Researchers and Clinicians Team Up to Combat the Liver Disease Epidemic
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This interactive version of the magazine resides at www.einstein.yu.edu/epubs/einstein/winterspring2011 and adds voices and moving images to the text and pictures you now hold in your hands.

You’ll be able to hear interviews with Einstein faculty members, see how Einstein and Montefiore researchers are working to defeat liver disease ... and more.

If you like the status quo, don’t worry: We’ll continue to publish Einstein magazine in print form. But do please give our alternative format a try as well. And let us know what you think about it by sending us a note at letters@einstein.yu.edu.
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To enjoy our interactive version of Einstein magazine on your smartphone, download a mobile reader. We suggest visiting http://scan.mobi on your mobile device.
A Message from the Dean

This issue of Einstein describes a process crucially important to the College of Medicine: the “makeover” of the Van Etten building. The interior, exterior and—once a suitable donor is found—even the building’s name will change dramatically.

Einstein is unique among New York City medical schools in having an actual campus. Our 2008 campus master plan allows us to capitalize on this strategic advantage, and the adaptive reuse of Van Etten is one of the plan’s main goals. This renovation, which is being carried out in a highly cost-effective manner, will also enable us to upgrade our teaching facilities in ways that will improve the education of our medical students and provide ideal space for a number of Einstein research programs.

Van Etten will also be the new home of our Children’s Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC). Another article in this issue highlights the extraordinary services that CERC offers to thousands of children and families in our Bronx community and describes CERC’s newly established research program.

This month’s cover story describes Einstein researchers and their clinical colleagues at Montefiore who are teaming up to find better treatments for liver diseases, which collectively represent a major and underappreciated health problem.

The makeover of the Van Etten building is emblematic of a broader theme that transcends facilities and infrastructure. At Einstein, we are committed to constantly improving. Only by doing so can we excel in carrying out our educational, clinical and research missions.
Letters to the Editor

Remembering Helmuth Nathan
What a thrill it was for me to open your Summer/Fall 2010 issue of Einstein magazine and see the write-up on my father, Helmuth Nathan, M.D. I truly admire the caliber of your magazine and your interest in promoting the talents of past and present members of the Einstein staff.

As you noted, my father had already established his reputation as a painter, sculptor and graphic artist when he became a founding Einstein faculty member in 1955.

My father believed that physicians needed to cultivate outlets in the arts to balance the pressures of their profession and to perform their medical duties with empathy.

So he instituted a lecture course on art and medicine at Einstein to which he invited such celebrated artists as Salvador Dali, George Grosz and Jacques Lipchitz [see “A Look Back,” page 64]. The final lecture always featured the sketching of a nude model—quite an eye-opener for the serious medical students, whose experience with the human body was largely limited to the locker room and the cadavers they had dissected in anatomy class.

My father realized that an institution such as Einstein contained a gold mine of talented individuals. So along with a few colleagues, he instituted an annual juried art show including works by all types of Einstein employees—custodians, secretaries and physicians alike. The art show culminated in a concert featuring Heinz Lippmann, Arthur Abramson and other musicians.

As a writer for The New York Physician noted in an article on my father, “It was a unique and gratifying experience to learn that there is ONE Medical School (probably the only one in our hemisphere) in which the ARTS are not being neglected.”

My cousin, Clemens Nathan, recently published Helmuth Nathan: An Appreciation. This biography of my father also contains images of many of his paintings, sculptures and sketches, including sketches of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

I have donated several copies to the Einstein library.

Ruth H. Norden
Hartsdale, NY

Social Media: Online at Einstein
Twitter, YouTube and other social media allow for almost instantaneous contact and information exchange. “It’s all about building community,” says Paul Moniz, Einstein’s director of communications and marketing.

Here’s how and where at Einstein:

Twitter: Einstein tweets multiple times every day (to 1,000 followers—and counting)! We also participate in Twitter chats. To follow Einstein’s Twitter feed, visit http://twitter.com/EinsteinMed.

YouTube: Einstein’s YouTube videos have been viewed 52,000 times! Check out www.youtube.com/user/EinsteinCollegeofMed.

iTunes: From this platform, you can stream and download Einstein videos, lectures and discussions to your computer or iPod/iPad. Visit www.einstein.yu.edu/home/mu_itunes.asp.

Einstein Multimedia Page: See all of Einstein’s audiovisual content in one place on Einstein’s dynamic multimedia page, which receives nearly 10,000 visits per month. Visit www.einstein.yu.edu/video.

LinkedIn: Einstein maintains a corporate profile on LinkedIn. Visit www.linkedin.com/companies/556031.

RSS: “Really Simple Syndication” delivers Web content directly to your desktop or browser. To get started, visit www.einstein.yu.edu/home/rssnews.xml.

Website: Updated daily, our easy-to-use website is www.einstein.yu.edu.
Home with a New Heart

While doing volunteer work in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake, Einstein’s Mahalia Desruisseaux, M.D., met Lovely Ajuste. The newly homeless 15-year-old girl was coughing and having trouble breathing—symptoms she blamed on dust in the air. Dr. Desruisseaux wasn’t so sure and ordered a chest X-ray. The results showed an enlarged heart, and a cardiac specialist made the diagnosis: atrial septal defect (ASD), a congenital malformation in which the wall separating the atria, or upper heart chambers, is not completely closed.

In the United States, most ASDs are discovered and corrected early in life. In Haiti, few people are so lucky.

“Without the needed surgical intervention, Lovely would have continued to be severely limited in her day-to-day activities and in her ability to function normally,” says Dr. Desruisseaux, assistant professor of pathology and of medicine (infectious diseases). That’s why Dr. Desruisseaux and her Einstein colleagues contacted Gift of Life International, the nonprofit group that arranges care for children with congenital heart defects and similar conditions. The group is run by Rotary Clubs throughout the world.

In early January 2011, Lovely and her mother boarded a plane headed for the States. And on January 12, 2011—a year to the day after the tragic Haiti earthquake—Bronx surgeon Samuel Weinstein, M.D., repaired the hole in Lovely’s heart in a three-hour operation at Montefiore Medical Center, the University Hospital and Academic Medical Center for Einstein.

“Lovely’s life expectancy should now be near normal,” says Dr. Weinstein, director of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery at Montefiore and associate professor of clinical cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Einstein.

In late January, Lovely—now 16—returned to Haiti, where she and her mother will look for permanent housing.

Above, Einstein’s Mahalia Desruisseaux, M.D., left, with 15-year-old Lovely Ajuste, heart surgery patient from Haiti.

In photo at left, from left to right: Martine Bouzi, N.P., pediatric nurse practitioner at Montefiore Medical Center; Lovely Ajuste; Mahalia Desruisseaux, M.D.; Viola Bady, Lovely’s mother; Mark Dana, Rockaway Rotary Club, which sponsored Lovely’s travel and hospitality; and Sarah Chambers, M.D., the pediatric cardiologist responsible for Lovely’s post-surgery care.
Recycle, Reclaim, Sustain

The Jack and Pearl Resnick campus has never been greener, and not just because of the emerging spring foliage.

In wooden planters east of the Van Etten building, about 40 Einstein locavores are growing tomatoes, zucchini, broccoli, lettuce, strawberries and more—the Gardening Club’s effort to reduce the amount of food that needs to be trucked in. After the harvest, dried plants and dead leaves go into the compost heap, to be recycled into the soil for next spring’s gardeners.

Three years ago, Yeshiva University undergrads joined Recyclemania, an international recycling contest; Einstein students entered a year later and are now official recyclemaniacs. “Together, we did a great job,” says Mike Winkler, director of energy and sustainability programs at YU.

Biking to Einstein is one way to reduce fuel emissions (and get a workout too). On Sustainability Week’s Bike Day last October, those who rode their bikes to campus got a free shower at the Falk Recreation Center and an outdoor breakfast.

Scientists and clinicians in developing countries benefit from the Einstein chapter of Seeding Labs, which collects and donates “reclaimed” (used) lab equipment such as microscopes, centrifuges and pH meters. To learn more or volunteer, visit www.seedinglabs.org.

The Einstein and YU dining services spend one-third of their food budget on organic and local products, including milk, eggs and baked goods. And “the new Einstein fryer filters and reuses cooking oil,” says Walter Ronaghan, senior director of supporting services.

In other green initiatives, some campus lighting is being replaced with energy-efficient light-emitting-diode technology; elevators and cooling towers are being upgraded; and Einstein and Yeshiva are using their baseline Greenhouse Gases Inventory to track progress.


ON THE WEB
The Sustainability and Energy Task Force welcomes new members. Visit www.yu.edu/sustainability/
Taking On Rare Diseases

For more than 30 years, Steven U. Walkley, D.V.M., Ph.D., professor in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, has studied a group of inherited diseases called lysosomal storage disorders (LSDs). His commitment to unraveling their mysteries is strengthened every time he meets a patient. Most are children; some have movement disorders and are wheelchair-bound; others are blind; and nearly all are mentally impaired.

Dr. Walkley directs the Sidney Weisner Laboratory of Genetic Neurological Disease in the department of neuroscience at Einstein’s Rose F. Kennedy Center. His interest in LSDs began during his early veterinary training, when he learned about these disorders in animals. While individually rare in humans, LSDs collectively affect 1 in 6,000 live births, making them one of the most common groups of genetic disease. Tay-Sachs is probably the best known; others are Hurler, Niemann-Pick, Gaucher and Batten diseases, all named after physicians who described them in the early 1900s.

LSDs occur when lipids, proteins or other compounds accumulate inside lysosomes—enzyme-filled, intracellular structures that normally break down compounds. People with LSDs lack key proteins vital for normal lysosomal function. As a result, compounds build up in cells and eventually damage bone, soft tissue and, most importantly, the central nervous system. How this damage occurs is largely unknown and is a key area of Dr. Walkley’s research.

Dr. Walkley and his colleagues are also in the forefront of efforts to develop therapies for LSDs. One such therapy developed by his lab—the drug miglustat—has now been approved in Europe for treating a type of Niemann-Pick disease called Niemann-Pick Type C. Miglustat works by lowering the amount of material requiring digestion in diseased cells.

In addition to his research on LSDs, Dr. Walkley was recently named director of Einstein’s Rose F. Kennedy Program of Distinction in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Until a few years ago, the program was funded by the National Institutes of Health; Dr. Walkley’s mission is to regain this federal money to fund collaborations among Einstein’s basic scientists and clinicians.

Dr. Walkley has received support from the NIH as well as from Dana’s Angels Research Trust, which funds the research collaborative known as Support Of Accelerated Research for NPC, focused on developing a treatment for Niemann-Pick Type C disease.

Lights, Camera, Van Etten

The Van Etten building is under renovation and not yet fully occupied, but the fabulous new space is not lying fallow. Cinematographers in need of a clinical setting have been using the Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center’s 23 examination rooms, classrooms and conference room. The New York Academy of Medicine recently filmed a video on managing difficult patients there, and a physician made a video for a grant application. To arrange a tour, call Felise Milan, M.D. ‘88, director of the clinical skills center, at 718.862.1780.
School’s IN for Summer

Lazy hazy days? Not at Einstein, which runs full-tilt through July and August. “Our summer programs boost your chances of getting into a residency program if you’re a medical student, boost your chances of getting into medical or graduate school if you’re a college student or boost your chances of getting into college if you’re a high school student,” says Albert S. Kuperman, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of molecular pharmacology and associate dean for educational affairs.

Medical students. For Einstein med students between their first and second years, the Medical Student Projects Program offers projects in four divisions: basic and clinical research; global health; community and population health; and ethics and humanism. “About 110 students out of the class of 180 work on a summer project here or abroad,” says Dr. Kuperman.

College students. The Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) is made to order for a college student with a strong science background and an interest in a biomedical research career. SURP gives 50 such students the chance to conduct original research in an Einstein lab. “And this year we’ve added the Einstein-Montefiore SURP, led by Montefiore’s Amy Fox, M.D., which gives five or six students a clinical research experience,” says Victoria H. Freedman, Ph.D., assistant dean for graduate programs in the biomedical sciences. SURP runs for nine weeks, with a poster session highlighting student research at the end.

Another option is the Summer Undergraduate Mentorship Program, sponsored by the Hispanic Center of Excellence. The program gives 74 college students, mostly Latinos, the opportunity to spend six weeks observing a physician, learning about health disparities and preparing for the Medical College Admissions Test exams.

The Minority Student Summer Research Opportunity Program, overseen by Nilda Soto, assistant dean, is for undergraduate students from groups historically underrepresented in medicine, including African Americans, Native Americans and Latinos/Hispanics. The program enables students to carry out nine weeks of research in an Einstein lab and learn about opportunities in medicine and science.

High school and middle school students. The Bronx Science and Health Opportunities Partnership (BxSHOP) caters to economically and educationally disadvantaged Bronx students from middle school through high school. BxSHOP offers seminars, internships and exam prep courses to help them pursue and succeed in health-related academic programs.

Medicine for Judges

Hospitals in New York State spend over $1 billion annually on medical malpractice premiums, awards and fees. With the help of Einstein’s Todd R. Olson, Ph.D., professor of anatomy and structural biology, below left, and Irwin R. Merkatz, M.D., the Chella and Moise Safra Chair in Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women’s Health, below right, New York Supreme Court Justice Douglas McKeon, bottom left, is leading a program designed to bring those costs down.

One way to sidestep expensive legal wrangling is to settle out of court. The program calls for judges knowledgeable in medicine to mediate these settlements—

which is where the two professors come in. At a “Medicine for Judges” seminar series last fall at the Judicial Institute in White Plains, they spoke about issues often at the heart of malpractice claims—Dr. Merkatz on delivery complications, Dr. Olson on biomechanics.

Justice McKeon’s initiative has been used in 20 to 25 percent of recent medical lawsuits in the Bronx and promoted settlements in 95 percent—a clear verdict in favor of judge-directed negotiations.
Welcome!

Nikolaos G. Frangogiannis, M.D.
Dr. Frangogiannis, the Edmond J. Safra/Republic National Bank of New York Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine, comes to us from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He studies post–heart attack inflammation and the resulting scarring that stiffens the heart and leads to heart failure. By examining heart-muscle tissue in animals, Dr. Frangogiannis hopes to short-circuit damaging molecular pathways so that hearts can heal without scarring—“the ultimate goal of cardiovascular research,” he says.

Roman Fleysher, Ph.D.
Dr. Fleysher has joined the radiology department as an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) physicist at the level of principal associate. He will work with other MRI researchers in the Gruss Magnetic Resonance Research Center under the leadership of Craig A. Branch, Ph.D., to develop and use new, faster and more efficient imaging techniques. Dr. Fleysher was previously at New York University School of Medicine.

Yungtai Lo, Ph.D.
Dr. Lo has joined the department of epidemiology & population health as an associate professor. He will teach biostatistics courses to fellows, residents and medical and graduate students. Dr. Lo also will provide statistical support to Einstein investigators needing help in designing and analyzing clinical and translational research studies. He comes to us from Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

A Night for Literary Stars to Shine
Is it an art gallery? A coffeehouse? A music venue? One night last December, the Lubin Dining Hall was all three, lit by the star power of Einstein’s artists, photographers, poets, creative writers and musicians. Sponsored by the students who publish Einstein’s literary magazine, Ad Libitum, the event allowed members of the Einstein community to celebrate the arts and showcase their talents. Boards that usually display academic posters became gallery walls for drawings, paintings and photos. Writers read their poems and prose. Einstein’s Jazz Ensemble, composed of students and faculty, provided live music.

Members of the Einstein community are invited to submit their artworks, photographs, poems, stories and essays to Ad Libitum for publication in the annual magazine, which comes out in the spring.

ON THE WEB
For more on Ad Libitum, visit www.einstein.yu.edu/adlibitum
Lab Chat

Steven C. Almo, Ph.D., is a professor in the departments of biochemistry and of physiology & biophysics who specializes in X-ray crystallography. Last year, the NIH awarded him and his Einstein colleagues more than $40 million in grants. Those funds include a five-year, $30 million NIH grant aimed at finding the structure and function of hundreds of medically important proteins.

Could you briefly describe your research? “Proteins play roles in immunity and virtually all diseases. I identify the three-dimensional structure of proteins with X-ray crystallography and then, using that information, my colleagues and I determine their function and how they interact with other proteins. Protein knowledge leads directly to new biological understanding and new therapies for conditions ranging from autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes to cancer.”

Has a hobby or athletic pursuit ever inspired your work? “When I was two years old, I was really sick, and my mom and dad bought a couple of guppies and put them in a pot next to my bed. The next thing I knew, I was taking them in for show-and-tell. That’s what got me interested in science.”

When did you know that X-ray crystallography would be your specialty? “At North Miami Beach Senior High, where I went to high school, there’s a program that places interested students in laboratories. I wound up working at the University of Miami Medical School. The lab was trying to understand how an inhibitor interacts with an enzyme, and we kept looking at three-dimensional structures of the inhibitor and enzyme. That’s when I realized, ‘I want to be able to make these pictures.’”

When do you do your best thinking? “In the shower in the morning. It’s quiet, you’re alone, you’ve had a good night’s sleep, your mind can wander.”

Your wife, Anne R. Bresnick, Ph.D., is also a professor here at Einstein. Do you two ever bounce research ideas off each other? “Constantly. We’re both in the same department, biochemistry, so it’s like being on the same team.”

Who got here first? “I did. We met as postdocs at Johns Hopkins about two months after I’d accepted my job at Einstein. I stayed an extra year at Hopkins, until I thought Einstein was about to give my job away. We were married and lived apart for about four years, until Anne joined me here.”

Do you ride in together in the morning? “Yes, we ride together. We talk about what happened and try to figure out what’s going to happen.”

If you weren’t a scientist, what would you most like to be? “A jazz guitar player. We just bought our 7-year-old twins a guitar, and they’re having trouble ripping it away from me. Unfortunately, I still have no talent.”

To learn more about Dr. Almo’s work, visit www.einstein.yu.edu/almo2011
On Scrubs, Stethoscopes and White Coats

Each year, the Einstein Alumni Association gives medical students three gifts that are eminently useful and symbolize the students’ journey toward the M.D. degree.

**The White Coat Ceremony.**
In August, members of the Class of 2014 were “cloaked” with white coats by Einstein alumni. It was clear from the students’ expressions that they’ll be wearing their white coats with pride. The keynote speaker was Stephan L. Kamholz, M.D., chair of medicine at, and assistant dean for, the North Bronx Healthcare Network, and professor of medicine at Einstein. He reminded students that challenges are opportunities and that faculty members are not “mere professors who will lecture you from a distance but men and women who are anxious for your welfare and will sympathize with your difficulties.”

**Scrubs Day.** Six weeks later, the Class of 2014 received their bright-blue scrubs, marking the start of the Gross Anatomy course. Several alumni, including Harris Goldstein, M.D. ’80, professor of pediatrics (allergy and immunology) and of microbiology & immunology, and the Charles Michael Chair in Autoimmune Diseases, who initiated Scrubs Day, joined Todd R. Olson, Ph.D., professor of anatomy and structural biology, and Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, in addressing the students.

**The Stethoscope Ceremony.**
In September, to mark the beginning of the physical diagnosis portion of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine course, each Class of 2013 student received a new stethoscope donated by an Einstein alum. Keynote speaker Martin Cohen, M.D., professor of medicine (cardiology), delivered a history of the stethoscope and its uses in diagnosing disease.

Top left: After putting on their white coats for the first time, students in the Class of 2014 read an oath they had composed as a group to express their hopes, wishes and aspirations.
Top right: Members of the Class of 2013 proudly display their new stethoscopes, to be put to use in the physical diagnosis portion of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine course.
Above: Students in the Class of 2014 will wear blue scrubs this year for the Gross Anatomy course.

For more about the White Coat Ceremony, visit www.einstein.yu.edu/whitecoat2010
Einstein Overseer Arthur Hershaft Honored

At Yeshiva University’s annual Hanukkah Dinner, held last December at New York’s Waldorf=Astoria, YU President Richard Joel conferred honorary degrees on six outstanding members of the University community. Among them was Einstein Benefactor and Overseer Arthur Hershaft. Mr. Hershaft chairs the Board’s Nominating Committee and also serves on the Executive, Budget and Finance, and Facilities and Planning Committees. He and his wife, Janet, are leading supporters of epigenomics research at Einstein. YU recognized Mr. Hershaft for his dedicated service with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Career Speed Networking

On Sunday, October 31, 2010, more than 100 students and 50 Einstein alumni gathered in the Lubin Dining Hall to participate in this year’s Career Speed Networking event, co-hosted by the Einstein Alumni Association and the Office of Student Affairs. Alumni were organized at tables by specialty while second- and third-year medical students rotated around the room to speak with the alumni about career paths and life after medical school. This annual event continues to be popular with both students and alumni, who enjoy the meaningful connections made that day.

Recent Grads and Fourth-Year Students Enjoy “Spare” Time

On January 27, 2011, more than 30 Einstein alumni from the graduating years of 2000–2010 attended a Bowling Night for Recent Graduates and Fourth-Year Students at Bowlmor Lanes Times Square in New York City. The alumni relations office planned the first-time event to reconnect with young alumni and give them the opportunity to meet current Einstein students.

Alumni Association President Stephen E. Goldstone, M.D. ’79, greeted the attendees, who enjoyed talking with each other and having the chance to network in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. Snehal Amin, M.D. ’00, who helped plan the event, remarked, “Bowling Night was a lot of fun! It was great to see my old friends and to meet other young alumni. I hope more recent grads will come out for future events and help create a strong and vibrant recent-graduates community.”

Plans are under way for more recent-grad events. For more information and to get involved, please contact Stacey Apter, alumni relations coordinator, at 718.430.3167 or stacey.apter@einstein.yu.edu.
In Memoriam

Faculty

**Robert J. Massad, M.D.**

Dr. Massad, professor emeritus of family and social medicine, died on August 10, 2010. A leading innovator in family medicine, Dr. Massad came to New York in 1978 to found Montefiore Medical Center’s department of family medicine. He oversaw the development of the Family Health Center and the Ambulatory Care Network and the expansion of Montefiore’s Bronx-based practices. In 1984, Dr. Massad opened the Family Practice Inpatient Service at Montefiore and was named founding chair of Einstein’s unified academic department of family medicine. Dr. Massad remained medically active even after retiring.

**Saul Scheidlinger, Ph.D.**

Dr. Scheidlinger died on August 21, 2010, at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York. He was professor emeritus at Einstein, adjunct professor of clinical psychology in psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College, Life Fellow of the American Psychological Association and of the American Orthopsychiatric Association and Distinguished Fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Association. He was past president of the American Group Psychotherapy Association and served as editor of the *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy.*

Dr. Scheidlinger started teaching at Einstein in 1962 as associate professor of psychiatry (child psychology) and became professor of psychiatry (child psychology) in 1974. He was widely recognized for his innovative and inspirational leadership in the field of child and adolescent group psychotherapy and for developing three prizewinning films on sex education and videotapes on child and adolescent group therapy. The New York State Office of Mental Health awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation for his work on behalf of young people emotionally scarred by the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York.

**Seymour Romney, M.D.**

Dr. Romney died on August 22, 2010, at the age of 93. He was an influential figure in Einstein’s early development and served as chair of obstetrics and gynecology from 1957 to 1972. His leadership helped turn Einstein’s ob-gyn program into a national model. Respected widely by colleagues, friends and students, he was named distinguished university professor emeritus upon his retirement.

**Anne Botstein, M.D.**

Dr. Botstein, a longtime member of the Einstein faculty and a pioneering pediatrician, died on October 17, 2010, at age 98. A leader in child development and general pediatrics, Dr. Botstein also headed pediatrics for the Montefiore Medical Group. Her late husband, Charles Botstein, M.D., was founding chair of radiation oncology at Einstein.

**Supporters**

**Muriel L. Block**

A distinguished Benefactor and cherished friend of the College of Medicine, Muriel Block passed away on September 14, 2010. Along with her first husband, Harold, Mrs. Block was a longtime leading supporter of Einstein. In 2003, she made a gift of nearly $22 million that was instrumental in advancing biomedical research at the medical school through the construction of the state-of-the-art Harold and Muriel Block Research Pavilion. Mrs. Block previously established the position of the Muriel & Harold Block Faculty Scholar in Mental Illness. A prominent member of our National Women’s Division, she served on its national board and New York chapter executive board. In recognition of her vision and generosity, she was honored with the degree of doctor of humane letters by Yeshiva University in 2004. Mrs. Block will be remembered for her elegant and spirited presence.

**Diane G. Millstein**

On September 25, 2010, Einstein Benefactor Diane G. Millstein passed away after a prolonged illness. She and her husband, Ira M. Millstein, chair emeritus of Einstein’s Board of Overseers, have been longtime leading supporters of the College of Medicine. Mrs. Millstein was a remarkable woman. A collegiate fencing champion at NYU, she went on to earn a master’s degree in city planning from Columbia and became the city planner for Greenwich, CT, as well as a highly successful real estate developer in Westchester. Her courage, intelligence and passion for life, as well as her many philanthropic endeavors, made her a role model to many.
over a recent five-month span, Robert Singer, Ph.D., published papers in three prestigious journals—*Nature*, *Nature Structural and Molecular Biology* and *Nature Methods*. The winning streak continued this January, when Dr. Singer became the fourth recipient of Einstein’s Marshall S. Horwitz, M.D., Faculty Prize for Research Excellence. Dr. Horwitz, who died in 2005, was a beloved member of Einstein’s faculty for nearly 40 years.

Dr. Singer, professor and co-chair in the department of anatomy and structural biology, and professor of neuroscience and cell biology, has done pioneering research on vitally important molecules known as messenger RNA (mRNA). For cells to make proteins, the instructions encoded in DNA must first be transcribed, or copied, onto mRNA molecules, which then travel out of the nucleus and into the cytoplasm, where amino acids are linked to form specific proteins.

“If you think of DNA as containing the blueprints for how to build cellular proteins, messenger RNA molecules are the guys who actually do the building,” says Dr. Singer. Or as the sign in his office says, “It’s an RNA world, we just live in it.”

The first of Dr. Singer’s recent trio of papers, published in *Nature* in September 2010, illuminates one of the most important “trips” in all of biology: the journey of individual mRNA molecules from the nucleus into the cytoplasm so that proteins can be made. The research required inventing a new type of microscopy, called super registration microscopy, capable of imaging two components in a cell to a resolution 10 times greater than previously achieved. “By understanding how mRNA molecules exit the nucleus, we may be able to find treatments for many disorders, such as myotonic dystrophy, in which mRNA transport is blocked,” says Dr. Singer.

The second paper, published last December in *Nature Structural and Molecular Biology*, reports findings that Dr. Singer described as “astonishing”:

Contrary to what researchers had assumed, genes that work with other genes to build protein structures do not act in a coordinated way but instead are turned on randomly—prompting Einstein researchers to dub them “clueless genes.” The mRNA molecules made by clusters of clueless genes exhibited no more coordination than the mRNA from totally unrelated genes did.

The third paper, in the January 2011 issue of *Nature Methods*, describes a technique developed by Dr. Singer, co-director of the Gruss Lipper Biophotonics Center, and his colleagues that, for the first time, imaged single molecules of naturally occurring mRNA being transcribed in living mammalian cells. The technique will allow researchers to follow mRNA molecules over time in a variety of cell types and discover where they are distributed within the cell. This could be important for studying cancer, since the way mRNA molecules are localized within tumor cells correlates with the ability of these cells to spread, or metastasize.
A Stem Cell “Partnership”

A study headed by an Einstein researcher has revealed a unique “partnership” between two types of bone marrow stem cells, which could lead to advances in regenerative medicine. The aim of regenerative medicine is to enable the body to repair, replace, restore or regenerate damaged or diseased cells, tissues and organs.

The study was led by Paul Frenette, M.D., the new director of the Ruth L. and David S. Gottesman Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Research at Einstein, and was published last August in Nature.

Hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) in the bone marrow perform the vital task of producing all blood cells in the human body. The new study has revealed that HSCs pair up in their niche with another type of stem cell, mesenchymal stem cells, which keep hematopoietic stem cells alive and dividing. Researchers may be able to capitalize on this partnership to keep hematopoietic stem cells healthy for use in regenerative medicine. They could, for example, be made to function as “factories” producing red blood cells for patients needing transfusions.

Nanoparticles Increase Survival after Blood Loss

In an advance that could improve battlefield and trauma care, Einstein researchers have used tiny particles called nanoparticles to improve survival after life-threatening blood loss. Nanoparticles containing nitric oxide (NO) were infused into the bloodstream of hamsters, where they helped maintain blood circulation and protect vital organs. The research was reported in the February 21, 2011, online edition of the journal Resuscitation.

Massive blood loss can cause cardiovascular collapse—a potentially fatal condition best treated with infusions of refrigerated blood and other fluids. But such treatments are limited to emergency rooms or trauma centers.

“It is highly impractical to pack these supplies for use in rural emergencies, mass-casualty disasters or on the battlefield,” says study co-author Joel Friedman, M.D., Ph.D., professor of physiology & biophysics and of medicine and the Young Men’s Division Chair in Physiology at Einstein. “Our nanoparticle therapy may offer the potential for saving lives in those situations. It’s lightweight and compact and doesn’t require refrigeration.”

The new therapy counters blood lost by increasing levels of NO gas, which, among other physiological functions, relaxes blood vessels and regulates blood pressure. The gas was encased in microscopic-sized particles specially designed by the Einstein team. The therapy was created by adding the NO-containing nanoparticles to saline solution, which was then infused into the animals. Once in the body, the nanoparticles gradually released a sustained dose of NO to tissues. The nanomedicine was successfully tested in hamsters that had lost half their blood volume.

Resveratrol Linked to Positive Impact on Prediabetes

Einstein researchers have linked resveratrol, a chemical compound found in red wine, to improved health of patients with impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), also known as “prediabetes.”

The promising results from the small pilot study were presented last June at the annual meeting of the American Diabetes Association. Among 10 patients with IGT given resveratrol supplements at concentrations higher than those normally found in wine, grapes or peanuts, all demonstrated lower postmeal glucose levels and improved insulin sensitivity—an encouraging outcome with potential implications for those with type 2 diabetes or at high risk for the condition. The study was led by Jill Crandall, M.D., professor of clinical medicine and director of the Diabetes Clinical Trials Unit at Einstein.
Brain Fitness May Help Frail Elderly Walk Faster

Computerized brain fitness programs are known to help seniors improve their memory and focus. Now, a study led by Einstein researchers has found preliminary evidence that such programs may help frail seniors walk faster, potentially preventing disability and improving quality of life. Results were published in the July 19, 2010, online edition of the Journal of Gerontology.

“This was a small study—we’re now preparing to do a larger clinical trial—but the results suggest that brain fitness programs show promise for helping the frail elderly walk better,” says lead author Joe Verghese, M.B.B.S., professor in the Saul R. Korey Department of Neurology and the Murray D. Gross Memorial Faculty Scholar in Gerontology at Einstein.

The findings, if duplicated in a larger study, could have important implications, since the frail elderly are often in poor health and unable to participate in exercises that build strength and improve balance. Intervening through brain fitness programs could provide a useful alternative.

Einstein Geneticist Wins Sloan Research Fellowship

Ertuğrul Özbudak, Ph.D., assistant professor of genetics at Einstein, has won a 2011 Sloan Research Fellowship. Dr. Özbudak was selected for his research into the genetic causes of vertebral malformations that occur during embryonic development and lead to debilitating childhood and adult diseases, including scoliosis, disfigurement, and back and neck pain.

The two-year, $50,000 fellowships are given to early-career scientists and scholars in recognition of achievement and the potential to contribute substantially to their fields.

Link Between Autism, Difficulty Processing Information

A study by Einstein researchers has provided concrete evidence that children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) process sensory information such as sound, touch and vision differently from typically developing children.

The study, published last August in Autism Research, supports decades of clinical and anecdotal observations that individuals with ASD have difficulty coping with multiple sources of sensory information. The Einstein researchers used brain-wave electroencephalogram recordings to assess multisensory integration in children with autism spectrum disorders and a control group of typically developing children.

Both groups of children were exposed to two forms of stimuli (sound and vibration) that were presented to them separately and then simultaneously. By measuring brain activity, the researchers found that the ASD children had significantly more trouble integrating multisensory stimuli than the typically developing children.

“Our data make a compelling case that there are differences in multisensory integration between the two groups,” says Sophie Molholm, Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics and of neuroscience. The findings offer new insights into autism and could lead to objective measures for evaluating the effectiveness of autism therapies.

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Help for Colorectal Cancer Patients

A team of scientists that includes Einstein researchers has found a way to eliminate a debilitating side effect associated with one of the main chemotherapy drugs used for treating colon cancer. The strategy used in its preclinical research—inhbiting an enzyme in bacteria of the digestive tract—could allow patients to receive higher and more effective doses of the drug, known as CPT-11 or irinotecan. The study was published in the November 5, 2010, issue of *Science*.

While the chemotherapy agent CPT-11 has proven useful in attacking colorectal tumors, it can also cause severe diarrhea—limiting the dosage that patients can tolerate and curbing the drug’s potential effectiveness.

The primary cause of the diarrhea is believed to be beta glucuronidase, an enzyme found in bacteria that live in the gastrointestinal tract. To overcome this crippling side effect, researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill searched for and found a chemical inhibitor that blocks the action of beta glucuronidase without eliminating the gut bacteria, which are important for human health.

Study co-author Sridhar Mani, M.D., professor of medicine and of genetics at Einstein, says the severe diarrhea caused by CPT-11 can sharply limit the dosage that cancer patients can receive. “Our tests showed conclusively that the inhibitor identified by our UNC colleagues prevented diarrhea in mice that were also receiving CPT-11. We’re hopeful that clinical trials will show that administering this inhibitor when patients start taking CPT-11 allows for improvement in the drug’s antitumor effect in patients with cancer.”

Low Vitamin D Levels Linked to Allergies in Kids

Low vitamin D levels are associated with an increased likelihood that children will develop allergies, according to a study of more than 3,000 children that was headed by Einstein scientists and published in the February 17, 2011, online edition of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

Researchers looked at the serum vitamin D levels in blood collected in 2005–6 from a nationally representative sample of more than 3,100 children and adolescents and 3,400 adults. One of the blood tests assessed sensitivity to 17 different allergens by measuring levels of Immunoglobulin E (IgE), a protein made when the immune system responds to allergens.

When the resulting data were analyzed by Einstein researchers, no association between vitamin D levels and allergies was observed in adults. But for children and adolescents, low vitamin D levels correlated with sensitivity to 11 of the 17 allergens tested, including both environmental allergens (e.g., ragweed, oak, dog, cockroach) and food allergens (e.g., peanut). For example, children who had vitamin D deficiency (defined as less than 15 nanograms of vitamin D per milliliter of blood) were 2.4 times as likely to have a peanut allergy as children with sufficient levels of vitamin D (more than 30 nanograms of vitamin D per milliliter of blood).

The research shows only an association and does not prove that vitamin D deficiency causes allergies in children, cautions Michal Melamed, M.D., M.H.S., assistant professor of medicine and of epidemiology & population health at Einstein and senior author of the study. Nevertheless, she says, children should certainly consume adequate amounts of the vitamin. “The latest dietary recommendations calling for children to take in 600 IU of vitamin D daily should keep them from becoming vitamin D deficient,” she says.
Postdocs Receive Dennis Shields Prizes

The Dennis Shields Postdoctoral Research Prizes were awarded on November 4, honoring three Einstein postdocs for their outstanding published research. The awards are named for Dennis Shields, Ph.D., a professor in the department of developmental and molecular biology and the first director of the Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Studies, who died in December 2008.

At the awards presentation in Robbins Auditorium, the honorees gave 15-minute presentations describing their work. This year’s recipients were all research fellows in the department of anatomy and structural biology.

Jeffrey A. Chao, Ph.D. (in the laboratory of Robert Singer, Ph.D.), was honored for his January 2010 paper in *Genes & Development*. In that paper, Dr. Chao proposes a mechanism by which an RNA-binding protein called ZBP 1 (zipcode-binding protein 1) latches onto messenger RNA molecules after their transcription in the nucleus and entry into the cytoplasm. He found that this binding induces a “looping” in mRNA molecules that may create binding sites for additional proteins that regulate the stability of mRNA molecules and steer them into position for translation into proteins.

Bojana Gligorijevic, Ph.D. (in the laboratory of John S. Condeelis, Ph.D., professor and co-chair in the department of anatomy and structural biology and the Judith and Burton P. Resnick Chair in Translational Research), was honored for research published in *Nature Methods* in December 2008. That paper reports on a novel technique that allows scientists looking through a “mammary imaging window” to track the movement of single breast tumor cells in living mice over the course of several days. By tagging tumor cells with fluorescent proteins that change from one color to another after activation by a particular wavelength of light, Dr. Gligorijevic was able to observe tumor cells as they became metastatic and invaded the surrounding microenvironment, including nearby blood vessels.

Fedor Subach, Ph.D. (in the laboratory of Vladislav Verkhusha, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and structural biology), was honored for a series of research papers on fluorescent proteins, one of which was published in *Nature Methods* in February 2009. The article describes a novel photoactivatable red fluorescent protein that Dr. Subach developed and discusses its possible uses in microscopy. The protein, known as PAmCherry, is initially dark but turns fluorescent red after being irradiated with violet light. PAmCherry can be used in a new technique called PALM (photoactivated localization microscopy), in which photoactivatable fluorescent proteins help resolve images that are only 10 to 20 nanometers apart. This makes PALM ideal for distinguishing proteins that cluster together in cells.

Dr. Horwitz Honored for Cancer Research

The American Association for Cancer Research awarded Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D., its eighth Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research on April 3. Dr. Horwitz, the Rose C. Falkenstein Professor of Cancer Research at Einstein, carried out pioneering work that established the novel mechanism of action by which Taxol—the anticancer drug originally derived from the bark of the Pacific yew tree—stops cancer cells from dividing. This finding accelerated Taxol’s development as an important therapy for several types of cancer, including breast, lung and ovarian cancer. Dr. Horwitz is also a distinguished professor and co-chair of the department of molecular pharmacology and associate director for therapeutics at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center.
New Major Grants at Einstein
Research at the College of Medicine is being fueled by an impressive number of recent grants.

New Strategy for Treating Lung Cancer

Just as inhaling cigarette smoke causes lung cancer, inhaled medication may be able to treat or even prevent the disease.

Two Einstein researchers have received a five-year, $2.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop a more effective therapy for lung cancer and bronchial premalignancy. The grant was awarded to Roman Perez-Soler, M.D., professor in the department of medicine, chief of the department’s oncology division and associate director of clinical research at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center; and Yiyu Zou, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of medicine.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality among men and women in the United States, responsible for about 150,000 deaths each year. By the time lung cancer is detected, it has usually spread from the lungs to other organs in the body—the main reason the disease is so lethal. Drs. Perez-Soler and Zou will take advantage of the fact that lung cancer doesn’t occur overnight. For many years the disease is confined to the bronchial epithelium (surface cells of the airways), where it lingers in a premalignant state.

The research project involves inhaling a drug called 5-azacytidine that will target the bronchial epithelium. This drug is a demethylating agent, meaning it strips off methyl groups that have bound to genes and rendered them inactive. Gene silencing has been implicated in many types of cancer, usually because the silenced genes are tumor-suppressor genes that help keep cell division under control. (Such reversible changes to genes are referred to as “epigenetic,” in contrast to irreversible genetic mutations.) Since removing methyl groups from silenced tumor-suppressor genes may reactivate those genes, drugs such as 5-azacytidine can potentially treat a number of different cancers.

Studies have already shown that 5-azacytidine is clinically effective in treating the preleukemia condition known as myelodysplasia. In preliminary studies, the Einstein researchers have administered inhaled 5-azacytidine to a mouse model of human lung cancer and found the drug both safe and effective.

The first two years of the federally funded study will focus on a mouse model of premalignant lung cancer (mice exposed to inhaled tobacco carcinogens). Using these mice, the researchers will determine the minimal effective dose as well as the lung toxicity of inhaled 5-azacytidine—work that will lead to the starting dose likely to be safe and effective in humans.

In years three through five, the researchers will conduct a Phase I “feasibility and proof of principle” study in which patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (the most common type) and who haven’t responded to standard therapy will inhale 5-azacytidine. But the ultimate aim of the research is to intervene with inhaled 5-azacytidine at an earlier, premalignant stage when vital genes have been epigenetically silenced but cancer has not yet developed.

By reversing those epigenetic changes, use of the therapy might actually prevent lung cancer from developing in the large population of cigarette smokers at risk for lung cancer. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are about 46 million adult smokers in the United States.
Genetic Strategy to Combat Tuberculosis

Last October, William R. Jacobs, Jr., Ph.D., professor of microbiology & immunology and of genetics at Einstein, who is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, was awarded a three-year, $4 million grant from the NIH to develop a novel genetic strategy for combating tuberculosis (TB). TB causes almost two million deaths each year, making it the world’s most deadly bacterial infection.

In this ambitious project, Dr. Jacobs and colleagues will “knock out” every gene of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB), the bacterium that causes TB. By knocking out or deleting a gene, researchers can determine the gene’s function by observing how loss of that gene affects the organism. It is already known that certain MTB genes are crucial for the bacterium’s survival—helping it resist antibiotics, for example, and enabling it to ward off the immune system of the host.

The researchers will use a technique called specialized transduction (developed in the Jacobs lab) to generate approximately 4,500 specialized viruses called transducing phages. These phages will then be used to knock out every gene present in three different MTB strains, including the newly evolved extensively drug-resistant strain.

“TB strains that resist some, most or even all current chemotherapies are becoming increasingly common,” says Dr. Jacobs. “We hope that our systematic evaluation of the entire TB genome will reveal genetic vulnerabilities that we can target with new and more effective treatments and vaccines.”

Helping Older People Stay Mobile

The NIH has awarded Einstein and Yeshiva University’s Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology a five-year, $3.4 million grant to identify cognitive factors that influence mobility in older people—in particular, those that could be modified to help older people remain active.

“Mobility limitations and disability in aging are major public health concerns,” says Roee Holtzer, Ph.D., principal investigator for the study, associate professor in the department of neurology and associate professor at Ferkauf. “We will recruit 450 people age 70 and older for baseline and annual follow-ups over the five-year study period.”

The participants will undergo clinical, neuropsychological and structured mobility exams as well as state-of-the-art cognitive and neuroimaging assessments. Functional near-infrared spectroscopy technology, developed by the optical engineering group at Drexel University, will be used to assess changes in brain function during various walking conditions. “Ideally, these assessments will reveal specific cognitive abilities and brain structures and functions that correlate with mobility problems or that predict their occurrence,” says Dr. Holtzer. “Then we want to see whether efforts to modify those factors can help in preventing mobility decline and disability in these individuals.”

The project, which began in March 2011, is an interdisciplinary collaboration involving Einstein’s neurology and epidemiology & population health departments and its Gruss Magnetic Resonance Research Center; Yeshiva University’s Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology; and the optical engineering group at Drexel University in Philadelphia.
New Major Grants at Einstein (continued)

**Delving Into T Cells**

So-called naïve T cells are circulating white blood cells that haven’t yet participated in an immune response. The immune system must have adequate numbers of naïve T cells so it can respond continuously to unfamiliar pathogens. Andrew J. Yates, Ph.D., assistant professor in the departments of systems & computational biology and of microbiology & immunology, has received a five-year, $1.8 million NIH grant to study naïve T cells and how their numbers are regulated.

As with all blood cells, white cells form in the bone marrow; some of them travel to the thymus gland (hence the name “T” cells), where they develop into the immune system’s attack cells. Throughout a person’s lifetime, naïve T cells are renewed and maintained at remarkably constant levels.

“This constant level of naïve T cells persists despite the fact that the thymus gland processes fewer of them over time, and many naïve T cells are lost through their differentiation into memory T cells following their exposure to pathogens,” says Dr. Yates.

Other mechanisms leading to loss of naïve T cells are also known. For example, when a naïve T cell’s receptor encounters a self-antigen (i.e., one of an individual’s own proteins), the contact triggers a signal that destroys the T cells, thereby preventing an autoimmune response. But under conditions of normal health, our bodies can somehow continually replenish these cells so that they are available when needed. The ultimate object of Dr. Yates’ study is to better understand how the body maintains a constant level of naïve T cells over long periods of time.

“Radiation therapy, HIV infection and other conditions deplete the body’s supply of naïve T cells,” says Dr. Yates. “Learning how the body regulates levels of these cells can help us develop treatments for restoring T cells that are lost.”

**Developing Better TB Vaccines**

Approximately one-third of all people on earth are infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosi*, the bacterium that causes tuberculosis. Most infected people have clinically silent, latent infections. But each year approximately eight million new cases of active TB arise and up to three million deaths are attributed to the disease. The prognosis is especially bleak for the many people in sub-Saharan Africa co-infected with TB and HIV/AIDS.

*M. tuberculosis* was discovered more than a century ago, but there is still no vaccine that offers long-term protective immunity against it. This is due mainly to the microbe’s remarkable proficiency in blocking effective host immunity. Steven Porcelli, M.D., professor of microbiology & immunology and of medicine, has received a five-year, $2 million NIH grant to discover the mechanisms by which the bacterium interferes with the immune response, with the ultimate goal of creating strains of *M. tuberculosis* to use as live vaccines.

Previous research has identified genes that help *M. tuberculosis* escape host immunity. For the immune system to recognize intracellular pathogens such as *M. tuberculosis*, infected host cells must self-destruct through a process of programmed cell death known as apoptosis. This leads to the release of bacterial antigens and their recognition by certain immune cells, priming them to mount an immune
But several *M. tuberculosis* genes work to block apoptosis, enabling the TB bacteria to evade detection.

“A major goal of this research is to construct safe, attenuated strains of *M. tuberculosis* in which specific immune evasion genes have been deleted,” says Dr. Porcelli, who is also the Murray and Evelyne Weinstock Chair in Microbiology & Immunology. “This should help create effective vaccines that are capable of priming the immune system so that people who become infected with *M. tuberculosis* can fight off the infection.”

### Researching Protein Structure and Function

Last September, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) awarded Einstein a five-year, $30 million grant to study the structure and function of thousands of biomedically important proteins.

“Determining the structures of proteins is the first step toward understanding their role in normal biological processes as well as in disease pathways,” says principal investigator Steven Almo, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and of physiology & biophysics at Einstein. “Using this knowledge, we can begin to learn how proteins can be modified to create new, highly targeted therapies for disease.”

The Einstein research is part of the NIGMS’s Protein Structure Initiative, a decade-long federal, university and industry effort aimed at dramatically reducing the costs and lessening the time it takes to determine a three-dimensional protein structure from its DNA sequence.

Earlier in the year, Dr. Almo and Einstein colleagues Ronald Seidel, Ph.D., and Jeff Bonanno, Ph.D., received $11 million as part of a prestigious NIH “Glue Grant” to develop a strategy for discovering the structure and function of unknown enzymes identified in genome-sequencing projects. Glue Grants, which also are issued by the NIGMS, provide resources to tackle complex problems that are of central importance to biomedical science and beyond the means of any one research group.

### Nanoparticles vs. Pancreatic Cancer

A major grant from the National Cancer Institute will take advantage of specialized expertise developed by scientists at Einstein and Montefiore. The five-year, $16 million research project—carried out by five research groups, including Einstein and Montefiore, that make up the Texas Center for Cancer Nanomedicine—could lead to novel ways to diagnose and treat pancreatic and ovarian cancer using nanoparticles.

Nanoparticles are engineered materials that are 100 nanometers or less in size. (A nanometer is one billionth of a meter.) Nanoparticles impregnated with drugs are called nanomedicines.

“We will be investigating nanomedicines for both imaging and treating pancreatic tumors,” says Einstein-Montefiore principal investigator Steven Libutti, M.D., professor and vice chair of surgery at Einstein and Montefiore, director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care and associate director for clinical services of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center. “Our part of the consortium is developing nanoparticles that will specifically target unique aspects of the blood vessels found in pancreatic adenocarcinomas and pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors.”
Allan Wolkoff, M.D. ’72, chief of the division of gastroenterology and liver diseases, helped to create the first comprehensive treatment program for Bronx patients with liver disease.
Early-morning phone calls rarely bring good news. But this one—from the Montefiore Einstein Center for Transplantation to Bronx resident Ventura Rodriguez—was that rare exception. “We have a liver for you,” said the caller. “Come here as soon as possible.”

It was June 12, 2010, and Mr. Rodriguez, a 51-year-old father of two teenage girls, had just about given up hoping that this day would arrive. “I was in constant pain,” he recalls. “I couldn’t eat or sleep. I was so ill that I didn’t care anymore whether I lived or died.”

Mr. Rodriguez was in the final throes of liver failure, the result of a decades-long infection with hepatitis C. For most of that time he’d had no symptoms, as is often the case with this stealthy viral infection. But three years earlier, suffering from stomachaches, fluid in his abdomen, cramping and gas, he’d gone to the doctor, only to get the shocking news that his liver was irreversibly scarred and that he would eventually need a transplant. Early in 2009 he was placed on a liver transplant waiting list.

For the next year, his liver did a passable job of filtering toxins from his blood and performing other essential functions (see sidebar, page 29). But by early 2010, his liver had shriveled to almost nothing, leaving him nauseated, malnourished, listless and bloated. Then his kidneys began to fail.

“Without a transplant, he had only weeks to live,” recalls Mr. Rodriguez’ doctor, Paul Gaglio, M.D., professor of clinical medicine at Einstein and medical director of the Montefiore-Einstein liver transplant program. “We were concerned that he was getting too sick for a transplant.”

The Montefiore-Einstein program won state approval to carry out liver transplants in 2008, becoming the first (and still only) liver transplant program in the Bronx and one of only six in New York State. So far, the program has successfully bestowed new livers on 37 patients—gifts of life that, unfortunately, are notoriously hard to come by.

But as fate would have it, a young man died in a traffic accident somewhere in the New York area in the predawn hours of June 12. In the cold calculus of organ transplantation, that young man’s loss was Ventura Rodriguez’ gain. He would receive his transplant at the Montefiore Einstein Center for Transplantation after 18 long months of waiting for one.

Mr. Rodriguez’ ordeal was far from over, however. His liver, and the cavity surrounding it, had shrunk so much
that the surgeons could barely fit the donor organ in place. Further complicating matters, his abdominal wall was riddled with hernias, making it impossible to close the surgical wounds. Like a seasoned jazz musician, lead surgeon Sarah Bellemare, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, improvised a solution, fortifying Mr. Rodriguez’ abdomen with biomaterial derived from the small intestine of pigs.

Throughout the operation, Mr. Rodriguez bled profusely—decreased platelets, a common problem in liver failure, increase the risk of bleeding—and he needed near-continuous transfusions. Of all the transplants that the surgical team had performed, this one was among the toughest. Afterward, the surgical team temporarily sealed the wound using a vacuum-assisted technique in which the surgical area is covered with a high-tech dressing and air is then sucked out to create negative pressure on the wound to promote healing.

Mr. Rodriguez started improving immediately but remained in the hospital for another three weeks, until his wounds could be sewn shut. Five months later, he reported back to work as superintendent of a 122-unit apartment building in the Bronx—a demanding job for anyone, let alone a recent transplant recipient.

Odds are he’ll be able to enjoy his newfound health for years to come. The five-year survival rate for liver transplant recipients is about 75 percent, and those who reach the critical six-month milestone—as Mr. Rodriguez did in December—have an excellent chance of long-term success.

Unfortunately, Mr. Rodriguez is far from alone in his battle with liver disease and his need for a liver transplant. In the Bronx and beyond, the demand for liver transplants is soaring, fueled by cases of hepatitis C infection and by fatty liver disease—and by liver cancer caused by both conditions.

A NEW ERA IN HEPATITIS C THERAPY?
The standard therapy for hepatitis C combines the oral medication ribavirin with weekly injections of interferon-alpha—typically a yearlong regimen that can cause grueling side effects (e.g., flu-like symptoms and joint pain) but usually suppresses viral replication. In fact, large-scale clinical trials have found that the two-drug combo cures about 40 percent of hepatitis C patients. (A cure is defined as no sign of the hepatitis C virus six months after the last dose is administered.) But results with patients seen in everyday urban clinical practice appear to fall far short of that cure rate.

In a study by Drs. Gaglio, Wolkoff and other Einstein and Montefiore liver experts, 250 mostly minority outpatients were put on the standard two-drug regimen. The results, reported in April 2010 in Hepatology, showed that only 14 percent of those patients were cured by the two-drug regimen, prompting the physicians to call for new strategies for treating urban patients. Treatment regimens now under study may offer some hope for these and other patients.

Several recent studies report cure rates of up to 75 percent when either of two protease inhibitors were added to the standard two-drug regimen. (Protease inhibitors directly block viruses from replicating and are mainstays for treating HIV/AIDS.) Moreover, the three-drug combination allowed some hepatitis C patients to cut their treatment time in half, significantly reducing the time spent dealing with nasty side effects.

Listen to an audio interview with
MILAN KINKHABWALA, M.D.,
chief of transplantation at the Montefiore Einstein Center for Transplantation
www.einstein.yu.edu/kinkhabwala2011
THE LIVER DISEASE EPIDEMIC

The blood-borne pathogen hepatitis C may be the most important virus that most people have never heard of. It probably emerged in the 1960s and then spread widely and silently (symptoms typically don’t appear until 20 or 30 years after infection), primarily among injection drug users and people receiving blood transfusions. A test developed in 1992 now protects the blood supply from hepatitis C contamination. This advance sharply reduced new infections but they still occur, largely among intravenous-drug abusers. Meanwhile, old infections persist.

“We see many patients who contracted hepatitis C years ago, perhaps through a blood transfusion, by getting a tattoo or by experimenting with drugs with a needle—even just once in their teenage years,” says Allan W. Wolkoff, M.D. ’72, professor of medicine and of anatomy and structural biology at Einstein and chief of the division of gastroenterology and liver diseases at Montefiore and Einstein.

The Institute of Medicine estimates that as many as 3.9 million Americans—more than 1 percent of the population—now harbor the hepatitis C virus. About two-thirds of those infected will eventually develop chronic liver disease, either cirrhosis (irreversible scarring of liver tissue) or liver cancer.

Unlike its viral cousins hepatitis A and B, no vaccine yet exists for hepatitis C. On the positive side, drug treatment and lifestyle changes such as giving up alcohol can help prevent hepatitis C’s devastating complications, and therapies now in clinical trials may be able to cure most people infected with hepatitis C (see sidebar, facing page). But for now, experts say, the big challenge is getting people tested for the virus.

“Before you can treat a disease, you need to know you have it,” says Dr. Wolkoff, who also serves as chair of the board of the American Liver Foundation. “The problem is that nearly half of people with hepatitis C don’t know they’re infected.”

Why aren’t more people tested for hepatitis C? Physicians deserve some of the blame, says Dr. Wolkoff, since many are unaware of the risk factors—such as tattoos, IV drug use and receiving a blood transfusion before 1992—that should prompt them to order hepatitis C tests for patients. “Even a small increase in physicians talking with their patients about hepatitis C could make a big difference,” he says.

Treatment Closer to Home

In 2007, Dr. Wolkoff and his colleagues banded together to create the Bronx’s first comprehensive treatment program for patients with liver disease.

“Bronx residents weren’t getting the care that they needed,” says Dr. Wolkoff. “Many of our patients don’t have the money to take a taxi ride into Manhattan, and taking a subway when you’re quite ill is difficult. We felt it was important to develop a treatment program close to home.”

Today, the treatment program follows more than 5,000 people with hepatitis C—and 1,000 more with another serious liver disease that goes by the abbreviation NAFLD.

Along with heart disease, type 2 diabetes and several types of cancer, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) belongs on the long list of serious, chronic health problems associated with obesity. In people with NAFLD, fat molecules called lipids congregate
within hepatocytes (liver cells), causing injury and inflammation that leads to cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. (The “nonalcoholic” in NAFLD differentiates it from a less-common form of fatty liver disease caused by excessive alcohol consumption.)

Liver specialists find themselves diagnosing NAFLD in increasingly younger patients—a worrisome trend. “Until recently, the typical patient with fatty liver disease was an adult who gained weight in middle age,” says Dr. Gaglio, Mr. Rodriguez’ physician. “But now, we’re seeing the disease in 10- and 15-year-olds.” There are no treatments yet for NAFLD, although controlling obesity and diabetes can be helpful.

“When you add them all up—the hepatitis, the liver cancer, the fatty liver disease—the degree of illness in our community is just dramatic,” says Dr. Gaglio, who notes that a significant number of NAFLD patients will eventually require liver transplants.

Even now, the transplant system is overwhelmed. In 2009, only 6,320 organs became available for the 16,300 Americans on waiting lists for donor livers. And in the Bronx—which has one of the highest rates of liver disease in the country and the highest rate in New York State—the chances of getting a transplant are even slimmer. In 2007, the year before the Montefiore-Einstein liver transplant program began, some 50 local residents had to go outside the borough to seek liver transplants.

Organ scarcity is just one of several reasons that liver transplants—while often lifesaving—are an imperfect solution to chronic liver disease:

• Transplants do not necessarily cure the underlying disease. Hepatitis C infection, for example, almost always recurs after a transplant.
• Israeli researchers recently found that half of all liver transplant patients develop metabolic syndrome (characterized by obesity, hypertension, insulin resistance and elevated cholesterol), significantly raising their risk of diabetes and heart disease.
• Liver transplants are expensive: more than half a million dollars per transplant, including the cost for the operation and the first year of care—a price tag drawing increasing scrutiny from public and private insurers. The need for lifelong immunosuppressant therapy and frequent checkups adds to the price tag. A few months ago, Arizona’s Medicaid program made national news by announcing that it would no longer cover several types of transplants, including liver transplants for people with hepatitis C.
• Finally, the liver transplantation process is grueling and long, notes Ventura Rodriguez, who waited 18 months for his liver. Though he acknowledges that it saved his life—“I eat, I sleep, I feel fantastic,” he says—he insists with an emphatic shake of his head that he wouldn’t want to go through it again.

“Every generation looks back and says, ‘I can’t believe that physicians once did this or that,’” says Dr. Gaglio. “I’m scared when I think about what our successors will say about liver transplantation and hopeful that

Sanjeev Gupta, M.D., and colleagues are studying cell therapy for treating acute liver failure. Their strategy involves infusing adult, fetal or stem-cell–derived liver cells into the abdominal cavity. Besides supporting liver function, transplanted cells secrete soluble molecules that promote the organ’s regeneration.
technology will improve what we can offer patients in the future.”

SEEKING NEW THERAPIES

New and better ways of treating liver disease are urgently needed, and researchers in Einstein’s Marion Bessin Liver Research Center have taken up the challenge. The Bessin center’s creation in 1974 marked the beginning of the modern era of liver research in the United States.

In the early 1970s Irwin Arias, M.D., then the director of the division of gastroenterology at Einstein, proposed a new model for liver research that would bring liver specialists together with investigators from other disciplines and with physician-scientists. Dr. Arias’ idea soon won support from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and led to the nation’s first multidisciplinary liver research center. Other institutions were quick to follow the Einstein model.

Today, the Bessin center supports 38 principal investigators in 12 academic departments. The center’s wide-ranging research projects include cell therapies to treat liver disease, developing a blood test to detect liver cancer in patients with hepatitis C and finding a treatment for NAFLD.

The Promise of Cell Therapies

Unique among the major organs, the liver can regenerate itself. Remove a large portion of the liver and it starts to regrow—lobes, bile ducts, blood vessels—and in a couple of months is back to its normal size. But there are limits to the liver’s resiliency.

“In chronic liver disease, the organ suffers repeated injury, so that each time it regenerates, it lays down a little scar tissue,” explains David Shafritz, M.D., who directs the Marion Bessin Liver Research Center, is professor of medicine, of cell biology and of pathology at Einstein and holds the Herman Lopata Chair in Liver Disease Research. “Over time, this can lead to fibrosis [the development of excess fibrous connective tissue] and then to cirrhosis.”

For the better part of two decades, Dr. Shafritz and his Einstein colleagues in the Bessin center have sought ways to improve upon the liver’s natural recuperative powers. Working with animal models of liver disease, they have developed several promising therapies in which cells, rather than whole organs, would be transplanted into patients to treat chronic liver disease, acute liver failure and genetic diseases. Cell types under study include adult liver cells, fetal liver cells and cells derived from embryonic or adult stem cells. In most instances, therapeutic cells are delivered into the liver with the goal of having them implant, multiply and provide the liver with healthy tissue.

One such cell therapy—for an inherited liver disorder called Wilson’s
may need only a temporary assist,” says Dr. Gupta, who has successfully tested this approach in an animal model of acute liver failure.

“Our therapy for Wilson’s disease involves isolating hepatocytes from a healthy liver and then infusing those cells,” says Sanjeev Gupta, M.D., professor of medicine and of pathology and the Eleazar and Feige Reicher Chair in Translational Medicine. “We’ve shown in an animal model of Wilson’s disease that the new cells not only remove the excess copper, but reverse the liver damage. The fibrosis once thought to be permanent disappears completely. These results indicate that cell therapy may also help against chronic hepatitis, where equipping cells with genes to block viruses is now being examined.”

Similarly, Dr. Gupta and colleagues have shown in an animal model that transplanting healthy liver endothelial cells can correct hemophilia A—an exciting finding that has energized interest in cell therapy for hemophilia, a condition in which blood does not clot.

Cells under study for treating acute liver failure—due to drugs, toxins, pregnancy-related complications or other causes—are administered differently. In this case, Dr. Gupta and his colleagues infuse adult, fetal or stem-cell–derived cells into the abdominal cavity. From their position in the abdomen, transplanted cells carry out some of the liver’s functions and send signals to the liver that help it regenerate.

“The liver in those circumstances often retains its ability to recuperate and

stage in that 5 percent of hepatitis C patients who will develop it?” Dr. Wolkoff asks.

The only option now is regular CT and ultrasound scans, alternating at six-month intervals—a regimen that is costly, inefficient and inconvenient. “Many hepatitis C patients don’t cooperate,” says Dr. Wolkoff. “It would be much better if we just had a blood test.”

So far, scientists have been unable to find a unique blood protein, or collection of proteins, that reliably reveals early liver cancer. But Dr. Wolkoff believes that the collective expertise at Einstein and Montefiore could make a difference. So he and Ruth Hogue Angeletti, Ph.D., professor of developmental and molecular biology and of biochemistry, have begun to assemble a team of specialists in proteomics, bioinformatics, biostatistics and clinical hematology to discover a blood biomarker for early liver cancer.

The Search for a Liver Cancer Biomarker

About 5 percent of people with hepatitis C infection will eventually develop liver cancer. “Our surgeons can cure it by cutting it out—if we catch it early, which is a big ‘if,’” says Dr. Wolkoff.

As with other liver diseases, liver cancer doesn’t usually announce itself, in terms of signs or symptoms, until it’s far advanced. “So the question is, how do you find cancer at an early, treatable
proteins) in a biological sample.

“We know that the presence of cancer in a tissue can change the balance of substances in the blood,” says Dr. Angeletti, who is scientific director of the laboratory for macromolecular analysis and proteomics. “Those substances may not be very abundant, so you need various ways of fractionating and enriching the samples to be able to detect these small molecules. We’ll be analyzing blood samples and looking for a peptide ‘fingerprint’—particular peptides present in certain concentrations—that is unique for liver cancer. If we’re successful, our work could lead to a test for early-stage liver cancer that would truly be lifesaving.”

**Fighting Fatty Livers**

Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) wasn’t even described until 1980, yet it now ranks as the most common liver disease in the United States—and probably the least understood. It begins with steatosis, a usually benign condition in which abnormal amounts of lipids (fat) collect in liver cells.

Although many normal-weight people develop NAFLD, being overweight is clearly a risk factor; and for morbidly obese people, “the risk of developing NAFLD is essentially 100 percent,” notes Mark Czaja, M.D., a professor of medicine at Einstein and an expert on NAFLD.

One-third of all Americans have NAFLD that usually remains limited to benign steatosis. But in two to five percent of NAFLD cases, this steatosis goes rogue: The fatty deposits damage cells and inflame the liver, causing it to become fibrotic and then cirrhotic—a process that can proceed without symptoms over many years and is termed nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).

Why does steatosis sometimes go out of control and progress to NASH? Dr. Czaja already has some answers, thanks to his research using in vitro and in vivo models of hepatocyte injury. In 2009, he published a study indicating that overactivity of a cell-signaling pathway called JNK1 not only causes steatosis but promotes its progression to NASH. With this discovery, researchers finally had a potential therapeutic target for stopping or at least slowing the disease.

“We’ve since shown in a mouse model of NAFLD that if we block the JNK1 pathway, we can prevent NAFLD from progressing, and even reverse existing disease,” reports Dr. Czaja. “We’re eager to take these findings to the next level, that is, to clinical trials.”

JNK1 signaling may be just one part of the NAFLD story. Dr. Czaja suspects that a glitch in autophagy—the crucial process by which cells digest and recycle their worn-out proteins and other components—also plays a role in NAFLD.

Autophagy was once thought to ignore lipids completely. But in a research collaboration with autophagy expert Ana Maria Cuervo, M.D., Ph.D., professor of developmental and molecular biology, of anatomy and structural biology and of medicine at Einstein, Dr. Czaja has shown that a form of autophagy called macroautophagy does recycle stored lipids, breaking them down and thereby making energy available for the cell. Furthermore, the researchers found that macroautophagy becomes less efficient as lipids accumulate within hepatocytes, creating a vicious cycle in which lipids overwhelm hepatocytes, damaging and ultimately killing them.

The researchers are now working on strategies to keep liver cells healthy by preventing macroautophagy from breaking down.

Thanks to the work of researchers at Einstein and Montefiore, there is reason to hope for breakthroughs in treating chronic liver disease and preventing its occurrence.

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“**IF WE’RE SUCCESSFUL, OUR WORK COULD LEAD TO A TEST FOR EARLY-STAGE LIVER CANCER THAT WOULD TRULY BE LIFESAVING.**” — Ruth Hogue Angeletti, Ph.D.

“If the beating heart is pure theater, a playful, moody, extroverted organ cavorting in the chest, then the liver, sitting under the diaphragm, is a figurative painting, stolid and silent. The liver produces bile, without which fats are not digested, and the liver stores excess glucose in the form of glycogen. In silence and without outward signs, it detoxifies drugs and chemicals, it manufactures proteins for clotting and for transport, and it clears the body of ammonia, a waste product of metabolism.”

— Abraham Vergheese

*Cutting from Stone*
The palm tree–lined esplanade of Biscayne Boulevard in Miami is a far cry from the streets of Morris Park Avenue in the Bronx. From his Miami office, Dr. Frost carries out his executive responsibilities as chair of Israel-based Teva Pharmaceuticals, the world’s largest maker of generic drugs; chair and CEO of OPKO Health, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company that develops drugs and medical devices; and director of several other corporations.

The man at the center of so much activity developed a strong work ethic while growing up in Philadelphia, where he worked in his dad’s shoe store and his brother’s hardware store. He then earned a B.A. in French literature from the University of Pennsylvania, where a teacher sparked his interest in dermatology.

Dr. Frost enrolled in Einstein’s third medical school class in 1957 and later did his dermatology residency at the University of Pennsylvania and the National Cancer Institute. In 1965, he joined the faculty of dermatology at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Five years later, he founded the dermatology department at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, which he chaired until 1990. He was also professor of dermatology at the University of Miami School of Medicine. While at the National Institutes of Health and then in Miami, Dr. Frost’s studies of epidermal cell turnover led to a rational treatment schedule of psoriasis with methotrexate and a new classification of the Ichthyosiform dermatoses.

But even as he was seeing patients as part of his academic responsibilities, Dr. Frost was launching his business career. With a partner, Dr. Frost formed Transmedics, Inc., to market medical devices he had invented, including a skin biopsy punch, and then acquired the nearly bankrupt Key Pharmaceuticals in 1971. As chairman, Dr. Frost guided Key toward developing and marketing new drug-delivery systems, and the company pioneered the use of skin patches to deliver medicines such as nitroglycerine. After losing $65,000 in his first year of ownership, Key quickly...
became successful and was posting more than $20 million in annual profits by 1984. The partners sold Key to Schering-Plough Corporation for $826 million in 1986.

The following year, Dr. Frost launched IVAX Corporation. This company developed generic versions of drugs that had already attained FDA approval, and used cash generated by their sales to buy promising experimental drugs that seemed likely to receive marketing approval. Sales from those drugs funded efforts by IVAX scientists to develop new drugs internally, and by 1994, IVAX was firmly ensconced in the Fortune 500.

In the 1990s, Dr. Frost focused on expanding into Europe and the emerging markets of Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe. IVAX reached $1.2 billion in sales by 2001, and Dr. Frost’s business acumen was recognized when he received the National Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

In 2006, Dr. Frost agreed to sell IVAX to Teva Pharmaceuticals, the giant Israeli generic-drug company, for $7.4 billion—the second major pharmaceutical company that he had built and sold. Dr. Frost was named vice chair of Teva’s board of directors, and then became chair in 2010.

He has formed a team of trusted business partners who have invested in more than a dozen enterprises, including several medical start-ups such as OPKO Health, Inc., and PROLOR Biotech. He serves as a director of several major companies and was co-vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the American Stock Exchange.

Dr. Frost and his wife, Patricia, have been extremely generous to the arts and education, especially in their adopted hometown of Miami. The couple funded the expansion of what is now the Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music of the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL, and were a driving force behind construction of the new 46,000-square-foot Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University in Miami. Named “Miami’s Best Museum” by South Florida’s New Times newspaper, “The Frost” was designed to serve the broadest possible audience and is free to the public.

A former member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Frost is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Miami and the Board of Trustees of The Scripps Research Institute.

In January, OPKO Health grabbed headlines when it announced a simple blood test that accurately detects Alzheimer’s disease at an early stage. The research effort, described in the journal Cell, used a novel technology that uncovered two antibodies unique to patients with Alzheimer’s disease. That technology may also be able to find antibody biomarkers for early-stage cancers and other diseases.

OPKO jointly owns patent applications covering the technology and holds an exclusive license to it. A team of OPKO scientists is now developing early-stage tests for pancreatic cancer, lung cancer, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease, as well as Alzheimer’s.

“If the concept works and provides early detection of many diseases, this could possibly change the way we practice medicine,” Dr. Frost was quoted as saying in the Miami Herald. “If we dream a little bit, we can envision the elimination of death from cancer.”
M
ore than once, say the experts who work there, the road to CERC has begun on a bus in the Bronx. A mother and child will board, and the child will behave unusually—perhaps flapping his hands or rocking back and forth. Another mother will lean over and say, “My child used to do that,” and she will recommend taking the child to CERC for an evaluation.

CERC opened in 1956 and now serves more than 7,000 infants, children, adolescents and adults each year. These patients have a wide range of developmental disabilities—autism and many others, including ADHD, Down syndrome, spina bifida and mental retardation.

CERC is the clinical arm of Einstein’s Rose F. Kennedy University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The diverse CERC staff of more than 150 healthcare professionals includes developmental pediatricians; pediatric neurologists; rehabilitation medicine specialists; psychiatrists; speech, occupational and physical therapists; a nutritionist; nurses; dentists; and specialists in learning disabilities.

As the services it provides have increased over the years, CERC has scattered among several different sites—presenting major logistical problems both for patients and for staff. “Right now, patients may have to go to separate sites for occupational therapy, audiology testing and other services,” says Robert W. Marion, M.D., director of CERC and the Ruth L. Gottesman Professor in Developmental Pediatrics. “It makes it difficult for patients to navigate, and for staff to communicate.”

Fortunately, help is on the way. Einstein’s campus master plan calls for CERC’s consolidation within the Van Etten building on Morris Park Avenue in the next several years. (See the related story on Van Etten on page 40.)
“The new site will allow us to provide truly multidisciplinary care for each patient,” says Dr. Marion.

Addressing the Autism Epidemic

Einstein clinicians were helping autistic children long before “autism” became a household word. Isabelle Rapin, M.D., professor of neurology and of pediatrics and a member of Einstein’s original faculty, began studying autism in the 1970s and published several major papers showing that children with autism underwent a regression in language and other skills.

While autism can vary widely in severity, the increasing number of kids who are diagnosed as being “on the autism spectrum” generally have problems with social interaction; trouble with verbal and nonverbal communication; and restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior.

“In years past, about one-fifth of all the children we saw had autism, and now it’s between one-fourth and one-third,” says Lisa H. Shulman, M.D., associate clinical professor in the department of pediatrics and director of the CERC Infant and Toddler Team, which is part of the RELATE (Rehabilitation, Evaluation and Learning for Autistic Infants and Toddlers at Einstein) program. Increasingly, Dr. Shulman and her colleagues are diagnosing autism at very young ages—2 or under in many cases.

“We at CERC were asking, ‘How early can you make a valid diagnosis of autism?’ long before anyone else was, and our staff had been trained to use gold-standard instruments for diagnosing autism,” says Dr. Shulman. “So when the autism epidemic hit, we were ready.”

Detecting autism when children are young can make a tremendous difference. “When children are diagnosed early, the services we provide have a much better chance of improving communication skills and correcting aberrant behaviors,” says Dr. Shulman.

As it does for all its patients, CERC offers children with autism a range of services, including occupational and physical therapy as well as help with behavioral and learning issues, speech problems, social skills and feeding problems. Families of children with autism, for example, are offered support groups and help in accessing government programs that provide services. “A diagnosis of autism here is the beginning of the relationship, not the end,” Dr. Shulman says.

Tammy Fried, LCSW, is a social worker who runs support groups for parents of children with autism. There is also a support group for Spanish-speaking parents of children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

“Many parents isolate themselves due to their child’s disability,” says Ms. Fried. “They benefit from a place where they can meet other parents going through similar experiences and share the strategies they use to cope.”

Learning Social Skills

Children with autism spectrum disorders have difficulty interacting with others and need help in learning socially appropriate behaviors. “These children often can’t understand how other people might feel,” says Deborah Meringolo, M.A., M.S., associate director of the Infant and Toddler Team and the RELATE program. “They can misinterpret something as simple as the reason someone pulls away from a conversation. That person might need to go somewhere else, but the child might assume the person doesn’t like them. We teach people with autism spectrum disorders how to think more flexibly about others’ behavior.”

Children with autism and other disabilities learn social rules by participating in skills-based social thinking groups. “We teach them that in every situation there are expected and unexpected behaviors,” says Nancy Tarshis, M.A., M.S., supervisor of speech and language services, and two of her young clients.
“Learning disabilities can make life very difficult, yet they are often overlooked or misdiagnosed...it was very important to me that adults be included in the program.”

— Emily Fisher Landau

language services at CERC. “The children learn that they will get good feedback if they behave in an expected way and that they will usually get negative feedback if they behave in an unexpected way.” Parents are able to view the social skills sessions in an adjacent observation office so they can learn the techniques and use the same vocabulary at home with their children.

Beyond teaching social skills, CERC staffers consult with the children’s schools and refer their patients for other services, such as behavior therapy or reading intervention, as needed. “We make sure their needs are being met all around,” Ms. Tarshis says.

Outreach to Adults
Amid all the publicity over children with autism, it’s easy to overlook that autistic kids grow up to be autistic adults. CERC has recognized this problem and is nationally noted for its programs serving not just children but people of all ages who have autism as well as other developmental disabilities. Those efforts to provide continuing care are centered in the Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities, which coordinates all of CERC’s activities for treating learning problems in children, teens and adults.

The Fisher Landau Center was established in 1997 with a generous gift from Honorary Einstein Overseer Emily Fisher Landau.

EMILY FISHER LANDAU
Advocating for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Emily Fisher Landau’s introduction to Einstein came through her friend, the late Judy Rosenberg, a longtime Einstein Overseer and one of the original group of women who came together in the 1950s to raise money for the new College of Medicine. “I wanted to join because I knew that accomplished Jewish students were finding it difficult to get into medical school,” Mrs. Fisher Landau recalls. “I wanted to support them in their endeavors.”

Mrs. Fisher Landau’s interest in Einstein became more specific when she was diagnosed with dyslexia in her 50s. Making it her mission to see that others had more resources for help than she did, she established the Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities at Einstein 1997, with Ruth Gottesman, Ed.D, as founding director. The two have developed a lasting friendship, in part a result of their shared passion for helping people with learning difficulties.

“Emily Fisher Landau is one of the most extraordinary people I’ve ever met,” says Dr. Gottesman, who is now chair of the Einstein Board of Overseers. “She has been a great friend to me and to Einstein. I was proud to be the founding director of the Fisher Landau Center when it was established by Emily over a decade ago. Einstein couldn’t ask for a better partner in its work with
people with learning disabilities.”

Today the center offers educational, psychological, social, medical and vocational help to learning-disabled people of all ages, from preschool children to adults. It was important to her to have adults included in the program because—as she knew from her own painful experience—learning disabilities can go undiagnosed until late in life. Currently based in the Louis E. and Dora Rousso building, the program will soon move to the renovated, more spacious Van Etten building, along with the rest of the Children’s Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center.

Mrs. Fisher Landau’s deep commitment to Einstein has included a decade of service on the College of Medicine’s Board of Overseers, from 1999 to 2009; she now holds the position of Honorary Overseer. A pioneering member of Einstein’s National Women’s Division, she currently serves on the division’s board of directors and on the New York chapter’s executive committee. In recognition of her distinguished service to the College of Medicine, Yeshiva University awarded her an honorary doctorate in humane letters in 1998.

“From my first meeting with Emily Fisher Landau, at a lunch in Palm Beach with Dr. Gottesman, I found her completely charming and a fascinating conversationalist, and someone with a deep concern for people with learning disabilities,” says Dean Allen M. Spiegel, M.D. “We are honored by this remarkable woman’s involvement with the College of Medicine. She has shown tremendous courage in recognizing, understanding and overcoming her own learning difficulties, and we greatly appreciate her very generous support for our efforts to improve the lives of others—both children and adults—who face similar problems.”

Mrs. Fisher Landau’s other great passion is art. In the 1960s she started buying modern masters such as Picasso, Léger and Dubuffet, and by the early 1980s she had become a champion of contemporary American artists. To help display her large collection, she opened the Fisher Landau Center for Art in a former parachute harness factory in Long Island City, Queens, in 1991, and in 2010, she pledged 367 works to the Whitney Museum of American Art, where she has long been a trustee. The gift included works by nearly 100 major American artists, including Jasper Johns, Ed Ruscha and Andy Warhol, and in her honor, the Whitney has released a book titled Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection, featuring a selection of works from her donation and tracing ideas that have preoccupied American artists since the 1960s.

In 2000, the Einstein Women’s Division named Mrs. Fisher Landau “Woman of the Millennium” for her devotion to Einstein’s mission, her efforts on behalf of those in need and her impact on cultural life. “Never stop learning, never stop looking,” she says.

Mrs. Fisher Landau is the widow of Martin Fisher, a principal in the real estate firm Fisher Brothers, and of Sheldon Landau, a clothing manufacturer.
Ruth L. Gottesman, Ed.D., a professor of pediatrics at the College of Medicine who initiated the Adult Literacy Program at CERC in 1991, was named founding director. Over the years, the center has received wide recognition for the excellence of its comprehensive and innovative services.

Mrs. Fisher Landau’s interest in learning disabilities stems from personal experience. She learned she had dyslexia when she was an adult, after many years of struggle. “Learning disabilities can make life very difficult, yet they are often overlooked or misdiagnosed,” says Mrs. Fisher Landau, who recently turned 90. “As someone who was diagnosed later in life, it was very important to me that adults be included in the program.”

On a visit to the center in 2010, Mrs. Fisher Landau met several parents whose children’s lives had been turned around thanks to the center. “Three mothers told her how their children were failing in school and were on the verge of dropping out, with the prospect of life on the streets and perhaps even prison,” Dr. Marion says. “Those kids found their way to the Fisher Landau Center, were evaluated, received the academic and social support they needed and started to excel. Now they are headed toward a life that includes college and the prospect of a good job.”

Dr. Gottesman, who is now chair of Einstein’s Board of Overseers and professor emerita of pediatrics, retired in 2001 from her posts as founding director of the Fisher Landau Center and director of the Adult Literacy Program. “Most adults with learning disabilities need to understand that they aren’t the problem—they have a problem,” explains Dr. Gottesman. Clients in the Adult Literacy Program are taught how to take advantage of an ever-increasing number of technological programs that change text into speech and speech into text. They also learn to access recorded books. Although this may be a different road to literacy, most clients find enormous satisfaction in their increased ability to handle many issues that were previously a source of frustration, and also to enjoy the world of literature.

“People who have trouble reading have underlying problems in processing information. To learn to read they need to learn techniques to compensate for those processing problems, which is not so easy to do.” – Mary S. Kelly, Ph.D.
The Adult Literacy Program offered by the Fisher Landau Center is the only program in New York City that provides one-to-one help for adults with learning and reading disabilities. It also teaches self-advocacy skills to help adults live independently.

“Learning disabilities are lifelong,” says Mary S. Kelly, Ph.D., who succeeded Dr. Gottesman as director of the Fisher Landau Center and the Adult Literacy Program. “People who have trouble reading have underlying problems in processing information. To learn to read they need to learn techniques to compensate for those processing problems, which is not so easy to do,” she adds.

The Adult Literacy Program continues to grow in popularity. “We’re known in the community, and we also get referrals from mental health clinics and

with basic scientists at Einstein and Montefiore. Much of this new research activity focuses on the molecular basis of autism. Projects include collaborations with John Greally, M.B., B.Ch., Ph.D., at the Einstein Center for Epigenomics (he is associate professor of genetics and medicine and Einstein’s Faculty Scholar for Epigenomics, an endowed academic position established by Dr. Ruth L. and David S. Gottesman); Bernice Morrow, Ph.D., director of the division of Translational Genetics in the department of genetics (she is professor of genetics, of obstetrics & gynecology and women’s health, and of pediatrics and the Sidney L. and Miriam K. Olson Professor in Cardiology); and Brett Abrahams, Ph.D., assistant professor, department of genetics, who recently joined Einstein from UCLA and is looking into the genetic basis of autism.

The lab of Drs. Foxe and Molhom is also working to identify schizophrenia in children as young as 10 or 11. “We are looking at children with a family history of schizophrenia, who are at higher-than-normal risk of developing schizophrenia themselves,” says Dr. Foxe. “If we can identify children who will go on to develop the disease, they might benefit from preventive treatment before having a major psychotic episode.”

John Foxe, Ph.D., and Sophie Molholm, Ph.D., stand behind a young man wearing a cap containing numerous electrodes that record brain wave activity.
literacy programs,” Dr. Kelly says. The program is usually helping 50 to 60 people at any one time and performs 500 new evaluations a year.

**Making Dental Visits Manageable**

Few people like going to the dentist. But for Lloyd Vener, a recent dental visit made him scream, throw himself on the floor and try desperately to escape. “He’s very strong,” says his mother, Anna Mae Vener, “and his instinct is to resist.”

Lloyd is 44 years old and severely developmentally disabled. Luckily, CERC’s Special Care Dentistry Unit can deal with Lloyd’s terror and provide the care he needs. In fact, Lloyd has been going to CERC’s dentistry unit since he was three years old.

Receiving dental care is an especially troublesome problem for people with developmental disabilities. CERC’s dental unit is the only dental facility in New York City that offers conscious sedation, a condition in which patients are awake and responsive while anesthetized against pain. The unit attracts patients from far and near who can’t be treated at conventional dental offices.

“If you have autism and don’t want someone to touch you, or you don’t want to sit in a chair for a long time, it’s very difficult to get dental services,” says Dr. Marion. “As a result, many people who are developmentally disabled have poor dental hygiene. The conscious sedation we provide is not just for dental care but also allows other specialists, such as ophthalmologists or ear, nose and throat specialists, to provide care during the same session.”

**Looking to the Future**

Philip O. Ozuah, M.D., Ph.D., oversees CERC in his role as chair of Einstein’s department of pediatrics. “For 55 years, CERC has done a fantastic job of serving the needs of developmentally disabled children,” says Dr. Ozuah, who is also a professor in the departments of pediatrics and of family and social medicine. “Once CERC becomes consolidated on the first and second floors of the Van Etten building, I know we’ll be able to do an even better job of helping these kids.”

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Janine Santos, 17, a patient in CERC’s Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit, has known pediatric physiatrist “Dr. Rani”—Dona Rani C. Kathirithamby, M.B.B.S.—since age 6 months, when she started therapy for cerebral palsy. Dr. Kathirithamby directs the unit.
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All classes are held on the Einstein Resnick campus in the northeast Bronx, NY
It wasn’t even part of Einstein’s Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus two years ago, but today the Van Etten building—a classic example of white-brick 1950s New York public architecture, originally built to serve as a municipal hospital—is seen as one of the key elements of Einstein’s future growth. As funding becomes available, “Van Etten,” as it is known on campus, will house more clinical, educational and computer facilities that are now scattered among several other locations—and these strategic moves will, in turn, free up vitally needed lab space.

For many in the Einstein community—from a child needing evaluation for a disability to a newly recruited researcher—the Van Etten renovation will make a world of difference. In addition, the rooms, floors and wings of Van Etten—and even the building itself—offer naming opportunities to donors wishing to contribute to this major campus addition.

REVITALIZING AN ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIC

The Van Etten Hospital opened in September 1954 as an airy 360,000-square-foot, 500-bed sanatorium for tuberculosis patients. It was named in honor of Nathan B. Van Etten, M.D., a Bronx physician well known for caring for the poor and a past president of the American Medical Association. Since it came into being at the height of the Cold War, Van Etten was solidly constructed so that it could double as an evacuation center—and its sub-basements serve as fallout shelters—in case of nuclear attack.

Van Etten never housed evacuees, and thanks to improved drug treatments, it was never even used as a TB sanatorium. Instead, Van Etten eventually became an adjunct of Jacobi/Bronx Municipal Medical Center, housing chronic and ambulatory care facilities and earning the utilitarian designation Building #5.

In 2007, when Jacobi leased Einstein the land for constructing the new Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine/Harold and Muriel Block Research Pavilion, Van Etten, which sits on the southeast end of the parcel, was tossed into the package almost as an afterthought.

Van Etten played into Einstein’s comprehensive master plan for developing the Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus perfectly. “The beauty of Van Etten,” says Salvatore P. Ciampo, director of facilities management, “is that we can fill it with offices and other ‘dry’ lab endeavors at a low cost per square foot, allowing us to set aside more expensive wet-lab space in other buildings for researchers who need it.”
Einstein’s initial move in renovating Van Etten involved construction of the state-of-the-art Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center, which opened on the second floor in fall 2009. Funded by a generous donation from Ruth L. Gottesman, Ed.D., chair of the Einstein Board of Overseers, the 23,000-square-foot facility provides comfortable classrooms and realistic exam rooms for clinical instruction of first- and second-year medical students.

“We used the concept of adaptive reuse for the clinical skills center,” Mr. Ciampo explains. “We didn’t knock down walls and gut everything. Instead, we plastered over soundproof glazed block walls rather than replace them with sheetrock you can hear through. We had the wooden doors relaminated on City Island, which cost us $200 each instead of $500 apiece for new ones.”

“Sal and his team did a terrific job of transforming this space into a truly state-of-the-art learning environment for our students and faculty,” says Dr. Gottesman, who also is professor emerita of pediatrics. “In this challenging economic time, their expert approach to repurposing buildings such as Van Etten will enable us to stretch our dollars as the medical school continues to grow.”

Completion of the clinical skills center—referred to as “phase zero” of the Van Etten renovation—showed clearly that the building could be transformed in a cost-effective manner.

Attention has now turned to phase one, in which the priority is relocating Einstein’s Children’s Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center to Van Etten’s first and second floors. The initial piece is now in place: John Foxe, Ph.D., CERC’s first research director, recently opened his Cognitive Neurophysiology Laboratory on Van Etten’s first floor.

Dr. Foxe and his staff—including two other principal investigators, four postdocs, 14 grad students and eight interns—will use their impressive lab space to study autism, addiction, schizophrenia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other disorders. Once CERC’s far-flung clinical programs join up with the neurophysiology lab in Van Etten, CERC can finally realize its potential as a clinical research center.
CENTRALIZING CHILDREN’S SERVICES
“CERC is a victim of its own success,” says its director, Robert W. Marion, M.D. Each year, CERC’s skilled staff of more than 150—physicians, psychologists, speech therapists and other specialists—treat 7,000 children and adolescents and some adults with problems that include physical, developmental, language and learning disabilities.

CERC was originally housed on the first two floors of Einstein’s Rose F. Kennedy Center, but an increasing patient load forced it to expand into four additional sites: the Fisher Landau Center for the Treatment of Learning Disabilities in the Rousso building on Morris Park Avenue; the Early Childhood Center on Seminole Avenue; the Center for Babies, Toddlers and Families on Jarrett Place; and the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore.

Today, a child needing CERC’s full range of services must travel from one locale to another—at risk of missing an appointment or missing out on essential care.

When CERC is centralized in Van Etten, all its services will be available under one roof, and it will have 20 percent more space. “We’ll be better able to achieve our goal of improving the lives of people with disabilities and their families,” says Dr. Marion.

Consolidating CERC in Van Etten will cost $9 million, of which about $6 million has been obtained so far through public and private commitments. As additional funds are raised, CERC’s total relocation to Van Etten will move forward.

FINISHING PHASE ONE
In addition to the relocation of CERC, the $19 million initial phase of Van Etten’s renovation will include new lab space.

All Einstein first-year med students take Clinical & Developmental Anatomy, a basic course in medical education. But facilities on the sixth floor of the Leo Forchheimer Medical Science Building have been upgraded only once since Einstein was founded. In fact, the dissection lab is one of the very few entities in the College of Medicine that occupies the space originally assigned to it when the medical school was built. “A dissection lab and morgue are essential to medical training,” says Todd R. Olson, Ph.D., professor in the department of anatomy and structural biology and director of the Clinical & Developmental Anatomy course.

“Unfortunately, over the years, support services needed to keep the dissection lab functioning have lost crucial space to other departments.”

The move to Van Etten will provide medical students with the space they need. The cost of building the anatomy facilities on Van Etten’s ground floor is budgeted at more than $6 million.

Another $2.5 million will go to opening up new space on Van Etten’s third floor for Einstein’s Institute for Aging Research, the interdisciplinary research center founded in 2002. Moving from the Rousso building to larger quarters in Van Etten will help the institute to recruit more researchers.

Also needing more workspace is the ever-expanding department of systems & computational biology, established in 2008 in the Price Center. “We are constantly recruiting,” says Aviv Bergman, Ph.D., founding professor and chair of the department and professor in the Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience. A planned $2.2 million makeover of a wing on Van Etten’s ground floor will quickly be occupied by researchers in computational biology and genetics.
A FUNDRAISING PRIORITY
“The Van Etten renovation is high on our fundraising priority list,” says Glenn Miller, associate dean for institutional advancement, in charge of fundraising and alumni and donor relations for the College of Medicine. “In an era of fiscal restraint, this is a pragmatic project that we can complete in increments as donations are made available. Our plans allow for construction to progress without disrupting what’s already there. It’s a project we’ll be working on for the next three to five years.”

Mr. Miller notes that preserving and renovating Van Etten is an economical solution to Einstein’s pressing expansion needs. “Estimates for the cost of tearing Van Etten down and creating a new building with a similar amount of space could have reached $500 million,” he explains. “By contrast, we expect that the total cost of renovating will be less than a third of that amount.”

Aside from the Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center on the second floor, Van Etten presents donors with a wide variety of naming opportunities. “Under the terms of our 99-year renewable lease, we have the right to name every room in the building,” says Mr. Miller, “and people have already asked if we can rename the building itself—and the answer is yes. The process has already started for naming rooms and floors and wings.”

The first $2 million of the $19 million phase-one fundraising goal was secured with a $1 million grant from the New York City Council and a matching amount from a bequest Einstein received last year. Announcements of additional donations are expected soon.

Q&A WITH ALLEN M. SPIEGEL, M.D.
THE MARILYN AND STANLEY M. KATZ DEAN

Q: Are there elements of the Van Etten phase-one renovation that you consider particularly urgent?
A: Consolidation of CERC from its current scattered locations is crucial because some of these locations are substandard, and at least one, which houses the Center for Babies, Toddlers and Families, is leased and will no longer be available to us. We also urgently need the additional wet-lab space that will be generated by the space created when programs move into Van Etten. Finally, creating that additional lab space is key to implementing some of the research programs called for in our strategic research plan.

Q: How important is the role of fundraising for achieving the College of Medicine’s vision for the Van Etten renovation?
A: Absolutely essential, because there are no possible NIH grants that would support it. Fortunately, Einstein’s supporters understand the importance of the Van Etten renovation to the research, educational and service missions of the college, and I have been encouraged by their generous response.

Q: What position does the project occupy with respect to fulfilling the Einstein campus master plan?
A: It is an integral step. In developing the plan, we carefully analyzed Van Etten and saw that despite its shabby exterior, the building offered a tremendous opportunity for Einstein to satisfy several needs, and in a highly cost-effective way. At about 350,000 square feet, the building is large and structurally sound. And as we learned from renovating two wings of the second floor to create the Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center, it’s quite capable of being converted to highly attractive and functional space.

Q: Did the building’s location affect its value to Einstein?
A: Van Etten is ideally located—close to the Price Center/Block Research Pavilion, the Kennedy Center and the rest of our campus. That will help us realize a key goal of the campus master plan, namely, to create a compact, readily walkable campus. We envision Van Etten becoming a nexus for our clinical, educational, research and treatment efforts at Einstein—sort of a new campus “Main Street.” It will make Einstein more attractive to incoming students and help our researchers feel more a part of the Einstein community.

Q: Are you on target for reaching your goal of $19 million for completing the first phase of the Van Etten renovation?
A: We have made an excellent start but will definitely need further assistance if we are to realize our goal.

Q: What other renovation phases are envisioned for Van Etten?
A: We are clearly committed to completing phase one. Beyond that, we have several options, including renovating upper floors of the building to wet-lab space if this is warranted. Eventually, designated wings of the structure may be converted to on-campus housing for medical and doctoral students. But at this point, we don’t want to lock ourselves into definitive uses of the remaining space. I should point out that the exteriors of several floors of two wings of the building have been rather inexpensively refurbished, and those who’ve seen the result have been pleasantly surprised. Whether we move forward with the rest of the exterior in this cost-effective way or do something more elaborate will be determined by our progress in fundraising; a donor interested in naming the building would of course help in this regard.
Science as Art, Art as Science

In a variety of media, Jeffrey Wyckoff explores the interface between two cultures

In his “Two Cultures” lecture a half-century ago, C. P. Snow famously said that the arts and sciences have little in common. But Jeffrey Wyckoff, M.F.A., B.S., principal associate in anatomy and structural biology, begs to differ.

A scientist and an artist, he inhabits a world in which the two cultures constantly interact. Microscope slides help reveal cellular secrets but can also function as multiple miniature platforms for a series of landscape photographs. Petri dishes grow bacteria but can also act as canvases for living “bio-portraits.” By imaginatively intermingling the micro- and the macroscopic, the internal and external, this scientist-artist subverts our usual perceptions of reality by leading us to hidden patterns, unexpected connections and new meanings.
Mr. Wyckoff by day is known as an innovative imaging technologist. Working with colleagues in the Gruss Lipper Biophotonics Center at Einstein, he has developed new kinds of microscopes for use in intravital imaging, capturing, in three dimensions and high resolution, the behavior of individual cells deep within living tissues.

A native of California, Mr. Wyckoff majored in biology and started his scientific career as a lab technician at the University of California, Los Angeles. All the while, he nurtured his skills in drawing and photography, eventually returning to school to earn two degrees in art, including a master of fine arts degree in photography from Brooklyn’s Pratt Institute.

While at Pratt, in the mid-1990s, Mr. Wyckoff applied for a job with John Condeelis, Ph.D., now co-chair of the department of anatomy and structural biology at Einstein and co-director of the Biophotonics Center. The two have collaborated on dozens of papers and have helped set the standard of excellence in intravital imaging.

Mr. Wyckoff’s artwork begins with the germ of an idea, which then takes on concrete form as he finds the motivation, materials and methods to realize his vision. If necessary, he’ll develop his own technical processes, such as his proprietary technique for transferring photos onto glass.

“I always have ideas for new pieces, and when the time and desire strike me, I do them,” he says. “At Pratt, the joke around campus was that my solo show was going to be me sitting on a stool in the back of the gallery, drinking vodka and telling people what I would have done if I’d bothered to get around to it.”

An overview of Mr. Wyckoff’s vast oeuvre uncovers no discernible pattern to his creations, which veer from kinetic sculptures to dry-brush Chinese watercolors to “tapestries” of Polaroid photos. “That’s probably one reason why I’ve never become a famous artist,” he acknowledges. “People want consistency in what they are collecting.”

He may not be famous, but he has been noticed. Over the years, galleries in the United States and Europe have featured Mr. Wyckoff’s creations, including in two solo shows in New York.

If C. P. Snow were still alive, he might well be collecting Mr. Wyckoff’s artwork—and correcting that old lecture of his.
Einstein Gears Up to Celebrate Reunion 2011

During the first week in June, alumni from Einstein classes ending in 1s and 6s will return to campus to reconnect with classmates, take part in Commencement and marvel at the changes that have occurred at their alma mater since their medical school days.

Leading the celebrations will be this year’s 50th Anniversary Class of 1961—the third group of Einstein graduates. These distinguished alumni will be recognized by the Einstein community for their personal and professional accomplishments since graduating from Einstein and for their unique role in the annals of Einstein history.

“I am honored to be co-chairing our 50th Anniversary Reunion along with my friend and classmate Ken Schiffer,” says Paul Wachter, M.D. ’61. “Our committee has been planning reunion activities for several months, and our classmates are very excited to return to campus for this milestone celebration.”

The festivities will start on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at 3 p.m., with Einstein’s Commencement Exercises in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center; all alumni are invited to march. The Class of 1961 will be honored along with the recipients of the 2011 Einstein Alumni Awards. That evening, the Class of 1961 Welcome Dinner will take place at the Yeshiva University Museum at the Center for Jewish History in New York City.

On Thursday, June 2, a Gala Reunion Dinner will be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City.

Alumni from all reunion classes will be joined by Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, and other Einstein deans and faculty.

Alumni Day on Campus, Friday, June 3, will feature an educational symposium at the Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine/ Harold and Muriel Block Research Pavilion, followed by lunch and a special campus tour.

Jack Stern, M.D. ’74, Ph.D. ’73, president-elect of the Einstein Alumni Association, will celebrate his 40th Anniversary Reunion with the class he began his Einstein education with, and is a member of the Class of 1971 Reunion Committee. “As a member of the Einstein Alumni Board, I have the opportunity to return to campus from time to time, to see how the college has developed and to meet new faculty,” says Dr. Stern. “But there is nothing

Left, some members of the Class of 1961 during their medical school days.

Ken Schiffer, M.D. ’61, and Paul Wachter, M.D. ’61.

For more information or to volunteer for your class reunion committee, please contact the office of alumni relations at 718.430.2013 or alumni@einstein.yu.edu.
Marion Zucker Goldstein, M.S., M.D. ‘59, is a professor in the department of psychiatry at the State University of New York (SUNY), Buffalo, and is the division and program director of geriatric psychiatry.

Dr. Goldstein reports that she currently recruits for geriatric psychiatry fellows. “Applicants from the Einstein psychiatry residency and of course all other psychiatry residencies in the country as well as other physicians are most welcome!” she says. Dr. Goldstein remembers her 50th Reunion two years ago fondly, and is proud to announce that her oldest daughter, Lillian R. Schapiro, M.D. ’91, is an ob/gyn in Atlanta. Lillian and her husband have “three blooming, lovely, bright, beautiful daughters, ages 14, 14, and 8. Life is rich and beautiful indeed . . . three granddaughters!”

Howard J. Schwartz, M.D. ‘60, has been appointed as a visiting scholar in the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Robert Chalfin, M.D. ‘61, is senior psychiatrist for dynamic psychotherapy at the Zucker Hillside Hospital of the North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System. He writes, “I have been there for over 40 years in various educational and teaching capacities. I am the recipient of teaching awards from the hospital, the health system, the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychoanalytical Association. I also teach at the New York University School of Medicine residency program and its associated Psychoanalytic Institute. In addition, I have faculty appointments at Einstein and NYU, where I am an adjunct professor of psychiatry. All of this has been a source of a great deal of intellectual stimulation, pleasure and pride. I have three married daughters and am proud grandfather to eight grandchildren. My wife, Leita, and I are working on our 53rd year of marriage. I look forward to my 50th class reunion and seeing my classmates there. I have always valued and been proud of my Einstein education.”

Philip Stein, M.D. ‘61, is currently in the late stages of Parkinson’s disease, reports his wife, Bonnie. Dr. Stein retired in 2005 after a long career in psychiatry. Bonnie writes that “Phil remains in good spirits and still evidences his wonderful sense of humor,” and is an inspiration and role model for his children, including son Andrew Stein, M.D. ‘85, about how to conduct themselves through life’s challenges.

Ken Schiffer, M.D. ‘61, “They give us a chance to see classmates and honor the College of Medicine that helped launch our careers. It’s thrilling for my class to be celebrating our 50th Anniversary Reunion,” he adds, “but I also encourage all reunion-year alumni to return to Einstein this spring and share our unique bond.”

For more information about Einstein’s 2011 Reunion celebration and how you can get involved, please contact Emily Snyder, director of alumni relations, at 718.430.2922 or emily.snyder@einstein.yu.edu.
The Steins hope to be able to join Phil’s classmates at the 50th Anniversary Reunion for the Class of 1961, in June.

Joyce H. Lowinson, M.D. ’62, is proud to announce that New York University recently established the Joyce H. Lowinson, M.D., Professorship in Pain Medicine and Palliative Care. Michel Dubois, M.D., a preeminent leader in the field of pain medicine, has been named the first Lowinson Professor.

Jon Ostrow, M.D. ’62, writes, “I’m now semi-retired, summering in our former home, Seattle, and wintering in Tucson. After retiring from private practice in 2001, I have been doing locum tenens work up on the Navajo Reservation, in northern Arizona and New Mexico. We go up there about three times yearly, and I have done about 20 short-term jobs in places like Pinon, Pine Hill, Ganado, Peach Springs and Parker. My wife, Ellyn, who has been suffering my habits since medical school, is a good sport, and we’ve learned to live a rural life, intermittently. I also cover a solo internal medicine practice for vacation relief in Seattle. The rest of our lives revolve around hiking, bridge, travel, photography and, of course, our two grandkids in Berkeley. We celebrated grandson Sam’s bar mitzvah there in January. We haven’t seen many former Einstein grads in Seattle. The couple lives and works in Durham, NC, “closer to the center of the universe, although we enjoyed our ten-year stay in Durham very much. We are closer to family and public transportation, both important in our advancing age. I would be glad to meet any alumni and am also interested in a part-time volunteer job. In Durham, I worked at the Durham Veterans Medical Center. I continue to be gratified by the excellence of my medical education and the reputation of Einstein.”

Steve Weissman, M.D. ’63, recently wrote a psycho-biography of Charlie Chaplin, Chaplin: A Life (Arcade, 2008), which has been translated and published in Germany, Portugal, Russia and Brazil and was named a film book of the year by the London Standard in 2009. Dr. Weissman is “still practicing psychiatry (and thoroughly enjoying it). At 73, it’s great fun to still have ‘skin in the game.’” He notes, “Working keeps me feeling young and socially useful. My wife, Carole Horn, M.D., also continues to practice internal medicine full time.” The couple lives and works in Washington, DC. Their daughter Annie is a second-year medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, where she received a full-tuition Gamble Scholarship.

David White, M.D. ’63, is retired and living in Eugene, OR, with Lina, his wife of 46 years. “We enjoy our two granddaughters, Dani, age 12, and Kiwi, age 9, who also live with their parents in Eugene.”

Judith Shapiro Adamson, M.D. ’64, recently moved with her husband to Chevy Chase, MD, from Durham, NC, “closer to the center of the universe, although we enjoyed our ten-year stay in Durham very much. We are closer to family and public transportation, both important in our advancing age. I would be glad to meet any alumni and am also interested in a part-time volunteer job. In Durham, I worked at the Durham Veterans Medical Center. I continue to be gratified by the excellence of my medical education and the reputation of Einstein.”

Joseph Berke, M.D. ’64, has lived and worked in London, England, since 1965. In 1970 he and Morton Schatzman, M.D. ’62, founded the Arbours Association, a nonprofit that provides shelter and psychotherapy for people in emotional distress. In 1973, Dr. Berke founded the Arbours Crisis Centre, and he retired as its director in 2009. He has written many books and articles, including Centers of Power: The Convergence of Psychoanalysis and Kabbalah, with co-author Stanley Schneider (Jason Aronson USA, 2008), and Malice Through the Looking Glass: Reflections and Refractions of Envy, Greed and Jealousy (Teva Publications, 2nd revised ed., 2009).

Barbara Previte, M.D. ’64, lives in Phoenix, AZ. She is sad to report that her husband passed away in 2005, but she enjoys spending time with her daughter, also a resident of Phoenix, and her son, who lives in San Jose, CA.
Arnold Bresky, M.D. ’65, started a nonprofit organization, Hands of Kindness, with the mission of helping patients with memory disorders. He writes, “In order to give the senior citizen meaning and purpose in life and achieve social interaction, I have these patients shut off the TV and knit small caps for premature babies, larger caps for people receiving chemotherapy and small blankets for abandoned children. For more information, please visit www.handsofkindness.org.”

Harriette R. Mogul, M.D. ’65, M.P.H., is the author of Syndrome W: A Woman’s Guide to Reversing Midlife Weight Gain (M. Evans, 2010), a completely revised edition of Dr. Mogul’s earlier book on the same subject. All profits from sale of the book will support Syndrome W research, including the EMPOWIR study that Dr. Mogul is conducting with Ruth Freeman, M.D. ’60, professor of obstetrics & gynecology and women’s health and of medicine at Einstein.

Ira Steinman, M.D. ’65, lives in San Francisco and is a practicing psychiatrist. He recently published a book, Treating the ‘Untreatable’: Healing in the Realms of Madness, which describes the beneficial and—at times—curative results of intensive outpatient psychotherapy for schizophrenia and delusional states. He notes that the book “has been very positively reviewed in a recent issue of the Psychoanalytic Quarterly.” For more information, please visit Dr. Steinman’s website, www.irasteinman.com.

Widening the Einstein Circle

In order to more effectively serve today’s Einstein students, the Alumni Association Board of Governors is broadening its reach and connecting with alumni throughout the country.

With a dual mission of providing support and assistance for Einstein and its students and strengthening the connection between alumni and the College of Medicine, the alumni board is intent on involving alumni nationwide. Its goals are threefold: to better reflect the school’s diversity; enhance the board’s ability to connect students with alumni in different states for career mentoring and networking; and improve outreach to prospective students wherever they live.

The impetus for this new approach: a retreat held in early 2010, where Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, presented a new vision for alumni interactions to the alumni board’s executive committee. The dean noted that, building on the board’s many past successes, an enhanced nationwide alumni network could provide connections for residency programs, networking and mentoring; foster the careers of recent graduates; and help raise the overall profile of the medical school.

Inspired by the dean’s message, Stephen E. Goldstone, M.D. ’79, president of the Alumni Association Board of Governors, was eager to initiate opportunities to engage alumni nationally. The alumni relations office held events in Boston and Washington, DC, last fall and in South Florida in March of this year; more programs are planned for Northern and Southern California in June. In addition, alumni across the country are being encouraged to join the Alumni Career Network to connect with students seeking career advice.

Also at the top of the priority list: reaching out to recent Einstein graduates and developing activities to fortify their connection with their alma mater. Building on the momentum of last year’s events bringing together recent grads and fourth-year students, the alumni relations office hosted its first Bowling Night in New York City in January for these two groups, with more than 30 alumni attending (see page 11). Plans are under way for future programs to engage the recent-graduate community.

“HAVING A BOARD THAT REPRESENTS THE FULL REACH OF EINSTEIN’S ALUMNI BASE WILL HELP US REACH OUR GOALS.”

– STEPHEN E. GOLDSTONE, M.D. ’79

Dr. Goldstone and Jack Stern, M.D. ’74, Ph.D. ’73, president-elect of the alumni board and chair of the nomination committee, are also committed to bringing new alumni leaders onto the board, regardless of where they live. “Having a board that represents the full reach of Einstein’s alumni base will help us reach our goals,” Dr. Goldstone said.

“The board’s proud record of achievement has strengthened the College of Medicine throughout its history,” Dean Spiegel remarked. “With its new focus on helping alumni, regardless of their geographic location, to feel a stronger sense of belonging to the Einstein community, the board will play a pivotal role in expanding the range of opportunities for all our students and graduates.”

For more information about the Alumni Association Board of Governors and how you can get involved, please contact Emily Snyder, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at 718.430.2922 or emily.snyder@einstein.yu.edu.
Jerry Winkelstein, M.D. ’65, retired five years ago after 40 years at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Winkelstein and his wife, Marilyn, have two children: “One is a practicing pediatrician in Baltimore, and the other a faculty member of the University of Pennsylvania in biomedical engineering. We have a second home on Mt. Desert Island, ME, and spend four months a year there enjoying hiking, gardening, reading and woodworking. We had a special treat this summer when Michael J. Reichgott, M.D. ’65, Ph.D., and his wife, Lynn, stopped by for a visit!”

Peter E. Schwartz, M.D. ’66, will be honored this year by the Yale Ob-Gyn Society (YOGS), a “very formal” group of everyone who has been affiliated with the department over the years: residents, fellows, attendings, researchers, etc. At the annual gathering, Dr. Schwartz will be recognized for the important role he has played in the department, beginning with his days as a resident and his junior attending years, and as leader of both the gyn-oncology section and the department as a whole, including his role as acting chair. Having trained several generations of Yale residents and fellows who have gone on to become leaders in their field, “Peter directly has had more responsibility for gyn care in the United States than anyone else,” reports YOGS.

Barbara Barlow, M.D. ’67, retired as director of surgery at Columbia University’s Harlem Hospital in July 2010, and has been appointed professor emerita of surgery in epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Barlow continues as executive director and founder of the Injury-Free Coalition for Kids, which includes 43 pediatric trauma centers in all 10 federal trauma districts. Dr. Barlow encourages all alumni to visit the website www.injuryfree.org and to e-mail her at bab1@columbia.edu if there is a site in your city and you would like to get involved.

Robert Zimmerman, M.D. ’68, writes that he is honored to serve on the following national boards and committees: the American Board of Radiology, of which he is a trustee; the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; and the Brain Trauma Foundation.

David H. Abramson, M.D. ’69, has received tenure at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he is the first chief of the ophthalmic oncology service. At the recent American Academy of Ophthalmology Meeting, his innovative direct intra-arterial chemotherapy treatment (ophthalmic artery) for retinoblastoma in children was hailed as one of the most important discoveries in retina research in the past year. In addition, Dr. Abramson reports...
that his neurology instructor while at Einstein, the noted physician and author Oliver Sacks, M.D., has dedicated his newest book, *The Mind’s Eye*, to Dr. Abramson. In the book is a chapter about Dr. Sacks’ experience as a patient of Dr. Abramson.

**Lewis Cantor, M.D. ’69**, retired from full-time practice as of September 30, 2010. Dr. Cantor writes, “I continue to work one day per week in our practice office, and as a consultant for the San Andreas Regional Center, caring for patients with mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy.”

**1970s**

**Douglas A. Drossman, M.D. ’70**, received his Doctor Honoris Causa (honorary degree) from the National University in Cluj, Romania, where he was acknowledged for his work in promoting biopsychosocial research and education in mind-body interactions in Romania and Eastern Europe. Dr. Drossman is a gastroenterologist and professor of medicine and psychiatry at the University of North Carolina, and president of the Rome Foundation, a multinational nonprofit academic organization that supports research and education in functional gastrointestinal disorders.

**Barry M. Schimmer, M.D. ’70**, is a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He has been chief of the rheumatology section at Pennsylvania Hospital since 1978. His wife, Naomi, is a program administrator. Dr. Schimmer served for 14 years on the American Board of International Medicine (ABIM) rheumatology subspecialty board and has been a member of the Internal Medicine Test Writing Committee of the ABIM and the Rheumatology SEP Review Committee. His older daughter, Alexandra, is chief deputy solicitor general for the state of Ohio; her husband is a history professor at Denison University. They have a 14-month-old son, Jonah. Dr. Schimmer’s younger daughter, Rebecca, is senior development associate for the Jewish Federation in Philadelphia, and her husband, Ben, has an Internet search engine marketing company in New York City. They have a 14-month-old daughter, Sydney.

**Joseph Citron, M.D. ’71, J.D.**, presented a paper this past November at the joint American-Israeli Toxicology meeting at the Rambam Medical Center in Haifa, Israel.

**Nathan Litman, M.D. ’71**, was recently appointed vice chair for clinical affairs in the department of pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore; he is also the division chief of pediatric infectious diseases and professor of pediatrics at Einstein.

**Mark T. Birns, M.D. ’74**, had the joy and honor of hooding his son **Michael E. Birns, M.D. ’10**, at Commencement in June. Michael is now an orthopedic resident at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. Mark is a gastroenterologist in Rockville, MD, and the founder of a successful private practice and of two ambulatory surgical (endoscopy) centers. He has achieved the repeated distinction of being named among the “Top Doctors” in *Washingtonian Magazine’s* yearly survey. He is a clinical associate professor of medicine at Georgetown

**Martin Grajower, M.D. ’73, F.A.C.P., F.A.C.E.**, was recently appointed to the editorial board of *Endocrine Practice*, the journal of the American College of Endocrinology. In December 2009, Dr. Grajower co-chaired the first International Congress of the Bildirici Diabetes Center of Laniado Hospital, in Netanya, Israel. He is currently guest editor of *The Proceedings* of this Congress, published serially in *Diabetes & Metabolism/Research & Reviews*; the first part appeared in the November 2010 issue. Dr. Grajower notes that the editor-in-chief of the journal is fellow Einstein alumnus **Jesse Roth, M.D. ’59**.

**Dan Mayer, M.D. ’73**, practices emergency medicine and teaches evidence-based healthcare at Albany Medical College in Albany, NY. Dr. Mayer and his wife, Julia Eddy, have “three wonderful children and eight grandchildren.” Dr. Mayer recently published two books: *Essential Evidence-Based Medicine* (2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2010); and *Case Studies in Emergency Medicine*, with Rebecca Jeanmonod, M.D., and Michelle Tomassi, M.D. (Cambridge University Press, 2010). Dr. Mayer notes, “It was wonderful reuniting with **Stuart Z. Shapiro, M.D. ’77**, at the AAMC meeting in Washington, DC, in November.”

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Tia Powell, M.D., Director
Phone: 718.920.4630
Email: bioethics@montefiore.org
Morri E. Markowitz, M.D. ‘74, is completing his 40th year at Einstein, a relationship that began in 1970, when he arrived for medical school. He writes, “I’ve had an enjoyable time in the department of pediatrics, always based at Montefiore and now at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. I’ve worn many hats: as a resident, then chief resident, then as the first pediatrician fellow in the Montefiore Clinical Research Center; as an attending at the Einstein hospitals; rising to become a professor of pediatrics at the medical school; as a clinical director of pediatric environmental sciences and interim chief of the division of pediatric endocrinology; as a teacher of medical students, residents and fellows; as an NIH-funded clinical researcher in the fields of lead and calcium disorders; and as a clinician who at various times was the rounding attending on the wards and pediatric ICU, an ED moonlighter, and mostly, as a caregiver for children and pregnant women with lead poisoning and kids with bone mineral disorders. All have been interesting and challenging roles.” Dr. Markowitz married Polly Bijur, Ph.D., his medical school sweetheart and future academic colleague, collaborator and in-house (literally) statistician. They have three children and one grandchild, “a delightful 19-month-old who lives far away but is as close as a laptop with webcam, through which she tries to feed me.” He also still plays basketball “2-3 times a week, often with guys my age. None of us can bend all the way over to pick the ball up off the floor anymore, but it’s still fun!”

Nison H. Shleifer, M.D. ‘74, has become a national medical director for Anthem Blue Cross, responsible for case management and disease management for the eastern United States, having closed his internal medicine practice after 32 years.

Howard J. Winter, M.D. ‘74, F.A.C.S., is beginning his third term as chair of the department of surgery of the Virtua Health System, a multihospital system based in Voorhees, NJ.

Making Connections: Alumni Association Phone-a-thon

To reconnect with alumni and secure gifts for the annual fund, the alumni relations office held its yearly student-driven phone-a-thon on several nights in November 2010. Each evening, 10 to 15 students representing the M.D., M.S.T.P. and Ph.D. student communities, as well as representatives from the Alumni Board of Governors, made outreach and fundraising calls to alumni who have supported Einstein as well as those who haven’t contributed previously.

“The students and alumni board representatives were enthusiastic and excited to connect with alumni, to express their gratitude for their support and to share the latest news from campus,” says Emily Snyder, director of alumni relations and annual giving. This year’s fall phone-a-thon raised more than $53,000. “The phone-a-thon has proven to be an effective way to connect with alumni and raise critical support for the annual fund,” she says.
Harvey Karp, M.D. ’75, was recently named Alumnus of the Year by SUNY Buffalo and one of Los Angeles’ 100 Most Interesting People by LA Weekly Magazine.

Steven Mandel, M.D. ’75, is currently professor of neurology at Jefferson Medical College, where he was given a secondary appointment in March 2010 as professor of anesthesiology. He is also adjunct clinical professor at Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine and adjunct clinical professor of psychology at Widener University.

Simcha Ben-David, M.D. ’76, would like to let his class know that he has been happily practicing ophthalmology in Borough Park, Brooklyn, for the past 30 years and continues to enjoy his practice in medicine and surgery.

David A. Gorelick, M.D., Ph.D. ’76, and his wife, Naomi, are proud to announce that both of their daughters “have given birth to their own daughters,” giving them a total of 11 grandchildren. Their newest grandchildren are Nava Bayla VanderWalde, born April 5, 2010, to Sarah and Noam in Baltimore (now residing in Durham, NC); and Nesya Rosenbloom, born November 21, 2010, to Judith and Joshua in Boston, MA.

Miriam Gutmann, M.D. ’76, has an active private practice in Chicago, in adult, child and adolescent psychiatry as well as family therapy. She writes, “My daughter lives nearby and is expecting her fourth child. My middle child recently married and is on his way to a Ph.D. in clinical psychology in New York, and my youngest is a first-year student at Einstein and the proud father of two little boys.”

Walter G. Wasser, M.D. ’76, is a nephrologist and attending physician at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel. He practiced medicine for 24 years in New York City, where he was chief of the divisions of nephrology at Cabrini Medical Center and North General Hospital and medical director of a Davita dialysis facility. Since 2006, he has been affiliated with the Laboratory of Molecular Medicine at the Rappaport Institute-Technion, Haifa, Israel. During this time, he has clinically characterized end-stage renal disease patients and controls in New York, which provided the basis for the recently described APOL1 genetic variation. This locus on chromosome 22 has been associated with various nondiabetic kidney diseases in patients of African continental heritage and was described in an article from the laboratory of Professor Karl Skorecki that appeared in Human Genetics (September 2010). Dr. Wasser lives in Jerusalem with his wife and children.

Yau Chi-hi, M.D. ’77, passed away unexpectedly on January 18, 2010, in Toronto, Ontario, after a brief illness. Dr. Chi-hi had an internal medicine practice in Toronto and is survived by his wife, Matilda, an oncologist practicing in Toronto, his daughter, Andrea, and his son, Kevin.

Rick Strassman, M.D. ’77, still lives in northern New Mexico, outside Taos. His first book, DMT—The Spirit Molecule, has sold more than 80,000 copies since its publication in 2001; a documentary based on the book was released in November 2010. He is now working on a book that attempts to relate Hebrew biblical prophetic states with endogenous hallucinogens. Tentatively entitled The Soul of Prophecy, it is scheduled for release in late 2011. After 30 years of psychiatric practice and research, Rick is enjoying full-time writing. He is also a clinical associate professor of psychiatry at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine.

Eric Fishman, M.D. ’78, no longer practices medicine and is now concentrating on the electronic health record industry after 25 years as a practicing orthopedist. He is the founder and managing member of EHR Scope, LLC, and founder and president of 1450, Inc. Among his most interesting activities is conducting interviews for EHR Scope, available online at www.EHRtv.com.

Nina Yoshpe, M.D. ’78, and Andre Maginot, M.D. ’77, have been married for 31 years and are both in private group practices. Dr. Yoshpe practices vascular and general surgery in Long Beach, CA; Dr. Maginot practices pediatric and general otolaryngology in Huntington Beach. Dr. Yoshpe and her business partner, Ayal Willner, M.D. ’88, have developed a new over-the-counter ear drop, Comfort Earx™, that was recently released on the market. Dr. Yoshpe and Dr. Maginot write, “We have been blessed with many children: Zarah is a medical malpractice defense attorney in California; Tammy is getting a Ph.D. in health psychology at Alliant University in San Diego; Jeremy is in the Coast Guard in Portland, OR,
and working on an M.B.A. at Norwich University; Lisa and Jonathan are cadets at West Point, and Lisa is interested in attending medical school; Becca and Shaina, our two teenagers, are still at home and interested in dentistry and neurosurgery, respectively.”

1980s

Alan Brody, M.D. ’80, is a pediatric radiologist at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. His primary radiology interests are cystic fibrosis and diffuse lung disease in children. He lives in Cincinnati, OH, with his wife, Marsha, and three teenage sons, and is a classic car enthusiast. Dr. Brody welcomes any news and visits from classmates.

Frederick M. Barken, M.D. ’81, writes, “I left the private practice of general internal medicine in 2007 to research and write about the challenges facing practitioners of adult primary care in an era of declining resources, insufficient numbers of primary care doctors and a burgeoning population of geriatric baby boomers. Topics include the complex social issues that are an integral part of primary care: polypharmacy, our tendency to excessive use of specialty referrals, the challenge of dealing with a growing population of older patients with mild cognitive impairment, the malaise of malpractice liability, physician shortages, physician payment reform and the challenge of providing care to elderly patients with dysfunctional families that fail to provide adequate emotional support. The book, Out of Practice: Fighting for Primary Care Medicine in America, is not all gloom and doom, however; I offer some proposals for satisfying the needs of both patients and their doctors.”

Ellen Weinberg, M.D. ’81, writes, “I’m working as a psychiatrist in a clinic and in the psychiatric emergency room. I’m also pursuing my interest in stand-up comedy, acting and playwriting: you can see some of the results on my alter-ego website, www.ellenorchid.com. Click on ‘media’ to view some performances, including my role on The Sopranos as a psychiatrist interviewing Uncle Junior. That was so much fun.”

Paul Blanc, M.D. ’82, is professor of medicine and chief of the division of occupational and environmental medicine at the University of California San Francisco. He writes a blog, Household Hazards—How Everyday Products Make Us Sick, hosted by Psychology Today magazine at www.psychologytoday.com/blog/household-hazards.

Deborah S. Maliver, M.D. ’82, is living and working in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Maliver has been married for 11 years to John O’Reilly, a software developer. She writes, “My three beautiful stepdaughters are all grown and out of the house now. I am continuing my practice as a plaintiff’s medical malpractice lawyer here in western Pennsylvania, after finishing law school at Pitt in 1995. After a two-week trial in Erie, PA, my client was awarded $3,549,000 by the jury, the second-largest in Erie history! The excellent medical training I received at Einstein and then during my internal medicine residency at Cornell have served and continue to serve me well.”

Richard K. Bernstein, M.D. ’83, F.A.C.N., F.A.C.E., remains active as the director emeritus of the Peripheral Vascular Disease Clinic of Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Jacobi Medical Center. The fourth edition of his book Diabetes Solution will be published by Little, Brown in November 2011; his seventh book, Dr. Bernstein’s Questions and Answers, was published electronically in early 2011. Dr. Bernstein advocates a low-carbohydrate diet for everyone, and in November 2010 he addressed the American Society of Bariatric Physicians on the use of incretin mimetic agents to curb overeating and carbohydrate craving.

Stuart H. Kaplan, M.D. ’83, completed his dermatology residency at UCLA and is in solo dermatology practice in Beverly Hills, doing 50 percent cosmetic (Botox, lasers,
fillers) and 50 percent medical (skin cancer, Mohs surgery, general dermatology). He writes, “After waiting a long time, I met a most fantastic lady, whom I married four years ago. I do not have any children … yet. In addition, I am extremely blessed, as on May 30, 2011, my parents will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary. I have only fond memories of my time and classmates at Einstein. I appreciate everything I worked for, and everything the school gave me.”

Joshua Lamm, M.D. ’83, has a private practice in psychiatry in both Queens and New York City. He is director of the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Center of Queens. His wife, Rivkie, is a clinical social worker in private practice in Queens. One of his sons is a U.S. Marine lance corporal who served a one-year tour in Iraq.

David Heisler, M.D. ’84, is happy to own and operate the Jamaica House B&B (www.jamaica-house.com) in Jamaica, VT. Dr. Heisler has retired from medicine and misses his old friends. He and his wife, Valerie, had a great fall foliage season and a busy ski season in 2010, and they hope you can visit this year!

Mark Borowsky, M.D. ’85, writes, “It was a great experience to be able to attend my 25th reunion in May 2010. Others who came were Drs. Suber Huang and Cindy Paradies, now husband and wife. Cindy may well have been the first of my classmates I ever met, way back in August 1981, after I had just arrived on campus to move into my apartment in Low.” Other classmates Dr. Borowsky enjoyed seeing and reminiscing with were Drs. Russell Cohen, Alec Pruchnicki, Marc Napp, Norma Villanueva, Audrey Walker, Marie-Ange Tardieu and Celia Shmukler. Dr. Borowsky sends “apologies to anyone who I might have forgotten (something I sadly do a lot of these days). I am very much looking forward to our next get-together.”

Jessica Furer, M.D. ’85, writes, “Sad news for the class notes: My brother Andrew Furer, Ph.D., passed away October 31, 2010, after a long and arduous battle with colorectal cancer. I don’t know how many of my classmates met or remember my brother, but he was a wonderful person and my best friend, and I miss him very much.”

Suber S. Huang, M.D. ’85, M.B.A., has been installed as president of the American Society of Retina Specialists (ASRS), the preeminent international association for doctors who specialize in the medical and surgical care of the retina and other areas near the back of the eye. He also will serve as chair of ASRS’ American Retina Foundation (ARF), and is the first person simultaneously to hold both positions. “I am proud to serve as the ASRS president and ARF chair, and I look forward to promoting the fundamental goals of our organizations: education, training and research,” writes Dr. Huang. “My focus will be to ensure that our patients are reaping the benefits of the recent major scientific advances and therapeutic improvements in macular degeneration, diabetes and other blinding retinal diseases.” He is currently vice chair and director of the Center for Retina and Macular Disease at the University Hospitals (UH) Eye Institute. He joined the department of ophthalmology and visual sciences at UH and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in 1993. In 2004, Dr. Huang received the Philip F. and Elizabeth G. Searle–Suber Huang, M.D. Professorship in Ophthalmology from CWRU.

Shahin Rafii, M.D. ’86, is the Arthur Belfer Professor of Genetic Medicine and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at Weill-Cornell Medical College in New York City. A hematologist-oncologist by training, Dr. Rafii is currently working in stem cell and cancer research.

Sharon M. Weinstein, M.D. ’86, F.A.A.H.P.M., was awarded a Sojourns Award by the Regence Foundation in June 2010, for her leadership in advancing palliative care in Utah. Dr. Weinstein is the founder and current director of the Pain Medicine and Palliative Care Program at the University of Utah’s Huntsman Cancer Institute, established in 1998. She also opened the affiliated program at the V.A. Salt Lake City Health Care System and consults at Primary Children’s Medical Center. Dr. Weinstein completed the first certification exam offered by the American Board of Medical Specialties in 2008, and is one of Utah’s first board-certified physicians in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. In 2009, Dr. Weinstein was named a fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Lewis Berman, M.D. ’87, has been appointed chair of medicine at Norwalk Hospital in Norwalk, CT, a Yale University School of Medicine affiliate. Prior to becoming chair of medicine,
he was director of critical care and chief medical information officer.

Barbara McGovern, M.D. ’88, is deputy editor for infectious diseases at UpToDate and associate editor of Clinical Infectious Diseases. She is also on the Hepatitis C Guideline Committee for the Centers for Disease Control and is a member of the Antiviral Advisory Committee for the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. McGovern writes that she and her husband, Bill, are “proud parents of two wonderful girls, Kiri, 21, and Emily, 19.”

L. Jane MacDonnell, M.D. ’89, has been appointed director of geriatric psychiatry and associate professor at Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, GA.

Lane S. Palmer, M.D. ’89, is a clinical professor of urology at Einstein. After graduation, he completed a urology residency at Montefiore and then held a two-year fellowship in pediatric urology at Children’s Memorial Medical Center of Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago. He is chief of pediatric urology at the Cohen Children’s Medical Center of the North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System and program director of the Pediatric Urology Fellowship Program. He is a senior partner of Pediatric Urology Associates, the largest group of pediatric urologists in the United States, and has written more than 100 papers and book chapters. He is married to Lisa Menasse-Palmer, M.D. ’89, and has three children.

Nathaniel H. Robin, M.D. ’89, and Laurie Marzullo, M.D. ’92, are married and living in Birmingham, AL. Dr. Robin is a professor in the department of genetics, following in Bob Marion’s footsteps at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Marzullo is a pediatric emergency medicine physician. They have three sons: Joseph, a freshman at Princeton, where he is a defensive end on the football team; Timothy, a sophomore in high school; and Alex, a seventh grader. They write, “Alabama is a LONG way from the Bronx, figuratively and literally, but we really like it, both professionally and personally. The South is a fun place to live.”

1990s

Raja M. Flores, M.D. ’92, was named chief of thoracic surgery at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City and director of the Thoracic Surgical Oncology Program at Mount Sinai Cancer Center in August 2010. An expert in lung cancer, esophageal and pleural mesothelioma, Dr. Flores conducted a landmark study that has been one of the most frequently cited studies from the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery in the past two years and has changed the surgical management of the disease. Dr. Flores helped pioneer the use of intraoperative chemotherapy for mesothelioma. He has also established VATS lobectomy, a minimally invasive procedure for lung cancer, as a gold standard in thoracic surgery. He is widely published and a frequent lecturer, and has participated in and led a number of major studies including clinical trials. He joined Mount Sinai after working at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he was most recently an associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery.

Mark I. Loebenberg, M.D. ’92, is living in Raanana, Israel. He was appointed chief of the Shoulder and Elbow Medical Service at the Rabin Medical Center in Israel, effective January 1, 2010. Dr. Loebenberg was previously at the Herzliya Medical Center, until the end of December 2009.

Lawrence S. Kirschner, M.D., Ph.D. ’93, has been promoted to tenured professor of medicine and human genetics at the Ohio State University (OSU), where he has been a faculty member since 2002. At OSU, Dr. Kirschner has expanded his studies on genetic factors leading to development of pituitary and adrenal tumors, and has developed an animal model for studying thyroid cancer. He has published more than 65 scientific papers to date, and heads the university’s M.D.-Ph.D. program for young scientists. He is an expert in the treatment of adrenal cancer and a member of the multinational consortium to treat this disease. He presently serves on a review panel for the American Cancer Society and is also active in teaching clinical medicine and endocrinology. Dr. Kirschner is married to the former Evelyn Mills. They have three children: Jessica, a junior at Brown University; Matthew, a freshman at Princeton; and Peter, a sophomore at Bexley High School.

Richard Nockowitz, M.D. ’93, founded and runs a telemedicine company, My Psychiatric Partner, which uses
is fellow Einstein alumna Jon C. Gaudio, M.D. ’95. Julia sends best wishes to all her classmates.

Marcia Rashelle Palace, M.D. ’97, is proud to announce the birth of her son Daniel, younger brother of Andrew and Ethan. Dr. Palace is chief of endocrinology at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center and an assistant professor of medicine at Einstein.


Andrew Gutwein, M.D. ’98, F.A.C.P., was appointed program director of the internal medicine residency at Jacobi Medical Center in July 2009.

Karen B. Zur, M.D. ’98, lives in Center City, Philadelphia, PA. She writes, “I am the director of the Pediatric Voice Clinic and associate director of the Center for Pediatric Airway Disorders at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. I specialize in airway reconstruction and pediatric voice disorders, with a special interest in the management of unilateral vocal cord paralysis in children. I have been involved with the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery and will be the program chair for the upcoming American Broncho-ESophagological Association meeting in Chicago. In spring 2009, I was featured in the SJ Magazine “Top Docs for Kids’ edition. On a personal note, I was married to Robert Biron in 2007, and we have twin daughters, Ellie and Arielle.”

2000s

Snehal Amin, M.D. ’00, and Pari Amin, M.D. ’00, are married and living in Manhattan with their two boys. Pari is practicing radiology, and Snehal is starting a multispecialty practice with Dilip Madnani, M.D. ’01, in Manhattan, called Manhattan Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery (www.mdsnyccom). Dr. Amin hopes you will visit him and Dr. Madnani in Midtown.

Kevin Jovanovic, M.D. ’00, F.A.C.O.G., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.C.S., is a fellow of the American College of Ob/Gyn, the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery. He is an assistant professor of ob/gyn at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City and recently became chair-elect of the American Society of Liposuction Surgery, the largest and oldest professional membership group of liposuction surgeons in the United States.

Damon Soeiro, M.D. ’00, and Rebecca Tenney-Soeiro, M.D. ’01, announce the arrival of Landon Oliver on November 10, 2010. He joins big brothers Jamison and Devon and big sister Lea. Damon is a radiologist at Southeast Radiology, and Rebecca is a pediatrician at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.
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– Eric Tanenbaum, Alumni Scholar
Class of 2014

For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 718.430.2013 or alumni@einstein.yu.edu.
Maggie Jones, M.D. ’01, is working in primary care at San Quentin State Prison, CA. She lives in San Francisco with her partner, Anne Rosenthal, her 5-year-old son, Lucas, and her 2-year-old daughter, Sora.

Dilip Madnani, M.D. ’01, writes, “I have recently moved back to New York City with my wife and 2-year-old daughter, after four years in private practice in New Mexico. I am starting a practice with Snehal Amin, M.D. ’00, called Manhattan Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery. We would love to get in touch with classmates in the area and can be reached at www.mdcsnyc.com.”

Sonya VanPatten, Ph.D. ’03, is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at the North Shore University Hospital of the North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System in Manhassett, NY.

David Chesler, M.D. ’06, is completing an NIH-funded neuro-oncology research fellowship at Johns Hopkins University studying glioma stem cells and possible new adjuvant treatments to target this cell population. Dr. Chesler and his wife, Brooke, are proud parents of their first child, Hayden Zachary, born July 9, 2010.

Shahrooz Eshagian, M.D. ’06, completed his internal medicine residency at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in California in 2009 and is now a second-year hematology/oncology fellow at UCLA.

Joyce Varughese, M.D. ’06, and Robin Raju were married on August 28, 2010, in an Indian/Orthodox Christian wedding ceremony in the bride’s hometown on Staten Island, NY. Einstein alumni in attendance were Shefali Pathy, M.D. ’01, Sanjeev Ponnappan, M.D. ’06, Manan Shah, M.D. ’05, Abhishek Sharma, M.D. ’06, and Tara Vijayan, M.D. ’07. The couple honeymooned in Santorini, Greece. Joyce and Robin now live in Connecticut, where Joyce is a fellow in gynecologic oncology at the Yale School of Medicine and Robin is a project manager at TnT Expense Management.

Christina Gagliardo, M.D. ’07, has completed her pediatric residency at Cornell and is currently a first-year pediatric infectious disease fellow at Columbia University, in New York City.

Elliot Jerud, M.D. ’07, completed his residency at the University of Pennsylvania in 2010, and is now working as a hospitalist at the University of Washington.

Mirvat El-Sibai, Ph.D. ’07, is an assistant professor in natural sciences at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, Lebanon, and wishes to share her website with her fellow Einstein alumni: www.mirvatelsibai.com.

In Memoriam
We sadly acknowledge the passing of the following Einstein alumni. We honor their memories and extend our deepest condolences to their families and friends.

Yau Chi-hi, M.D. ’77
Stuart Feder, M.D. ’75
Lawrence Feinman, M.D. ’61
Edwin Jallah, M.D. ’61
Diana Oquendo, M.D. ’80
Joseph Zipparo, M.D. ’64

Miriam Sheinbein, M.D. ’08, is finishing her residency in family medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and applying for a fellowship in family planning. She writes, “We plan to stay in San Francisco, as my husband, Yaron Milgrom, opened a restaurant, Local Mission Eatery, in March 2010. Yaron, Criv and I are excited about the arrival of #2, our daughter, Rimon, born on November 23, 2010.”
As a teenager growing up in the Bronx in the 1950s, Einstein Overseer Arnold Penner worked two jobs so he could have his own “spending money.”

“I would take the Eastchester Road bus to work,” he recalls, “and it went past the Albert Einstein medical school. I literally saw the original building being built, but I never really thought about it.”

Years later, his good friends Rickey Rackow and the late Michael Wolff reintroduced him to the College of Medicine through its Men’s Division.

Reflecting on his present-day role as an Einstein Board member and major donor, Mr. Penner asks rhetorically, “How could I have been so close to this place, never really knowing what it was all about, and then, all these years later, be brought back to it? There is a word for it in Yiddish, ‘beshert,’ or ‘meant to be.’”

Mr. Penner and his wife, Madaleine Berley, are Benefactors of the College of Medicine. They have generously funded student scholarships and international health fellowships as well as biomedical research and capital projects.

Their most recent commitment is a $1 million pledge to support the consolidation of Einstein’s Children’s Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC) in soon-to-be renovated space in the Van Etten building. (For details, see pages 40-43.)

Mr. Penner was elected to the Board of Overseers in 1998. A leading member of the Einstein Men’s Division and a dedicated member of its executive board, he was the division’s honoree and received the Albert Einstein Humanitarian Award in 1992. In recognition of his distinguished service to Einstein, he received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Yeshiva University in 2006.

Ms. Berley is a former board member of Yeshiva’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. One of the couple’s seven children, Nancy Berley, M.D., is a 2002 Einstein graduate.

“CERC cares for 7,000 developmentally challenged children every year,” notes Mr. Penner. “Nobody should have to run from place to place for medical care. So Madaleine and I thought, ‘If we help this wonderful program move into one building, it will be easier for the kids and their parents to get the services they so desperately need.’”

“Arnold and Madaleine have been devoted friends and supporters of the College of Medicine for more than 30 years,” says Dean Allen M. Spiegel. “The Penners’ support will help provide an attractive, state-of-the-art therapeutic setting to benefit the children and families served by CERC, and at the same time will help the College advance important translational research studies that may lead to better treatments for autism and other severe developmental disorders.”

“Einstein is not just a medical school, it’s a God-sent facility,” says Mr. Penner. “It’s amazing to me that I can play a small part in contributing to the medical advances that go on in this incredible place. We do wonderful work for the people of the Bronx and beyond. We take care of them. We change lives.”

Arnold Pennen and Madaleine Berley Support CERC Consolidation
Einstein in Florida 2011

Earlier this year, Einstein friends and supporters in Florida learned about the latest developments in aging, cancer, diabetes and heart disease research at the College of Medicine from some of our leading experts.

Einstein Overseers Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz hosted two luncheons at Palm Beach Country Club. The first, held on January 26, had “Aging Well” as its theme. The speakers were Nir Barzilai, M.D., director of Einstein’s Institute for Aging and the Ingeborg and Ira Leon Rennert Professor of Aging Research, and Sylvia Wassertheil-Smoller, Ph.D., professor of epidemiology & population health and the Dorothy and William Manealoff Foundation & Molly Rosen Chair in Social Medicine.

“Heart Disease & Cancer: Transforming Care through Innovation” was the topic on March 8. Guest speakers were Allen M. Spiegel, M.D., the Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean; Steven Libutti, M.D., associate director of clinical services at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center and vice chair, department of surgery; and Robert Michler, M.D., surgeon in chief, professor and chair of the departments of surgery and of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Einstein and Montefiore and the Samuel Belkin Professor at Einstein.

That evening, Dean Spiegel and Drs. Libutti and Michler spoke at a reception co-hosted by new Einstein Overseers Karen Mandelbaum and Sue-ann Friedman in Jupiter, FL.

Polo Club Boca Raton was the setting for an evening reception hosted by Ronald Ross, M.D. ’60, and his wife, Helen, on March 10. Dean Spiegel and Dr. Libutti addressed the topic “Cancer, Alzheimer’s Disease & Diabetes: Challenges, Trends & Progress.”

Einstein in Florida committee members are Overseer Linda Altman and Earle Altman, Overseer Diane Belfer, Roni and Stuart Doppelt, Honorary Overseer Joan Eigen, Bambi Felberbaum, Barbara Frankel, Overseer Sue-ann Friedman, Overseer Arthur Hershaft and Janet Hershaft, Overseers Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz, Penny and David J. Klein, Overseer Sylvia Olnick, Helen and Ronald J. Ross, M.D. ’60, and Marsha Seslowe.

Russell W. Cohen, M.D. ’85: Supporting Clinical Skills Education

Russell W. Cohen, M.D. ’85, F.A.A.D., and his wife, Tracy, have made a commitment to support the Ruth L. Gottesman Clinical Skills Center at Einstein. In recognition of the couple’s generosity, an examination room in the new training center will be named in their honor.

The Dr. Russell and Tracy Cohen Family Examination Room will provide a setting that will help Einstein students learn to work with patients while upholding the humanistic values that are the hallmark of Einstein. The Cohens are the first alumni family to name an examination room in the center. (For details on the Van Etten building’s past, present and future, see pages 40-43.)

Dr. Cohen, a dermatologist in private practice in Oceanside, Long Island, NY, devotes his time to both general dermatology and dermatologic/cosmetic surgery. His special interests are hair restoration surgery, laser therapy, psoriasis treatment and treatment of aging skin. He also serves as an assistant attending dermatologist at St. Luke’s–Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City and as an attending dermatologist at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside.

“I’m thrilled to reconnect with my alma mater, which has made such a difference in my life and career,” said Dr. Cohen. “Tracy and I have been extremely impressed with the new developments at Einstein. I can’t think of a more meaningful way to show my gratitude than to support the new clinical skills center that will help train future Einstein physicians.”

The Cohens have three children: sons Austin (22) and Ari (16), and daughter Skyler (19).
The Einstein Women’s Division: A Thriving Tradition of Philanthropy

A force in philanthropy at Einstein for nearly 60 years, the National Women’s Division is conducting a fundraising initiative to support research in women’s health and cancers at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center.

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, August 21
22nd Annual Family Day in the Hamptons
Ross School, Bridgehampton, NY
For more information please contact Janis Brooks, director of the Women’s Division, at 718.430.2818 or janis.brooks@einstein.yu.edu.

ON THE WEB
To read more about the Women’s Division: www.einstein.yu.edu/home/donors/WomensDivision.asp

Einstein’s Men’s Division: A Philanthropic Band of Brothers

Since 1961, the Men’s Division of Albert Einstein College of Medicine has provided volunteer leadership to encourage the growth and development of the College of Medicine. Its current fundraising initiative is the Men’s Division Research Scholars Program.

SAVE THE DATE!
Monday, June 13
Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament and Dinner
Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
For more information, please contact Sam Young, director of the Men’s Division, at 718.430.2795 or samuel.young@einstein.yu.edu.

ON THE WEB
To read more about the Men’s Division: www.einstein.yu.edu/home/donors/MensDivision.asp

Einstein in Florida 2011
1 Ronald Ross, M.D. ‘60, with Dean Allen M. Spiegel, M.D.
2 Ruth Merns, left, with Sylvia Wassertheil-Smoller, Ph.D.
3 From left, Roni Doppelt, Nir Barzilai, M.D., and Einstein Overseer Diane Belfer.
4 Einstein Overseer Sylvia Olnick, left, and Phyllis Gurwin.
5 Einstein Overseers Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz, center, with Steven Libutti, M.D., left, and Robert Michler, M.D.
Back in the day, the phrase “art of medicine” took on a whole new meaning at Einstein. At the invitation of Helmuth Nathan, M.D., professor of surgery and founding faculty member, Einstein audiences received lectures from world-famous artists including George Grosz, Jacques Lipchitz and Salvador Dali—to whom the female attendees in this photo seemed especially attentive.

The idea of Dali visiting Einstein is not so surreal. Some critics believe that Dali’s famous “soft watches,” which first appeared in the painting *The Persistence of Memory*, were influenced by Einstein’s contention that time is relative.
Help us transform human health.

**Be part of the Einstein Legacy.**

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To learn more about making a bequest in your will and the advantages of other tax-favored legacy gifts to Einstein, please contact:

Glenn Miller  
Associate Dean for Institutional Advancement  
718.430.2411 or glenn.miller@einstein.yu.edu

Henry Rubin, J.D.  
Senior Director of Planned Giving  
917.326.4959 or hrubin@yu.edu
CONGRATULATIONS!

Lubin Dining Hall buzzed with excitement on Match Day in March as Einstein’s seniors got the good news about their futures. Of 187 students who matched to residencies, 80 will enter primary care—internal medicine, pediatrics or family medicine. Next came diagnostic radiology (18) and emergency medicine (17), followed by obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesiology, surgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics and psychiatry. Some students will travel as far as Hawaii; others will practice here in the Bronx. For more coverage of Match Day 2011, watch for the next issue of Einstein magazine or visit us on the web at www.einstein.yu.edu.

To enjoy our interactive version of Einstein magazine on your smartphone, download a mobile reader. We suggest visiting http://scan.mobi on your mobile device.