

School of Medicine and Dentistry

The Medical Scientist Training Program



MSTP NEWSLETTER

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Message from:

Program Director
Kerry O'Banion, MD, PhD

Concurrent with growth of the research, clinical, and teaching missions of the University Medical Center, there has been an ongoing commitment of new resources and effort to build our MD/PhD Program. Under the leadership of our Dean, the program has grown from accepting two or three students per year in 1998 and 1999 to eight students in 2003 and 2004.

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Welcome from Dean David
Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.

Although it seems like only yesterday, I have had the pleasure of being Dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry since April 2002. As a graduate of an MSTP program myself (NYU, 1972-79), one of the first things I did as Dean was meet with Kerry O'Banion, MD, PhD and Doug Turner, PhD to discuss the MSTP at Rochester. It turned out that we were about to submit a renewal to the NIH, so it was an opportune time to think about how to strengthen the program.

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What's New

In this section we will highlight interesting information we receive about current students, special occasions and funny anecdotes.

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Events:

January/February, 2005

- Winter Sledding/Skiing Party
Mendon Ponds Park

April 1-2, 2005

- Applicant Revisit

April 7, 2005

- MD/PhD Program Seminar Series and Forbes Lectureship Series for Neurobiology & Anatomy presents: Jeffrey Macklis, M.D., D.HST, Professor of Neurology (Neuroscience), Harvard Medical School, Harvard Medical School Director, Program in Neuroscience. Title: TBA.

May 2005

- Graduation Party to honor MD/PhD Program graduates

August 12, 2005

- Annual Retreat for students and faculty advisors

Special Points of Interest

Welcome from Dean Guzick

Alumni News – Let us know what you're doing.

Look for our 2004 Graduates

Meet the new MD/PhD Students

“What’s New” Cont. from page 1

- Ramothea Webster successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis during December, and has now transferred to the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, to complete the M.D. component of her combined degree.

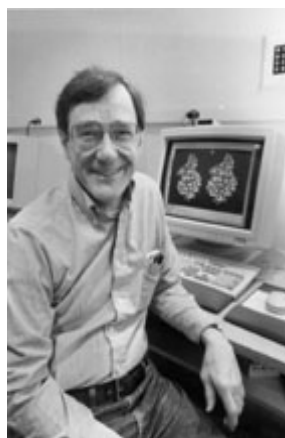


This will allow her more time with her husband, Damon, and her first child, Joshua Thomas, born on January 23 of this year.

- Cindy Duke was awarded an individual research supplement from the NIH earlier this year, for her studies on HIV/AIDS vaccine development. She also received an award from the Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies, to attend their Reproductive Health Advocacy Project workshop in San Diego this July.

Congratulations Cindy

- Christine Gorman Zanghi gave an invited oral presentation at the ASM Conference on Phage Biology in August 2004, for which she also received a travel award from ASM. The title of her presentation was "Development of Modified Lambda Phage for Targeted DNA Delivery to Mammalian Cells".



- Professor Douglas H. Turner, Ph.D. has been appointed to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Biomedical Research Technology (BRT) Study Section that reviews M.D./Ph.D. training grants.

Wedding Bells Are Ringing For...

- Mike Moravan, 1st year graduate student in Neuroscience married Vika Rybalko on July 23 in Rochester, NY; Vika is currently a 2nd year graduate student in IMV in Dr. Edith Lord's lab. She is also training for the 2005 World Championships in long jump and sprinting in Helsinki, Finland. We wish her well.

- Julie Richards Gunzler started her residency at the Oregon Health Sciences University this fall, and was married to Steve Gunzler here in Rochester, on May 16th, at a ceremony attended by many friends and family.



Congratulations Julie & Steve

- Ricardo Roda, 4th year medical student received his Ph.D. in 2003 in biochemistry. He and his longtime girlfriend Eva were wed in Madrid, Spain in July 2004.



“What’s New” Cont. from page 2

- Matt Bellizzi, 4th year graduate student in Neuroscience was married May 15 to Kellin King in Rochester, NY. Matt and Kellin honeymooned in German & Austrian alps. Also of significance is that Kellin graduated May 9 from UR medical school and is currently doing a medicine/pediatric residency.
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- Conan Kinsey, 1st year graduate student in Biomedical Genetics was married July 3 to Genny Silbert (now Silbert-Kinsey) at Genesee Country Village in Mumford, NY. A belated honeymoon is slated for December 2004 in Jamaica to get away from the snow.
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The Annual MD/PhD Program Retreat took place Friday, August 6, 2004



The annual MD/PhD Program Retreat was held on Friday, August 6, 2004 at the “Grand Canyon of the East”, Letchworth State Park in Castile, NY. Talks were given in historic Glen Iris Inn overlooking the beautiful Middle Falls of the gorge. Weather was a bit on the cool side, but the rain held off and it turned into a splendid afternoon and evening.

Thirty students and 14 faculty attended, with spouses and significant others joining the group at the BBQ afterward. The format followed that of previous years starting with oral presentations by 3 current students: Marlene Mathews described the role of GIT 1 in endothelial cell signal transduction; Tara Arndt discussed her recent work on an animal model of autism; and Kevin Makino reported his summer rotation findings examining the association between anti-depressants and risk of suicide. Charles Duffy, M.D., Ph.D., our keynote speaker, gave an outstanding talk on balancing career and family, with a bit of science thrown in for good measure. The afternoon started with lunch at the Inn, followed by a poster session and a “tongue-in-cheek” slide show given by 4 students who attended the National MD/PhD Program Conference in Colorado this past July. The formal part of the Retreat was wrapped up with a discussion of Program activities for the coming academic year, as well as student council nominations. Everyone then proceeded to a park shelter for informal social/athletic pursuits of 3-legged races, bocci ball, hiking, frisbee, beer consumption, etc. All the calorie burning ended in a hearty picnic dinner catered by Rochester’s own Dinosaur Barbeque.

Everyone agreed that the Retreat was a complete success. Plans are already underway for next year’s Retreat at a new locale.

Student Highlights

Jason Mendler, Ph.D.



Jason Mendler, Ph.D., a Rochester native and alumnus of Washington University in St. Louis, entered the MD/PhD program in 1997. He has been interested in both caring for cancer patients and searching for cures for as long as he can remember. His interest in fighting cancer was generated through personal experiences with the disease beginning as a child. This drove him to pursue research in a laboratory focused on cancer biology. The quality and rigor of research being performed by Hartmut Land, Ph.D., at the University seemed a perfect match for Jason's thesis work. He studied the molecular mechanisms underlying carcinogenesis with a specific focus on the role of alpha 6 integrin, a cell surface molecule, in the process of malignant transformation.

Currently, Jason is pursuing a career in radiation oncology. His goals continue to include providing empathic care to cancer patients while pressing forward in the search for improved treatments. Particular questions that interest Jason are how the genetics of a tumor influence its response to cancer therapy and how the toxicity of cancer therapy to normal cells is governed at the molecular level. Jason was recently elected to the AOA. In his spare time Jason enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, cycling, and running.



Ryan Hoefen, 4th year medical student

Ryan, originally from Springwater, NY, entered the MD/PhD program in 1997 after attending Georgetown University. It was there that he first became interested in signal transduction through work he did in a cancer biology laboratory. After rotating through several laboratories at University or Rochester during the summers between medical school, he decided to focus on protein signaling. Ryan selected the laboratory of Bradford Berk, M.D., Ph.D. for his thesis research based on Dr. Berk's clinically oriented research on signal transduction in vascular disease. Ryan has continued his basic research activities into his 4th year of medical school. He is studying the signaling mechanisms by which the frictional force of blood flow on vessel walls protects them from atherosclerosis, and

specifically the role that a specific protein called GIT1 has in this process. He is currently applying to internal medicine residency programs and plans to pursue a fellowship in cardiology where he will continue his research efforts. Outside of his busy research and clinical activities, Ryan enjoys traveling, cycling and gardening.

Selected publications:

Surapisitchat J, **Hoefen RJ**, Pi X, Yoshizumi M, Yan C, Berk BC. Fluid shear stress inhibits TNF-alpha activation of JNK but not ERK1/2 or p38 in human umbilical vein endothelial cells: Inhibitory crosstalk among MAPK family members. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2001 May, 22;98(11):6476-81.

Hoefen RJ, Berk BC. The role of MAP kinases in endothelial activation. Vascul Pharmacol. 2002 May;38(5):271-3. Review.

Congratulations
To Our
MD/PhD Program
Graduating Class of 2004



(left to right) Marc Dubin, Michael Froehler and Julie Richards.









Marc Dubin received a PhD in Neurobiology & Anatomy. Charles Duffy, M.D., Ph.D. was his advisor. Thesis title: "The effects of behavioral tasks on optic flow responses of MST neurons". Marc started a residency in psychiatry at NY Presbyterian Hosp., Cornell, NY on 7/1/04.

Michael Froehler received a PhD in Neuroscience. Charles Duffy, M.D., Ph.D. was also his advisor. Thesis title: "Spatial and temporal integration of cognitive mapping in area MST". Mike began a preliminary medicine internship at Johns Hopkins Bayview-MD on 7/1/04 and will be following up with a neurology residency, also at Johns Hopkins Bayview-MD starting in 2005.

Julie Richards received a PhD in Microbiology & Immunology. Stephen Dewhurst, Ph.D. was her advisor. Her thesis title: "Identification and functional characterization of novel receptor ligands of CD-40 and alpha(v) beta (3) integrin implications for gene delivery". On 7/1/04 Julie began a residency in pediatrics at Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon.

We wish them all the best.

Welcome Our New MD/PhD Students

	<p>Debbie Dao is from Cypress, CA, graduating from the University of Southern CA in 5/02 (B.A. in psychology), then M.A. in 5/04 in psychol., brain & cognitive science. She has been in Rochester before as a Center for Visual Sciences Summer Research Student. Welcome back to Rochester, Debbie.</p>		<p>Vincent Fong is originally from Pleasantville, NY and graduated from Lehigh Univ. in 2003, receiving a master's degree in molecular biology in 5/04. He is interested in translational/clinical research. For fun, he enjoys computer games, basketball and comics.</p>
	<p>Susan Lee was born in Seoul, Korea but lived in Los Angeles until August. She graduated in May, 2000 from Pomona College in Claremont, CA with a B.A. in psychology. Susan is interested in autism and fMRI to study neural networks related to social cues. She relaxes with alpine skiing, reading, shopping, movies, performing arts, pilates, and playing with her sister.</p>		<p>Kofi Mensah is originally from Queens, NY He graduated as a UR REMS student with a B.S. in Microbiology/Immunology last May. Kofi's research interests are gene therapy or vaccine biology with a focus on Alzheimer's disease and Rheumatoid Arthritis. Extracurricular activities include ultimate frisbee and reading.</p>
	<p>David Meoli entered the MD/PhD Program after completing second year medical school. He received his B.A. in Biochemistry and Economics from Dartmouth and was inspired by a summer research project in Dr. Brad Berk's laboratory.</p>		<p>Shuolun Ruan is from Olathe, Kansas and graduated from Yale with a B.S. in economics, molec. biochemistry & biophysics in May, 2004. Her research interests are in health economics and policy analysis. Hobbies include ultimate frisbee, running, reading, cooking & wine. Hey, you're not in Kansas anymore, Shuolun.</p>
	<p>Erika Szymanski hails from local Fairport, NY. She graduated from Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania with a B.S. this past May, 2004 majoring in molecular biology. She is interested in Microbiology and like some of our other students, is familiar with Rochester through summer research experiences.</p>		<p>Ana Tablante is from Simsbury, CT and graduated from Wellesley College with a B.A. in biological chemistry in 6/04. Ana is interested in immunology. In her spare time, she enjoys sculpture, stamp collecting and gardening.</p>

MD/PhD Program Student Honors and Awards

Christopher Richardson, entering 2nd year of medical school received the Victor Meyer Emmel Prize in Histology. The Emmel Prize was established by the Dept. of Neurobiology & Anatomy to honor Dr. Emmel, a distinguished teacher, scholar and former director of medical histology. It is given to a first year medical or graduate student who best exemplifies the qualities of achievement, professionalism and scholarship that characterized Dr. Emmel.

Katherine Eisenberg, also entering 2nd year of medical school received the Gilbert B. Forbes Prize in Pediatrics. This annual prize, awarded by the faculty of the Dept. of Pediatrics, is given to a first or second year medical or graduate student who has achieved the high standard of scholarship and originality in research established by Dr. Forbes, a renowned teacher, scholar and researcher.

Michael Moravan, beginning the first year of graduate school in neuroscience, received the Merritt and Marjorie Cleveland Fellowship. This fund was established in 1991 with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Cleveland. The fund supports a first-year graduate student entering graduate study through the Graduate Education in the Biomedical Sciences Program with an interest in developing a neuroscience-related research career.

Thesis Defenses

Jason Homsy: 4/9/04; PhD in Genetics; Dirk Bohmann, Advisor; "Investigations in characterizing the role & regulation of the JNK cascade in morphogenetic events of *Drosophila melanogaster*."

Tony Flores: 8/6/04; PhD in Microbiology & Immunology; Martin Pavelka, Advisor; "B-Lactam antibiotic resistance in *Mycobacterium smegmatis* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*."

Toni Eyssalenne: 7/15/04; PhD in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Fay Young, advisor
"The influence of p190 bcr-abl on B-lymphopoiesis."

Ramothea Webster: 1/6/04; PhD in Microbiology & Immunology; Steve Dewhurst (UR) and Paul Johnson (Harvard) co-advisors. "The phenotype and function of natural killer cells in rhesus macaques."

Applicant Dates:

Nov. 4-5 & 18-19

- MD/PhD Program Applicant Interviews

Nov. 4 & 18

- Applicant Dinners with MD/PhD Students

Dec. 2-3 & 16-17

- MD/PhD Program Applicant Interviews

Dec. 2 & 16

MD/PhD Program Applicant Interviews

Jan. 6-7 & 20-21

- MD/PhD Program Applicant Interviews

Jan. 6 & 20

Applicant Dinners with MD/PhD Students

Feb. 3-4 & 17-18

- MD/PhD Program Applicant Interviews

Feb. 3 & 17

MD/PhD Program Applicant Interviews

MD/PhD Alumni – Let us hear from you.

Our goal is to hear something from each graduate of the program. When we hear from you we will **bold** your name as a sign of acknowledgement. We encourage you to contact us and watch us **boldly** grow. Please contact Beverley_Rathbun@URMC.Rochester.edu

Ackerman, Kurt D., M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1990
 Adam, Jamie, M.D. 2001, Ph.D. 2000
 Anolik, Jennifer H., M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
 Arceci, Robert J., M.D. 1981, Ph.D. 1980
 Bahler, David W., M.D., Ph.D. 1987
 Berk, Bradford C., M.D., Ph.D. 1981
 Bertuch, Alison A., M.D., Ph.D. 1993
 Bleicher, Paul A., M.D., Ph.D. 1983
 Bliss, Joseph, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
 Breneman, Stephen, M.D. 1998, Ph.D. 1996
 Brenner, Gary J., M.D., Ph.D. 1995
 Burkard, Mark, M.D. 2002, Ph.D. 2000
 Burkat, Paul, M.D. 2003, Ph.D. 2001
 Cheng, Shinta, M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1994
 Chin, Michael T., M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1989
 Colbert, Robert A., M.D. 1987, Ph.D. 1986
 Collins, Tucker O., M.D., Ph.D. 1981
 Dedon, Peter C., M.D., Ph.D. 1987
 Deng, Sophie, M.D., Ph.D. 2001
 Diloreto, David, M.D. 1997, Ph.D. 1995
 DiPersio, John F., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
 Dragone, Leonard L., M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
 Dubin, Marc J., M.D. 2004, Ph.D. 2002
 Dunn, Michael G., M.D., Ph.D. 1983
 Feulner, Lisa Kale, M.D., Ph.D. 1995
 Froehler, Michael, M.D. 2004, Ph.D. 2002
 Gallo, Richard L., M.D., Ph.D. 1986
 Gambello, Michael J., M.D., Ph.D. 1993
 Goldstein, Barry J., M.D., Ph.D. 1982
 Goldstein, Barry M., M.D. 1981, Ph.D. 1982
 Greene, James, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
 Grimsrud, Christopher, M.D., Ph.D. 2000
 Guillet, Ernest G., Jr., M.D., Ph.D. 1979
 Guillet, Ronnie B., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
 Hall, Craig G., MD-PhD, 1984
 Hallows, Kenneth R., M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1994
 Halterman, Marc, M.D. 2002, Ph.D. 2002
 Hsu, Lewis L., M.D., Ph.D. 1988
 Joseph, Luc, M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
 Kasckow, John, M.D. 1987, Ph.D. 1986
 Kenny, Alan, M.D. 2002, Ph.D. 2000
 Kim, James, M.D., Ph.D. 1999
 Kim, Jin, M.D. 2000, Ph.D. 1998
 Kimbrough, John, M.D., Ph.D. 2000
 Koh, Sookyong, M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1989
 Kruse, John, M.D. 1990, Ph.D. 1989
 Kulas, Donald, M.D. 1997, Ph.D. 1995
 Lerner, Robert M., M.D. 1977, Ph.D. 1978
 Lesser, Harold, M.D., Ph.D. 1989
 Lichtman, Andrew H., M.D., Ph.D. 1981
 Love, Paul E., M.D., Ph.D. 1987
 Malchoff, Carl D., M.D., Ph.D. 1978
 Martin, Stephen S. M.D., Ph.D. 1981
 Massa, Stephen M., M.D., Ph.D. 1984
 Mathews, David H., M.D. 2003, Ph.D. 2002
 Maytin, Edward V., M.D., Ph.D. 1985
 McAdam, Alexander J., M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1994
 McFarland, Nikolaus, M.D. 2002, Ph.D. 2000
 Mendelsohn, Steven L., M.D., Ph.D. 1978
 Milano, Michael, M.D., Ph.D. 2000
 Nasir, Adnan, M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1994
 Navon, Samuel E., M.D., Ph.D. 1989
 Nead, Michael, M.D., Ph.D. 1999
 Nguyen, Minh-Doan Thi, M.D. 2002, Ph.D. 2000
 Nichols, Alan R., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
 Nierenberg, Jay, M.D. 1997, Ph.D. 2001
 Pallant, Adam D., M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1990
 Palmer, Edward, M.D., Ph.D. 1980
 Peale, Franklin V., Jr., Ph.D. 1989, M.D. 1990
 Phung, Thuy L., M.D., Ph.D. 1999
 Podell, David N., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
 Profenno, Louis, M.D., Ph.D. 1999
 Proweller, Aaron, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
 Querfurth, Henry W., M.D., Ph.D. 1983
 Ribes, Julie A., M.D., Ph.D. 1990
 Richards, Julie, M.D. 2004, Ph.D. 2002
 Roberts, Alice, M.D., Ph.D. 1999
 Rosier, Randy N., M.D., Ph.D. 1978
 Rubin, Edward M., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
 Rumbaugh, Jeffrey, M.D., Ph.D. 2000
 Sandhu, Faheem A., M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1994
 Scully, Sean P., M.D. 1986, Ph.D. 1985
 Seed, Patrick, M.D., Ph.D. 1998
 Senyk, Oksana, M.D., Ph.D. 1984
 Shimamura, Akiko, M.D. 1991, Ph.D. 1990
 Snyder, Lawrence H., M.D., Ph.D. 1992
 Storozynsky, Eugene, M.D. 2000, Ph.D. 1998
 Tan (Formerly Cheun), Jane E., M.D. 1995, Ph.D. 1993
 Thertulien, Raymond, M.D. 1994, Ph.D. 1992
 Thom, Stephen R., M.D., Ph.D. 1981
 Toribara, Neil W., M.D. 1981, Ph.D. 1982
 Waldman, David L., M.D., Ph.D. 1988
 Williams, Joseph, M.D., Ph.D. 1989
 Williams, Marshall T., M.D., Ph.D. 1980
 Wilson, Robert E., M.D., Ph.D. 1989
 Wingrove, Douglas E., M.D. 1987, Ph.D. 1986
 Winn, Virginia Dragone, M.D. 1996, Ph.D. 1994
 Zambidis, Elias, M.D., Ph.D. 1998

“Message from Program Director Dr. O’Banion” cont. from page 1

This strategy has brought a new vitality to the Program that was instrumental in securing a five-year renewal of our Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) training grant starting this year. Although it is clear that institutional resources and strong leadership paved the path for such changes, I want to acknowledge the most important driving force in the process—our students.

Over the past few years, this group of outstanding future physician-scientists has taken on ownership of the Program through formation of an MD/PhD Student Council. Under the leadership of Marlene Mathews from 2001 until this past summer, and its new President, Adam Dziorny, the Council has impacted all aspects of the Program ranging from curriculum to social activities. I think it is important to acknowledge some of these changes. In curriculum, the student group advocated for changes to make the first two years more “MD/PhD” specific. This included development and ongoing improvement of a research seminar/journal club, entitled “Scientific Reasoning in Medicine”; adoption of Problem Based Learning (PBL) groups populated only by MD/PhD students in some of the first and second year classes; formation of unique supplementary sessions for some of the first year classes; and implementation of “Ethics in Research”, a course required of all our students, as a Medical Humanity elective. Additional curricular and advisory developments influenced by the Student Council include better definitions of the Longitudinal Clerkship Experience, clarification of the roles for our Physician-Scientist Advisors, and reinvigoration of a student organized series of research presentations by both internal and external investigators. The Student Council plays an instrumental role in the organization of all Program events including our Annual Retreat, our Revisit Day for applicants we hope to recruit to the program, and just this past year as hosts for the annual meeting of the Western New York MD/PhD Program Conference, which included University of Rochester, University at Buffalo and SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. There are many purely social events as well, including wine tours, picnics, and if it snows this winter (any chance?), a sledding/cross-country skiing day in Mendon Ponds Park.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the MD/PhD Student Council has played a major role in our recruiting efforts with an applicant hosting program, applicant dinners with current students, and the previously mentioned Revisit Day activities. I have been told repeatedly by applicants who visit Rochester that they are impressed by how happy and welcoming everyone is. These visitors recognize our program as a real and vibrant entity. I firmly believe that the efforts of our students make the biggest difference in our ability to recruit the best and brightest students into our Program. Many thanks to all their efforts as the MD/PhD Program at Rochester continues to flourish.

Alumni News

The definition of curiosity is “the desire to know,” which is the battle cry of all scientists. In order to relieve our natural curiosity about our fellow alumnus we encourage you to write in and bring us up to date with your career and activities that interest you. We are waiting to hear from you and pictures are always welcome. Please send correspondence to: Beverley_Rathbun@URMC.Rochester.edu .

“Welcome Message from Dean David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.” cont. from page 1

For starters, we looked at class size. This had been inching up, but the numbers of students admitted each year (on average, 3 to 5) did not, in our opinion, create a critical mass. Even if the renewal were successful, we knew that we would not obtain any more support from NIH beyond the 11 total NIH-funded positions (which translates to about 2-3 new positions per year) already in place. Money talks, and I was pleased to find some creative ways of organizing the School's finances to increase the number of MSTP students to 8 per year. This has not only improved the interaction of MD/PhD students with one another, but the increased numbers of MD/PhD students has also had a favorable impact on the academic atmosphere and student interactions in the “regular” curriculum.

Other initiatives included a new advisory system, under the leadership of Regis O'Keefe, MD, PhD and Mark Taubman, MD, which emphasized longitudinal advising by physician-scientist faculty who were “walking the walk” in their ongoing careers. Specific courses have been developed for the MSTP students, including the very popular Scientific Reasoning in Medicine seminar during the first year. In some medical-school courses, MSTP students are brought together in Problem Based Learning (PBL) groups, and an attempt has been made to ensure that clinical experiences during the graduate school years are tailored to the particular interests of the student. We have also initiated unique tracts within selective courses of the Problem Based Learning curriculum for our students. All these changes have increased the vigor of the academic programs and created unique educational opportunities for the students. All the students are continuing to publish in high quality journals and are pursuing the highest quality of research during their graduate student years.

I am pleased to report that, due to the superb efforts of Drs. O'Banion and Turner, key suggestions from Drs. O'Keefe and Taubman, and the inventive and tireless administrative efforts of Cathy Senecal-Rice, the MSTP at Rochester recently was awarded a five-year renewal from the NIH.

As part of our enthusiasm for the program, we would like to update the alumni of the Medical Scientist Training Program on a regular basis. This is the inaugural issue of our bi-annual newsletter. The Fall Newsletter will introduce you to the new students that are joining the program while the Spring issue will describe the achievements of our graduating students and their future plans. The newsletters will also provide an update on exciting developments within the Medical Center, the MSTP program, and highlight accomplishments of our past graduates. It is our desire to create a strong linkage between our current students and alumni and to continue to advance the knowledge base of medical treatment. We look forward to your input and any contributions that you might have to this newsletter.

This Newsletter was designed and distributed with the direction and approval of the Medical Scientist Training Program Executive Committee. If you do not wish to receive future mailings please e-mail this request to Beverley_Rathbun@URMC.Rochester.edu and your name will promptly be removed from our distribution list.