

Division of Medical Sciences Alumni Newsletter



Spring 1999

Volume III, Number 1

Alumni Council Members Recognized

Harold Amos, '52, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

At the April 1999 meeting of the Leadership Alliance, Harold Amos became the first recipient of a *Leadership Alliance Award*. His award stated that "the Leadership Alliance recognizes and honors your contributions to science and to the education of future scientists. You are a benchmark of excellence for the Alliance community." The Leadership Alliance is a nationwide consortium of 27 colleges and universities dedicated to addressing the shortage of underrepresented minorities in graduate education and the professoriate. Dr. Amos has been an influential member of the Alliance since its founding in 1992.

Dr. Amos' influence in increasing diversity has also been recognized recently at Harvard Medical School, where a new award to honor faculty members who have made significant contributions to diversity has been named in his honor. Nominations for the award are solicited from the HMS community, and the final selection is chosen by a committee. On May 24, 1999, Dr. Amos was selected the first recipient of the Harold Amos Faculty Diversity Award.



Dr. Harold Amos ('52 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics) receiving the Leadership Alliance Award from Dr. Jocelyn Spragg ('69 Microbiology). Dr. Amos and Dr. Spragg are co-chairs of the DMS minority recruitment committee, and are two of Harvard University's representatives to the Leadership Alliance.

Julie Glowacki, '73, Biological Chemistry, was elected to serve a three-year term as Councilor of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research. Currently, she has two professional positions: Director of Skeletal Biology, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School; and Director of the Massachusetts General Hospital Skeletal Biology Research Center and Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Her research concerns mechanisms of skeletal aging and osteoporosis, osseous reconstruction, differentiation of skeletal cells, and skeletal tissue engineering.

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For Alumni
who are not
in the Boston Area

For your information
on pages 5 & 6
You will see a Schedule
for Alumni Week 1999.

Please note the
DMS Alumni
Symposium
was not held this year
but will resume
in the year 2000

About Our DMS Alumnae/i Committee

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Alums,

I am pleased to report that we have reached an exciting juncture point in the development of our organization. The DMS Alumni Organization is rapidly moving to the next step of establishing itself. We had our first social event last January and, by all accounts, everyone had a great time. I was especially gratified to see many different generations of alums sharing their life and scientific experiences. I hope those who could not join us will have an opportunity to make the next event. There also has been an upsurge of activity related to careers for Ph.D.s. Several of our members are forming a committee to attack this issue which is of major concern to us all. I am sure you will hear more from this front soon.

At our last Working Committee meeting we have formally launched the effort to form permanent committees to address the several functions of our organization. In addition to the Career Committee mention above we are looking for volunteers to help with the following committees:

Communications Committee- This group will support all communications functions between our members including the newsletter, our future web site and the alumni directory.

Events Committee- Events such as alumni seminars, social gatherings and future awards to distinguished DMS alums will be the focus of this committee.

Finance Committee- I have volunteered to Chair this committee at the outset. Money raised by this committee will only be used to support DMS alumni activities unless specifically noted otherwise. We need funds to sponsor our activities, so, even if you do not want to participate directly in committee activities, we would be very grateful for any donations generous alums may be able to give.

I hope there is something mentioned here of interest to all of our DMS Alumni. Please contact me if you have any questions or are interested in joining any of our groups. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best regards,

Dennis E. Vaccaro, Chairman

Dennis E. Vaccaro, Ph.D. '77

<dvaccaro@ix.netcom.com>

(Awards, con't from p.1)



Marjorie Lees '51 Biological Chemistry, was honored at a recent meeting of the American Society of Neurochemistry (ASN) in New Orleans. A symposium entitled "The Myelin Proteolipid Protein: New Research Questions 50 Years Later" was held in her honor. Each of the speakers had been a post-doc in her laboratory or had worked closely with her for an extended period of time. Proteolipid proteins are a family of hydrophobic proteins which Dr. Lees identified while a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Jordi Folch and they have been the major focus of her research since that time. The Symposium included talks on Dr. Lees' two areas of particular interest: the structure and genetics of myelin PLP and related proteolipids and the immunological response to PLP in animal models and multiple sclerosis.

A dinner in Dr. Lees' honor, an emotional occasion attended by over 80 friends and colleagues from all over the world, was held on the evening of the symposium, providing an opportunity for reminiscences and humor. Dr. Lees has been an active member of the ASN since its organization in 1969 and has served the Society as President and in other positions.

Dr. Lees is currently Professor Emerita of Biochemistry (in Neurology) at Harvard Medical School and Senior Biomedical Scientist Emerita at The Shriver Center. Although nominally retired, you can find her at the Shriver Center almost every day. She does take time out to spend with her seven grandchildren (not all at once). She would be pleased to hear from old friends and new ones.

(mlees@shriver.org)

For more information or to contribute contact:

DMS Alumni Newsletter

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E:Mail Newsnotes

Tell us what is new and interesting in your life.

Send your story to Newsletter Acting Co-Editor,

George Hauser, '51 Biochemistry <ghauser@hms.harvard.edu>

Stephen A. Goff, PhD.

Currently the Director of Structural Genomics at the Novartis Agricultural Discovery Institute in La Jolla, CA, I also have an adjunct position at The Scripps Research Institute. I lead a group of approximately 45, focused on gene discovery, mutation analysis, marker technology and bioinformatics.

goffs@scripps.edu

Roberto Patarca-Montero, MD, Ph.D., '87, Pathology

After receiving his Ph.D. Roberto obtained an MD degree at the University of Miami and specialized in Internal Medicine. He is currently Research Director of the E.M. Papper Laboratory of Clinical Immunology at the University of Miami and has been working on the immunotherapy of AIDS and its neoplastic complications and on chronic fatigue syndrome. In addition for the Haworth Press he is the Editor of the journal *Critical Reviews in Oncogenesis*, the *Journal of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome* and a book series on Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis. **<rpatarca@pol.net>**

Tamarra Cadd, '94 Microbiology

is currently a high school teacher at a local school in Stockholm, teaching math and science to the International class of Falkberg school in Tullinge (just outside of Stockholm). It is good fun – sometimes. I have recently accepted a permanent position teaching high school at Engelska Skolan that is, the English school of Stockholm. It is ranked #7 in the country, and specializes in science, so they were happy to have another PhD on the staff. I look forward to starting next spring, once I get my current batch of students through this year!! I am also in the middle of planning my wedding (July third), and am marrying a Swedish Physicist turned computer consultant. My name will be Tamarra Cadd Elmfors as of that date. **tamarrac@hotmail.com**

Dr. Theodore Peters, Jr. '50, Biological Chemistry,

of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital Research Institute in Cooperstown, NY, has established a website devoted to albumins with the help of a colleague. It contains a complete current table of published albumin mutants, a table of information

about cases of analbuminemia, recent articles of interest about albumin, and directions to locate sequences of albumins of various species. The website is located at: <http://www.albumin.org>.

George Hauser, Med. Sci., Biological Chemistry, '55,

is now in his sixth year of formal retirement with the titles of Professor of Psychiatry (Biochemistry and Neuroscience) at HMS and Honorary Biochemist at McLean Hospital. For the previous ten years at McLean he was Interim Director of a department consisting of six research groups. He has given up his own group but has an office at the hospital, serves on several committees, reviews grant applications and tries to keep up with the scientific literature. He is especially glad not to have to prepare grant applications any longer. For a number of years Dr. Hauser was Deputy Chief Editor of the *Journal of Neurochemistry* and he continues to do editorial work for several journals. While he was active in the laboratory, he particularly enjoyed the experimental aspects of his research which initially focused on the metabolism of glyco- and phospholipids and later concentrated on aspects of transmembrane signaling involving phosphoinositides. More specifically he was interested in agonist action on receptors, second messenger generation and function, the biochemical effects of lithium and various facets of the protein kinase C family. In 1988 he lectured on these topics in Japan as a Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

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Manfred L. Karnovsky, Ph.D.

a Medical School researcher who unraveled one of the body's main disease fighting processes, died on January 7, of cancer. As a scientist, Karnovsky earned international acclaim for his pioneering studies of how leukocytes use oxygen in combating bacteria. He also became an authority on the biochemistry of sleep. A member of the Harvard Medical School Faculty since 1948, Karnovsky achieved legendary status for his pedagogical skill and devotion. He instituted curriculum reform, developing courses uniting elements of anatomy, biochemistry, pathology, physiology and pharmacology. With his wife Ann, he interviewed the first group in the CUSBEA exchange program with China, which brought approximately 60 Chinese graduate students of the United States annually for 10 years. In 1997, he established the Manfred Karnovsky Fellowships to support graduate students in the Division of Medical Science. (from the Harvard University Gazette)

ALUMNI NEWS

Rosann Tung, '97, Genetics

Postdoctoral Research Assistant at Lesley College Program Evaluation and Research Group

I am currently a member of a consulting team of the Program Evaluation and Research Group (PERG), based at Lesley College, that carries out formative and summative evaluations of educational and social programs throughout the country. Ranging from individual programs to multi-site, multi-year government- and privately-funded projects, the evaluations focus on math and science education at the K-12 level. Through participation in these evaluation teams. I have been learning qualitative research techniques as well as educational philosophies, practices and reform.

The projects include a) museum exhibits evaluations that result in suggestions for modifying exhibits to make them visitor-friendly and meeting the museum's educational objectives; b) a professional development project for urban elementary and middle school teachers who wish to learn more about teaching science in their classrooms, many of which have language minority students; c) a larger, "meta" evaluation involves scrutinizing the statewide reform initiative in science and math education for Massachusetts, a multimillion dollar NSF funded process. The final product of these evaluations is an evaluation report which is presented to the granting agency. Our goal is to facilitate designing the best possible programs and work as a team to help the grantees accomplish their goals.

The consulting nature of my work at PERG has exposed me to many aspects of current educational trends and reforms first-hand. I have identified several career paths in education, suitable, for people with scientific training. While my own long term goals are still ill-defined, knowing that a wealth of education-related, non-teaching careers exist makes me optimistic and excited about my opportunities as a scientist/educator.

<rtung@lesley.edu>

Nadia Rosenthal, '81, Biological Chemistry and H. Lee Sweeney, '84, Physiology, recently announced results of experiments with adult mice who received injections of the gene IGF-1 into their muscles. The inoculations prevented muscle deterioration in mice as old as 2 years—80 years in human terms. The

shots even regenerated muscle, restoring some of the lost strength and size. Old mice regained 27% of muscle lost to age; younger mice experienced a 15 % increase, Sweeney reported. The mighty-mice look like they have been exercising like Schwarzenegger, but they don't move any more than their skinny litter mates.

Many safety questions must be answered before experiments begin on humans but there are two specific areas in which the researchers will be looking to see trials: Muscular dystrophy and increasing the health span of older, healthy people. Rosenthal is also interested in seeing if cardiac muscle can be strengthened in people who suffer from damaged hearts. She also wants to probe the association between the muscle-building protein and insulin.

The mighty mouse protein is known as "insulin-like growth factor type 1", or IGF-1 which occurs naturally in muscle, but less is made as a person ages. Working at Massachusetts General Hospital, Rosenthal and her lab team engineered the injected gene so it remains on at times when the natural gene is off. "It's like hormone replacement therapy," Rosenthal comments.

(from an article by Wm. Cromie in the Harvard University Gazette.)

The Division of Medical Sciences

will be celebrating its 90 th Anniversary in 1999-2000

The DMS Alumnae/i Working Committee is actively looking for alums interested in planning and organizing some special events.

-Please contact one of the following:

Dennis Vaccaro, '77, Physiology :

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Harold Amos, '52, Microbiology :

FAX: 617-738-7664

George Hauser, '55, Biochemistry :

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Jocelyn Spragg, '69, Microbiology :

<jspragg@hms.harvard.edu>

ALUMNI NEWS

Richard A. Hawkins, Physiology, C69

After receiving his degree from the DMS and a post-doctoral fellowship with Nobel prize winner Sir Hans Krebs in Oxford, Rick Hawkins spent a number of years in Washington at NIH and at the FDA. This was followed by faculty appointments as Associate Professor of Experimental Neurosurgery and Physiology at NYU (1976-78) and at Penn State where he was Professor of Anesthesiology and Physiology and Chief of the Division of Anesthesiology and Metabolic Research (1977-88). He then went to Finch University of Health Sciences/ The Chicago Medical School as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, and assumed the position of Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer in 1993. In April 1999, he was appointed President of the University.

As President, Dr. Hawkins oversees the operation of the three component schools of the University (Medical, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Related Health Sciences), the University Clinics and all other teaching, research and clinical affairs. At the same time, he has continued his original research on the brain that led to many publications and to international recognition. Both of Rick's sons are in the field of medicine.

Richard Hawkins, Ph. D.

President

Finch University of Health Sciences/

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ALUMNI WEEK INFORMATION

(continued from page 6)

THURSDAY, June 10

- 9 AM To 3:30 PM *Affirmative Action: What Physicians Can Contribute.*
Presentations by HMS graduates.
Cannon Room, Building C.
- 9 AM to 12 noon *Class of 1974 symposium, Science and Medicine*
Presentations by James H. Maguire, M.D., Mitchell B. Max, M. D., Carolyn C. Compton, M.D., Ph.D., Ronald N. Germain, M.D., Ph.D. Beverly G. Coleman, M.D., Kenneth W. Chin, M.D., Anthony H. Russell, M.D., and Alfred S. Margulies, M.D.
Carl Walter Amphitheatre, Tosteson -Medical Education Center.
- 2 to 5 PM *Are The Medical Horizons Broader Or Narrower Than We Thought In 1974?*
Harvard Medical School In 1970: The Way We Weren't.
Carl Walter Amphitheatre, Tosteson Medical Education Center.

FRIDAY, June 11

- 9 to 9:30 AM Annual meeting of the Harvard Medical Alumni Association
Quadrangle under the tent.
- 9:30 To 12 noon *Alumni Day Program On Scientific Progress And Ethical Issues,*
Chaired by Daniel D. Federman, M.D.
Panelists: David Sachs, M.D., Philip Leder, M.D., Claire Broome, M.D., Raquel Cohen, M.D.
- 12 noon to 12:30 PM *Harvard Medical School 1999*
Dean Joseph B. Martin, M.D., Ph.D.
- 12:30 Luncheon on the Quad.
If you wish to attend the luncheon, please call the Alumni Office at 432-1560

ALUMNI WEEK INFORMATION

DMS alumni are invited to all of the events listed below. (Note: because of several special activities celebrating thirty years of affirmative action at HMS, the DMS Alumni Symposium will not be held again until June 2000.) For information about registration and CME credits please call the Alumni Office at 432-1560.

WEDNESDAY, June 9

- 4 to 6 PM Thirty Years Later: Affirmative Action At Harvard Medical School.
Panel discussion moderated by Leon Eisenberg, M.D.,
with Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D., Derrick A. Bell, LL.B., and Alane K. Shanks, M.M.H.S.
Cannon Room, Building C.
- 6 to 7:30 PM Coleus Society Wine Reception celebrating thirty years of affirmative action at HMS.
Faculty Room, Building A.
- 6 to 8 PM DMS Reception for graduates, their families, and alumni.
Courtyard Cafe, Harvard Medical School. (see page 1 for details)
- 7 to 9:30 PM Harvard Medical Women's Forum Reception, buffet dinner, and discussion.
HMS quadrangle under the tent.
(Event Listings continues on page 5)

NEWS.....INFORMATION.....COMMENTS

Is there anything you would like to communicate to your fellow DMS alumnae/i?

We would be glad to edit and print it in the next newsletter.

This is your newsletter—participate in making it successful!!!!!!

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