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Top (left): Surgeon Frank Sellke (middle) with his two mentee graduates, Munir Boodhwani (left) and Basel Ramlawi (right);
Top (right): Surgeon Judah Folkman, 2006 graduation keynote speaker, with Lauren Dewey Platt;
Bottom: Scholars graduates of 2005: (left to right) Kathryn Tinckam, Constantine Mitsiades, Shona Pendse, MingMing Ning.
Advisory Board
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First Twelve Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs) Funded
Last October Dr. Elias Zerhouni of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the first round of ctsa recipients. Twelve (12) institutions were chosen out of a total of thirty-five (35) applicants:

University of California, Davis
University of California, San Francisco
Columbia University Health Sciences
Duke University
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
Rockefeller University
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Yale University

Additional planning grants were awarded to fifty-two (52) academic health centers to assist them in preparing their applications. Harvard received a planning grant and will be submitting its ctsa later this year. The consortium of ctsa awardees is expected to be fully implemented by 2012, at which point the NIH estimates that sixty institutions will be participating in the discipline of clinical and translational science at a total funding level of about $500 million annually. When fully operational, the ctsas will supplant current funding mechanisms supporting the General Clinical Research Centers (GCRCs) and the K30 training programs. For more information on the ctsas, please refer to the NIH website at www.ncrr.nih.gov/clinicaldiscipline.asp.

Graduation News
The following Scholars received the Master of Medical Sciences (MMSc) degree from Harvard Medical School in June of 2006:

Munir Boodhwani
Jennifer Cohen
Amy DiVasta
Felipe Fregni
Geoffrey Gilmartin
Shawn Gregory
Susan Kim
Kshitij Mistry
Basel Ramlawi
José Rubén Rodriguez
Claribel Taylor
Robert Ursprung
George Washko

See more graduation photographs on pages 4 and 5.

Additionally, Timothy Lahey and Hylton Joffe received their diplomas in March of 2007. We wish all of our graduates well as they launch their clinical research careers.

The 2006 Graduation Ceremony and Dinner can be described best as the Year of the Surgeon. We had the highest number of surgeon graduates in our cohort (3), and both event speakers were surgeons as well. Our class valedictorian, Dr. Munir Boodhwani, is a cardiothoracic surgical resident, and our keynote speaker, Dr. Judah Folkman, is Andrus Professor of Pediatric Surgery at Children’s Hospital and Professor of Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School.

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Dr. Juan Celedón, director of the Genetics in Clinical Investigation course, was recognized at the graduation event by being awarded the third annual Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, an honor given by the graduating students. He also recently received the Young Mentor Award from the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity and Community Partnership. Congratulations, Juan!

Where Are They Now?
Thus far, sixty-one (61) students have graduated from the program and have taken opportunities to practice what they have learned as Scholars to academia, industry, government, and clinical practice.

Alumni Spotlight
With this newsletter we inaugurate a series featuring graduates who are doing innovative research, have received honors and recognition for their research, or are “giving back” to the program by participating in its activities and courses.

Dr. Myles Wolf, from our first class of graduates in 2002, is currently mentoring a first-year Scholar. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Nephrology Division at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and a K23 recipient, was just awarded an NIH R01, and has participated as a presenter in the longitudinal seminar to talk about his early career in academic medicine. Myles recently developed a program that introduces clinical research to all incoming MGH residents. Thanks, Myles, for making the leap from mentee to mentor so quickly! We hope to see more graduates following your lead.

Dr. Robert Thomas, Class of 2003, is Assistant Professor of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center studying sleep physiology and sleep disorders. His latest research, a multidisciplinary effort, focuses on the development of new techniques by which to measure stages of sleep and wakefulness. He is currently working with cardiologist Dr. Ary Goldberger, engineer Dr. Joseph Meitus, and statistical physicist Dr. Chung-Kang Peng in the discovery of a novel method of differentiating non-rapid eye movement (nREM) sleep stages by coupling electroencephalogram, respiration, and heart rate to provide a complementary approach to the conventional characterization of graded nREM sleep stages. Also a K23 recipient, his work has been published in Sleep. Great work, Robert!

Dr. Carol Addy, who accepted a position at Merck in New Jersey after she graduated in 2003, is now at Merck Biomedical Research Laboratories right here in our neighborhood on Avenue Louis Pasteur. She is the Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Clinical Pharmacology, providing Phase 1 support for three different compounds at varying stages of development. Carol has returned to the program as a presenter in the longitudinal seminar to talk to our students about her career in industry. Thanks, Carol, for participating in the training of future Scholars!

Dr. Pedro Flores-Villanueva, Class of 2004, is Associate Professor of Immunology at The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler. Last year he received a five-year, $1.25m grant from NIH to fund his research on how genetic mutations increase the odds of developing active tuberculosis in humans. More recently, in the March 2007 issue of Nature Genetics, his 2005 article in which he identified a common genetic variation in ethnically diverse human populations has been cited as one of the top twenty papers with the highest impact in the field of tuberculosis research. Congratulations, Pedro!
Images of 2006 Graduation Dinner and Ceremony

The 2006 Commencement Dinner Clockwise from top: Dr. Gordon Williams, Program Director, congratulates surgeon José Rubén Rodríguez as he receives his diploma; Dr. Judah Folkman, Andrus Professor of Pediatric Surgery, delivers the keynote address; Scholar Erica Camargo (standing), graduate Felipe Fregni (right) with his diploma, and friends; Scholars in Clinical Science Program Class of 2006; Dr. Juan Celedón, recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, with his wife, Liliana, at graduation; Munir Boodhwani, class valedictorian, and his wife, Zahra Boodhwani.
Our Graduates

June 2006
Since its inception, the Scholars in Clinical Science Program has received support from the donors listed below. We thank them for assisting us in educating future leaders in clinical research:

Amgen
AstraZeneca
Aventis
Biogen
Genentech
GlaxoSmithKline
Merck
Novartis
Pfizer

Class of 2008
We are currently supporting eleven (11) first-year students who entered the program in 2006. Their names, affiliated institutions, and mentors are listed here:

Aoife Brennan (bidmc, Dr. Christos Mantzoros)
Bindu Chamarthi (bwh, Dr. Gordon Williams)
William Gormley (bwh, Dr. Peter Black)
Orlando Gutierrez (mgh, Dr. Myles Wolf)
Mary Hu (bidmc, Dr. Ciarán Kelly)
Jennifer Ligibel (dfci, Dr. Eric Winer)
Katheryn Nathe (chmc, Dr. Ofer Levy)
Michael Pistiner (chmc and bwh, Dr. Juan Celedón)
Elizabeth Sailhamer (mgh, Dr. George Velmahos)
Joseph Thakuria (bwh and hms, Dr. George Church)
Carol Waghrone (bwh, Dr. Jeffery Kutok)

Governance Updates
The Executive Committee, which has served as the program’s chief steering committee since its inception in 2000, had its last meeting in November of 2006 at which time it voted to dissolve, giving the Advisory Board responsibility for guiding the ongoing direction of the program (see the second page of this newsletter for a list of Advisory Board members). Board members represent Harvard’s professional schools in the Longwood Medical Area, hospital affiliates, and other institutions around the country with clinical research training programs. We continue to report to Dr. Danny Singer, Professor of Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Dean for Clinical Programs at Harvard Medical School.

The Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT) is the national organization representing the k30 and other training programs in clinical research. Originally organized by Gordon Williams as the k30 Program Directors Association, the organization meets annually in Washington, DC, in the spring. Kurt Kroenke, Program Director of the k30 at Indiana University, is serving as its current President. For more information about the ACRT, please see their website at www.acrtraining.org.
Course and Curriculum Updates

Professor Lee Fleming continues to direct the Harvard Business School (HBS) course, which our students take in the second year of the program. However, this year he is teaching it jointly with Professor Kent Bowen, who has been a regular faculty participant in the program introducing our students to the case method style of teaching and learning at HBS. We are grateful to both of them for their support and collaboration.

The Communications Workshop welcomed back Mr. Mark McGrath of McGrath Communications Group this past October. Because our curriculum is so full, the workshop is offered as an elective, although we highly encourage trainees to attend. It is presented every other year so that each trainee has an opportunity during the two-year program to participate. Scholars who attend spend 6 hours on a Saturday learning the art of communicating to an audience and are videotaped so that they can watch themselves in action. The workshop consistently receives high marks from participating Scholars, so we hope to have Mark return again in the fall of 2008.

Program Office News

We are delighted to report that Dr. Gordon Williams, Program Director, is “back in the saddle” and fully recovered from cardiac bypass surgery this past January. During his recovery, his smiling face and eternal optimism were sorely missed. We are glad to have you back, Dr. Williams! In the interim, Dr. Paul Conlin, co-director of the Longitudinal Seminar course and Associate Program Director, stepped in to sign documents, offer guidance, and generally keep the office humming. Thanks, Dr. Conlin, for being there when we need you!

As Manager of Student Services, Sophia Reaud has been working diligently on creating and updating a database to track our graduates. She also serves as Co-chair of the Social Committee (soco) at Harvard Medical School, and her skills in this area make her uniquely qualified to create opportunities for our students to stay connected socially. Thanks for all you do, Sophia!

We are delighted to report that Pam Mullaney, Manager of the MERIT Program, continues to work with us in developing a financial support mechanism to keep the program running. As a result of her efforts, Clinical Trials: Principles and Practice, the second MERIT CME course, was held 5-8 November 2006 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza. Because it was so well received, it will be offered again this coming November in the same venue and

“The Communications Workshop consistently receives high marks from participating Scholars, so we hope to have Mark return again in the fall of 2008.”

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Right: Surgeon Tenley Albright (center) with Bruce Donoff (left), Dean, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and Jules Dienstag (right), Dean for Medical Education, Harvard Medical School, at the 2006 graduation event.

The Communicator

NEWSLETTER OF THE
Harvard Medical School
Scholars in Clinical Science Program

Spring 2007

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Commencement photographs are by George Delianides. All other photographs by Lauren Dewey Platt unless separately credited.

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will again be co-directed by Drs. Ajay Singh and Julie Buring. In March of 2007, the MERIT Human Genetics course, directed by Dr. Juan Celedón, was offered for the third consecutive year. We are grateful to Pam and all of the faculty involved in this new and exciting educational venture!

In May of 2006, Lauren Dewey Platt, Executive Director, participated in a program at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden, on “International Design Strategies for Medical Curricula Across the Continuum.” The course brought together biomedical educators from around the world for case method discussion, journal club meetings, and project workshops and was jointly sponsored and delivered by educators from the Harvard Macy Institute and Karolinska.

Save the Date!
The Graduation Dinner and Ceremony this year will be on Monday, June 11, 2007. This year’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Edward Benz, Jr., President of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine, and, as mentioned earlier, Chair of our Advisory Board. Details and invitations will be arriving by mail soon!