A. Goss, M.D. (IM’43, IM’50), 90, died on April 16, 2007 after a brief illness. He was raised in Omaha, NE, and graduated from the Nebraska College of Medicine. For 28 years he served in the United States Air Force as an internist and flight surgeon. From 1971 to 1984, he was on the staff at the Kelsey-Seybold Clinic in Houston, TX. Dr. Goss was preceded in death by his wife, Ovieda Long Goss, and is survived by many nieces and nephews. At his request, there were no services or memorials.

Benjamin J. Henderson, D.O. (IM’75), 65, passed away on Aug. 17, 2007 in Sioux Falls, SD after a five-year battle with leukemia. Born Nov. 19, 1941 in Dupree, SD, where he was raised on a nearby farm/ranch, he was active in football, basketball and track, spawning a lifelong interest in sports. After attending college, he spent two years in the U.S. Army stationed in Germany and on Aug. 16, 1964, married his longtime sweetheart, Audrey Rohrer. After graduating from BHSC in 1966, he spent a year in graduate studies before entering the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating in 1971. He was then commissioned as a Captain in the U.S. Army and accepted a one-year rotating internship at Brook Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, TX. The following three years were spent in the Cleveland Clinic’s Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Following residency, the Henderson family returned to South Dakota, where Dr. Henderson joined the Mobridge Medical Clinic. Often, he and his long-time colleague, Dr. Leonard Linde, were the only two physicians at the Mobridge Medical Clinic, alternating call every other day and every other weekend for many years.

He was a clinical professor for the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine. Advanced Trauma Life Support Certified, he also was an instructor for Advanced Cardiac Life Support, giving classes to healthcare providers throughout the area. In 2004, Dr. Henderson received the Laureate Award, which honors those Fellows and Masters of the American College of Physicians who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research and in service to their community, their Chapter and the College.

With a deep appreciation for the outdoors, some of his favorite memories included family camping adventures, hiking and backpacking, including his favorite hike from rim to rim across the Grand Canyon. Countless weekends were spent afield with his sons, family and friends, bass fishing in West River stock dams, as well as grouse and pheasant hunting. He particularly enjoyed the annual West River deer hunts with his sons. He is survived by his wife, Audrey and two sons, Dr. Travis (Misti) Henderson of Mobridge, SC and Dr. Josh (Dr. Rose) Henderson of Canfield, OH, his five grandchildren and many other family members, friends and co-workers. Memorial contributions may be made to The Dr. Benjamin Henderson Employee Career Advancement Memorial Scholarship through the
Charles Wesley Humphreys Jr., M.D. (IM’55), 81, of Bethesda, MD, an internist who had a private practice in Washington, D.C. from 1955 to 1987, died Jan. 5, 2007 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. He suffered strokes and had pulmonary fibrosis and pneumonia. In addition to his 32-year practice, he was a clinical professor of Internal Medicine at George Washington University, a senior aviation medical examiner for the Federal Aviation Administration, a medical adviser to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals at the Department of Veterans Affairs and attending physician to senior medical staff at Sibley and Washington Hospital Center.

Born in Roanoke, VA, July 25, 1925, he served in the Navy’s V-12 program at Duke University during World War II. He graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School, Baltimore, MD, in 1949. During the Korean War, he was a Japan-based Air Force flight surgeon and cared for the crews in combat, cargo, and air evacuation to Tachikawa, Japan, in 1951. He then completed his internship and residency at the old Garfield Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. and a two-year fellowship in Internal Medicine at Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Humphreys enjoyed visiting Civil War battlefields. Using his collection of old maps, he would trace troop movements as he hiked the terrain with his family. He also camped at parks in North America and enjoyed golf, walking and playing bridge. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Shirley Charles Humphreys; two sons and two daughters, Eric Humphreys of Columbia, MD; Jane H. Sayler of St. Petersburg, FL; Bruce Humphreys of Bend, OR; and Sara E. Sheppard of Silver Spring, MD; and four grandchildren. Contributions may be made to Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 1332 N. Halstead St. - #201, Chicago, IL 60622-2691.

Garner B. Meads, M.D. (S’43), 92, passed away Aug. 5, 2006, after a long debilitating illness. Born, June 6, 1914, the second of five children, he began his study of medicine at the University of Utah. He then went to George Washington School of Medicine, Washington, D.C., where he paid for his schooling as an elevator operator in the U.S. Senate Office Building. During World War II, he was a Captain in the U.S. Army as a surgeon in the 102 EVAC hospital with Patton’s third Army in Europe. At the age of 32, he began his private practice in Salt Lake City, UT and was on staff at St. Mark’s Hospital.

Dr. Meads was president of the Salt Lake Surgical Society and medical director of Blue Cross Blue Shield. He practiced medicine for 48 years with great love and concern for his patients; he made house calls and night visits, held patients’ hands, and gave untold hours of charity care; serving all people equally. He retired at age 72. A devoted family man, he made time for his five children, born in five years, often using his carpentry skills to build play houses and tree houses. He enjoyed skiing, boating and the family cabin. Dr. Meads is survived by “the love of his life,” Miriam Smith Taylor Meads, whom he married on Aug. 20, 1948 and the couple’s five children, Marjorie E. (Gregory) Spencer; Garner B., Jr. (LeeAnn); David T. (Marjorie); Mary Ann (Robert) Silver; and Judy Jardine; 23 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. The family suggests donations to the Missionary Department, Perpetual Education Fund, or Humanitarian Aid of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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” (page 23 of this issue).

NAME

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CITY, STATE, ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS

WHAT’S NEW?

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Office for a Healthy Environment will Lead Systemwide Initiatives

Cleveland Clinic has established an Office for a Healthy Environment to expand and oversee environmental initiatives throughout the health system.

The office will operate under the leadership of newly appointed Director, Christina Vernon Ayers, AIA, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

The new office will coordinate environmentally friendly initiatives across Cleveland Clinic, encompassing resource conservation, waste management, green building, environmentally preferred purchasing and toxicity reduction. It is collaborating with other organizations, including Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), the U.S. Green Building Council, and numerous Cleveland sustainability organizations, to initiate, support, track and/or manage systemwide environmental initiatives. The office will serve as a resource for best practices, metrics and education for Cleveland Clinic facilities.

“Cleveland Clinic is dedicated to long-term sustainability,” says William Peacock, Executive Director of Facilities and Construction. “Building a sustainable future is our challenge, and the Office for a Healthy Environment, under Ms. Ayers’ leadership, will serve to strengthen and direct our initiatives.”

Prior to assuming her new post, Ayers, an architect and LEED-accredited professional, served as a healthcare facility planner in the Office of Construction. For more than 10 years, she has worked as an architect specializing in healthcare design, with a particular focus on improving patient experience and work flow. Her experience has brought her in close contact with all aspects of hospital care and operations.

At Cleveland Clinic, she has tirelessly promoted green building and resource efficiency, overseeing the launch of several key sustainability initiatives. As director of the new office, Ayers will continue implementing a comprehensive recycling program throughout Cleveland Clinic.

She also will be responsible for the implementation of a new waste tracking tool, the development of an environmentally preferred purchasing program and collaboration with other local and national organizations to meet sustainability goals. She is championing efforts to co-found the Global Health and Safety Initiative, a consortium of hospitals and healthcare organizations joining together to build a social movement within healthcare to improve patient, workplace, and environmental health and safety across the industry.