

USU Medicine

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences



- **Mirror Therapy Shows Promise in Amputee Treatment** ●
- **New Graduate Nursing School Dean Named** ●
- **Alumni Updates** ●

USU Medicine

The magazine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

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Established by Congress in 1972 and operated by the Department of Defense, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is the nation's federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. Its mission includes teaching, training and research. USU graduates serve worldwide.

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USU Alumni Affairs staff, pictured left to right: Kristen Brown, Sharon Willis, Leeann Ori

I have had the great privilege of serving USU graduates as director of Alumni Affairs for the past 15 years. I am pleased to announce that the office has grown to include two additional staff members. Leeann Ori is deputy director of Alumni Affairs, and oversees the M.D. alumni program. Kristen Brown, alumni affairs specialist, is responsible for the management of Graduate School of Nursing and Graduate Education alumni programs. Both Leeann and Kristen are an integral part of the significant change and development of the USU alumni affairs program and are deeply committed to serving the university and our alumni.

This issue and future issues of USU Medicine, in keeping with the times, are being brought to you electronically. This not only saves resources, but also allows us to provide a dynamic product for you in a timely manner. We welcome your feedback, input and ideas.

As you will see on the pages that follow, USU alumni, faculty and students continue to demonstrate the value of this university to the nation and the world -- on the frontlines of combat and in military and federal treatment facilities, in developing countries and in underserved populations, in academic and research institutions, and right here on our own campus. They are leading major scientific and professional societies, medical centers and military units, running for Congress and authoring books, and are earning significant awards and accolades.

Unfortunately, with our triumphs come our tragedies. This has been a year of sorrow for the university with the tragic loss of six medical school graduates in a 10-month period. In this issue we pay tribute to these incredible alumni.

As always, feel free to contact our office or visit our web site (www.usuhs.mil) for information about alumni events, services and programs, and other ways to connect with your alma mater. Leeann, Kristen and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sharon K. Willis

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In Memoriam

USU mourns loss of alumni

Secretary of Defense Appoints New Members to USU Board of Regents

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced the appointments of Dr. Ronald Blanck, Dr. Haile Debas, Dr. Michael Johns, Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu and Dr. Gail Wilensky to serve as members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Board of Regents.

Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU President, thanked the Secretary of Defense and extended the university's welcome to its five new Board members.

"I am deeply gratified by the appointment of these new members to the university's Board of Regents," Dr. Rice said. "Each brings a wealth of experience in academic medicine and all have an extraordinary commitment to public service. I look forward to working with them and benefiting from their advice and guidance."

Two of the new appointments are replacing Regents whose terms have expired. The departing members, the Honorable Everett Alvarez, Jr. and the Honorable Linda Stierle, were appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

"We are grateful to Mr. Alvarez and Ms. Stierle for their years of dedicated service to the university," Dr. Rice said. "Their guidance and wise counsel have seen the university evolve to its current position as a world leader in military and public health medicine. They have been a key force in helping shape the university and guiding it in establishing a flourishing Graduate School of Nursing."

"The new members of the Board have significant and varied experience in academic medicine, government and public service and will play critical roles in guiding the university and the Department of Defense in the next era of military and public health medicine," said Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Their advice to the university will

be especially critical as the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is stood up on the Bethesda campus and as USU plays an increasingly important role in academic medicine and biomedical research as each relates to the needs and aspirations of the uniformed services."

Dr. Ronald Blanck, Chair of the Board

Dr. Ronald Blanck currently serves as Vice Chairman and partner of Martin, Blanck & Associates. Previously, Dr. Blanck served



as President of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth from 2000 to 2006 and remains a Professor in the Department of Internal

Medicine. He was Surgeon General of the Army from 1996 to 2000. Dr. Blanck received his BS from Juniata College (1963) and a D.O. from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (1967). He completed his internship at the Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital and his residency in internal medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and served as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at USU in the early 1980s.

Dr. Haile Debas

Dr. Haile Debas is the Executive Director of Global Health Sciences at the University of California-San Francisco. He is also the Maurice Galante Distinguished Professor of Surgery and holds hospital appointments at the University of California Medical Center and the Mount Zion Medical Center in San Francisco. Dr. Debas was

Dean of the UCSF Medical School and



(Photo by Elizabeth Fall)

Interim Chancellor. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine. Dr. Debas received his B.Sc. in Biology

from Addis Ababa University College (1958) and an M.D. from McGill University (1963).

Dr. Michael Johns

Dr. Michael Johns is the Chancellor of Emory University, a position he has held since 2007. Previously, Dr. Johns served



Emory University as Chief Executive Officer of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Emory Health-care, and Pro-

fessor in the Department of Otolaryngology. He was Dean of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine. He received his B.S. in Biology from Wayne State University (1964) and an M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School (with distinction, 1969).

Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu

Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu is currently Vice President, Global Strategic Affairs for LifeScan Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company, and Chairman, Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute. Prior to his current position, Dr.



Moritsugu was the Acting Surgeon General of the United States from July 2006 to his retirement from the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service in September 2007 after 37 years of

active duty. He received his B.A. from the University of Hawaii (with honors, 1967) and his M.D. from George Washington University (1971). Additionally, Dr. Moritsugu holds a M.P.H. in Health Administration from the University of California-Berkeley (1975).

Dr. Gail Wilensky

Dr. Wilensky is an economist, and a Senior Fellow at Project HOPE, an international health education foundation. She is a Commissioner on the WHO's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, co-chaired the recently completed Department of Defense task force on the Future of Military Health Care, is the Vice Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission and serves as a trustee of the Combined



Benefits Fund of the United Mineworkers of America and the National Opinion Research Center. She is a Member of the National Academies, Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Wilensky was recently appointed to the Defense Health Board, advising the Department of Defense on health matters. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

Ada Sue Hinshaw Named as Nursing School Dean



Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, was selected as the new dean of USU's Graduate School of Nursing.

Hinshaw, a professor and former dean of the University of Michigan's School of Nursing, was chosen for the position following an extensive nationwide search. She will start in June, and replaces former Dean Patricia Hinton Walker, who left the position in

2006. Retired Army Brig. Gen. William Bester, and Col. Bruce Schoneboom, have each served as acting dean in the interim.

"We are extraordinarily pleased to have recruited a nursing professional and scholar of Dr. Hinshaw's standing," said USU President Dr. Charles L. Rice. "She has been a leader in nursing

education and research throughout her entire career, and she brings her many extraordinary talents, her deep experience in academia and public service, and an unmatched national reputation to USU and the Graduate School of Nursing. Under her guidance, I fully expect the GSN to become the exemplar of graduate nursing education."

Hinshaw received her Ph.D. and Master of Arts in Sociology from the University of Arizona, a Master of Nursing Sciences from Yale University, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Kansas. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a leader in nursing education and research, and a widely published scholar.

Hinshaw's research interests have focused on quality of care, patient outcomes, measurement of those outcomes and building positive work environments for nurses. She was the first permanent director of the National Center of Nursing Research and the first director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health. Hinshaw led the institute in its support of disease prevention, health promotion, acute and chronic illness and the environments that enhance nursing patient care outcomes.

"The many opportunities for expanding graduate programs and research at the Graduate School of Nursing and working with outstanding colleagues at USU make this deanship very exciting," Dr. Hinshaw said.

Former Pharmacology Chair Becomes President-Elect of ASPET



Brian M. Cox, Ph.D., former chair of the Department of Pharmacology and professor of Pharmacology and Neurosciences at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), now serves as the president-elect of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

The ASPET is a 4,800-member scientific society whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research in academia, industry and the government. These research efforts help develop new medicines and therapeutic agents to fight existing and emerging diseases.

Cox has been a member of the ASPET since 1976 and also served as secretary/treasurer from 1997 to 1999. He assumed the duties and responsibilities of president-elect in July 2008.

USU Professor Works with Muppets to Help Children of Deployed Service Members

Stephen J. Cozza, M.D., professor of Psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), together with Gary E. Knell, president and CEO of Sesame Workshop, and Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Loree K. Sutton, director of the Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury and special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) for psychological health and traumatic brain injury, recently announced the launch of “Talk, Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes,” the second phase of the Sesame Workshop’s military outreach program, launched initially in 2006.

With its second phase, the Sesame Workshop aims to reduce children’s anxiety during homecomings from multiple deployments, as well as help parents with ways to cope with multiple deployments and help young children gain an age-appropriate understanding of a parent’s injury by including them and the entire family in the rehabilitation process. Dr. Cozza, the associate director of USU’s Center for the Study

of Traumatic Stress, Child and Family Programs, is a member of the project advisory board for the Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street. Dr.



Photo by Richard Termine

Cozza, along with a number of military family groups and subject matter experts, participated in the development of a Sesame Street Muppet production that addresses issues related to separation, fear, family transition, and reintegration of military service members following a deployment.

“Through their generous work in creating ‘Talk, Listen, Connect,’ Sesame Workshop helps our many young military children affected by deployment and the changes that can occur in their parents as a result of combat exposure. ‘Talk, Listen, Connect’ provides an opportunity for children to cope with these challenges in positive and reassuring ways,” said Cozza.

“These much needed materials offer wonderful strategies that can help military families with young children and foster meaningful connections between family members, friends, and communities in their everyday lives.”

Bester Named VP of Distributed Learning



Although in his charge as vice president of distributed learning at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is a recent ap-

pointment, Mr. Bill Bester, RN, MSN, CNAAB, BC, is a familiar and welcome face on the Bethesda campus. Before he took on this new role, the retired Army brigadier general impacted USU's learning community in other capacities, drawing from years of experience in uniform and hospitals around the world.

A former acting dean of the Graduate School of Nursing and Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, Bester has been at the core of the academic health center for some years now. These responsibilities required him to oversee the GSN's educational programs, including four master's tracks and one doctoral program. Uniquely suited to lead a federal school of nursing, Bester was able to provide first-hand perspectives on military medicine, having dedicated more than three decades to the

Armed Forces.

He is trying on a new hat though, by developing alternatives to traditional classroom experiences. Because military members are assigned and located around the globe, online courses could offer new platforms for students stationed in a variety of locations.

"The interest level is great," enthused Bester of the program, before describing its many advantages. To begin with, USU could reach more people, across all specialties. Also, many recent studies suggest both resident and remote learners derive the same educational benefits, he continued.

USU has already had some experience in converting course material to electronic platforms, with some success, prompting Bester to explain, "We've dipped our toes in the pond of distributed learning, now it's time to expand learning opportunities even further."

There is much work to be done though, and Bester is laboring to bring form to this broad concept. "Right now we are gathering information so we can develop a template to work from," he said. Bester and several other subject matter experts recently visited Johns Hopkins University to learn about their distributed learning programs, with plans to continue to analyze

those of other premiere universities in the upcoming months.

Clearly Bester is vested in a huge undertaking, systematically addressing program details and resource requirements, both from a fiscal perspective and from a human resource perspective.

A proven leader, his past successes bear fruit in a distinguished portfolio that begins even before USU's charter class matriculated into the School of Medicine. "Lassoed" into the Nurse Corps by an Army recruiter, according to Bester, he "liked everything about the military." Traveling the world and quickly advancing through the ranks, his career in the Army culminated in his selection as the 21st Chief of the Army Nurse Corps. After retirement, Bester went on to teach at civilian universities, but perhaps it was a proud military disposition that brought him back to the Nation's academic health center.

"My whole professional life was spent around service members and their families," Bester said thoughtfully. "USU holds a special place in my heart."

The sentiment is returned. The newest vice president is more than a visionary leader; he is the embodiment of what the university strives to impart—excellence in military medicine.

Cutler Named to Head Graduate Program

Mary Lou Cutler, Ph.D., a professor of Pathology and Molecular and Cellular Biology, was selected as director for USU's Molecular and Cell Biology program following a national search.

The Molecular and Cell Biology degree program is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with strong backgrounds in molecular biology and chemistry, and experience in all areas of biomedical research. The faculty is drawn from 11 different basic science and clinical departments and the research projects of graduate students include studies on cell-cell communication, intracellular signal transduction, regulation of gene expression, developmental control, oncogenic

transformation and the immune response. The curriculum and the research experience serve to educate students in the study of disease etiology and the rational design of strategies and therapeutic agents to prevent and treat human disease.

Dr. Cutler has been at USU in the Department of Pathology for more than 12 years. She has held a faculty appointment with the Molecular and Cellular Biology program since 1995. Previously she served as a special expert at the National Cancer Institute for five years.



GSN Faculty Member Appointed to Governor's Advisory Council



Gloria Ramsey, J.D., R.N., an associate professor in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Graduate School of Nursing was recently appointed by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley as a member of the State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life.

The State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life studies the impact of State statutes, regulations, and public policies on the providing of care to the dying, as well as monitors

trends in the provision of care to patients with fatal illnesses and participates in public and professional educational efforts concerning their care, and advises the General Assembly, Office of Attorney General, Department of Aging, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene matters related to the provision of care at the end of life.

Ms. Ramsey is a faculty member in the Department of Health, Injury and Disease Management in the Graduate School of Nursing.

USU Nurse Anesthesia Program Ranked Among Nation's Best

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Graduate School of Nursing's Nurse Anesthesia program received a national ranking of sixth for the second consecutive year according to the 2009 Edition of *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Graduate Schools."

"This is quite an accomplishment for the nurse anesthesia program that admitted its first students in 1994," said Air Force Lt. Col. Adrienne Hartgerink, Nurse Anesthesia program director. "Last year we were extremely thrilled that our pro-

gram was recognized. To be ranked a second time just solidifies the outstanding contributions of both the Graduate School of Nursing and the anesthesia program. It is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the USU faculty and students from all services."

The *U.S. News and World Report* bases its nurse specialty rankings on peer assessment surveys sent to deans, administrators, and/or faculty at accredited degree programs or schools in each disci-

pline. Educators rate the academic quality of programs on a 5-point scale.

The Graduate School of Nursing was established within USU in 1993. In addition to the Nurse Anesthesia program, the GSN offers programs the Master of Science in Nursing degree program in the Family Health Nurse Practitioner, Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner disciplines. The GSN also offers a full- and part-time Ph.D. in Nursing Science option.

Family Medicine Faculty Member Elected President of USAFP

Cmdr. (Dr.) Mark Stephens, U.S. Navy, an associate professor in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Department of Family Medicine, was elected president of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians at their annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. He succeeds USU Department of Family Medicine Chair Col. (Dr.) Brian Reamy in the post.

The USAFP is the uniformed services chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, which represents more than 93,000 physicians and medical students nationwide and is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care. The USAFP represents 1,600 of the AAFP's members, and is the eighth largest chapter. The USAFP organizes and provides education, aids in research, and provides support and resources for deployed uniformed family physicians and their families.

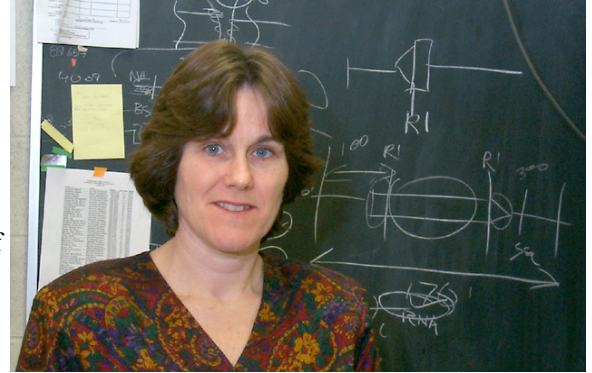
Stephens earned his Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Penn State University, as well as his Master of Science in Exercise Physiology. He earned his M.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Family Medicine, and holds a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Adolescent Medicine. His research interests include pediatric obesity and medical informatics.



Dunn Selected for Biochemistry Chair

Teresa M. Dunn, Ph.D., was recently named chair of USU's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Dr. Dunn has been a member of the Biochemistry faculty since 1988 and served as interim chair for 11 months prior to her selection as chair. She has developed an internationally respected research program and served on many important committees and panels, both at the University, and in the scientific community, including current service on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Biological Chemistry and as a member of the NIH Biochemistry and Biophysics of Membranes Study Section.



USU Establishes New Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) expanded its research into the field of neuroregenerative medicine with the addition of the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine. The center will establish a cooperative research environment in order to study the effects and treatments for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The expansion of USU efforts in regenerative medicine is to establish a strong network with the existing labs in the National Capital Area that have ongoing research efforts in the area of neuroregeneration. Specifically, USU will establish a consortium between Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Defense Center for Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health (DCOE), the Army Medical Research Command (MRMC) Labs, and Navy Labs. This network will work with USU as the coordinating center to accelerate regenerative medicine programs across these institutions so that fundamental studies are moved to translational laboratories and, in turn, this science will migrate quickly to advance development in a clinical setting.

In this model USU/WRNMMC will be at the hub of the network activities and have direct contact with all the associated labs. The relationship will be to build a cooperative research environment across the labs

and to encourage idea exchange to move concepts into medical applications. The focus of the network will be to enhance brain cell and tissue preservation, repair, and/or replacement as appropriate across the spectrum of brain injury. Neuroregenerative approaches will take advantage of new findings in stem and progenitor cell biology combined with a better appreciation of the role of the tissue environment in eventual recovery of neurologic function.

The center will also develop neuroimaging technologies and combinations of biomarkers and other assessment tools to better determine the severity and type of brain injury incurred with current Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom conflicts. This information should significantly improve the ability to effectively match current treatment options for returning soldiers, and will be critical for stratifying patients into clinical trials to more accurately evaluate potential new treatments.

Neuroplasticity will also be used as a tool to improve TBI therapeutic outcomes. The goals will include developing approaches to monitor neural function and plasticity. In addition, a focus will be to develop innovative treatment strategies based on enhancement of plasticity. This work can take advantage of advances in the use of biomarkers and neuroimaging tools to

personalize therapeutic strategies to each individual.

USU understands that rehabilitation medicine is an area that will need additional emphasis in the near future, with awareness of the DCOE and WRNMMC patient population needs for additional rehabilitation services. Rehabilitative approaches will be developed to take advantage of the opportunities created by individual patients having the potential for advanced neuroimaging results to be integrated with genomic and proteomic biomarker analyses and assessment approaches to facilitate rehabilitation and recovery from functional deficits as a consequence of TBI. This new knowledge will enhance our understanding of TBI and can be designed to help characterize, and possibly differentiate, mild TBI, PTSD, and other disorders of psychological health. The overarching objective is to use this opportunity to set the mark for the best standards of rehabilitative medicine for this group of patients.

The development of better neuroprotectants for the range of TBI-induced cellular damage is essential to minimize secondary damage and simultaneously maximize potential recovery of neurologic function. Neuroprotective approaches that preserve tissue architecture, neuronal circuitry, and/or cellular environments are critical so that subsequent treatments are effective in rehabilitating a wounded soldier.



Mirror Therapy

Treatment Shows Promise For Amputee Care

When Army Sgt. Nicholas Paupore puts a mirror near his left leg, he's whole again. The right leg that was destroyed when an explosively formed penetrator ripped through his Humvee just south of Kirkuk, Iraq, suddenly reappears before his eyes, reflecting the left leg that remains.

Paupore, 32, admitted he was skeptical when Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Jack Tsao suggested using a mirror to help him deal with excruciating pain he continued feeling in his missing right leg.

The phenomenon, called "phantom limb pain," plagues as many as half of all amputees, likely the result of a faulty signal between the brain and the missing appendage, Tsao explained. Neurons in the brain continue sending out signals to a limb that's no longer there. As a result, amputees can feel discomfort or pain and, in some cases, the sense that their missing limb is stuck in an uncomfortable position.

For Paupore, a 101st Airborne Division artilleryman who was serving on a military transition team training Iraqi troops when he was wounded in July 2006, the pain felt like electric shocks or knives stabbing into his missing leg. "It felt like someone... was putting an electrode on the back of my ankle," he said.

Paupore tried several different painkillers, including morphine, but none gave him relief.

Tsao, associate professor of neurology at USU, thought he was on to something when he revisited literature he'd first seen while in graduate school. Vilayanur Ramachandran, a neuroscientist at the University of California San Diego, had come up with mirror therapy to treat phantom limb pain in upper extremities.

Ramachandran used mirrors so amputees could "see" and "move" their missing limbs to relieve the discomfort. Funding restrictions and lack of a steady stream of amputees prevented Ramachandran from testing his research through clinical trials.

Tsao, who treats military amputees wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan at Walter Reed Army Medical Center had no such restrictions. With huge Defense Department interest in caring for combat-wounded amputees, he had little trouble selling a

treatment that involved little more than a \$20 mirror.

He set up a clinical trial and recruited 18 combat-wounded amputees suffering from phantom limb pain to participate.

Paupore admitted he wasn't convinced when Tsao first proposed the trial, but said he figured he had nothing to lose. "I was really skeptical," he said. "But I figured, I'm not going anywhere, so I'll try it."

Tsao randomly assigned the participants into three groups. One group received mirror therapy as advocated by Ramachandran.

One went through the same therapy, but with the mirror covered by a sheet so it didn't reflect the limb. The third group got no mirror and simply visualized seeing the missing limb in a mirror.

Paupore began the trial in the second group, with a covered mirror. After four weeks, he felt little change. But when Tsao switched him to the group using an uncovered mirror so he was able to "see" his missing leg, Paupore saw immediate improvement.

Sitting on a hospital bed with his legs fully extended, Paupore demonstrated the therapy. He put a standard 6-foot-long mirror lengthwise between his left leg and the residual stump on his right side, with the mirror reflecting the intact leg. He moved the leg, watching the movement in the mirror and imagining that his missing leg was making the movements. The very first time he tried it, Paupore felt something happening. "The stump started firing off right away," he said. "It got a little uncomfortable."

Participants in the trial used the mirror therapy technique 15 minutes a day, five days a week for four weeks. "Pain levels seemed to come down after the first week and keep diminishing," Tsao said. Every single person who used the mirror experienced relief, and some reported that their phantom pain disappeared altogether.

Tsao continued administering the therapy for an additional four weeks, up to eight weeks, and saw more success in patients who still felt phantom pain. Many were able to get off their pain medicine altogether or bring their pain levels down to a point where it was manageable with low dosages of drugs,



“The mirror works for most people who have tried it,” Tsao said. “It doesn’t work fully for everyone. Some people are left with some residual pain, but it is better than when they started. For the most part, if you talk to the amputees here, they have actually been able to get off the medications, some sooner than others.”

Those who used the covered mirror or visualization had far less success, Tsao reported. Some said their phantom pain actually worsened until they began therapy with an actual mirror.

More than a year after completing his mirror therapy, Paupore said he still experiences occasional phantom pain, but “only once in a great while.” The pain is far less severe than before the mirror therapy, and Paupore is off painkillers altogether.

“It tricks your brain into thinking your leg is still there, so it’s not misfiring,” he said. “I don’t know how it works, but it works.”

Paupore said he encourages other amputees suffering from phantom pain to give mirror therapy a try. “I’ve always recommended it to them,” he said. “At least give it a try. Some people may get mild help out of it; some may get extraordinary help out of it.”

Tsao is quick to say mirror therapy doesn’t work for everybody. “It’s not a cure-all for all kinds of phantom pain, but it’s definitely a way to improve therapy,” he said.

Even patients whose pain remains after the therapy reported less severe symptoms. “A lot of them are very surprised that they are actually able to get movement and then the pain seems to be going away.”

Tsao published the results of the clinical trials this past fall in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Based on the promise it’s shown, he said, he hopes to get approval for two more studies.

One will test mirror therapy for treating phantom pain in missing arms; Tsao said he hopes to conduct that trial both at Walter Reed and at the Center for the Intrepid military rehabilitation facility at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. The second trial, called functional magnetic resonance imaging, will attempt to figure out precisely why mirror therapy works.

Overall, Tsao called the Defense Department’s advances in treating amputees “nothing short of phenomenal” and said he’s proud to be playing a part.

“I think the most gratifying part of this is that we are actually able to help in the rehabilitation process for the amputees here,” he said. “I go home every day knowing people are going to be getting better. It makes me feel great.”

—Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service



USU Professor Breaks New Ground With 3-D Vision System

Virtual reality made its way into the operating room recently when a USU faculty member performed the military's first three-dimensional minimally invasive surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Armed with a state-of-the-art helmet, Army Col. (Dr.) Ernest Lockrow, associate professor in USU's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and director of the Telerobotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery Center, used the 3-D capabilities to perform a hysterectomy.

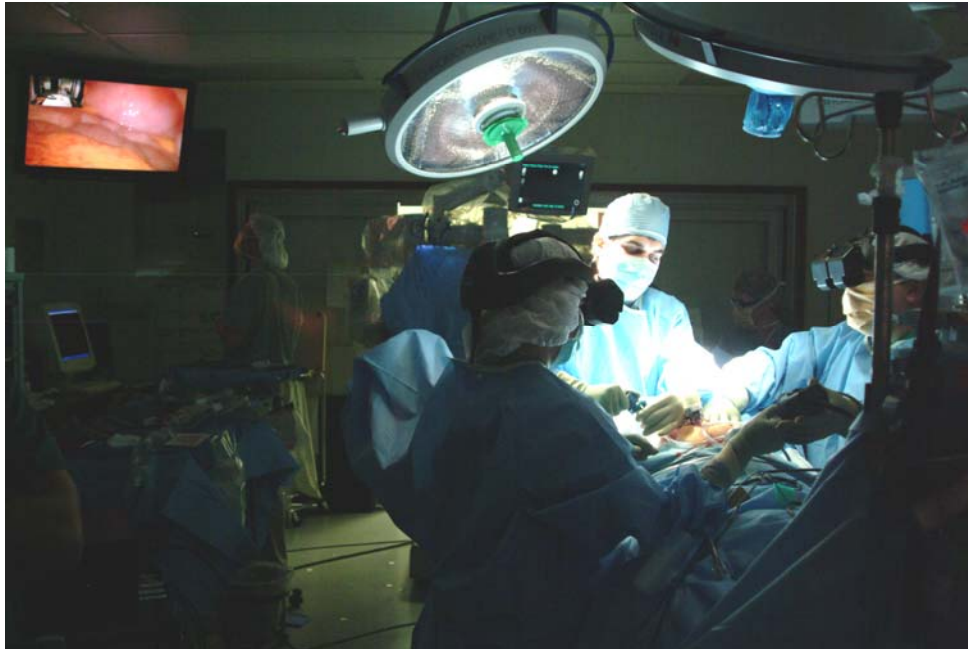
Minimally invasive surgery, also known as laparoscopy, uses tiny incisions to operate and typically involves a telescopic lens that is connected to a video camera. The operation last week was the first time the military has used the 3-D vision system to help visualize and guide the surgeon during a laparoscopic procedure.

According to Lockrow, the typical laparoscopy procedure is done with a two-dimensional display. The images from the telescopic lens appear on a monitor, and surgeons use this to guide their way through the operation.

Some of the problems with teaching new surgeons in two-dimension technology are that they can easily miss something while practicing operations until their eyes adjust to the two-dimension view. This lack of depth perception can hamper the surgeon during an operation, Lockrow explained.

With the new three-dimensional headset capability, surgeons can precisely get to where they need to be.

"What the three-dimensional procedure



now gives is a camera for each eye, so the surgeon can now see just as he was operating in a general, open procedure," Lockrow said. "When you're used to operating in two dimensions and then you go to three dimensions, it just makes it so much easier. We actually had a fellow who has not done a lot of laparoscopic surgery and was able to easily grasp the laparoscopic procedure in three dimensions."

Lockrow is taking the technology a step further by exploring a new realm of telecommunications with the use of this device.

Although there are issues associated with transmitting images across a network in terms of signal delay, it could be possible someday to have a doctor use a 3-D helmet in Germany to assist a doctor here who also is wearing the helmet, and vice versa, Lockrow said.

"In military aspects, that's really where we want to go; it's just a long road to get there," he added.

Walter Reed now has the facilities that give surgical teams the capability to broadcast the surgery, Lockrow noted.

"We're actually able to take the new technologies and techniques, and we can now televise them to a network or to a class-

room," he said. "Now, more than two people can watch a procedure; a whole classroom can watch."

The 3-D laparoscopy device is part of a bigger project involving robotic surgery and minimally invasive surgery in which the Army is trying to incorporate new technologies and make them available at health-care facilities throughout the military. Lockrow's team tested the helmets at the robotic training

center lab at USU.

A Navy surgeon, Cmdr. (Dr.) Christine Sears, assisted Lockrow in the operating room. An Air Force surgeon, Maj. (Dr.) Chad Hamilton, watched the procedure.

Sears said she's impressed with the new technology. "The 3-D visualization improves the ergonomics of laparoscopy - the image is directly in front of the surgeon at all times," she said. "Rather than looking at a screen which is stationary, the helmet moves with the surgeon's head, improving visualization."

Hamilton said continuing to bring state-of-the-art procedures and methods to military medicine will ensure service members get the best available care.

"Incorporation of such technology will allow (the military) to continue offering cutting-edge procedures our beneficiaries have come to expect and keep us in the vanguard of technology and medicine," Hamilton said.

Lockrow agreed. "I think it's important that we keep exploring these new technologies, because this is great for military medicine," he said.

(Walter Reed Stripe)

Findings

USU Professor Awarded \$5.6 Million NIH Grant to Develop Therapeutics Against Deadly Viruses

Researchers at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) have been awarded a \$5.6 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to develop and test vaccines and treatments for the Nipah and Hendra viruses.

Christopher C. Broder, Ph.D., USU professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the university's interdisciplinary program in Emerging Infectious Diseases, is the principal investigator of the grant from NIAID. The grant was awarded to further develop the vaccines and therapeutics for Nipah and Hendra that his group has been working on for the past several years.

The award will support a continued collaboration with investigators Lin-Fa Wang, Ph.D. and Deborah Middleton M.V.Sc, Ph.D. of Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Livestock Industries, Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Center (AB-CRC) in Geelong, Victoria, where there is a high-level biosafety and security facility for testing the vaccines and therapeutics against these deadly viruses in appropriate models.

Hendra virus and Nipah virus are recently emerged paramyxoviruses that are highly pathogenic and can cause lethal infections in several animals and in humans. Since their initial discovery in Australia and Malaysia, sporadic Hendra outbreaks have been reported from 1995 to 2007, while Nipah has caused at least 9 outbreaks between 1998 and 2008. The majority of these episodes have occurred on a regular basis in Bangladesh and India, with human case fatality rates approaching 75% along with evidence of human-to-human transmission. The most recent

appearance of Nipah in 2008 claimed the lives of several children. Studies have demonstrated that the natural reservoirs for Hendra and Nipah viruses are bats, primarily several different species of large fruit bats commonly referred to as flying foxes.

The first steps in countering infections caused by these viruses were to develop a vaccine that was both safe and effective, and also to find antibodies that could neutralize them. In earlier work, also supported by NIAID through the Middle-Atlantic Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (MARCE), a subunit vaccine for Nipah and Hendra, composed of a piece of the virus known as the G glycoprotein, was developed by Dr. Katharine Bossart, a former graduate student of Broder's laboratory. Recent experiments by Dr. Bossart and colleagues have shown the vaccine to be very effective in preventing Nipah virus disease.

Antibodies on the other hand are proteins that are found in blood or other bodily fluids of animals and humans that are used by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign molecules, including bacteria and viruses.

The neutralization of an invading virus is the process by which an antibody can specifically bind and block its infection, and in other recent MARCE-supported studies carried out by Broder's group in collaboration with Dimiter S. Dimitrov, Ph.D., of the National Cancer Institute's, Center for Cancer Research in Frederick, Md., and Zhongyu Zhu, Ph.D., of Dimitrov's group, a very potent Nipah and Hendra virus neutralizing human monoclonal antibody (m102.4) was developed as a potential therapeutic that could be administered to people infected by these viruses.

"We now have the critical resources needed to evaluate the therapeutic potential of both vaccines and perhaps more importantly a potent human antibody against both Nipah virus and Hendra virus, that could help control outbreaks in geographical regions susceptible to these emerging viruses, and result in a real benefit to those people at risk of infection and disease caused by these deadly agents," said Broder. "Our success in obtaining these new critical funds is also evidence of the success of NIAID's Regional Center of Excellence program," Broder added.

This NIH award will also support and bring together the expertise to structurally characterize the interaction between the Nipah and Hendra virus and the receptor proteins on cells that serve the gateway for virus infection, led by Dimitar B. Nikolov, Ph.D., and Kai Xu of Nikolov's team at the Structural Biology Program of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, in New York. Information from these additional studies may lead to the discovery of new therapeutics targeting the virus-host cell infection process.



Dr. Christopher C. Broder

Findings

Scientist Awarded NIAID Grant to Further Study of Preventive HIV Vaccine

Gerald V. Quinnan, Jr., M.D., professor and interim chair, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), was one of 10 scientists awarded a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. The \$15.6 million, five-year program will strengthen and expand the scientific foundation of HIV vaccine research through a network of 10 research teams nationwide that will share resources, methods and data to accelerate progress.

Dr. Quinnan has conducted extensive research with HIV and recently had the results of his research titled: “Extensively Cross-Reactive Anti-HIV-1 Neutralizing Antibodies Induced by gp140 Immunization” published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The grant was awarded to advance underdeveloped approaches to designing a preventive HIV vaccine. The NIAID is launching a new program to foster the study of B cells, immune cells that can produce antibodies with the capacity to neutralize HIV. In the immune system, B cells recognize key parts of microbes, called antigens. Then, in cooperation with T cells—parts of the immune system that kill cells infected by pathogens—a reaction is triggered that leads B cells to produce antibodies, which can lock onto antigens and sweep them out of the body. HIV is devilishly good at

fooling B cells and shielding itself from antibodies or changing its antigenic parts, so antibodies can rarely rid the body of the virus.

The new NIAID research program aims to uncover mechanisms that will enable scientists to outwit HIV and stimulate the B-cell production of long-lasting antibodies that can neutralize many strains of the virus; such antibodies are known as “broadly neutralizing.”

In recent years, investigator-initiated grants supported by NIAID have focused more heavily on T-cell based approaches to preventive HIV vaccines than on B-cell based ones. Many experts believe a successful HIV vaccine will probably need to activate both T cells and B cells; consequently, NIAID’s creation of the new B-cell research program is an important stimulus for HIV vaccine discovery.

Some evidence suggests that the program’s goal of eliciting broadly neutralizing antibodies to HIV, although extremely difficult, may be feasible. Scientists have discovered that some HIV-infected individuals naturally but rarely produce broadly neutralizing antibodies to HIV. Giving such antibodies experimentally to monkeys protected the animals from HIV infection after exposure to the virus. Scientists now face the challenge of how to stimulate the human immune system to predictably produce broadly neutralizing antibodies to HIV through vaccination.

CPDR Researchers Provide New Insights Into Common Alterations of ERG Oncogene in Prostate Cancer

In the past three years, ground-breaking discoveries in the prostate cancer field have highlighted that alterations of ETS related genes (predominantly ERG), as a result of a fusion between male hormone receptor regulated gene promoters (predominantly TMPRSS2) and ETS transcription factors, represent one of the most common oncogenic defects in prostate cancer.

Researchers at USU’s Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR) had previously shown frequent overexpression (60-70%) of the ETS related gene ERG in the epithelial cell transcriptome of prostate cancers. They have now defined new features of ERG function and expression that will further enhance the potential of ERG as promising biomarker and therapeutic target for prostate cancer.

Using cell culture and animal models and prostate cancer specimens from patients, the multi-disciplinary group co-led by Dr. Shiv Srivastava, Dr. David G. McLeod, Dr. Isabell A. Sesterhenn and Dr. Albert Dobi shows that inhibiting ERG expression in prostate tumor cells induces markers of prostate differentiation and inhibits tumor cell growth in mice.

This study also highlights the role of the C-MYC oncogene in mediating ERG functions in prostate cancer cells. Taken together, these findings strongly implicate causal roles of ERG in prostate cancer at least in part by affecting cellular differentiation. Moreover, this study underscores promising potential of ERG and C-MYC in developing new targeted therapy for a large percentage of prostate cancers with ERG overexpression (60-70%).

The second innovative CPDR study, co-led by Dr. Shiv Srivastava, Dr. David G. McLeod, Dr. Isabell A. Sesterhenn and Dr. Gyorgy Petrovics, defines full length transcripts and proteins encoded by common TMPRSS2-ERG fusions in prostate tumors. This study for the first time has led to the discovery of two major types of ERG products (type I: full length and type II: without ETS domain) in prostate tumors. Surprisingly, they found an abundance of type II products in tumors cells. Although the functional role of the type II products is unclear, early data suggest that ratios of type I and type II products in prostate tumor cells may provide prognostic indicators for disease progression. New information from this study has promise to enhance future strategies for utilizing specific ERG products as biomarkers or as therapeutic targets.

CHAMP Director Inducted into Order of Military Medical Merit

Colonel (Dr.) Francis O'Connor, associate professor of military and emergency medicine, medical director for USU's Consortium for Health and Military Performance and a 2005 graduate of USU's Master of Public Health program, was recently inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit (OMMM). He was presented the OMMM medallion by President Charles Rice in a ceremony held at the university.

The OMMM is a private organization founded in 1982 by the commanding general of U.S. Army Health Services Command to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among Army medical department personnel. Membership in the Order recognizes those individuals who have clearly demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed

an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the Army Medical Department with selflessness, and made sustained contributions to the betterment of Army medicine. Inductees are generally considered to be in the top 10 percent of their corps and field.

Dr. O'Connor said he was honored to be nominated and inducted into the OMMM, particularly because the nomination must come from the inductee's peers.

"I was thrilled," he said. "It's recognition from your peers that you made a positive difference in military medicine, and that's a great honor."

Dr. O'Connor has been with the university in a number of positions. He was the director of the university's sports medi-

cine fellowship from 1996 until 2004, following which he was the chief of Family Medicine at Ft. Belvoir. From there he deployed to the Middle East as command surgeon with Army Special Forces, before returning to USU in his current position. He is also assistant director for the sports medicine fellowship program, and a professor in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine.

As CHAMP medical director, he led the effort to develop a university, interdepartmental focus on military-specific human performance optimization. The specific domains of this initiative are research, education and clinical consultation. The principal goal is to assist the university in a coordinated effort to improve the health and performance of the warfighter.

Alumnus Inducted as a Fellow in American College of Radiology

Daniel C. Garner, M.D., F.A.C.R., USU class of 1987, was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology (ACR). The induction took place at a formal convocation ceremony during the recent 85th ACR Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership conference in Washington, D.C.

Garner is an associate medical director for MedSolutions, Inc., in Franklin, Tenn., and a staff radiation oncologist at Stone Crest Medical Center in Smyrna, Tenn. He is a member of the Tennessee Radiological Society, serving as an ACR Councilor and as a member of the Executive Committee. He also retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2002, and was on the Nuclear/Radiologic Emergency Preparedness Committee for the American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology.

The ACR is a national non-profit association serving more than 32,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of radiology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.

Making a Difference in OIF



Maj. Dan Church (left) and Lt. Col. David Condie ('91) review CT scans and X-rays on patients at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The radiology staff has two new 16 slice CT scanners that expedite the process from 90 minutes to about 10 minutes. (US Air photo/Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.)

Medical team returns from Honduras mission

A team of pediatricians, nutritionists and linguists from Wilford Hall and Brooke Army medical centers in San Antonio; Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, Va.; and South Dakota State University, S.D, recently returned from a 12-day expedition in Honduras.

The San Antonio Military Pediatric Center team travels to Honduras for a Pediatric Medical Readiness Exercise every four months as part of a survey study of malnutrition and anemia in children living in rural areas of the country, said Maj. (Dr.) Robert Elwood, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and USU class alumnus of 2000.

The missions are part of the requirements for the pediatric residency program at Wilford Hall.

"These missions provide unique and valuable training for our pediatric residents, both in military deployments as

well as tropical medicine," said Doctor Elwood. "The Honduran Ministry of Health is briefed on the results of each visit, and they direct us to the regions where we work. We are currently working within the province of La Paz, near the town of Chinacla."

Honduran children are selected at random and team members drive and hike many miles to reach their homes in several geographical locations.

The team also holds a general pediatric clinic where treatment is provided for many different health problems.

The missions provide a realistic joint-field exercise to expose pediatric residents to conditions that are prevalent in underdeveloped countries, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Vinod Gidvani-Diaz, chief of pediatric hematology/oncology at Wilford Hall and USU class of 1996, who has completed seven missions to Honduras.

The team collects critical nutritional data for the Honduran Ministry of Health so it can divert resources to areas most in need. The exercise also supports United States regional foreign policy by meeting theater engagement goals and interacting positively with Honduran military and civilians.

"The most rewarding part of these missions is being able to help the kids and make a lasting impact," said Col. Gidvani-Diaz.

The 59th Medical Wing Commander Maj. Gen. Tom Travis, USU class of 1986, stresses the importance of the unique missions in Honduras.

"The medical engagement missions are a great way to motivate and provide mission relevance for our residents. We are all extremely proud of what they are doing for patients on these missions," General Travis said.



Lt. Col. Daniel A. Shoor, previously deployed with the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, leads a medical class during training for nurses and medical technicians at a hospital in Tajoura, Djibouti. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lee Harshman)

Operation Pacific Angel leaves lasting impression

by Tech. Sgt. Tom Czerwinski
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

When temperatures approach 90 degrees with 90 percent humidity by 6 a.m. in the rural Cambodian province of Kampong Chhnang, excitement fills the air. News has spread far and wide by the Imam, a local religious leader, and by word of mouth. American medical people have returned to help the Cambodian people here.

The Friendship Clinic staff expected to make contact with at least 3,000 Cambodians here during its five days of Operation Pacific Angel 01-08, a joint/combined 13th Air Force-led humanitarian assistance operation that took place May 25 to 29.

"When we arrived to open our doors at 7 a.m., we were surprised to see more than 200 people waiting to be seen," said Master Sgt. Grace Devera, site coordinator with Pacific Air Forces International Health Alliance, or IHA.

"They came by every conveyance imaginable, but mostly on foot, and by 8 a.m. there were more than 500 people," said Sergeant Devera.

The Friendship Clinic operates four main clinics: primary care, dentistry, optometry and women's health. The Kampong Chhnang Friendship Clinic was built by a Marine Corps task force in 2005 and is one of two unilateral partnership clinics run in Cambodia.

"We expected to see up to 600 patients a day in our four clinics," said Sergeant Devera. "We have three primary-care doctors working with three Royal Cambodian Armed Forces primary-care doctors, three Cambodian dental students working with our dentists and 13 translators who are key to the language barriers."

Most often the villagers come because they have no money to be treated for minor

problems at their local clinics, which are usually reserved for the most serious conditions, according to Sergeant Devera.

"At patient intake, we make contact with mostly women, children and older men. Their problems are as simple as headaches



to a toothache, and the older folks come mostly for eye problems," she said. "After a height, weight and blood pressure check, they are given a number and wait to be seen by a clinic (staff member)."

In a country where dental care is almost non-existent to the population's majority, the Friendship Clinic's dentists treated up to 100 people a day.

"We have three two-person teams with one Air Force dentist and one Cambodian dental student per team, plus one RCAF dentist," said Col. Mark Beehner, a dentist assigned to the 375th Dental Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"We have made contact with very few people who have ever had any type of dental care," he said. "In fact, there are so many teeth that have to be removed, we have to limit it to one fourth of the mouth."

Poor dental care is reflected in many of the Cambodian patients seen.

"What we had to do in the case of one woman who never had dental care was to perform a surgical extraction of a tooth that had severe decay and was abscessed," said Maj. Philip Clark, a dentist assigned

to the Washington Air National Guard's 194th Medical Group at Camp Murray, Wash.

"I came here with a bad toothache and they fixed me," said Man Hasenus, a Cambodian patient. "I feel so happy now. I was scared at the beginning but the doctors calmed me."

On the first day of operations, it was not only the dentists who were busy, the doctors in primary care had their hands full too.

Generally, people were showing up with chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes that had gone a long time with no treatment, according to Maj. Nisha Money, a preventive health physician from the Uniformed Ser-

vices University of Health Sciences at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Washington D.C.

"We were treating a lot of non-communicable intestinal and skin diseases and we were seeing some chronic conditions, which we are not equipped to handle," said Lt. Col. Chris Perez, a primary care doctor with the Guam Army National Guard. "What we do is give them some counseling on how to take care of those conditions."

For the people needing follow-up care and long-term monitoring, the IHA staff is working a referral program to provide sustainability and continuity.

"This mission is not a band-aid approach to treating people, but a capacity-building effort through building relationships between our U.S. medical forces, the RCAF, provincial health departments and local non-governmental organizations in order that follow up and continuity of care is sustained as a result of our medical mission," said Major Money. "The ultimate goal is to empower the Cambodia medical corps with skills and resources, so they may be self-sustainable."

Class Notes

USU Alumnus Appointed to White House Post

Robert Kadlec, M.D., M.T.M.&H., an alumnus of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was appointed to serve as Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. The White House announced the appointment of Dr. Kadlec, also naming him as Senior Director for Biological Defense Policy.

Kadlec previously served as Director for Biodefense and Public Health for PRTM Management Consultants. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from USU in 1983, and later returned for his Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene degree, which

he completed in 1989. Kadlec earned his bachelor's degree from the United States Air Force Academy, and a master's degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University. He is a retired Air Force Colonel.

Kadlec served as former Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness, and the Director of Biodefense for the National Security Council. He also helped coordinate the President's Biodefense for the 21st Century Policy in 2004. Kadlec served as a Senior Assistant for Counterproliferation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy. In this capac-

ity, he represented the Secretary of Defense on the U.S. delegation to the Biological Weapons and Toxins Convention in Geneva, Switzerland, and also served as a United Nations Special Commission biological weapons inspector in Iraq.

He has worked on a range of policy issues concerning the nonproliferation and counterproliferation of biological weapons. In addition, he previously served as special advisor for biological warfare issues to the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General and a professor of military strategy and operations at the National War College.



USU alumni pose for a photo during a recent visit to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad by Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, MC, USA ('83), the Multinational Forces-Iraq Surgeon. Joining Carvalho, from left to right, are Maj. Tim Biega ('99) (radiology), Maj. Matt Jezior ('99) (cardiology), Col. Steve Bolt ('88) (anesthesia), Brig. Gen. Carvalho (cardiology/nuclear med), Col. John Rowe ('88) (occupational medicine/DCCS of the 86th CSH), Lt. Col. Mike Weber ('96) (vascular surgery), and Maj. Jeremy Pamplin ('01) (critical care).

Class Notes



Capt. (Dr.) Arthur Guerrero, U.S. Army, served as the battalion surgeon for the 10th Mountain Division, 4th Brigade, 2-20 Infantry, in Iraq. While deployed, he took a trip to one of the Joint Security Stations where he, the Brigade Surgeon, the Division Surgeon and other high ranking officials were to visit a local Iraqi hospital to enhance working relationships. As soon as their helicopter touched down at the JSS where their ground convoy was waiting, a Humvee came speeding towards them, mistaking them for a medical evacuation helicopter. A rocket attack casualty was strapped to the hood of the Humvee. Since there was no air medic with them, and since it was Capt. Guerrero's JSS and he was already in full battle gear, he flew with the patient straight to the 86th Combat Support Hospital, where the patient was cared for by USU class of 1992 alumna, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Mary Jo Rohrer. The two are pictured together, left.



USU Alums Back on Campus

USU graduates, Maj. (Dr.) Duane Hennion ('98), Maj. (Dr.) Sean Mulvaney ('00), Lt. Col. (Dr.) Russ Kotwal ('96), and Lt. Col. (Dr.) Chris Pappas ('96) pose for a photo while on the USU campus recently. Maj. Hennion, Maj. Mulvaney, and Lt. Col. Pappas are all fellow in the National Capital Consortium Sports Medicine Fellowship. Lt. Col. Kotwal is assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Class Notes



Maj. Jennifer Glidewell ('04) treats a young Afghan child while assigned to a small firebase which ran the local national clinic. Stationed along side Maj Glidewell was Maj. Stacy Weina ('03). The Graduate School of Nursing alumni were chosen as the first nurse practitioners to deploy with a Special Forces group in Afghanistan. During their deployment, they provided health care to women and children primarily at small firebases where they managed the local national clinic. The mission was such a success more nurse practitioners were requested for the next rotation.

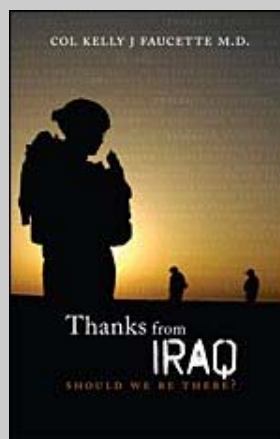


Maj. (Dr.) Colleen Christensen ('00) works with Army Sgt. Michael Millman at the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group in Southwest Asia. Through its in-theater care program, the medical staff treats service members who have been evacuated from forward operating locations and Navy ships operating in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Major Christensen was assigned as the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group orthopedic surgeon and chief of hospital services, and Sergeant Millman is assigned to the 182nd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Erik Hofmeyer)



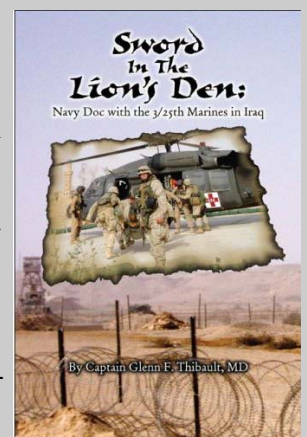
Maj. (Dr.) Gary Means ('02) performs a physical examination on an Afghan National Police recruit. While he was stationed with the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Maj. Means traveled to the small Afghan National Police Training Base outside of Kandahar to perform basic health screenings on the recruits prior to their training.

USU Alumni Turn Authors



Col. (Dr.) Kelly Faucette ('84) recently published a book about his experiences at the 47th Combat Support Hospital in Mosul, Iraq entitled "Thanks from Iraq." Col. Faucette describes his experiences as a pediatric hematologist and oncologist suddenly called to care for a variety of trauma patients on the battlefield. The book is being distributed through commercial retailers.

After returning home from a deployment to Al Anbar province, Capt. (Dr.) Glenn Thibault (88) published "Sword in the Lion's Den: Navy Doc with the 3/25th Marines in Iraq." Capt. Thibault discusses his experiences along the front lines of the most dangerous area of Iraq with the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines. His battalion suffered more casualties than any other to date. Capt. Thibault's book is being distributed commercially.



Class Notes



USU President, Dr. Charles Rice, may be the only health sciences university leader to hold an alumni reunion in an active combat zone. Here, Dr. Rice poses for a picture with alumni at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital in Afghanistan. A large percentage of the medical leadership in Afghanistan and Iraq were educated at USU.



A group of children look on as U.S. Air Force Maj. Mikelle Maddox ('97) performs a medical checkup on a resident during a medical readiness exercise at the Ernestina Chiari School in the Herrera province of Panama in July. The two-week long exercise, hosted by U.S. Southern Command, trained medical personnel and provided free health care to villagers in remote regions through a partnership with host nation doctors. DoD photo by Master Sgt. Scott Reed, U.S. Air Force. (Released)



Col. Steven Swann ('86) helps his son, 2nd Lt. Jacob Swann, a second year medical student at USU, don his lab coat during the ceremonial White Coat Day. 2nd Lt. Swann is one of a number of USU's second generation students.

Class Notes



Maj. (Dr.) Patrick Hickey ('99) presented a lecture to the USU Pediatric Interest Group on his experiences as a "combat" pediatrician assigned to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq. Maj. Hickey, who is currently assigned to USU as a pediatric infectious diseases fellow, briefed students on a variety of the often shocking cases he saw while deployed, explaining that he wanted to ensure that the first time they see such unpleasant wounds, it was not on a real patient requiring treatment.

Navy Capt. (Dr.) Paul Kane ('92) stands atop the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa at 5895 meters (approx. 3.66 miles). Capt. Kane, who is the Surgeon, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in Djibouti, climbed the mountain while on R&R recently and said he thinks he was the first person to wear the new Navy PT gear at the top of the mountain.



Mari Nash helps Maj. (Dr.) Jay Kerecman ('95) check her daughter, Mia, after she was hospitalized for a blood disorder immediately after birth. Baby Mia made a full recovery after receiving care from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff. Ms. Nash is the wife of Lt. Col. Christopher Nash of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces, and Maj. Kerecman is an 18th Medical Operations Squadron NICU staff neonatologist. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Gary Edwards)

Class Notes



Maj. (Dr.) Matthew Rice ('97) is introduced to the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, the Honorable Ryan Crocker. Maj. Rice met with Ambassador Crocker at the Multinational Force-Iraq Headquarters in Baghdad, while he was assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. During his deployment, Maj. Rice assisted in multiple humanitarian missions, and provided aid to U.S. soldiers, Iraqi civilians, and suspected insurgents.

Capt. (Dr.) Kevin Cron ('05) poses for a picture with Navy Lt. (Dr.) John Ehrman ('05), while traveling through Kuwait. After leaving the country, Capt. Cron reported to Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Iraq, where he served as the battalion surgeon for a general purpose aviation battalion. During his 15-month tour, Capt. Cron experienced the first snow to the region in years.



Col. (Dr.) Michael Rave ('89), deputy surgeon for Multinational Corps-Iraq, congratulates Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho ('83), Multinational Force-Iraq and Multinational Corps-Iraq Surgeon, at his promotion ceremony to Brigadier General. The two are deployed together, along with several other USU graduates, including Army Lt. Col. John Palmer ('92) who is assigned as the deputy surgeon, Multinational Forces-Iraq.

Class Notes

Maj. (Dr.) Remington Nevin ('02) collects respiratory swab specimens to investigate a suspected outbreak of whooping cough among U.S. troops while assigned to the Craig Joint Theater Hospital in Afghanistan as a Preventive Medicine staff officer. Since graduating Maj. Nevin has helped to improve military medicine by designing and staffing a preventive medicine program, "Accession Screening and Immunization Program," for which he received an award from the Army. In addition Maj. Nevin has received over \$2 million in funding to support pandemic influenza serum testing programs for the American Medical Student



Navy Lt. (Dr.) Steven Bernick ('04) is presented with the U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay 2007 Junior Officer of the Year Award. During his assignment, Lt. Bernick served as the only internist at the hospital.



From left to right: Maj. (Dr.) Mark Crago, Capt. (Dr.) Slava Belenkiy, and Capt. (Dr.) Wayne Surrett pose for a picture at the Al Far palace, Camp Victory, while attending the Multinational Corps - Iraq Surgeons conference. All three are 2003 graduates from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.



Lt. Col. (Dr.) David Ristedt ('95), provides Emma Nicholson, the British Baroness of Winterborne, with a tour of the medical facilities at a clinic in southern Baghdad. Lt. Col. Ristedt is currently the division surgeon for the 4th Infantry Division and Multinational Division-Baghdad. He has received international recognition for the improvements in healthcare he has offered to the citizens of Iraq.

(Photo courtesy of Newsblaze)

USU Alumnus takes command of Naval Hospital Jacksonville



Capt. (Dr.) Bruce Gillingham ('86) assumed command of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla. on Aug. 14, relieving Capt. Raquel Bono in a morning ceremony at NAS Jacksonville's Chapel. The guest speaker at the ceremony was the Navy's Deputy Surgeon General Rear Adm. Thomas R. Cullison.

Gillingham reports aboard from Naval Medical Center (NMC) Portsmouth, Va., where he was the Deputy Commander. There, he was responsible for the coordinated delivery of primary and tertiary healthcare to a patient population in excess of 400,000.

After receiving his command pin from his wife Jeanette, the new Skipper said in his remarks, "This is a thrill I can't put in words." He attributed his being where he is today to some "superb mentors." An orthopaedic surgeon, Gillingham has a depth of experience. During his tenure at NMC Portsmouth, he introduced the Team STEPPS Patient Safety program and established new benchmarks for deployment readiness and evidence-based quality of care.

Cullison said of Gillingham in his remarks, "There are some people who are just made for the job. He comes to the command when it is on the upswing. He is the perfect person to follow Capt. Bono."

Gillingham's experience covers the spectrum of home front and battlefield medicine. He served as the Director for Surgical Services at NMC San Diego where he was responsible for more than 1,000 personnel. The directorate received the first 2004 DOD Patient Safety Award for establishing the MEDTEAMS program.

While assigned to NMC San Diego, he was deployed to Taqaddum, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Chief of Professional Services (Forward) for the 1st Force Service Support Group and Officer in Charge of the Surgical Shock Trauma Platoon (SSTP).

Based near Fallujah, Gillingham was there during the height of enemy engagements and treated many casualties. Upon his return, he was instrumental in establishing the Comprehensive Combat Casualty Care Center (C-5) in order to optimize the coordination of care for those wounded in the Global War on Terrorism. Gillingham has published more than 30 scientific articles and book chapters and is a frequent presenter at national professional orthopaedic meetings. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), the Navy Achievement Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with the Eagle Globe and Anchor device and the Humanitarian Service Medal. **(Article by Loren Barnes, NH Jax Public Affairs).**



Col. (Dr.) Paul Friedrichs ('90) took command of the 3rd Medical Group at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska in August. Col. Friedrichs (right) delivers a salute to 3rd Wing Commander, Col. Richard Walberg, at the change of command ceremony.

Alumna Aids Hurricane Victims

By Janet Dery, Associate Editor
Cleveland Jewish News

Gustav was coming.

Thousands were fleeing Louisiana, fearing for their homes and their lives, the horror of Katrina still fresh in their minds.

USU alumna Sara Freedheim Newman, 42, (DrPH, '02) arrived in the Bayou State at 2 a.m. on Aug. 28 as the hurricane bore down on the Gulf Coast.

Newman is public risk management program director of the National Park Service and is connected with the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS). PHS officers, most of whom work under the Department of Health and Human Services, provide service and support in times of need in the U.S. and also around the world in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Despite her six years with PHS, this was Newman's first time being deployed to an area with a looming health crisis. "I had mixed emotions," she says of receiving service notification. Adrenaline for the mission ahead, fear of the unknown, and sadness at leaving her family (husband and three young children) indefinitely were all factors.

When she and her 86-member team arrived, they grabbed just three hours of sleep in a makeshift housing facility outside of Baton Rouge. Their first official stop was Louisiana State University, where they set up a 250-bed federal medical station. Patients with chronic illnesses who had been evacuated would be accepted there. After 12 hours on her feet, Newman and her team boarded a bus for Alexandria, La., arriving at 4 a.m. to set up a similar 200-bed facility in the city's convention center.

"We're very sleep deprived," admits the Arlington, Va., resident, reached by phone from Alexandria, La., on Sept. 4. "We had to work quickly. That morning at 8 p.m. our first patients came in."

Although Gustav made landfall as a Category 2 hurricane, with lesser winds than had been expected, the storm was fierce.

"We saw trees ripped right out by their roots," reports Newman, who has a doctorate in public health. "You couldn't drive anywhere. There is a lot of flooding damage, even in the convention center. People were mopping for three hours straight the night of the hurricane."

Exhausted and missing her family, Newman is nonetheless buoyed by the patients the team is caring for and the work they



Gustav after it made landfall along the Louisiana coast.

are doing. "The team wants to go home. But more than anything else, we feel really honored to be here and to provide this service to our country. The more you give, the more you feel better. It's the ultimate mitzvah. I wrote a letter to my daughter, and I said, 'Hashem is really proud of me.'"

Newman's job, on the command staff of the team, is liaison to the public, media, patients, and partner agencies like the Office of Public Health, the Red Cross, and other community services. She also monitors patients' hometowns (called parishes) to find out if

they've had power or medical services restored.

The challenges faced by both the patients and the public service officers living in the facility are great. Showers were set up after almost a week of going without. The team split into two 12-hour shifts; Newman got the night shift. Patient cases range from severe mental disorders to diabetes with end-stage renal failure and severe mobility impairment and seizures. Changing diapers on a 70-year-old woman is a normal occurrence, she adds.

Many patients are second-time visitors of the temporary medical facilities, having gone through the trauma with Katrina. Once woman, Ruby, lost her home in that hurricane. "She still hasn't gotten money from FEMA," says Newman. "Her husband lost both his limbs to diabetes. Yet they are the sweetest, kindest people. It opens your heart. You realize how much we have in certain privileged areas of our country."

Now Hurricane Ike is on the way, having wreaked havoc in Haiti and Cuba. Newman has learned her team's deployment has been extended for at least three days after the hurricane hits land. As of press time Wednesday, all but 25 of the 186 patients had been released from the Alexandria convention center; those who remain live in areas where it is still unsafe to return.

The day the hurricane hit—Aug. 31—also marked another occasion in Newman's family: the 50th wedding anniversary of her parents, Gerta and Don Freedheim. It was also her father's birthday. But the vital work she's doing in Louisiana, including raising the spirits of patients by singing to them at night, telling stories to the children and playing with them, has in turn kept her spirits high. "We're all in the same boat," she explains. "We've left our families, they've left theirs. We've been here a week, but it feels like a year. We've accomplished a lot."

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Class Notes

'83

Rear Adm. (Dr.) Michael Anderson (SOM) was promoted to flag officer and is now the command surgeon for the U.S. Pacific Command at Camp H. M. Smith in Hawaii.

'84

Dr. Russell Ebersole (SOM) traveled to Togo, West Africa with his family as a missionary physician, after putting his work as a pediatrician on hold. In Togo, Dr. Ebersole performs a variety of services including internal medicine, obstetrics, and tropical medicine.

'85

Col. (Dr.) Arnyce Pock (SOM) was honored as the recipient of the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Each year a single award is given to a graduate from each of the three University of Illinois campuses and is presented during the annual commencement exercise. As cited by the University's Alumni Association, the awards recognize "outstanding alumni for their professional achievement, distinguished service to the university and/or humanitarian efforts."

'87

Col. (Dr.) John Powell (SOM) became the chief of staff for health affairs at the Multinational Security and Transition Command-Iraq in May. He will collaborate with the Iraqi Defense Forces Surgeon General, Brig. Gen. Samir Abdullah Hassan, who is working to rebuild the Iraqi military's medical system by recruiting and, hopefully retaining, more physicians. Prior to his deployment to Iraq, which is his third, Powell served as the Commanding Officer at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas.

Janet Yu-Yahiro, Ph.D. (PHY) works as the director of Orthopaedic Research at the Union Memorial Hospital where she facilitates research projects for or-

thopaedic residents, fellows, and attendings. Dr. Yu-Yahiro's primary areas of research include osteoporosis and bone metabolism.

'89

Dr. Chris Kane (SOM) recently became Chairman, Department of Urology at the University of California San Diego. Dr. Kane specializes in prostate and kidney cancer.

Dr. Peter Johnstone (SOM) was selected Chair of Radiation Oncology at Indiana University.

'90

Suzan Winders-Barrett, Ph.D. (MPS) is a clinical psychologist and the director of the Outpatient Mental Health Division at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Dr. Winders-Barrett is also an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati.

'91

Jeffrey Ratliff-Crain, Ph.D. (MPS) was promoted to the level of "professor" at the University of Minnesota, Morris and is the Assistant Dean of student academic issues.

Cmdr. (Dr.) Lisa Pearce (SOM) is the recipient of the 2008 Frank Brown Berry Prize in Federal Medicine. The award recognizes outstanding contribution to medicine from the federal sector. CDR Pearce is currently the Director, DoD Mortality Surveillance Registry at AFIP. CDR Pearce was selected from a number of exceptional applicants for her work in developing the Armed Forces Medical Examiner Mortality Registry. This database has allowed the analysis and interpretation of mortality data which has led to significant advances in the design and use of protective equipment, efficient injury prevention countermeasures, and treatment programs, all of which have direct impact of survivability of troops on the ground.

'92

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Thomas Clarke was

deployed to Bagram as the chief of flight medicine, where he provided physician augmentation to the Army Dust-Off and Air Force Air Evacuation missions. Lt. Col. Clarke described one situation in which he picked up two serious combat traumas on the field, stabilized them at the Bagram hospital, then flew them to Lanstuhl Regional Medical Center in less than 24 hours. He describes the event as "a testament to (the U.S.) military system."

'93

Ms. Rebecca Rohrer (MPH) has been working with the U.S. Agency for International Development as a foreign service officer focusing on development within the health sector of developing countries. She has held assignments in Central Asia, Uganda, Nepal, Eastern Caribbean nations, and Haiti. Her most recent assignment takes her to Ethiopia.

'94

Dr. Steve Hudson won the Republican nomination for Maryland's Eighth Congressional District and will face the incumbent in the November election.

'95

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Joseph Gobern (SOM) is a participant in the Team in Training program for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Lt. Col. Gobern will run in the Disney Full Marathon in January 2009 in honor of his son, Nicholas. To learn about his family's recent challenge with Lymphoma, please visit: <http://pages.teamintraining.org/nca/wdw09/jgovern>

'97

Col. John (Jack) Trakowski, Ph.D. (MPS) is leading an expansion of behavioral health services at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center in response to demands from Warriors in Transition.

Class Notes

'98

Cmdr. (Dr.) Eric Kasowski (SOM; MPH '02) is a Preventive Medicine Officer for the U.S. 7th Fleet, and the Public Health Emergency Officer for the Commander, Naval Forces Japan. Cmdr. Kasowski has been heavily involved in planning the Navy's humanitarian assistance missions throughout the Pacific, including relief after the Nias Island earthquake in Indonesia.

'99

Maj. Brian Todd is the CRNA Element Leader at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis AFB in California.

'00

Maj. (Dr.) Amit Bhavsar (SOM), Brigade Combat Team Surgeon with the 101st Airborne, recently received national recognition from Newsweek for his work at Yarmouk Hospital in Baghdad. During his tour in Iraq, MAJ Bhavsar has worked with the country's health care providers to improve the quality of care for Iraqi citizens, while bringing attention to the substandard care many of its citizens receive. The article entitled, "Wanted: More Than a Band-Aid" featuring MAJ Bhavsar can be found on the Newsweek Web site.

'01

Pote Aimpun, DrPH (PMB) served as a faculty member at Phramongkutklao College of Medicine, PCM, which produces military doctors for the Royal Thai Arm Forces, Army, Navy, and Air Force. Along with teaching at PCM, Dr. Aimpun was assigned to be the director of Phanurangsri Fort Hospital, located 60 miles outside of Bangkok. In this management position he took the debt stricken hospital, to a profitable, self sustaining organization.

Col. Ric Ricciardi (FNP and Ph.D.) is at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He is Chief of Nursing Research Services.

'02

Capt. (Dr.) Jeffrey Robertson, (SOM) a was awarded the 2007 U.S. Army Surgeon General's Physician Recognition Award for his work at a theater level facility in Operation Iraq Freedom. This award is given to three Medical Corps officers annually.

Maj. Tara Hall (MSPH) serves as chief, Preventive Medicine and Force Health Protection for the Multi National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) in support of more than 150,000 US and Coalition Forces in a joint operational headquarters during combat operations in Iraq. She is responsible for recommending, reviewing and implementing force health protection plans, guidance, policy and standards for the Iraqi theater of operations. MAJ Hall is the action officer and consultant for force health protection technical guidance and assistance to three U.S. Army division equivalents and a Marine Expeditionary Force in full spectrum of operations from direct combat to stability and support. Stationed along with MAJ Hall in Iraq is LCDR Dennis Faix, 2001 MPH graduate, and MAJ John Completo, 2002 MPH graduate.

'03

Mr. Claude Cowan (MPH) spent a week in Vietnam serving as a volunteer faculty with ORBIS, an organization that has provided eye care and ophthalmic education in multiple developing countries. ORBIS has a converted DC-10 jet that serves as a flying eye hospital and "portable" lecture hall and is used to supplement local eye care facilities. During his week in Vietnam Mr. Cowan lectured to the local ophthalmologists, demonstrated laser techniques and provided consultations on challenging cases.

Maj. Dana Tucker, Ph.D. (MPS) completed a tour in Iraq where he was directing a National Police Training Center at An Numaniyah. For his efforts, Maj. Tucker received national recognition from several publications, including the Daily Herald and the Salt Lake Tribune.

Capt. Barbara Braden (FNP) works in the Office of Quality and Data at the Bureau of Primary Health Care in Rockville, MD

'06

Navy Lt. Keith Hoekman (FNP) was chosen to represent the Navy Nurse Corps for the Navy Memorial Naval Heritage Center's year-long salute to the Navy medical community: "The Year of Navy Medicine." An interactive exhibit, "Navy Medicine: Saving Life on Land and Sea," features a representative from each of the five branches of Navy medicine (i.e. Nurse Corps, Medical Corps, Medical Service Corps, etc.). Hoekman participated in the exhibit's unveiling ceremony on April 12 at the Naval Heritage Center in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ryan Collins (MPH) serves the residents of Virginia through a Department of Health and Human Services position in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program, where he plans, integrates, and coordinates the epidemiological services across the Central Virginia Health District.

Maj. Stacey E. Napper (FNP) is currently deployed in Afghanistan with 7th Special Forces Group serving as one of four female treatment teams until January 2009.

Capt. Kevin Russell (MTM&H) has settled into his new position as the director of Global Emerging Infectious Surveillance program in Silver Spring, Maryland at the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center.

'07

Col. Julie Pavlin, Ph.D. (EID) is currently stationed at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences in Bangkok, Thailand, where she works with various departments, including virology, retro virology, enteric, immunology, entomology, and veterinary medicine to monitor for emerging infections.

In Memoriam

Lt. Col. Joseph Munaretto, MC, USA
1969-2007



USU class of 1995 alumnus, Lt. Col. Joseph Munaretto, died November 15, 2007, from natural causes while on a hunting trip in Illinois.

Munaretto was born February 19, 1969, in Herrin, Illinois. He graduated from Murray State University in 1991. In 1995, he received his medical degree from USU. As a resident physician, Munaretto was stationed at Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC), Tacoma, Washington. His next duty station was Fort Sill, Oklahoma. From there he did his Fellowship in Cytopathology at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas. At the time of his death, he was assigned to MAMC where he was chief of Anatomic Pathology and Cytology in the Pathology Department.

Lt. Col. Munaretto was buried with full military honors on November 20, 2007, at the Zeigler City Cemetery in Zeigler, Illinois. Survivors include his wife, Regina, and his children, Rebekah, Victoria and Suzanne. A memorial scholarship fund was established for his daughters.

Kevin L. Lewis, M.D.
1962-2008

Kevin L. Lewis, M.D., a graduate of USU's class of 1989, died January 8, 2008, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Lewis was born November 18, 1962, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He grew up in Spokane, Washington, and attended Eastern Washington University on a track scholarship. He finished his undergraduate degree in pre-med at the University of Washington in 1985, and subsequently attended USU, graduating in 1989. After leaving USU, he completed an internship at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Colorado, and then spent the next two years as a flight surgeon. He was later assigned to Fort Ord, California, and then moved to Tacoma, Washington, where he completed his anesthesia residency at Madigan Army Medical Center. After tours in Germany and Hawaii, Lewis left the Army in 2001 and settled with his family in Spokane.



He is survived by his wife, Anneke, sons Kendall and Jesse, and daughter, Alison. His sister, Kathryn Walser, recently established the Dr. Kevin L. Lewis Memorial Foundation; a non-profit corporation committed to honoring his memory through scholarships for students pursuing higher education in the medical and health science fields.

The Dr. Kevin L. Lewis Memorial Foundation, which will provide scholarships to students pursuing health sciences degrees, has been established in Lewis's honor.

Maceo Braxton, M.D.
1953-2008

Maceo "Mace" Braxton, Jr., M.D., president of USU's charter medical school class of 1980, was laid to rest March 20, 2008, at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Braxton died February 15, 2008, at Brooke Army Medical Center following a sudden acute illness.



Braxton was born April 7, 1953, in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1974, and entered USU in 1976 as a member of the first class of medical students. He served in the Army until 1998, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

Dr. Braxton was well loved in his hometown of Salina, Kansas. His death made front page headlines in the city's newspaper with bold headlines typically reserved for national crises. A cardiothoracic surgeon, Braxton built the Salina Regional Heart Center in 1998, heading the program until his death.

He was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, served on the Board of Directors of Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina Chamber of Commerce and St. John's Military School. He was a member of the National Medical Association, Kansas Medical Society and the American College of Surgeons. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; daughter, Natalie Braxton of New York, NY; two sons, Maceo Braxton, III, of Worcester, MA, and Andrew Braxton of Salina.

In Memoriam

Terrence J. O'Grady, M.D.

Terence J. O'Grady, M.D., USU charter class of 1980, died of pancreatic cancer on September 17th at his home in San Diego. He was 60 years old. Dr. O'Grady was a faculty member with the University of California San Diego School of Medicine, Division of Dermatology, for 14 years, and had served as Director of the Residency Program since 2004. Prior to joining UCSD, Dr. O'Grady served as flight Surgeon on the USS Midway and as a dermatologist and dermatopathologist at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. Captain O'Grady retired after serving 24 years in the United States Navy. His skills improved the lives of countless patients and his inspired teaching launched many careers. He was also an avid surfer and a long-time season ticket holder for the Padres and San Diego Opera.



Dr. O'Grady is survived by his wife Johanna, daughters Allison, 31, and Megan, 25, his mother Mary and brother, Michael, both of Whittier, California. He was remembered in a "paddle out" ceremony October 5, 2008 at Tourmaline Beach in San Diego.

UCSD has established the Dr. Terry O'Grady Dermatology Lectureship in his honor. "Losing Terry leaves a tremendous void for his colleagues and students who would have benefited from his continued teaching and wisdom," said Dr. Richard Gallo, chief of UCSD's Division of Dermatology. "By establishing this endowed lectureship, we not only honor Terry, but enable excellence in teaching to go forward in his name. This annual lectureship will bring internationally recognized teachers of Dermatopathology to UC San Diego Dermatology for seminars and teaching activities of benefit to our students and members of the region's dermatology community."

Major Robert L. Oak, MC, USA

1970-2008

Major Robert Lee Oak was born April 7, 1970 in Ames, Iowa. He earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from Stanford University, then attended Georgetown University where he completed a degree in Physiology. He earned his Doctor of Medicine degree at USU in 2004. Following graduation from USU, Oak was assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center where he completed his internship. Afterwards, he was stationed at Camp Red Cloud and Camp Hialeah in Korea as a General Medical Officer. Departing Korea, Major Oak was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was a pathology resident in the National Capital Consortium at the time of his death.



Major Oak died unexpectedly on June 27, 2008. A memorial service was held at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on July 1 honoring his life and service, and he was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on August 5, 2008.

He is survived by his parents, Dr. Glen and Helen Oak, and sisters, Dr. Sandy Lee, and Michelle Yohn.

Bart Branscum, M.D.

1959-2008



Bart Branscum, M.D., earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kentucky in 1982. He graduated from medical school at the Uniformed Services University in 1986 and completed a psychiatry internship at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda the following year. He completed a psychiatry residency in 1990. He served at the Naval Hospital, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, among other duty assignments. After leaving the Navy, Dr. Branscum eventually settled in the local DC metropolitan area. He last worked at the Amen Clinic in Reston, Virginia, and also held an appointment as Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

He had a passion for his medical practice and also for music. He was an accomplished musician and singer who loved playing the bass guitar with his band, "The Celtic Islanders."

Dr. Branscum is survived by his fiancée, Stacey, and his children Remy, Seth, Cassie and Caleb. A memorial service was held on October 5th, which would have been his 49th birthday.

Class Notes

Upcoming Alumni Receptions

Mark your calendars and join us for future alumni events.

Association of American Medical Colleges

Sunday, November 2nd

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Lone Star F

Grand Hyatt

San Antonio, Texas

Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S.

Monday, November 10th

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

RioRio Cantina

421 E. Commerce St.

Riverwalk

San Antonio, Texas

Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar

March 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana

Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians

April 2009

Orlando, Florida

MedSurg

May 2009

Germany

Stay in Touch

The Office of Alumni Affairs remains in contact with graduates by maintaining an alumni database. Please ensure you continue to receive USU Newsletters, alumni announcements, and invitations to reunions and receptions by updating your mailing and email addresses, phone numbers, job titles, and current military status. This can be done by contacting the Office of Alumni Affairs or by visiting www.usuhs.mil, clicking on Alumni, and submitting the 'Alumni Change of Address Form.'

Campus Tours



Campus tours are available for alumni and friends through the Office of Alumni Affairs. Explore the old and new at USU with your own personal guide. Please contact us in advance to arrange a visit.



Graduates and faculty from the USU Nurse Anesthesia Program gathered for an alumni reception in conjunction with the American Academy of Nurse Anesthetists annual meeting in August. The event was sponsored by the USU Alumni Association.

Class Notes

Master's Students Visit Capitol Hill



USU graduate students in the Healthcare Financial Management course attend a hearing on Defense healthcare resources chaired by Congressman John Murtha (D-PA).



Show off your USU pride! If you are a resident of Maryland, you are eligible to apply for the new USU license plate. Applications are available through the USU Alumni Bookstore. They may be reached at (301)295-3686 or usualumnibookstore@usuhs.mil.