Message from:
M. Kerry O’Banion, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Neurobiology
& Anatomy and of Neurology;
Director, MSTP

GREAT Group
(Graduate Research,
Education and Training)

For those who have traveled to Keystone, Colorado to participate in the Annual MD-PhD Student Conference sponsored by the MSTP at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, you may have been aware that MD-PhD program directors and administrators traditionally meet in a parallel meeting. Dr. George Abraham, previous MSTP director at Rochester from 1989-98, was one of several directors who established, in 1995, the National Association of MD-PhD Program Directors. With the addition of MD-PhD administrators, who really run our programs, the organization became the National Association of MD-PhD Programs. Three years ago, the Association transformed again to become the MD-PhD Section of the AAMC Group on Graduate Research, Education, and Training (GREAT). The GREAT Group focuses on graduate education and research in the medical school setting and in addition to the MD-PhD Section, has a newly formed Postdoctoral Section.

Throughout all of these identity changes, the mission of our organization has remained constant. Our objectives have been: (i) to educate college students about careers in academic medicine and the various pathways to becoming a physician-scientist, (ii) to share best practices for integrating and enhancing clinical and research training during the 7-8 year MD-PhD training process and (iii) to advocate for physician-scientists more broadly. This third objective includes facilitating the development of training programs for MD-PhD graduates (research residencies) and engaging various federal, state and local agencies and other academic organizations to advance our collective mission. The overarching mission of our organization is to train physician-scientists who will devote their careers to making major advances in biomedical science and clinical medicine.

Our recent affiliation with the AAMC means that at least some of our annual meetings will be held with the larger GREAT Group rather than in Colorado with the MD-PhD students. However, by teaming up with AAMC we have a much stronger voice for effecting change. Indeed, the AAMC is keen on promoting physician-scientist training and our organization is taking a lead in this effort. Thus, as Co-Chair of the Communications Committee and member of the Steering Committee, I have been charged to work with AAMC in developing web-based resources for potential MD-PhD applicants and pre-health advisors. This educational mission will include attendance and presentations at regional and national meetings of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions as well as other national organizations.
Other efforts that are being enhanced by the AAMC affiliation include work to increase diversity among MD-PhD trainees, creation of new MD-PhD funding opportunities through discussions with NIH (this has already occurred with more institutes offering pre-doctoral F30 MD-PhD fellowships), and participation in the process to modify the USMLE Step 1 and 2 examinations.

The good news here is that as trainees you have a strong and committed organization dedicated to promoting your place in science and medicine. Importantly, the recently formed, student-organized American Physician Scientists Association (APSA) shares many of these objectives and provides an important voice from the constituency. The goals and activities of APSA will be highlighted in our next newsletter.

**Calendar of Events:**

**March 8, 2008**
- March social event: annual pancake breakfast trip, Cartwright’s Maple Tree Inn, Angelica, NY

**March 20, 2008**
- Match Day

**April 4-5, 2008**
- Revisit for accepted applicants

**April (date TBD)**
- April social event: Red Wings Baseball Team home opener

**May 3, 2008**
- Upstate MD/PhD Program Conference (includes SUNY Upstate Medical Center and University at Buffalo’s MD/PhD Programs) in conjunction with our first MD/PhD Program Outreach Fair. High school students as well as undergraduate students will be in attendance to learn about MD/PhD Programs.

**May (date TBD)**
- MSTP Graduation Party

**May 16**
- Medical School commencement
- Eastman Theatre

**May 17**
- Graduate School commencement
- Eastman Theatre

**Wedding Announcements**

Tara Arndt (M4) married Jesse Wenger (also M4 but not in MSTP) on the Wenger Farm in Annville, PA (Amish country) on September 8, 2007. Many MSTP students and the Director, Kerry O’Banion (as well as goats and other farm animals) were in attendance.

Tara plans to go into a Pediatric Genetics Residency Program and Jesse into residency in Medicine-Pediatrics. We’ll cross our fingers for a successful couples-match at their first-choice institute!
David Meoli (G3 in Pharmacology & Physiology in the Cardiovascular Research Institute; Jim White, M.D., Ph.D., advisor) married AnnMarie Ellie, RN, MS on November 10, 2007. AnnMarie grew up in Greece, NY attending Our Lady of Mercy High School. She obtained her nursing degree at Georgetown University and her masters at the U of R. AnnMarie works as a Clinical Nurse Specialist on the Neurology and Neurosurgery floors at Strong.

Nancy Ann Oberheim (G4 in neuroscience; Maiken Nedergaard, M.D., Ph.D., advisor) and Jeff Bush, Ph.D. were wed in Lake George, NY on June 2, 2007. Nancy Ann and Jeff had a blissful honeymoon in Italy before returning back to reality (i.e. work). Jeff is a postdoctoral fellow at University of Washington, Seattle.

He did a postdoctoral fellowship at UR under Robert Quivey, Ph.D., Professor, Microbiology & Immunology. Jeff’s main areas of work are developmental biology and mouse genetics, and he studies cranial neural crest migration in early development and birth defects. He is a musician, avid music/record collector, loves tennis, snowboarding, and cooking. Sorry, he’s taken, ladies!

Engagements

Alex Pearson (G4 in biostatistics, Derick Peterson, Ph.D., advisor) and Caroline Fisher became engaged in Brugge, Belgium in October, 2007. Alex is planning to return to third year medical school in July, 2008. Caroline is a Client Manager for Avalere Health, a healthcare consulting firm based in Washington DC, to which she telecommutes from their home office. In her spare time she enjoys playing tennis, alpine skiing, experimenting with new recipes, participating in the Rochester Harvard Alumni Club, and training their 11 month old black lab, Kona. The happy couple are planning a destination wedding in balmy Rochester, NY in January, 2009.
**Births**

Jonas Wilson-Leedy (M1) and his wife Stephanie proudly announce the birth of their son Linus Elijah on January 7, 2008. Linus was 7 lbs., 14 ounces and joins their other two children Avery and Mercede Elise.

The annual MD/PhD Program Retreat was held at Steamboat Landing Banquet Center on lovely Canandaigua Lake on August 10, 2007. Robert Colbert, M.D., Ph.D., an alumnus of the MD/PhD Program at University of Rochester was keynote speaker. A picnic supper followed at Casey Park on Canandaigua Lake. Our athletic MSTP secretary, Brigid Waterhouse entertained us with her gymnastic abilities!

**Past Events**

Six students represented the University of Rochester at the annual MD/PhD Program National Conference in Keystone, Colorado July 26-29. Our director, Dr. Kerry O’Banion and administrator, Cathy Senecal-Rice attended the Directors/Administrators Conference which also took place simultaneously with the Student Conference in Keystone.

MSTP students had an opportunity to speak one-on-one with a visiting professor to the Center for Musculoskeletal Research at lunch on August 22, 2007. Valerae O. Lewis, M.D. is Associate Professor of Surgery and Ad-Interim Chief of Orthopaedic Oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Lewis spoke about balancing career and family as well as her career path.
The annual MSTP wine tasting tour was held on Keuka Lake on September 29, 2007. Despite the tour bus having some navigational issues, the group had a wonderful time on this beautiful fall day. They enjoyed a delicious lunch at Snug Harbor Inn and sampled some great Finger Lakes wine!

Students and their families went apple-picking to Lagoner Farms in Ontario, NY on October 13, 2007. They came home loaded with not only apples, but cider, donuts, and berries as well.

Debbie Dao (G2 in Pathology) and Dr. Kerry O’Banion, MSTP Director represented the University of Rochester MSTP at the annual SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) conference in Kansas City, Missouri on October 11-14.

They manned an informational booth, speaking to undergraduate students about the MD/PhD Program and giving out literature. Our brand-new stand-alone MSTP banner was a big hit with the prospective applicants!

A few MSTP students went on a weekend trip in October to Toronto, Canada to see Cirque de Soleil. Toronto is a mere three hours drive from Rochester and a great major city to visit! The following photo shows their interpretation of the show. Someone needs to brush up on their technique!
Alison Bertuch, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in hematology/oncology at Baylor College of Medicine presented the second dinner seminar of the semester on November 13, 2007. Dr. Bertuch is another alumna of our own MD/PhD Program and shared some personal stories with the students in order to give perspective on her own experience as a trainee. It was an enlightening, humorous, down-to-earth presentation which we all appreciated!

November 7-10, 2007 was the annual ABRCMS (Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students) held in Austin, Texas. Ana Tablante (G2 in pharmacology/physiology wearing purple on right behind the booth) represented the MD/PhD Program by manning a recruiting booth and giving valuable advice to prospective applicants about our MSTP as well as medical school and graduate school. Dr. Doug Portman, assistant professor of genetics represented the UR faculty.

The annual MSTP holiday party was held on Friday, December 7 at Mendon Ponds Park. Plenty of snow was available for sledding, skiing and snowshoeing as an early winter storm dumped over a foot of snow earlier in the week! The gift exchange was again a big hit with the most popular gift being a set of beautiful ceramic bowls. The Operation game even made a comeback from last year!

The final dinner seminar of the semester was presented by Laura Calvi, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Endocrinology Division at URMC on December 17. Dr. Calvi spoke to the students on mentors and project choices.
The social event for February was the annual curling outing at the Rochester Curling Club on Saturday, February 2 (Happy Groundhog Day!). Our MSTP Director, Kerry O’Banion and 26 students and friends stayed warm by brushing the ice to keep the stone moving! This technique is demonstrated beautifully by Sol Shaftel (M3), Rebecca Porter (G1 in pathology) and our fearless Director below.

Ski Day took place on February 23, 2008 at Bristol Mountain Ski Resort. 15 students and their families took advantage of the cold and snow. The day ended with a delicious barbeque catered by Dinosaur BBQ.

Alan Kenny, M.D. ('02), Ph.D. ('00 in Biology) in Drs. Lynn & Robert Angerers’ lab, currently at NIH) and his wife Laura Cancilla Kenny (R ’04 in Internal Medicine) were guest speakers at the MSTP monthly seminar on February 18, 2008. Son Eoin, aged 13 months, supported his father with periodic exclamations! They spoke to a group of 30 students and staff on balancing career and family. Laura is an internist and medical director in Cincinnati. Alan is currently in a neonatology fellowship at University of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, working with another MSTP alumni, Dr. Robert Colbert, who was keynote speaker at the 2007 retreat.
Eight new students joined the MSTP in August, 2007.

Qi Cui  University of Arizona graduate (B.S. in molecular/cellular biology, psychology '02). Born in Beijing, China, Qi came to the United States with her family as a youngster. After graduating from U of A, she matriculated into the U of R School of Medicine, and completed 2 years of medical school before also matriculating into the Academic Honors Program in Medical Neurobiology. Qi joins the MSTP as a 3rd year student in the Neurobiology & Anatomy Graduate Program – certainly not what you would call a “traditional student!”

Laura DiChiacchio  University of California at Irvine graduate (B.S. in biochem., molecular biology, math ’07). Laura began her college career at the tender age of 13 after deciding to forego high school in order to pursue academic interests that were available only at a college level. After completing her Associate degrees in Science and Liberal Arts at Ventura College, Laura enrolled at U.C. Irvine at eighteen, completing her double major in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology and Mathematics at the age of twenty.

Rich Gaines  Graduated from Temple University’s Honors Program (B.S. in biophysics ’06). Rich spent the year following graduation working as a research chemist for Merck Pharmaceuticals. He is also determined to continue his work as artist, even managing to spend a semester as a pre-med student, at Temple’s Rome campus “saturating himself in the arts,” something that few pre-med students in biophysics have ever managed to do. Rich will be a welcome addition to our very artistic, musically-inclined MST Program!

Natasha Golub  Graduate of the College of William and Mary (B.S. in biology ’07). Natasha hails from Siberia, Russia, arriving in the U.S. at the age of nine. While at William and Mary, Natasha was involved
in a great deal of volunteer work, including her involvement in several groups furthering HIV education and prevention. She also spent time volunteering at her local Humane Society, satisfying her passion for helping unwanted animals. With her soft-heart, Natasha might be the one to call if you need a sitter for your pets...how could she say no?

**Keith Olsen**  Graduate of Williams College (B.A. in biology, economics '04). Keith was born and raised in the Rochester area. After graduating from Williams, Keith was accepted into the U of R School of Medicine, where he completed the first 2 years of medical school. Keith is an avid skier, played Ultimate throughout his college years, and has played the cello practically his entire life. He joins us as a first year graduate student in the microbiology & immunology graduate program.

**Andy Pistner**  Graduate of Northwestern University (B.A. in chemistry '07). Andy was born and raised in the Rochester area and was happy to return to his hometown to join the U of R MSTP. Andy has spent several summers working in U of R labs, so it was only natural that he would arrive early this summer to do the same. Having played rugby in high school and college, we will wait and see if Andy manages to put together an MSTP rugby team!

**Phil Rappold**  Graduate of Cornell University (B.S. in biology '04). Phil was born in Wyoming County, NY and moved to Pittsford when he was fourteen. Phil has spent the past two years as a tech in the lab of Shirley Joseph, in the Department of Neurosurgery. While still in high school, Phil joined the Bushnell's Basin Explorer Post, where he received firematic training. He enjoyed the experience so much that he has continued his active involvement in firefighting (even becoming an Advisor to the Explorer Post where he got his start!). Phil is the one to call for all your fire-safety questions!

**Jonas Wilson-Leedy**  Graduate of University of Idaho (B.S. in microbiology '06). Another of our multi-dimensional students, Jonas is an avid amateur photographer, small business owner (refurbish and resale of laptop computers), former in-home reptilian breeder, and father. Jonas, his wife, Stephanie, (and their 2.5 children) just bought a house in the Brighton area. We aren't yet sure whether any reptiles or frozen prey items made the trip to Rochester with Jonas and his family!
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS
CTSA Grant Awardees

As stated in the Spring/Summer 2007 newsletter, the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) was awarded to the University of Rochester in the amount of $40 million, the largest ever in the history of the University. It provides support for pre-doctoral training in translational research leading to the PhD degree. In future years, the grant will support both PhD, and MD-PhD students who are doing translational research. For this year, the grant supports three MD-PhD students (Christopher Richardson, Shuolun Ruan, Adam Simning), in addition to the four students (Susan Lee, Kevin Makino, Kate Eisenberg, Kofi Mensah) whose CTSA support began last year. Their profiles are below.

Adam Simning is a first year Epidemiology graduate student. He is working under the tutelage of Yeates Conwell, M.D. (Professor of Psychiatry), Edwin van Wijngaarden, Ph.D. (Asst. Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine), and Thomas Richardson, Ph.D. (Asst. Professor of Emergency Medicine). Adam’s research will be on the epidemiology of mental health issues in older adults. He is currently formulating a dissertation topic and is working with local aging service networks to better characterize the prevalence, risk factors, and correlates of psychiatric diseases in older clients. His overall goal is to help improve the detection and treatment of anxiety and depression in older adults.

Adam grew up in Robbinsdale, a suburb of Minneapolis, MN, and graduated from Pomona College in 2005 with honors in Molecular Biology. After graduation he came directly to University of Rochester’s MD/PhD program. His research interests include mental health, aging, and occupational and environmental exposures. During his first two years at Rochester, Adam worked with Edwin van Wijngaarden to publish a review on cancer incidence and mortality in dentists. Adam’s non-academic interests include nutrition, exercising, and lots of reading. Adam and his wife, Inga, were recently married and currently do not have any children, but they are practicing for one by raising their pug puppy, Oliver.
Shuolun Ruan (G2 in Health Services Research, Bruce Friedman, Ph.D., advisor)

Shuolun Ruan is in her second year of graduate school in the division of Health Services Research and Policy. Her research interests include emergency medicine and trauma. Recent work with Katia Noyes, Ph.D., MPH, and Jeffrey Bazarian, M.D., MPH (Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine) has been accepted for oral presentation at the International Conference on Emergency Medicine in San Francisco, CA and the International Brain Injury Association World Congress on Brain Injury in Lisbon, Portugal this April, 2008. In her medical school years, Shuolun was active on the student council and was a steering committee member for UR Well, the student-run health outreach program. She was also the Social Chair for the MD/PhD program during this time and resumed the position for the current academic year. Her other extracurricular activities include hiking, squash, and latin dancing.

Shuolun graduated from Yale University in 2004 with degrees in Molecular Biochemistry & Biophysics and Economics. Past research experience includes examination of career choice among female medical students and isolation of a mitochondrial transport protein for pharmacologic studies.

Chris Richardson is in his third year of graduate school in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. He is working under Inaki Sanz, M.D., Chief of the Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine. Chris studies the means by which the human antibody response is normally regulated and how this regulation fails in systemic lupus erythematosus, an autoimmune disease. His work focuses on a phenomenon called receptor editing, a process in which
autoreactive antibodies are modified to render them less harmful. It is hypothesized that this process is abnormal in various autoimmune diseases.

Chris grew up in Rolla, Missouri, and graduated from Brigham Young University (Provo, UT) in 2003 with a degree in Microbiology. While at BYU, Chris conducted research on bacterial antibiotic resistance mechanisms under Dr. Don Breakwell. He also worked as a technician at the BYU DNA Sequencing Center. In 2003, Chris entered the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Rochester. In 2004, he received the Victor Meyer Emmel Prize in Histology for achievement, professionalism and scholarship. He has developed a great love for patient care and hopes to practice in an academic setting, focusing his research on helping those suffering from autoimmune disease. Chris and his wife, Emily, have three energetic and delightful children: Ethan, Haley, and Lindsay. His interests include reading, board games, sports, grilling, gardening, and auto repair.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Tara Arndt (M4) received the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) award, as well as the Class of 1996 Community Service Award at a ceremony on February 7, 2008. AOA is awarded to 16 students selected from the graduating class each year based on grades, community service and leadership. The Class of 1996 community service award is given to a 4th year medical student each year for work with Saturday School Program (tutoring program for children at a Rochester inner city school) and 400 hours of community service. Chin-To Fong, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division Chief of Genetics, was keynote speaker at the awards ceremony. Dr. Fong is a member of the MD/PhD Admissions Committee.

Qi Cui (G3 in neurobiology & anatomy; Gary Paige, M.D., Ph.D., William O'Neill, Ph.D., co-advisors): Qi received a Ruth L. Kirchstein NRSA for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD Fellows grant (F30) from NIDCD - starting date 09/01/2007. Qi’s thesis proposal was 10/25/07 on “Auditory and Visual Integration and Plasticity”.

Cindy Duke (M4) defended her thesis successfully on November 28, 2007. Her thesis was entitled “Optimization of a herpes simplex virus type 1 amplicon vectored HIV-1 vaccine candidate”. Cindy’s graduate department is microbiology & immunology, her advisor is Stephen Dewhurst, Ph.D., Professor of Microbiology & Immunology and Oncology; Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research.

Adam Dziorny (G3 in BME; Anne Luebke, Ph.D., advisor) proposed on 9/18/07: “Can Augmented Acoustic Environments Modify Auditory Processing?”. At his proposal, Adam was awarded the BME Graduate TA Award for work with BME 260, Quantitative Physiology.
Candace Gildner (G3 in BME; Denise Hocking, Ph.D., advisor) proposed her defense on 9/19/07 titled: "Substrate-dependent Regulation of the Structural and Physiological Properties of Extracellular Matrix Fibronectin". Candace was also awarded the BME Graduate TA Award for work with BME 260, Quantitative Physiology.

Susan Lee (G2 in neuroscience, Loisa Bennetto, Ph.D., advisor) recently received a pre-doctoral fellowship grant of $60,000 for two years from Autism Speaks, a private agency. This grant will fund Susan’s functional imaging studies of audiovisual integration in autism.

Kofi Mensah (G2 in microbiology & immunology; Eddie Schwarz, Ph.D., advisor). Qualifying exam took place on January, 28, 2008: "Polarization of Myeloid Differentiation as a Mechanism of Erosive versus Non-Erosive Inflammatory Arthritis"; Kofi also received the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Predoctoral Scholar (2007-present).

Kofi also spent 3 weeks at the end of September and beginning of October 2007 working in the laboratory of Drs. Steven Teitelbaum and F. Patrick Ross at the Washington University School of Medicine learning osteoclast biology techniques. This laboratory is one of the most highly regarded and most-often cited in the field.

Michael Moravan (G4 in neuroscience, John Olschowka, Ph.D., Kerry O’Banion, M.D., Ph.D., co-advisors) proposed his defense on 7/17/07 entitled "The role of IL-1 in gamma radiation-induced inflammatory changes to the mouse brain".

In addition, Mike is a member of the medical school a cappella group called “On Call”. Last month they entered the "a cappella quest" contest with CBS and were chosen as one of 5 finalists nation wide!! They were introduced on the Early Show (great plug for U of R!), and performed live on Monday, Dec 17th. Here is the video submission: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiLtuzJuit4
In addition, the group performed at a concert in the medical school atrium in January will perform at a benefit concert at the end of March.

Amish Naik (M3) presented and defended his thesis successfully in the Pathways of Human Disease graduate program on November 30, 2007. Title of his thesis was “The role of cyclooxygenase-2 and parathyroid hormone in mesenchymal progenitor cell function during senescent fracture healing”. Amish’s thesis advisor was Regis O’Keefe, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Orthopaedics. Dr. O’Keefe is also a member of the MSTP Executive Committee.

Nancy Ann Oberheim (G4 in neuroscience) had two astrocyte images printed on covers of major, peer-review journals last Fall. The image in Nature Neuroscience was associated with a review written by Maiken Nedergaard, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Neurosurgery, Nancy Ann’s advisor.

Journal of Neuroscience 2007 Nov 7;27(45) http://www.jneurosci.org/content/vol27/issue45/cover.shtml
Alex Pearson (G4 in Biostatistics, Derick Peterson, Ph.D., advisor) successfully proposed his dissertation topic “Subset selection for prediction with high-dimensional data” on 7/12/07.

Alex also won a national paper award from the American Statistical Association Section on Computational and Graphical Statistics that included a $1,000 travel award to the annual Joint Statistics Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. The paper was titled “A flexible model selection algorithm for the Cox model with high-dimensional data” and the competition was open to all graduate students in statistics Ph.D. programs and post-docs within two years of graduation. He also recently adopted a puppy named Kona that we hope to meet at one of the MD/PhD social events!

Shuolun Ruan (G2 in health services policy & research; Bruce Friedman, Ph.D., advisor) was chosen to give two oral presentations for the International Conference on Emergency Medicine (San Francisco) and the World Congress on Brain Injury (Lisbon). Both conferences will take place in April, 2008. The abstract will be published in the conference issues of *Annals of Emergency Medicine* and *Brain Injury*. These presentations result from a project Shuolun has been working on with Jeffrey Bazarian, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, her CTSI (Clinical & Translational Science Institute) mentor (see Student Highlights, CTSA grant awardees section of this newsletter).

Ana Tablante (G2 in pharmacology & physiology; Mark Noble, Ph.D., advisor) proposed in October (10/23/07) on: “A proposed link between chemotherapy-induced white matter disruption and the intracellular redox threshold: Examination of antioxidants and the Fyn/Cbl pathway”

**PUBLICATIONS**


New Literary Journal Composed by Medical Students

Founded in the fall of 2006, turtlequill is the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry’s Journal of the Literary Arts. The journal provides an outlet through which members of the URMC community can express themselves through writing and photography and, just as importantly, provides a medium through which they can share these expressions with others. turtlequill is run, organized, and edited entirely by URMC medical students. Several MD/PhD students, including Erika Szymanski (G1, microbiology & immunology), Imran Punekar (M2) and Mercedes Szpunar (G2 in Pathology), have been very involved with the journal, both in authoring and editing.

Subscriptions are available for $10. This fee covers two issues and the expense of mailing. Please see http://turtlequilljournal.googlepages.com for more details or to view the journal itself.
Alumni News

Thank you to everyone who responded to our plea to contact us. Feel free to keep us up-to-date. Enjoy reading about your fellow alumni. We hope to hear from many more. Please send correspondence to: cathy.senecalrice@urmc.rochester.edu

Alan Kenny, M.D. (’02), Ph.D. (’00 in Biology in Lynn & Robert Angerers’ lab) and his wife Laura Cancilla Kenny (R ’04 in Internal Medicine at UR) became the proud parents of their first child Eoin (pronounced Owen) in 2006. Alan is currently in a neonatology fellowship at University of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, working with another MSTP alumni, Dr. Robert Colbert, who was our keynote speaker at the 2007 retreat. Alan, Laura and Eoin were guest speakers (well, not Eoin since he’s only 13 months!) at the MSTP monthly seminar on February 18, 2008. They spoke to a group of 30 students and staff on balancing career and family. Laura is an internist and medical director in Cincinnati.

Nicholas McFarland, M.D. (’02) Ph.D. (’00 in neurobiology & anatomy, Suzanne Haber, advisor) and his wife, Karen have a daughter, Elanor born in 2006. Nick says, “Elanor is gorgeous, growing like a weed and is the light of our lives. She keeps us very busy, mostly chasing after her. We love it!” The family lives in Boston, Massachusetts. After spending four years in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain hills around Charlottesville, VA for his internship and neurology residency, Nick is now doing a neurology fellowship in movement disorders at Massachusetts General Hospital. He spends most of his time in the lab working on Parkinson’s disease, but also has clinics at MGH and Brigham Women’s Hospital.
Elias Zambidis, M.D., Ph.D.’98 (Ph.D. in Microbiology & Immunology) in lab of David Scott, Ph.D.) and wife Diana have three wonderful children with a fourth child due in April. They live in Baltimore, where Elias is assistant professor of pediatrics and oncology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Elias tells us “I'm an Assistant Professor in Pediatric Oncology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. I did my fellowship training here (2001-2004) and then stayed on as faculty. I now have my own lab and research group at the Institute of Cell Engineering at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and I'm doing cool research in human stem cell biology. I also see patients on the Peds Onc and Bone Marrow transplant wards about 10-20% of my time, and do research the rest of the time. Yes, I'm doing exactly what the U.R. MSTP trained me to do! I'm very grateful for the excellent dual physician-scientist education that UR gave me!”

IN MEMORIAM

Tucker Collins, M.D., Ph.D. '81 passed away suddenly on June 8, 2007 after being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor in January of 2007. Tucker was a vascular pathologist and noted researcher, Associate Master of Peabody Society at Harvard Medical School and Pathologist-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital in Boston. He graduated from Amherst College and trained in pathology at Brigham & Women’s Hospital.

Tucker entered the Medical Scientist Training Program at University of Rochester in 1976, coincidentally at the same time as good friend, Brad Berk, M.D.,Ph.D.’81. They met when they attended Amherst College together. He received his Ph.D. in microbiology under the advisement of James Wilhelm. He was a Pew Scholar in biomedical research and an established investigator of the American Heart Association, as well as past president of the American Society for Investigative Pathology. He was a member of the faculty of the graduate program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Harvard, and mentored many graduate students and postdoctoral research fellows in his laboratory. He also taught pathology to first- and second-year medical students at Harvard since 1987, and was course director for the second-year pathology (Continued…)
Tucker Collins, Con’t.

course since 1999. He was nominated for the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1999
and 2000. He joined the staff of Children’s Hospital as chairman in February, 2001 and led the
Pathology Department through a period of unmatched growth in its clinical services. He was
also deeply committed to improving the Pathology Department’s Research Division, which he
consolidated and further expanded. He was also chairman of the NIH Vascular Biology Study
Section and co-editor of the sixth edition of *Robbins Pathologic Basis of Disease*, the definitive
text for students.

Tucker returned several times to the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He was
invited by George Abraham, M.D., MSTP director at Rochester in the 1990’s to speak to MSTP
students at two seminars. In 1999, he presented the annual George Hoyt Whipple Lecture for
the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Mary Whitley and daughter Caroline, 14.

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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. We need
current e-mail addresses for names in RED. Please contact Cathy Senecal-Rice, Administrator, MD/PhD
Program at:  [cathy_senecalrice@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:cathy_senecalrice@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
Bahl, David W., M.D. 1987
Bellizzi, Matthew, M.D., Ph.D. 2007
Berk, Bradford C., M.D. 1981
Bertuch, Alison A., M.D. 1993
Bleicher, Paul A., M.D. 1983
Bliss, Joseph, M.D. 1998
Brenner, Gary J., M.D. 1995
Burka, 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. 1981
Dedon, Peter C., M.D. 1987
Deng, Sophie, M.D. 2001
DiLoreto, David, M.D. 1997, Ph.D. 1995
DiPersio, John F., M.D. 1980
Dubin, Marc J., M.D. 2004, Ph.D. 2002
Dunn, Michael G., M.D. 1983
Feulner, Lisa Kale, M.D. 1995
Froehler, Michael, M.D. 2004, Ph.D. 2002
Gallo, Richard L., M.D. 1986
Gambello, Michael J., M.D. 1993
Goldstein, Barry J., M.D. 1982
Goldstein, Barry M., M.D. 1981, Ph.D. 1982
Greene, James, M.D. 1998
Grimsrud, Christopher, M.D. 2000
Guillet, Ronnie B., M.D. 1980
Hall, Craig G., MD-PhD 1984
We hope you have enjoyed reading about your fellow alumni and current MD/PhD students. We thank everyone who wrote and sent in pictures and hope it will inspire others to do the same. If you would like to communicate with any of your fellow alumni, please send an email with the name of the person to Cathy Senecal-Rice: cathy_senecalrice@urmc.rochester.edu. This may be an avenue for current MD/PhD Program students to network with alumni that have a common interest. In this way, privacy is secured and the recipient has the choice whether to reply or not. Again, thank you for participating.

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