

Spring 2010

The Communicator

Harvard Medical School

Scholars in Clinical Science Program



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Above: Graduate Dr. Mark Conrad (right) accepts his diploma from Program Director Dr. Paul Conlin

Left: Dr. Yvonne Lee delivers her valedictory speech

This page: Right to left, Graduate Dr. Bindu Chamarthi and Harish Chamarthi, Dr. Jonathan Williams, Dr. Gordon Williams

Next page, left: Graduates Dr. Tamara Isakova (left) and Dr. Beth Leeman

Next page, middle: Dr. Paul Conlin (left), Program Director, with graduate Dr. Joseph Thakuria

Next page, right: Dr. Jessica Lee, first year Scholar at the 2009 graduation



Graduation 2009

The following Scholars received the Master of Medical Sciences (MMSc) degree from Harvard Medical School in 2009:

Erica Blood
Bindu Chamarthi
Sherry Chou
Mark Conrad
Elizabeth Gerstner
Marie-France Hivert
Tamara Isakova
Yvonne Lee
Beth Leeman
Ugwuji Maduekwe
Katheryn Nathe
Tjörvi Perry
Aditi Saxena
Joseph Thakuria

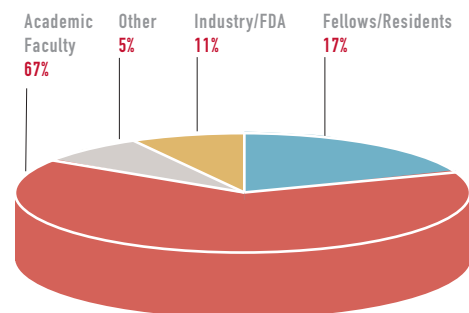
The 2009 Graduation Ceremony and Dinner was held in the Rotunda of the New Research Building at Harvard Medical School, where fourteen (14) new graduates were honored. Keynote speaker was Dr. Lee M. Nadler, Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Professor of Medicine and Dean for Clinical and Translational Research at Harvard Medical School. Class valedictorian was Dr. Yvonne Lee, a rheumatologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Lee was a member of the first group of recipients of the Harvard Catalyst KL2 MeRIT award and a more recent awardee of a K23 for her research on mechanisms, outcomes, and treatment of non-articular pain in rheumatoid arthritis.

Special recognition was given to Dr. Gordon Williams, the founding Program Director of the SCSP, who passed the gavel to Dr. Paul Conlin, our new Program Director. Gordon continues to participate as a dedicated leader as Chair of the Committee on Admissions and member of the Committee on Mentoring.

Where Are They Now?

Through March of 2010 the Scholars Program has graduated ninety-five (95) students from the program. Most of our graduates pursue careers in academic medicine or continue training in clinical programs. Some have looked to government positions (i.e., FDA) and the pharmaceutical industry. A few others have chosen careers in community-based practice. We know that all of our graduates are using their research skills in a way that enriches their career paths.

Scholars in Clinical Science Program Status of Graduates (n=95)



Of faculty, 59% have K23 or equivalent funding



Class of 2011

In the summer of 2009 we welcomed thirteen (13) new students to the program, representing our tenth cohort. Their names, affiliated institutions, and mentors are listed below:

Liana Billings (MGH, Dr. Jose Florez)
Colin Carter (CHMC, Dr. Christopher Duggan)
Cesar Castro (DFCI, Dr. Alexander Guimaraes)
Vahid Entezari (BIDMC, Dr. Mark Gebhardt and Dr. Brian Snyder)
Jonathan Gaffin (CHMC, Dr. Wanda Phipatanakul)
Rachael Grace (CHMC, Dr. Ellis Neufeld)
Aladdin Hassanein (CHMC, Dr. Arin Greene)
Andrew Lim (BIDMC, Dr. Clifford Saper)
Scott Nielsen (BIDMC, Dr. R. Philip Kinkel)
Natalie Shaw (MGH, Dr. Janet Hall)
John Tsay (BWH, Dr. Gordon Williams)
Anand Vaidya (BWH, Dr. Jonathan Williams)
Geoffrey Walford (MGH, Dr. Jose Florez)



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

In 2009, eight additional institutions received Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), bringing the total number of CTSAs to 46 representing 26 states. The newest recipients are listed below in alphabetical order:

Medical University of South Carolina
 (Charleston, SC)
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
 (New York, NY)
New York University School of Medicine
 (New York, NY)
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 (Little Rock, AR)
University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)
University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)
University of Illinois at Chicago
 (Chicago, IL)
University of Texas Medical Branch
 (Galveston, TX)

Last July the first CTSA progress report was released, outlining the innovations, partnerships, and collaborations emerging from the CTSA consortium from 2006 through 2008. Summaries of how “CTSAs are enabling researchers to work in unprecedented ways to advance medical research across many disease areas and conditions, including cancer, neurological diseases, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity” are included in the report, which can be seen in its entirety at www.ncrr.nih.gov/ctsa/progress_report_2009.



An Update on Harvard Catalyst / The Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Center

As Harvard Catalyst education program trainees, Scholars have access to a wealth of resources available at Harvard and its hospital affiliates. A visit to the Catalyst web site provides access to the new Advanced Curriculum Compendium of courses; Pilot Grants; Grant Central; the KL2 Medical Research Investigator Training (MeRIT) Program; various Consulting Programs in Biostatistics, Community-Based Participatory Research, Genetics & Bioinformatics, Health Disparities, Imaging, Provider & Health Systems Research, and Research Ethics; and a number of publication- and people-related databases. The URL for the Harvard Catalyst web site is <http://catalyst.harvard.edu>.

Images of 2009 Graduation Dinner and Ceremony



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This page, clockwise from top: Dr. Taru Kinnunen of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine; Graduate Dr. Marie-France Hivert (left) and family; Dr. Richard Grand, student thesis advisor (left), with Dr. Elliott Antman, Director, Harvard Catalyst Postgraduate Education Program in Clinical & Translational Science; Graduate and valedictorian Dr. Yvonne Lee (right) with her mentor, Dr. Elizabeth Karlson

Next page clockwise from top left: Dr. Sherry Chou (center) with her parents, holding her Harvard diploma; Graduate Dr. Tjörvi Perry (left) and family; Graduate Dr. Ugwuji Maduekwe; Graduate Dr. Aditi Saxena (right) accepts her diploma from Program Director Dr. Paul Conlin; Keynote speaker Dr. Lee Nadler, Dean for Clinical and Translational Research





KEYNOTE ADDRESS

June 2009

This page, clockwise from top left: First-year Scholars Drs. Alvaro Laga, Nazem Atassi, and Michael Ostacher; Group photograph of the 2009 Graduates of the Scholars in Clinical Science Program



OUR GRADUATES

June 2009



Atlas Venture



Meissa Sanchez

This page, above left: Dr. Vicki L. Sato

This page, above right: Dr. Juan Celedón

This page, right: Drs. Gang Li and Annette Mizuguchi (left) and Dr. Maryam Afkarian (far right) with team members at the 2009 HBS Project Fair

Next page, left: Dr. Thorvardur Love (far right) and Dr. Danny Muehlschlegel (second from right) and team members at the Project Fair

Next page, right: Dr. Christina Hermos (left) and teammate at their table at the Project Fair



Serena Masciari

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Alumni Spotlight

Keeping in touch with our graduates allows us to track their careers and report on their accomplishments. We are delighted to focus our Alumni Spotlight on the following graduates of the Scholars in Clinical Science Program:

As a tenured Associate Professor and nephrologist at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine (UM), **Dr. Myles Wolf**, Class of 2002, is also the Director of the UM Clinical Research Center and Assistant Dean for Translational and Clinical Research. He has two NIH R01 grants and has mentored two Scholars graduates – **Dr. Orlando Gutiérrez**, Class of 2008 and current Assistant Professor at UM, and **Dr. Tamara Isakova**, Class of 2009, who will be joining both Myles and Orlando in UM in taking a position as an Assistant Professor later this year.

Dr. Robert Thomas, Class of 2003, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and was awarded a recent NIH Challenge Grant of \$500,000/year for two years for his research on ECG-derived cardiopulmonary coupling biomarkers of sleep, sleep-breathing, and cardiovascular disease.

A surgical resident while in the program, **Dr. Marlene Grenon**, Class of 2004, is taking a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery, at the University of California, San Francisco, with 50% of her time devoted to research. She will also be serving as a staff surgeon on the Surgical Service at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

Dr. Graham McMahon, Class of 2005, Assistant Professor of Medicine at HMS,

was appointed to the board of the National Board of Medical Examiners. He was also selected to be the next visiting professor in medical education at the University of Tokyo later this year.

Dr. Timothy Lahey, Class of 2005, Assistant Professor at Dartmouth Medical School (DMS), is the project director of a Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant from NIH's NCRR and was voted Distinguished Lecturer of the year by the students at DMS.

Dr. Shona Pendse, Class of 2005, accepted a position at the FDA in November of 2008, joining **Dr. Hylton Joffe**, Class of 2007, who had taken a position in the FDA's Division of Metabolism and Endocrinology Products within the Office of New Drugs. Dr. Joffe is also an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Jeffrey Ellenbogen, Class of 2007, has been promoted to Assistant Professor at HMS in the Department of Neurology at MGH. He recently received the Derek Bok teaching award for his class, "The Sleeping Brain," which he teaches for neurobiology majors at Harvard College.

Dr. Rhonda Bentley-Lewis, Class of 2007, is the recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Award for her research in gestational diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease risk.

Dr. Karl Yen, Class of 2007, is the Medical Director in Clinical Development at Vertex Pharmaceuticals and serving as the medical lead for an orally available small molecule for the treatment of cystic fibrosis.

Dr. Elizabeth Gerstner, Class of 2009, is serving as PI for an Adult Brain Tumor Consortium Phase I trial studying two novel agents in recurrent glioblastoma—a multicenter trial that received NIH American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

Dr. Marie-France Hivert, Class of 2009, is an Assistant Professor, Département de Médecine, Université de Sherbrooke in Canada. She continues to work with her collaborators at MGH and is co-author of a recent article in *Nature Genetics*.

Dr. Sherry Chou, Class of 2009, is a Harvard Catalyst KL2 MeRIT Scholar and has received a two-year National Clinical Research Program award from the American Heart Association.

Course and Curriculum News

The course at Harvard Business School (HBS) in 2009, *Inventing Breakthroughs and Commercializing Science*, was directed by Vicki L. Sato, PhD, Professor of Management Practice at HBS and Professor of the Practice in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Harvard University. Dr. Sato is a business advisor to Atlas Venture and other enterprises in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. She retired recently from Vertex Pharmaceuticals, where she served as President since 2000 and previously held positions as Chief Scientific Officer, Senior Vice President of Research and Development, and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board. During her leadership Vertex created a diversified pipeline of drugs, including two HIV protease inhibitors, an oral protease inhibitor for *Continued page 8*



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the treatment of hepatitis C, a novel molecule for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, and two kinase inhibitors for the treatment of cancers, among others. Prior to her career at Vertex she was the Vice President of Research at Biogen, Inc. where she led research programs in the areas of inflammation, thrombosis, and HIV disease.

The 2009 HBS Project Fair was held in December. Steven E. Hyman, MD, Provost of Harvard University, attended the event and spoke briefly about the importance of the course and praised the work of Professor Sato and her students. We look forward to her continued leadership of the HBS course for Scholars in the Class of 2011.

Dr. Juan Celedón, who has directed our *Genetics in Clinical Investigation* course since the Program began in 2000, is receiving a 2009-2010 A. Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring Award from HMS/HSDM; he received the Young Mentor Award several years ago. The Excellence in Mentoring Award honors proven mentors who have played key roles in providing sponsorship, encouragement, and support for the career advancement and personal development of others. A celebration will be held to honor Dr. Celedón and the other award recipients on Tuesday, 1 June 2010, at 4:00pm in the Carl Walter Amphitheater, Tosteson Medical Education Center at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Celedón was also recently selected for membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation. He will be formally inducted at the Joint Meetings in Chicago in April 2009.

Association for Clinical Research Training

The Scholars in Clinical Science Program is an institutional member of the Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT). All current Scholars, as trainees of our program, are given a complimentary membership in the ACRT and benefits of participating in its activities, including reduced registration for the annual meeting and eligibility for travel awards. 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." For the first time this year, the annual meeting is being jointly sponsored by ACRT and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science (SCTS), and all abstracts submitted by deadline are being published in the journal of the SCTS, *Clinical and Translational Science*. Dr. Danny Muehlschlegel, Class of 2010, attended the 2009 meeting with the help of a Burroughs-Wellcome Travel Award. We encourage Scholars to participate in the ACRT by submitting abstracts and attending the annual meeting and poster session. Please contact the program office for more details.

Program Office News

Paul R. Conlin, MD, Program Director, has been appointed to the Subcommittee on Program Criteria and Academic Review and Approval of the Master of Medical Sciences Governance and Oversight Committee at Harvard Medical School. This subcommittee is charged with defining criteria for programs to qualify for the MMSc degree, including



requirements for admissions, residency/registration, courses and credits, mentored research and thesis, and formal evaluation of the curriculum.

Gordon H. Williams, MD, Chair of the Committee on Admissions and former Program Director, received the 2009 E. H. Ahrens Award by the Association for Patient-Oriented Research (APOR). The Ahrens Award is bestowed on an "established patient-oriented investigator who has made seminal contributions to his/her field over an extended period." Upon receipt of his award, Dr. Williams delivered a presentation on *Pharmacogenetics: The Marriage of Genetics and Physiology-Hypertension as a Model* at the 2009 ACRT Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

In 2010 Gordon will receive the ACRT Distinguished Educator Award, which will be awarded to him at the ACRT/SCTS Joint Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, in April.

Lauren Dewey Platt, PhD, Executive Director, was recently invited to serve on the ACRT Board of Directors as Secretary/Treasurer and is the Editor-in-Chief of the organization's Clinical Research Perspectives newsletter. She is also serving as the Program Manager for the Harvard Catalyst KL2 MeRIT Program, for which Scholars students and graduates are eligible. More information about the KL2 can be found on the Harvard Catalyst web site at <http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/kl2tp.html>. *Continued on page 9*

Left: Christine Lafontant is the Education Program Administrative Assistant for Harvard Catalyst

Right: Dr. Paul Conlin (left), incoming Program Director, shakes hands with founding Program Director Dr. Gordon Williams



The Communicator

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
Scholars in Clinical Science Program
Harvard Medical School

Spring 2010

WRITING

Lauren Dewey Platt

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All other photographs by Lauren Dewey Platt unless
separately credited.

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The newest member of our Program Office is **Christine Lafontant**, who officially joined us last October. She is the Education Program Administrative Assistant for Harvard Catalyst and spends most of her time in the Scholars Program, principally coordinating student services. Christine is from New York and received her bachelor's degree from Connecticut College.

Save the Date!

The 2010 Graduation Dinner and Ceremony will be held on Friday, 28 May, in the Rotunda of the New Research Building. We are delighted to report that this year's keynote speaker will be Gordon H. Williams, MD, Professor of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and founding Program Director of the Scholars in Clinical Science Program. Details and invitations will be arriving by mail soon!



Scholars in Clinical Science Program
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