

Spring 2008

The Communicator

Harvard Medical School

Scholars in Clinical Science Program



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Above: Graduate Rhonda Bentley-Lewis, class valedictorian, accepting her diploma from Gordon Williams, Program Director
Left: Graduates Janet Lo (left), Karl Yen (center), and Shamsah Kazani

This page: James Meigs (left) and his Scholar mentee, Marie-France Hivert (second from left), and Chris Mantzoros (right) and his Scholar mentee, Aoife Brennan (second from right) at the Welcoming Reception

Opposite page, left: Barry Eisenstein, program advisor, and Steve Schachter, program advisor and Chair of the Committee on Admissions, at the 2007 Graduation

Opposite page, right: Graduate Peter Hulick and family



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Second Round of Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs) Funded

In 2007 the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the recipients of its second round of CTSa funding. Twelve (12) additional academic health centers received the awards, doubling the number of centers funded since October of 2006:

Case Western Reserve University
(Cleveland, OH)

Emory University (Atlanta, GA),
partnering with Morehouse School of
Medicine

Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)
University of Chicago, (Chicago, IL)

University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA)

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)
University of Texas Southwestern Medical
Center (Dallas, TX)

University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
University of Wisconsin (Madison, WI)

Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN),
partnering with Meharry Medical College

Washington University (St. Louis, MO)

Weill Cornell Medical College (New York,
NY), partnering with Hunter College

The total funding for these new awards is expected to be approximately \$574 million over a five-year period. More detailed descriptions of the 2007 awards can be accessed at www.ncrr.nih.gov/ctsas2007. Harvard Medical School submitted its CTSa in November of 2007, in the third round of applications. The decision on those awards is expected to be made by June of 2008.

Graduation News

The following Scholars received the Master of Medical Sciences (MMSc) degree from Harvard Medical School in 2007:

Elly Barry
Rhonda Bentley-Lewis
Erica Camargo
Christine Duncan
Jeffrey Ellenbogen
Peter Hulick
Hylton Joffe
Shamsah Kazani
Matthew Kulke
Timothy Lahey
Janet Lo
Karl Yen

Held in the Benjamin Waterhouse Room of Gordon Hall at Harvard Medical School, our 2007 Graduation Ceremony and Dinner in June honored twelve (12) new graduates. Class valedictorian was Dr. Rhonda Bentley-Lewis, an endocrinologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Edward Benz, President of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine, delivered the keynote address, speaking eloquently on the importance of mentoring in the clinical research arena.

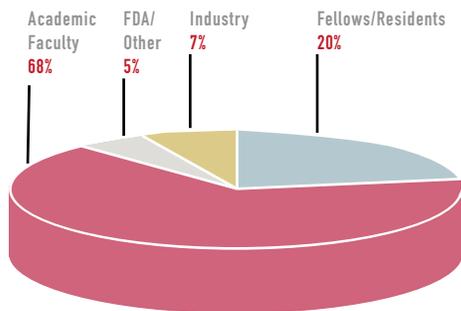
For the second time in five years we recognized Dr. E. John Orav, Associate Professor of Medicine and course director of the introductory and advanced biostatistics courses at the Harvard School of Public Health. He received the 2007 annual Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, an honor bestowed by the graduating students. Congratulations again, John!



Where Are They Now?

Through the end of 2007, we have graduated seventy-one (71) students from the program. We try our best to stay in touch with all of our graduates so that we can track their career progress. While some of our graduates continue their careers as physician-scientists at Harvard, many have branched out to other academic medical centers, community hospitals, industry, and government.

Scholars in Clinical Science Program Status of Graduates (n=71)



Of faculty, 67% have K23 or equivalent funding.

Alumni Spotlight

The success of the scsp is measured by the achievements of its graduates. In this section we acknowledge the accomplishments of some of our alumni/ae, especially those 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. Eva Szigethy, who graduated with our second cohort of graduates in 2003, received one of the first NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards, which support “exceptionally creative early-career scientists” in biomedical research. Now an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Eva’s award totals \$1.5 million in direct costs over five years. She will use her funding to study the interplay between brain, immune, and gastrointestinal systems in the etiology and treatment of depression in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease. We congratulate Eva on her receipt of this prestigious award!

Dr. Arin Greene, Class of 2003, a surgical resident while in the program, is now an Instructor in Surgery at Harvard Medical School, in the Department of Surgery at Children’s Hospital. Upon completing his residency and a subsequent pediatric plastic surgery fellowship, Arin became the Director of the new Department of Plastic Surgery Research Laboratory, where he continues to study pediatric vascular anomalies. He dovetails his angiogenesis-based laboratory work with

retrospective clinical studies in order to develop new treatments for patients, so his work is an excellent example of the promise of translational research. We wish Arin well as he pioneers his career path as a surgeon-scientist!

Dr. MingMing Ning, Class of 2005, is an Instructor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Clinical Proteomics Research Center in the Department of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. The recipient of a K23 award, MingMing is co-mentoring a current first-year student in the program and also serves as a facilitator during the program’s summer session. She has inspired a number of fellows and residents in her department to apply to the program. We wish MingMing the best of luck and thank her for keeping her colleagues informed about the clinical research training opportunities at Harvard!

Dr. Basel Ramlawi, Class of 2006, is a cardiothoracic surgeon in Canada, where he is completing his surgical residency. Basel recently received the American Heart Association’s Vivien Thomas Young Investigator Award, which honors young investigators in fundamental and applied surgical research. We congratulate Basel on receiving this distinguished honor!

Images of 2007 Graduation Dinner and Ceremony



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This page, clockwise from above: Paul Conlin, course director and Chair of the Committee on Mentoring, at the 2007 Graduation; Dr. Edward Benz, President of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, delivering his keynote address; Graduate Christine Duncan and husband with her Harvard diploma



Opposite clockwise from top left: John Orav, recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Teacher of the Year award, with his wife and colleague, Lynn Sleeper; Sophia Reaud (left), Lauren Platt (center), and Barbara Smith (right) at the 2007 Graduation; 2007 Scholars Graduates



Our Graduates

June 2007

This page: Scholars at the 2007 Welcoming Reception at The Savant Project in Mission Hill

Opposite page, left: Graduate Erica Camargo (center) with two of her team members at the Harvard Business School (HBS) Project Fair

Opposite page, right: Graduate Jeff Ellenbogen at his poster at the HBS Project Fair



6 We thank the following companies for their donations in providing funding to educate our students to be the next generation of future leaders in clinical research:

Pfizer

GlaxoSmithKline

Novartis

Class of 2009

We are currently supporting sixteen (16) first-year students who entered the program in 2007. Their names, affiliated institutions, and mentors are listed below:

Erica Blood (BIDMC, Dr. Sandra Burchett)
Sherry Chou (BWH, Drs. Steven Feske and MingMing Ning)
Mark Conrad (MGH, Dr. Thomas Brady)
Christopher Fischer (BIDMC, Drs. William Aird and Nathan Shapiro)
Elizabeth Gerstner (MGH, Dr. Tracy Batchelor)
Marie-France Hivert (MGH, Dr. James Meigs)
Tamara Isakova (MGH, Dr. Myles Wolf)
Shilpa Jain (BWH, Dr. P. Reed Larsen)
Yvonne Lee (BWH, Dr. Elizabeth Karlson)
Beth Leeman (BIDMC, Dr. Steven Schachter)
Ugwuji Maduekwe (MGH, Dr. Sam Yoon)
Allan Moore (MGH, Dr. Jose Florez)
Tjörvi Perry (BWH, Dr. Simon Body)
Melanie Pogach (BIDMC, Dr. J. Woodrow Weiss)
Aditi Saxena (BWH, Dr. Ellen Seely)
Lynda Vrooman (CHMC, Dr. Lewis Silverman)

The Welcoming Reception, expertly organized by Sophia Reaud, was held in November at The Savant Project, a new restaurant/bar in Mission Hill. We were able to boost the turnout of this annual event as many of the mentors and program advisors attended, presumably not just for the hors d'oeuvres and drinks!

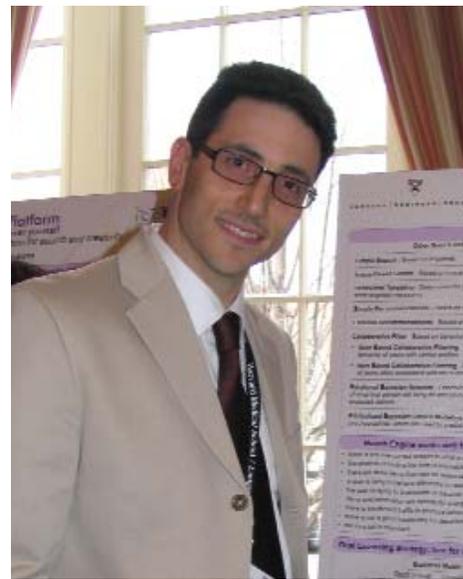
Governance Updates

With the submission of the Harvard CTSA in November of 2007, a new Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) has been created at the Medical School. Dr. Lee Nadler, Virginia and D.K. Ludwig Professor of Medicine at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Principal Investigator on Harvard's CTSA, has been appointed the Dean for Clinical and Translational Science, and Dr. Steven D. Freedman, Associate Professor of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and co-PI on Harvard's CTSA, is the new Associate Dean. The SCSF, which is Harvard's K30 program, is a component of the CTSC and will report to Drs. Nadler and Freedman. The CTSC is a work in progress, so more information will be forthcoming.

Curriculum Updates

The required course at the Harvard Business School, *Commercializing Science and High Technology*, is now co-directed by Professors Lee Fleming and Vicki Sato. The course Project Fair took place on 26 April 2007 and was, as always, a rousing success, with almost double the number of poster presentations as in the past. The course has now been moved to the fall semester.

The summer course in *Introduction to Human Investigation* is now being co-directed by two Scholars graduates, Drs. Munish Gupta and Jonathan Williams. Other Scholars graduates also participate in the course by facilitating the IRB workshops in the various affiliated institutions. We are grateful to all of them for their continued involvement in the program.



Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT)

The ACRT now allows current K30 trainees the benefit of participating in its activities free of charge through institutional membership. The mission of ACRT is “to improve the health of the public by increasing the amount and quality of clinical research through expanding and continually improving clinical research training.” Through its institutional dues, which are \$1,000 annually, current scsr trainees are eligible for free membership. Benefits include (1) active participation in the planning of ACRT meetings with content appropriate for trainee members, (2) opportunity to collaborate in evaluation and planning of curriculum content recommendations, (3) participation in advocacy activities, (4) reduced registration fees for the annual meeting, and (5) receipt of the ACRT newsletter. Lauren Dewey Platt serves on the editorial board of ACRT’s quarterly newsletter, *Clinical Research Perspectives*, and wishes to encourage all trainees to become involved in this national organization. Its annual meeting is in Washington, DC, in March of each year. Please contact the program office for more details.

Program Office News

Dr. Gordon Williams, Program Director, spent much of his time this past year leading, organizing, writing, and editing Harvard’s CTSA application, with a bit of help from his friends. Gordon also serves as Chief of the Cardiovascular Endocrinology Section and Director of the Center for Clinical Investigation (CCI) at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, all while doing his own clinical research, mentoring and advising our students, and continuing to see patients. In addition, Gordon is the recipient of the Robert Tigerstedt Award from the American Society of Hypertension for his outstanding work in the field of hypertension. One of the Society’s Distinguished Scientist Awards, it carries a monetary prize of \$10,000. He will receive the award in May at their annual scientific meeting. We congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award!

Dr. Paul Conlin, Associate Program Director, recently accepted the position as Interim Chair of the Department of Medicine at the VA Boston Healthcare System. The System encompasses three campuses (Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, and Brockton) and six community-based outpatient clinics; Paul’s office is based at the West Roxbury campus. In addition to this new leadership position, he continues to participate in the scsr by directing the longitudinal clinical research seminar, chairing the Committee on Mentoring, and serving as a program advisor. Congratulations on your new appointment, Paul!

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Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT) Officers and Board of Directors

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
Scholars in Clinical Science Program
Harvard Medical School

Spring 2008

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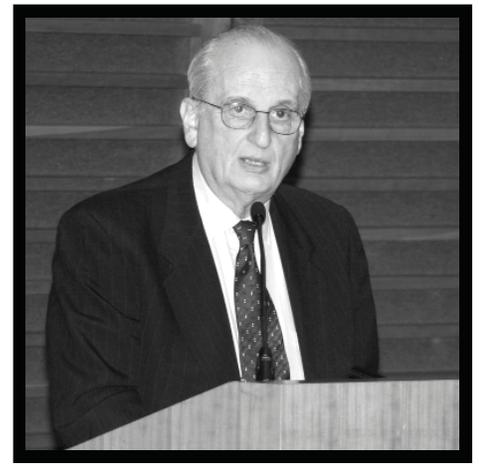
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As we strive to become more conscious of the environment and increase efficiency, the program office has worked hard to develop a new approach to its admissions procedures. In 2007 **Sophia Reaud**, Manager of Student Services, initiated a new streamlined process that is now completely paperless. All applications are completed electronically, and all supporting documentation is gathered via e-mail and disseminated via a weblink to the Committee on Admissions, which is chaired by Dr. Steven Schachter. Thanks so much, Sophia, for your valiant and successful efforts in helping us to Go Green!

During 2007, the MERIT (Medical Research Investigator Training) Program offered CME courses on human genetics and clinical trials. In 2008 we are launching a course on clinical research, in partnership with the University of São Paulo (USP) in Brazil, which will be co-directed by Drs. Ajay Singh and Felipe Fregni, who is a Scholars graduate. In May of 2007, **Dr. Lauren Dewey Platt** was in Brazil to participate in the first Harvard/Brazil Symposium organized and sponsored by the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) at Harvard and the DRCLAS office in São Paulo, Brazil. Her participation in the symposium allowed for collaborative opportunities to emerge, and DRCLAS was instrumental in fostering these opportunities. The course with USP will have a distance-learning component and an on-site component. We hope that this effort will translate into a lasting relationship and additional opportunities to train clinical researchers in Latin America.



In Memoriam

The sudden passing of Dr. Judah Folkman earlier this year was a shock to the clinical research community, especially here at Harvard where he spent most of his career. Judah was a true friend of the program—he taught our new first-years every summer, mentored our students, and served as our graduation keynote speaker in 2006. Known by many as the “father of angiogenesis,” he spoke often of the need for young physician-scientists to maintain tenacity and perseverance in the face of adversity—he himself was an exemplar of these qualities. We were honored by his many contributions to our program.

Save the Date!

The Graduation Dinner and Ceremony this year will be on Monday, 9 June 2008. Details and invitations will be arriving by mail soon!