

The Class of 2007 Commencement

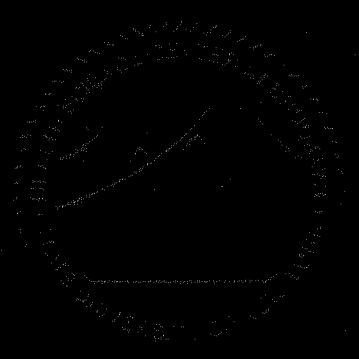
The College
of Medicine

and

The School
of Graduate Studies

of

SUNY Downstate
Medical Center



Four O'Clock
Tuesday Afternoon, May 29, 2007
Carnegie Hall • New York City, New York

The Music Program

Precommencement Musicale

Works by J. S. Bach, A. Banchieri, G. Gabrieli, J. Pezel, and A. Scarlatti played by The Physicians' Brass Ensemble of New York—Daniel Repole, M.A., Conductor; Benjamin A. Rosenberg*, M.D., '50, Music Chairman. Horn: Eric Davis. Trombones: George Zorko (Tenor), Benjamin A. Rosenberg (Tenor/Bass, also Bass Trumpet). Trumpets: Anthony Bavota, Joseph Kaminski and Joseph Schuffle (also Piccolo Trumpets).

*Founding Director 1972

Processional

Coronation March from *The Prophet* (1849, G. Meyerbeer)
Trumpet Tune (1696, J. Clarke)
March from *Dramico per Musica* (1726, J. S. Bach)
Triumphal March from *Aida* (1871, G. Verdi)
Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 (1901, E. Elgar)

National Anthem

Moshe M. Cohn
Jonathan Peter Lopez
Alexander Mauskop

Recessional

Rondeau (1729, J. J. Moutet)
Trumpet Voluntary (1700, J. Clarke)
“See the Conquering Hero Comes” from *Judas Maccabeus* (1746, G. F. Handel)
Turkish March from *The Ruins of Athens* (1812, L. von Beethoven)
March Militaire (1825, F. Schubert)
Promenade from *Pictures at an Exhibition* (1874, M. Moussorgsky)

We would like to thank the following groups for their assistance in organizing this year's commencement ceremony: Office of the President, College of Medicine Alumni Association, Division of Student Affairs, Deans' Offices, Institutional Advancement, Office of Student Life, Office of University Police/Public Safety, and all the people who have given freely of themselves to enrich this year's graduation.

The Commencement Program

Presiding Marshal

Eva B. Cramer, PhD

Distinguished Service Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Vice President for Biotechnology and Scientific Affairs

Processional

(Audience, please rise for the Processional.)

Opening Remarks

Ian L. Taylor, MD, PhD

Senior Vice President for Biomedical Education and Research and Dean, College of Medicine

Greetings from the President

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

President

Greetings from the Graduates

John Jeonhwan Chi

College of Medicine, Class of 2007

Ewa Beata Bajor

School of Graduate Studies, Class of 2007

Greetings from the College of Medicine Alumni Association

Helen Flamenbaum, MD, Class of '78

President, Alumni Association

Presentation of the President's Award

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

President

President's Award Recipient

Marvin Moser, MD

Presentation and Conferring of the Honorary Degrees

Ian L. Taylor, MD, PhD

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Hooding of Honorary Degree Recipients

Ian L. Taylor, MD, PhD

Honorary Degree Recipients

Michael C. Gelfand, MD

Adrian Kantrowitz, MD

Presentation of the Ailanthus Award

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Ailanthus Award Recipient and

Commencement Speaker

Donald E. Wilson, MD

School of Graduate Studies

Granting of Graduate Degrees

Presentation of Candidates

Susan Schwartz-Giblin, PhD

Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Susan Schwartz-Giblin, PhD

Hooding of Candidates

Thesis Research Sponsors and

Christopher A. J. Roman, PhD

Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology

College of Medicine
Granting of the Master of Public
Health Degrees

Presentation of Candidates

Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM
*Distinguished Service Professor and Chairman,
Preventive Medicine and Community Health, and
Director of the Master of Public Health Program*

Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM
Judith H. LaRosa, PhD, RN, FAAN
*Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health
and Deputy Director, Master of Public Health Program*

College of Medicine
Granting of the MD Degrees

Presentation of Candidates

Ian L. Taylor, MD, PhD

Conferring of Degrees

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Awarding of Diplomas

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP
Ian L. Taylor, MD, PhD

Hooding of Candidates

Edmund Bourke, MD
Professor and Chairman of Medicine
Margaret Clark-Golden, MD, MPH
Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Closing Remarks and Administration
of the Hippocratic Oath

John C. LaRosa, MD, FACP

Recessional

*(Audience, please rise and remain standing until the
graduates have left the hall.)*

School of Graduate Studies

PhD Degree

Kamran Anwar Molecular and Cellular Biology

Vitamin E transport: Dual pathways contribute to intestinal absorption.

Fellow in Anatomy and Cell Biology, SUNY Downstate Medical Center

Ewa Beata Bajor Molecular and Cellular Biology

Enforced expression of the Surrogate Light Chain alters B cell development.

Resident in combined Anatomic and Clinical Pathology(AP/CP) Program, New York University

Mark Joseph Bluth Molecular and Cellular Biology

Characterization of Haymaker-DNAJB6 protein interaction by two-hybrid analysis.

Fellow in Dermatology, Weill-Cornell Medical Center

Getaw Worku Hassen Molecular and Cellular Biology

The role of a novel calpain inhibitor for the treatment of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE).

Resident, Emergency Medicine, Metropolitan Hospital

Yin-Yao Lin Molecular and Cellular Biology

Pancreatitis Associated Protein (PAP) and acute pancreatitis.

Fellowship in Viral Pathology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard University

Ruijie Liu Molecular and Cellular Biology

The role of Phospholipid Transfer Protein (PLTP) in lipoprotein metabolism and atherosclerosis.

Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, Columbia University

Dezhi Tian Molecular and Cellular Biology

PKM ζ regulation of Na/K ATPase: A potential endogenous neuro-protective mechanism of ischemic preconditioning.

Fellow in Physiology and Pharmacology, SUNY Downstate Medical Center

Gang Wang Molecular and Cellular Biology

Regulation of Na,K-ATPase α 1 and β 1 subunit gene expression by low external K in neonatal rat cardiac myocytes.

Fellow in Pharmacology, Weill-Cornell Medical Center

MS Degree

Katayoun Shahmiri Anatomy and Cell Biology

The role of a novel protein, Clp-1, in transcription regulation during cardiac hypertrophy.

College of Medicine

MPH Degree

Keith Chu
Sharon E. Daniel
Irina Dekhtyar
Kenessa B. Edwards
Walid Eltaraboulsi
Kidada Nataki Gilbert-Lewis
Avraham Aharon Gurwitz
Winnifred Lamarre
Lila J. Lande
Jessica L. Lee
Robert G. Nelson
Malini Devi Persad
Onieka T. Randall
Jayashree Ravishankar
Christelle Sommervil
Andrew Son
S. Alex Sternberg
Augustine Uche Umeozor
Nicole C. Williams
Sarah Elisa Williams
Patrick John Yap

MD Degree

Bobby S. Alexander Urology
Johana Fernanda Angarita Internal Medicine
Ewa Beata Bajor Pathology
Sadana Balachandar Pediatrics
Avinash L. Ballie Anesthesiology
Erica J. Bang Internal Medicine-Emergency Medicine
* Susan Bard Internal Medicine
Sergey Bezprozvanny Neurology
Satjit S. Bhusri Neurology
* Dorothy Boo Internal Medicine
Teresa F. Bowen-Spinelli Emergency Medicine

Kyle Thomas Bramley Internal Medicine
Jason Jeffrey Brucker Internal Medicine
* Katy Irene Burris Dermatology
Sandra Victoria Carrera Pediatrics
Anthony Joseph Cedrone Internal Medicine
Elaine Chan General Surgery
Joseph Alan Chappelle Obstetrics-Gynecology
Jeremy Charles Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
* Karin Susanne Chase Internal Medicine-Emergency Medicine
Miguel A. Chavez, Jr. Emergency Medicine
Mary S. Cheung Internal Medicine
* John Jeonhwan Chi Otolaryngology
Alexander Ross Chiu
David Youngwook Cho General Surgery
Jonathan B. Cohen Internal Medicine
Pamela Eve Cohen Emergency Medicine
Moshe M. Cohn
Brian Joseph Colin Anesthesiology
Sacha Susan Comden Internal Medicine
Celia Cruz Pediatrics
* Joanna Lynn D'Afflitti Internal Medicine
Mathias Wayne Daniels Orthopaedic Surgery
Daniel Patrick DeBottis Orthopaedic Surgery
Vincent Scott DeOrchis Neurology
Priya Prakash Deshpande Internal Medicine
Shavon Ann Dillon Internal Medicine
Pranav M. Diwan Internal Medicine
Susan Elizabeth Dressner Pediatrics
Donita Dyalram-Silverberg Oral Surgery
Jamie Alison Edelstein Emergency Medicine
Erick Allen Eiting Emergency Medicine
* Amir Edouard Estephan Emergency Medicine
Phyllis Ijeamaka Eze Ophthalmology
Farzad Farzan-Kashani Internal Medicine
Elyssa J. Feinberg General Surgery

* Denotes Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society

Asia Frazier Pediatrics
 Alexea Makiya Gaffney Medicine-Pediatrics
 Norman Richard Galanti Internal Medicine
 Mordechai Judah Gampel Psychiatry
 Eve Marybeth Garner Diagnostic Radiology
 Joseph Rudolph Gasparino Internal Medicine
 Suman Ghosh Pediatrics
 Gina Esther Gluck Diagnostic Radiology
 William D. Goldenberg Emergency Medicine
 Matthew Jason Goldstein Orthopaedic Surgery
 * Neelam Goyal Neurology
 Laura Rachel Green Anesthesiology
 Michael Brandon Grody Psychiatry
 * Kate Grossman Medicine-Pediatrics
 * John Gabriel Hagen Anesthesiology
 Caitlin Judith Hardy Pediatrics
 * Miriam M. Harel Urology
 Morris Hayim Diagnostic Radiology
 Michael D. Hecht Pediatrics
 Blair Elizabeth Heinke Family Practice
 Irene Hwu Medicine-Pediatrics
 * David Woojin Jang Otolaryngology
 Kristina Maria Javier Pediatrics
 Yelena S. Kalitenko Psychiatry
 Sean Duane Kalloo Internal Medicine
 * Ameet Ravindra Kamat Otolaryngology
 Ioannis Petrou Kariolis Internal Medicine
 Justin Brian Karlitz-Grodin Family Practice
 Alex Kartvelishvili Internal Medicine
 Vania Louise Kasper Pediatrics
 Daran Victoria Kaufman Pediatrics
 Moazzem Kazi Internal Medicine
 Lawrence William Kelly Emergency Medicine
 Rebecca Louise Kent Internal Medicine
 Geoffrey Kenyota Pediatrics
 Eugene Khait Internal Medicine
 Aziz Khan Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 Shabana Khan Psychiatry
 Michelle Adrienne Klein Diagnostic Radiology
 June Koshy Diagnostic Radiology
 * Irina Kovatch General Surgery
 Ajita Kundaikar Internal Medicine
 Leon Kwok Diagnostic Radiology
 * Yan H. Lai Anesthesiology
 Jennifer Chiung Lam Obstetrics-Gynecology
 Michael Lam Emergency Medicine
 Charles Wei Han Lanks Internal Medicine
 Christopher Lau General Surgery
 Nandi Tania Lee-Ellis Anesthesiology
 Lauren Davis Levine Pediatrics
 Shing Li Internal Medicine
 Nicholas Arthur Lillo Internal Medicine
 Cheryl Hsuan Ju Lin Diagnostic Radiology
 Alena Lira Internal Medicine-Emergency Medicine
 Margaret Pei-Chun Liu Ophthalmology
 Robert Carlos Llanos Diagnostic Radiology
 Jonathan Peter Lopez Pediatric Neurology
 Katie Marie Lukasek Emergency Medicine
 Gaurav Malhotra Internal Medicine
 Dorene M. Marinese Obstetrics-Gynecology
 Jennifer Ann Martin Emergency Medicine
 * Christopher Apostol Mascarinas Otolaryngology
 * Alexander Mauskop Internal Medicine
 Leisa Ann McDonnough Emergency Medicine
 * Rebecca Jeanne Mercier Obstetrics-Gynecology
 Jeremy Scott Milgrim Anesthesiology
 Michele Jean Miller Obstetrics-Gynecology
 Zahidul Hoque Mondal Internal Medicine
 * Edward Charles Monk Dermatology
 RajaNandini Muralidharan Neurology
 Gregory Gerard Neufeld Internal Medicine
 Patty Tsz-Yan Ng Obstetrics-Gynecology
 Dontese J. Nicholson Anesthesiology
 * Colleen Anna O'Connor Emergency Medicine
 Patricia Mora Nkatha Ogera Pathology
 Christine Ekomiare Ohikhuare Internal Medicine
 Charles Oliner Internal Medicine
 Koji Timothy Park General Surgery
 Mehul Patel Internal Medicine
 Edward John Pettei Internal Medicine

* Denotes Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society

* Genri Pinkhasov Urology
 Antonella Polito Pediatrics
 Gabrielle Tova Prince Internal Medicine
 Ann Prokofieva Emergency Medicine
 Peter Aaron Rachlin Internal Medicine
 Luis Adrian Ramirez Internal Medicine
 Danya Ellen Reich Family Practice
 Andrew J. Restivo Emergency Medicine
 Victoria Riese Pediatrics
 Psyche Veona Kendra Robert Emergency Medicine
 Jennie Katharine Robin Emergency Medicine
 Adam Jarett Roseman Anesthesiology
 Daniel Robert Sage Orthopaedic Surgery
 Susan K. Sam Pediatrics
 Svetlana Sapozhnikova Anesthesiology
 Andrew Yefim Sapson General Surgery
 Paul Richard Sasso Emergency Medicine
 David Adam Schaeffer Emergency Medicine
 * Heather S. Schultz Internal Medicine
 Marshall Jay Seligmann Pediatrics
 * Tejas Rajendra Shah General Surgery
 Mohammed Bilal Shaikh Diagnostic Radiology
 Rizwana Shams Pediatrics
 Eugene Shostak Internal Medicine
 Sara Shraibman Internal Medicine
 Mrugank Shukla Diagnostic Radiology
 Lerone Raul Simpson General Surgery
 Gurpreet Singh Internal Medicine
 Monika Singh Ophthalmology
 Krisanne Mary Sisto Internal Medicine
 Henry Kar Hang Siu Internal Medicine
 Michele Alicia Smith Internal Medicine
 Andrew Son Anesthesiology
 * Matthew Jonathan Spitzer Internal Medicine
 Deepak Iyyadorai Sreedharan Anesthesiology
 Sarah Elizabeth Stanowicz Internal Medicine
 Ronald Herman Sumter Internal Medicine
 Sibin Mathew Thachet Diagnostic Radiology
 * Michelle Lauren Tricamo Psychiatry

* Valeriya Trubnik Ophthalmology
 Ken Truong Internal Medicine
 Gene Tulman Anesthesiology
 Arunan Siva Vamadevan Internal Medicine
 Wendy Sulina Vargas Pediatrics
 Miten Vasa Internal Medicine
 Archana Verma Pediatrics
 Elizabeth Ting-Ting Viriya Ophthalmology
 Sorana Vrabie Obstetrics-Gynecology
 Jennifer Lynne Waller Pediatrics
 * Richard S. Want Ophthalmology
 Sarah Irene Washington Pediatrics
 * Christina Hsiao Wei General Surgery
 * Beatrice Rose Whitaker Ophthalmology
 * Linda Han Yoo Pediatrics
 * Billy Yung Neurology
 * Yulia Zak General Surgery
 Karen L. Zimmerman General Surgery

Distinction in Research

John Jeonhwan Chi
 David Woojin Jang
 Jonathan Peter Lopez
 Morris Hayim
 Lerone Raul Simpson
 Monika Singh
 Deepak Iyyadorai Sreedharan

Commendation in Investigative Scholarship

Sacha Susan Comden
 Patty Tsz-Yan Ng
 Valeriya Trubnik

* Denotes Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society

President's Award

Marvin Moser, MD

Marvin Moser, MD, is a distinguished alumnus of the College of Medicine who has long been at the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat hypertension and heart disease. He also has been a strong advocate of patient education.

Dr. Moser is clinical professor of medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine and editor-in-chief of the American Society of Hypertension's *Journal of Clinical Hypertension*. He served as senior medical consultant to the National High Blood Pressure Education Program of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) from 1974 to 2002, and as a member of the National High Blood Pressure Coordinating Committee from 1974–2005. He was chairman of the First Joint National Committee on the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure in 1976, vice chairman in 1980, and a member of the five subsequent committees.

An active clinician and researcher in the field of hypertension for more than 55 years, Dr. Moser was one of the first physicians to recognize that the complications of hypertension could be prevented or reversed by lowering blood pressure. He has been involved in the research of almost every new antihypertensive medication introduced since the 1950s.

Dr. Moser received his undergraduate education from Cornell University and his medical degree from SUNY Downstate in 1947. A Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American College of Cardiology, and the American Society of Hypertension, he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in 2003.

An active researcher and prolific writer, Dr. Moser has authored more than 500 scientific papers, 32 book chapters and 11 books, including the 7th edition of *Clinical Management of Hypertension* and *Clinical Management of Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Diabetics*. He is on the editorial board of several major medical journals and has served as a visiting professor and lecturer at many universities, both in the United States and abroad.

The recipient of numerous honors and awards, he was honored by the NHLBI in 1985 and again in 1997 for his contributions in the field of cardiology and hypertension. In 2004, he received an award from the International Society of Hypertension for his major contributions in clinical research and teaching and in 2006 was honored by the American Society of Hypertension for “outstanding contributions to the advancement of scientific research and clinical investigations in the field of hypertension and cardiovascular disease.”

In his writings and medical practice, Dr. Moser has often adopted the role of patient advocate. As he states in the introduction to the *Yale University School of Medicine Heart Book*, “The problem for today’s medical consumers is not a lack of available information; instead, it’s deciding what and whom to believe.” Cautioning against fraudulent claims for miracle cures and unconventional treatments, he urges patients to become partners in their health care by developing a strong doctor-patient relationship.

Honorary Degree Recipient

Doctor of Science: Michael C. Gelfand, MD

Michael C. Gelfand, MD, FACP, associate professor of clinical medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine and Downstate alumnus, is a gifted physician whose research has led to significant contributions in understanding transplantation immunology and the immunological aspects of renal disease. His work has been cited as the foundation for combined immunosuppressive regimens that today are widely used to treat various malignancies, allograft rejection, and immunologically mediated diseases such as lupus.

Dr. Gelfand's association with Downstate strongly influenced the direction of his clinical and scientific work. As a medical student and resident, he worked closely with Downstate's Chief of Nephrology, Dr. Eli A. Friedman, founder of the nation's first federally-funded dialysis clinic.

Dr. Gelfand showed that B cells and antibody production were important to primary skin allograft rejection — work that had important implications for basic immunology theory, and laid the foundation for targeted immunosuppression strategies. In a series of elegant studies, he convincingly demonstrated that combination drug therapy produces greater immunologic depression than individual agents administered separately. Dr. Gelfand performed the first controlled evaluation of single vs. combination therapy in an animal model of autoimmune disease, research that would lead to evaluations of triple-drug therapy for lupus.

One of the key implications of Dr. Gelfand's work is that it challenged the long-held belief in two distinct types of immunity: humoral immunity, mediated by cells that originate in the bone marrow, and cellular immunity, mediated by cells derived from the thymus gland. His findings supported the hypothesis that bone marrow and thymus-derived cells work together to produce immunity.

Dr. Gelfand received his undergraduate degree *cum laude* from Yale. He graduated from Downstate's College of Medicine in 1968 and pursued his residency here as well. This was followed by a position as staff physician at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, DC, and fellowships in the Laboratory of Immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and in the Division of Nephrology at Georgetown University Hospital. He has served on the faculty at Georgetown's School of Medicine since 1974, and was co-director of Georgetown University Hospital's Hemodialysis, Hemoperfusion, and Transplantation Service from 1974 to 1986. He maintains an active practice in Washington, DC, and sits on Georgetown's Executive Medical Board.

An active philanthropist and strong supporter of his alma mater, Dr. Gelfand is president and director of the Edith and Michael Gelfand Foundation, which provides support for many educational, cultural and health organizations. He has been president of his synagogue for over 20 years. His professional activities include membership in the American Association of Immunologists, the International Transplantation Society, the American Society of Nephrology, the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs, the American Rheumatism Association, and the National Kidney Foundation. He is a Fellow in the American College of Physicians.

Honorary Degree Recipient

Doctor of Science: Adrian Kantrowitz, MD

Adrian Kantrowitz, MD, is one of the greatest innovators in the history of cardiac surgery — he conducted the first heart transplant in the United States, invented an early heart-lung machine, an early internal pacemaker, and the first auxiliary left heart ventricle, and is still pioneering improvements in cardiac care. A native of New York, he graduated from the College of Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center when it was known as the Long Island College of Medicine. During the 1960s, he held the rank of professor of surgery at SUNY Downstate.

In 1967, there were two teams in the world, one at Stanford University and one at Maimonides Hospital, known to be ready to transplant a heart from one human to another. But, as chronicled in *Every Second Counts—The Race to Transplant the First Human Heart*, it was South Africa's Christiaan Barnard who became the surgeon to perform the first heart transplant in the world. Dr. Kantrowitz followed this headline-making achievement three days later with the first heart transplant in the United States. A year earlier, Dr. Kantrowitz had called off his first attempt to transplant a heart at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn, after debating the ethics of using a still-beating human heart from a brain-dead patient. He was preparing another attempt when Dr. Barnard's news was announced.

Dr. Kantrowitz's heart transplant accomplishment was only one step in an extraordinary career in cardiac surgery, cardiovascular physiology, and research that has lasted decades. Today, he is revered for his surgical and cardiac innovations that have saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

In 1959, he was the first to describe dynamic cardiomyoplasty, as well as the first, in 1966, to implant a left ventricular assist device intended for permanent, ambulatory treatment of chronic heart failure. He also is known in medical circles as the father of diastolic augmentation, commonly called counterpulsation, a ground-breaking concept to both improve coronary flow and take over a significant portion of the work of the left ventricle. But arguably, his most far-reaching contribution is applying this concept in the form of the intra-aortic balloon pump, a device used to reduce the heart's own demand for oxygen while boosting its output to meet the body's oxygen demands. For 30 years, it has been the gold standard for hospital treatment of acute heart failure, used in more than a million and a half patients.

Among his several academic appointments, Dr. Kantrowitz served as professor of surgery at Downstate, where he became close friends with another creative genius—Chief of Surgery Clarence Dennis, a pioneer in open-heart surgery. Dr. Kantrowitz later served as chairman of surgery at Sinai Hospital in Detroit, and also as clinical professor of surgery at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He founded L.VAD Technology Inc., a Detroit-based company that is working to revolutionize the way patients in the late stages of heart failure are treated by designing, developing, and commercializing counterpulsating cardiovascular devices. After more than 35 years, he is still working on novel approaches to treat heart failure.

Ailanthus Award Recipient and Commencement Speaker

Donald E. Wilson, MD, MACP

Dr. Donald E. Wilson, the former dean and vice president for medical affairs of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, is a nationally known advocate for diversity and equity in healthcare and medical education.

When Dr. Wilson took the helm at the University of Maryland's School of Medicine in 1991, he became the nation's first African-American dean at a predominantly white medical school. During his 15-year tenure there, Dr. Wilson's leadership produced dramatic results. The student body became one of the most diverse in the country, with underrepresented minority students comprising at least 15 percent of each entering class. The number of full-time African-American faculty more than tripled, and four academic departments had female chairs. Research funding soared, from \$77 million in 1991 to \$349 million in 2005.

Prior to his appointment at the University of Maryland, Dr. Wilson served for 11 years as chairman of medicine at SUNY Downstate and as physician-in-chief of University Hospital of Brooklyn and Kings County Hospital Center. A specialist in gastroenterology, he is a graduate of Harvard University and received his medical degree from Tufts University.

Dr. Wilson has been influential in the development of healthcare policy at both the federal and state levels. He chaired the NIH Digestive Diseases Advisory Board, the FDA Gastrointestinal Drugs Advisory Committee, and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research Advisory Council of the Department of Health and Human Services. He was chairman of Maryland's Health Care Access and Cost Commission from 1994-1999, and thereafter, of the state's newly formed Health Care Commission from 1999-2004.

He also has played a leadership role within the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The first African American to be elected AAMC chairman, as well as chairman of its Council of Deans, he has served on the Council's Administrative Board, the Executive Committee, and the Advisory Panel on the Mission of Medical Schools of the AAMC.

Dr. Wilson has produced more than 150 scholarly publications and edited numerous medical journals. He is a member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and has the distinction of being a Master of the American College of Physicians, an honor bestowed on less than one percent of its members. Dr. Wilson is a co-founder of the Association for Academic Minority Physicians.

The recipient of many honors, he was the first to receive the AAMC's Herbert W. Nickens, MD, Award, in recognition of a lifetime devoted to promoting justice in health care and education. "The struggle for minority physicians has been a painful one," Dr. Wilson said in his inaugural lecture. Stressing the need for cultural change to encourage more minorities to enter medicine, he added, "If our culture is not diverse, our thoughts and actions cannot be either."

SUNY Downstate Medical Center

SUNY Downstate Medical Center, formally known as the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, is one of four academic health centers within the 64-unit State University of New York. Located on an urban campus in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate includes the College of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies, College of Nursing, College of Health Related Professions, Master of Public Health Program, a major research center, and University Hospital of Brooklyn.

Over the years, SUNY Downstate has undergone several name changes. In 1856, two physicians established a dispensary in downtown Brooklyn to provide care for poor immigrants. The Long Island College Hospital grew out of this dispensary the following year. In 1858, the state granted the hospital's request for a charter to launch a medical school. The school, which opened its doors two years later, revolutionized medical education in the United States. The new school was unique because, for the first time in this country, the teaching of medicine was brought to the hospital bedside and the idea that physicians should be trained exclusively in university classrooms and lecture halls was rejected. It was truly a *college hospital*.

In 1931 the school was rechartered as the Long Island College of Medicine, with affiliated hospitals throughout Brooklyn. The "Downstate" era began on April 5, 1950 with a special ceremony at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where a merger contract was signed between the Long Island College of Medicine and the newly constituted State University of New York. Several years later, the current campus was built in East Flatbush. In April 1953, ground was broken for the Basic Sciences Building, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower laid the cornerstone in 1954. The complex was expanded in 1966 with the opening of University Hospital of Brooklyn. The School of Graduate Studies, the College of Health Related Professions, and the College of Nursing were also added that year.

Today, SUNY Downstate is the focal point of a health education network that encompasses 30 hospitals and other health care sites, with a campus of 13 acres, a total student body of 1,600, a faculty of 4,755 (including full-time, part-time, and voluntary), and support staff of 3,182. In 1998, one of its researchers, Dr. Robert F. Furchgott, received the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology.

Faculty Members Serving as Marshals

Edmund Bourke, MD Professor and Chair of Medicine

William Chirico, PhD Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology

Margaret Clark-Golden, MD, MPH Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Eva B. Cramer, PhD Distinguished Service Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Vice President for Biotechnology and Scientific Affairs

Monica Dweck, MD Clinical Assistant Professor and Vice Chair of Ophthalmology and Program Director of Oculoplastic Surgery

George Frangos, PhD Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education

Donald Gerber, MD Professor of Clinical Medicine and Clinical Assistant Dean

Marcia Gerber, MD Clinical Associate Professor, Clinical Assistant Dean, and Director of Student/Employee Health Service

Constance Hill, MD Clinical Professor of Anesthesiology and Associate Dean for Minority Affairs

Michael Lucchesi, MD Associate Professor and Chair of Emergency Medicine, and Interim Chief Medical Director

William M. McCormack, MD Distinguished Teaching Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Chief of Infectious Diseases

Suzanne S. Mirra, MD Professor and Chair of Pathology

Steven Ostrow, MD Clinical Associate Professor of Radiology and Anatomy and Cell Biology

Christopher A. J. Roman, PhD Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology

Mark Stewart, MD, PhD Associate Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology and Neurology

SUNY Board of Trustees

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Randy A. Daniels
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Teresa A. Santiago

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Harvey F. Wachsman, MD, JD

Gerri Warren-Merrick

John R. Ryan, Vice Admiral USN (Ret.)
Chancellor, State University of New York

John J. O'Connor, MS
*Vice Chancellor and Secretary of the University, and
President of the Research Foundation*

The Academic Procession

The procession is led by the presiding marshal. Other members of the procession include faculty marshals (chosen by the graduates), faculty members, deans, honorary degree recipients, and the president of SUNY Downstate.

The academic gown worn by procession members is said to be symbolic of the “democracy of scholarship,” for it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath.

Academic gowns originated in the Middle Ages, the period when universities were beginning to take form. At that time, most scholars were also clerics—and therefore dressed as clerics, in long gowns. Over time, the gown became the accepted dress code for scholars: in England, in the second half of the 14th century, for example, several colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and decreed the wearing of long gowns.

The assignment of colors to signify different academic disciplines developed much later, and was standardized in the United States in the late 19th century. In 1895, an intercollegiate commission composed of representatives from leading colleges established a code of academic dress that prescribed cut, style, and materials of the gowns, as well as colors to represent different fields of learning. Today, academic dress code is regulated by a formal Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies created by the American Council on Education in 1952.

The gown is usually black for all degrees, with variations in the sleeves, the front cut, and trim. The bachelor’s degree gown is black with long pointed sleeves. The master’s degree gown is black without trim and has oblong sleeves so the upper part of the arm comes through the slit in the sleeve. Doctoral (Ph.D.) gowns are black with bell-shaped sleeves. Mortarboards (caps) with tassels have their own significance. Master’s and bachelor’s tassels are black, while the Ph.D. tassel may be black or gold; medicine is green.

Hood colors indicate the field of learning: dark blue—philosophy; green—medicine; light blue—education; apricot—nursing; golden yellow—science; white—history; purple—law; dark blue—psychology; salmon—public health; and teal—physical therapy.

Details of academic attire may vary depending on where faculty members completed their degrees. Some foreign degree holders, for example, wear special hats, distinctive to their degree and institution. Whatever the differences, however, the governing tradition is continuity of the academic symbols from the Middle Ages.

The Hippocratic Oath

I do solemnly swear by that which I hold most sacred:

That I will be loyal to the profession of medicine
and just and generous to its members;

That I will lead my life and practice my art
in uprightness and honor;

That whatever house I shall enter, it shall be for the good
of the sick to the utmost of my power;

That I will hold myself aloof from wrong;

That I will exercise my art solely for the cure of my patients,
and will give no drug and perform no operation
for a wrongful purpose;

That whatsoever I shall see or hear of the lives of men
and women that should not be spoken, I will keep secret;

These I do promise, and in proportion as I am faithful to
this my oath may happiness and good repute be ever mine.