



Einstein Today

Richard M. Joel Named Yeshiva University President

Richard M. Joel has been appointed the fourth president of Yeshiva University. He assumed the presidency on June 12 and will be officially invested on September 21. He previously served as president and international director of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Mr. Joel succeeds Dr. Norman Lamm, who has served as University president since 1976. Dr. Lamm assumes the positions of chancellor of the University and Rosh HaYeshiva (head of the seminary) of the University-affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS).

In announcing Mr. Joel's appointment, Ronald P. Stanton, chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, cited him for the "energy, creativity and leadership that will help shape the growth and excellence of the University. His administrative skills, charisma and communal leadership will serve the University and RIETS extremely well."

"Yeshiva University is not only the world's premier Jewish institution of higher learning but ranks among this country's top research universities in both undergraduate and graduate studies," said Mr. Joel.

During his 15 years as president of Hillel, Mr. Joel was instrumental in expanding its programs and activities on university and college campuses across the nation. His efforts included increased social action initiatives, opportunities for social learning and the encouragement of thousands of students to explore Israel for the first time.

Mr. Joel's connections to the University run deep. In addition to being an alumnus of a Yeshiva high school, he headed the University's alumni affairs office and was an associate dean and professor at the University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

His wife, Esther, received her Ph.D. degree from the University's Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. Two of the six Joel children—Avery and Penny—are Yeshiva alumni. Avery is now a graduate student at RIETS. A third child, Ariella, attends Stern College for Women. ◁



Richard M. Joel

Einstein Doctor Aims to Vanquish Jewish Genetic Diseases

Thirty years ago if a husband and wife each carried the gene for Tay-Sachs disease, there was a one in four chance that their baby would be born with the inevitably fatal condition. The child, born healthy, would suffer blindness and seizures and die by four or five years of age.

Today, thanks to a major international genetic screening effort that had its roots in a pioneering program at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the 1970s, Tay-Sachs is all but eradicated. Other genetic, and equally heartbreaking, diseases that affect primarily the Ashkenazi Jewish population remain.

At Einstein, Dr. Susan Gross and her colleagues are preparing to launch a pilot program that would eventually eliminate virtually all Jewish genetic diseases. "We have a moral imperative to undertake this project because we have a moral imperative to relieve suffering," said Dr. Gross, who is an associate professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, and an associate professor of clinical pediatrics at the College.

Using intensive community education and advanced technology for genetic diagnosis, Dr. Gross is building upon Einstein's leadership role in understanding genetic diseases and its model program for Tay-Sachs screening. Known as "Operation Gene Screen," the program began in the 1970s, when the ability for screening for the Tay-Sachs gene became available. Under the direction of Dr. Harold M. Nitowsky, a clinical professor in the departments of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology and women's health, and molecular genetics, "Operation Gene Screen" became the first organized screening program for this disease in New York State. Thanks to this program and similar ones throughout the world, the incidence of Tay-Sachs has been reduced by 95 percent.

Among the other diseases that affect the Ashkenazi population are Canavan disease, familial dysautonomia, mucopolipidosis IV, and Niemann-Pick Disease Type A, which are progressive neurological disorders, and Gaucher disease, cystic fibrosis, Fanconi anemia and Bloom syndrome.

"These diseases create great suffering and heartbreak for parents,



Dr. Susan Gross

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Dr. Luciano Rossetti Named Rosenberg Professor

dr. Luciano Rossetti, internationally known for his research in diabetes and obesity, has been named as the first holder of the Judy R. and Alfred A. Rosenberg Professorial Chair in Diabetes Research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

"I am very appreciative of this honor and of Mrs. Rosenberg's generosity," said Dr. Rossetti, who is director of



Dr. Luciano Rossetti

the Diabetes Research Center at Einstein, where he holds the academic rank of professor of medicine and of molecular pharmacology. Prior to his appointment as Rosenberg Professor, Dr. Rossetti was the Rosenberg Faculty Scholar in Diabetes Research.

A founding member of the College's National Women's Division, Mrs. Rosenberg has been a pioneering leader and champion of Einstein's mission to improve the health and well-being of all people for five decades. She currently serves as a member of the College's Board of Overseers and chairwoman of the Division's executive committee.



Judy R. Rosenberg

Mrs. Rosenberg established the professorial chair after the death of her husband, Alfred. "I am very pleased to be able to help in this way and to support the work of Dr. Rossetti, who is one of the College's leading researchers," she said.

The Rosenberg gift allows Dr. Rossetti, who is both a clinician and a researcher, to dedicate more of his time to understanding the relationship between obesity and diabetes. "In this way, Mrs. Rosenberg's generosity will be an enormous contribution, whose impact cannot be overstated," he said.

Dr. Rossetti's work is of special significance at this time. Obesity in the United States is considered at epidemic proportions with 30 percent of the U.S. adult population qualifying as obese and 35 percent qualifying as overweight. Fifteen percent of adolescents and children are considered overweight. Recent estimates indicate that 300,000 people a year die of obesity-related diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, breast and colon cancer.

According to the National Institutes of Health, diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. More than 17 million Americans or 6.2 percent of the population suffer from this disease, which costs the nation more than \$100 billion annually in health-related expenses. The rate of diabetes has increased approximately 49 percent in the last decade.

Dr. Rossetti, a graduate of Trieste University Medical School in Italy, developed his interest in obesity and diabetes when he was a post-doctoral fellow at Yale University Medical School in the late 1980s. He joined the Einstein faculty in 1991, where he is pursuing his research in the biological processes that lead to obesity and diabetes.

Recently Dr. Rossetti has expanded his studies of insulin action in muscles and in the liver to a particular area of the brain—the arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus. He has found that this very small area has a major role to play in stimulating and suppressing appetite.

"When this mechanism works properly, it regulates our energy intake and our metabolism," Dr. Rossetti explained. "Unfortunately, when this mechanism does not work properly, nutrient excess develops, we tend to gain weight and become prone to diabetes. In other words, for some individuals, the more you eat, the hungrier you get and the more weight you gain."

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Diabetes Research and Training Center Receives \$9.8 Million NIH Grant

The Diabetes Research and Training Center (DRTC) at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine has received a \$9.8 million, five-year grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health.

"We are extremely pleased at the ongoing support we are receiving from the NIH," said Dr. Luciano Rossetti, director of the DRTC and the Judy R. and Alfred A. Rosenberg Professor of Diabetes Research. "This new award is testimony to Einstein's leadership in the field of diabetes."

Facilitating both basic and clinical research, the Einstein Diabetes Research Center holds "center of excellence" status from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and is one of only five centers in the country to receive funding as a Diabetes Research and Training Center. Overall, NIH funding to the College for diabetes exceeds \$20 million annually.

The story of the DRTC began in 1977 when 22 Einstein faculty members, representing nine areas of medical study, sought Federal support for their collaborative efforts in diabetes-related research. Today more than 50 members of the Einstein faculty, representing 44 areas of research, are affiliated with the Center.

"During the past 26 years, the DRTC has been central to the advancements made in basic research, treatment and prevention of diabetes, and I am confident that this progress and growth will continue," said Dr. Rossetti. "The resources and national recognition attained by the DRTC have attracted outstanding and talented faculty members, who are providing novel scientific approaches to understanding this disease," he continued.

In addition to conducting basic research into the cause and complications of diabetes, the Center conducts clinical trials for promising treatments and patient education programs. It also operates core laboratory facilities and provides seed money for pilot projects. This seed money allows investigators to generate data for new research ideas, which then become the foundation for applying for Federal grants.

Men's Division to Honor Daniel R. Tishman

For his efforts as one of this nation's leading builders and developers and his passionate desire to preserve our natural environment, Daniel R. Tishman will receive the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Humanitarian Award at the dinner that concludes the Men's Division's annual Golf and Tennis Tournament on Monday, July 21. The event, chaired by Marc Karetsky, will be held at Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase, NY.

As chairman and chief executive officer of Tishman Construction, Interiors and Technologies, Mr. Tishman heads one of the nation's oldest and most visible construction companies, responsible for building countless, notable projects around the United States.

A strong proponent of "green design," Mr. Tishman, who is executive vice president of Tishman Realty Corporation, constantly strives to incorporate good environmental practices in the design and construction of buildings. He is the fourth generation of Tishmans to head the family business, founded by his great-grandfather, Julius, in 1898.

As a result of his background in the construction and real estate industry and his passion for the outdoors, Mr. Tishman has demonstrated a positive link between construction and the environment. "You can do things in construction that help the environment and are economically practical, such as creating energy-efficient buildings and improving the quality of life for the building's tenants," he explained.

"I am always looking for ways to bring innovation to the construction industry that will benefit the environment,"

Mr. Tishman said. As an example, he cites the Tishman organization's efforts to work with manufacturers to develop environmentally friendly equipment, such as energy-efficient "chillers" or air-conditioning units used in large buildings. In the 1980s, the organization also developed and patented an "occupancy," or motion, sensor that automatically turns off the lights if an office space is unoccupied. Considered radical technology for high-rise commercial buildings at the time, the invention was both environmentally friendly and cost effective.

He has a strong record of support for organizations and efforts that are dedicated to improving the environment and, by extension, the quality of life for all of us. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Natural Resources Defense Council, on the Advisory Council of the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, and on the Board of Governing Trustees of The Jackson Laboratories.

"I am very happy to be honored by the Men's Division and to be supporting one of New York City's outstanding institutions," said Mr. Tishman. "As a New Yorker, I have known about the medical school's excellent programs in medical research and education from a variety of sources including



Daniel R. Tishman

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Einstein Society of Founders Turns 50

(Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of pieces marking the significant events leading to the opening of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine on September 12, 1955.)

Among the prominent community leaders celebrating Professor Albert Einstein's 74th birthday on March 15, 1953 in Princeton, NJ, were a group of forward-looking philanthropists, who were determined to make Yeshiva University's planned medical school a reality. Their determination gave birth to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Society of Founders.

On the historic occasion of the naming of the medical school, these visionary philanthropists contributed \$25,000 or more, for a total of \$500,000 to speed the construction of the College of Medicine.

From a handful of initial Founders in 1953, the Society of Founders grew rapidly. By 1954, nearly 100 individuals were enrolled. Today, more than 2,500 distinguished names are included on the membership rolls. <



The first Founders plaques to be awarded by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine provide the backdrop for the March 15, 1953 celebration honoring Professor Albert Einstein on his 74th birthday. Seated with Professor Einstein were New York State Attorney General Nathaniel A. Goldstein (left), who became the first chairperson of the Einstein Board of Overseers, and Dr. Samuel Belkin (right), then president of Yeshiva University.

Dr. Ari Melnick: New Belfer Faculty Scholar

dr. Ari Melnick's life is filled with newness: He is the new Diane and Arthur B. Belfer Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research, one of the newest members of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center, a leading researcher in a new field of oncology studying the therapeutic re-expression of genes, and a new father. When he spoke with Einstein Today, his first child, a boy, was two-weeks old.

Dr. Melnick, who joined the Einstein faculty in July 2002, was acutely aware of the honor bestowed on him. "It is particularly encouraging and inspiring to be given this very strong support, particularly since my arrival at the College is so recent. I am very grateful to Mrs. Belfer for her generous support of my research," he said.



Dr. Ari Melnick

An outstanding philanthropic leader, Diane Belfer is a member of the Einstein Board of Overseers as well as a member of the board of its National Women's Division. "I firmly believe that advanced medical research

is the foundation upon which successful steps to preventing and curing our most devastating illnesses are built, and I am very happy that I can support this effort at Einstein," Mrs. Belfer said. "Dr. Melnick is a very creative researcher whose work holds great promise in our struggle against cancer."

Dr. Melnick came to Einstein after completing his post-doctoral fellowship at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He was ready to start independent research and was looking for an institution that would provide a very rich scientific environment, sophisticated core facilities and easy interaction with his peers. He found it at Einstein where, as a member of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center, he is investigating the role of master-regulatory proteins in leukemia and lymphoma. "We are using the tools of structural biology, biochemistry and molecular biology to understand exactly how these proteins influence the workings of the cell," he explained.

As the name implies, master-regulatory proteins regulate the genetic mechanism that allows the cell to mature, age, and eventually die. When something goes awry and the master-regulatory proteins cannot perform this function, the cells proliferate at an uncontrollable rate, resulting in cancer.

Dr. Melnick thinks that in-depth molecular studies will reveal critical insights into the mechanisms through which these proteins carry out their regulatory functions. Since these mechanisms may themselves become mutated and cause malignancies, they are ideal targets against which to design novel and specific anticancer drugs. He has already begun to work on model inhibitors that can make these cancer-causing proteins invisible to the cellular machinery that is actually involved in the process of cell expression.

He is optimistic about the possibility of eventually curing cancer. His ultimate goal is the development of therapies that will target only the cancerous tumors, leaving the healthy cells intact.

Born in Queens, NY, he moved to Argentina with his family when he was nine years old. After a career in dancing and choreography, he embarked on the study of medicine. He earned his medical degree from the University of Buenos

Aires School of Medicine in Argentina, where he served as an instructor in biological chemistry and pharmacology. He returned to the United States to complete his internship at Mt. Sinai in New York City. At Mt. Sinai, Dr. Melnick was designated a "house staff hero" for saving the life of a critically ill patient by decisively intervening in his care.

Recently, Dr. Melnick received research grants from the National Cancer Institute, the American Society of Hematology, the Chemotherapy Foundation and the Sidney Kimmel Foundation. <

Diane Belfer: Philanthropic Leader

The endowment of the Diane and Arthur B. Belfer Faculty Scholar is a sterling example of the philanthropic leadership of Diane Belfer and her late husband, Arthur.

Mr. Belfer, who died in 1993, was a member of both the Einstein Board of Overseers and the University's Board of Trustees, and one of the most prominent leaders in the American-Jewish community.

An Einstein Benefactor, Mrs. Belfer is carrying forward the family's commitment to medical research and education, exemplified by the Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Studies and the Belfer Educational Center for Health Sciences at the medical school.

Mrs. Belfer believes, as did her husband, that people have the obligation to share their good fortune for the betterment of all humanity. "If in some small way I have helped to alleviate misery and promote understanding, that's quite wonderful and satisfying," she said.

Mrs. Belfer has served as a member of the Einstein Board of Overseers since 1989, and remains an active member of both the Board of Directors and the executive committee of the College's National Women's Division. She is a trustee of New York University, American Friends of Hebrew University, the American Israel Cultural Foundation and the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, among other notable organizations.

Mrs. Belfer, who has received wide recognition for her philanthropic work, credits her husband for introducing her to the world of philanthropy—a world that has been enriched by their leadership. Their benefactions include the Diane and Arthur Belfer Incunabula of Jewish Studies at the Jewish National and University Library, Hebrew University; the Arthur and Diane Belfer Geriatric Center and Professorial Chair at New York University Medical Center, and the Diane Belfer Sculpture Gallery and Endowment at the Norton Museum.

Her numerous awards include honorary degrees from Yeshiva University and Bar-Ilan University in Israel.



Palm Beach Gala Raises \$1.2 Million for Einstein

albert Einstein College of Medicine raised more than \$1.2 million at its 2003 Palm Beach Gala honoring Sondra and David S. Mack and Lola and Saul Kramer. Held at The Breakers on February 16, the event benefited Einstein's current fundraising campaign to expand research in genetics, diabetes, liver diseases, cancer, heart disease, the brain sciences and other medical areas as well as medical education programs.

New York Governor George Pataki was the evening's featured speaker. Among the notable guests in attendance were Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Senator from New Jersey; Alfonse D'Amato, former U.S. Senator from New York; and Ambassador Charles Gargano, chairman of the Empire State Development Corporation.

Renée and Robert A. Belfer and Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz chaired the gala, which was attended by more than 430 people. Janet and Arthur Hershafit and Nancy and Jeffrey Lane served as chairpersons of the commemorative Journal. <

David Mack (second from left) spends a few moments with (from left) Ambassador Charles Gargano, Governor George Pataki and former U.S. Senator from New York Alfonse D'Amato



Dean Dominick P. Purpura (center), presents the College's Lifetime Achievement Award to Lola and Saul Kramer for their 45 years of service to the medical school and the community.



Philip Rosen (right) chats with Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Senator from New Jersey



(From left) Gala chairpersons Stanley M. and Marilyn Katz and Renée and Robert A. Belfer.

(Above) Sondra and David Mack receive the Einstein Humanitarian Award from Robert A. Belfer (center), chairperson of the College's Board of Overseers.



(From left) Journal chairpersons Jeffrey and Nancy Lane and Janet and Arthur Hershafit.

Ritter Foundation Endows Research Fellowship Fund

Nataly and Toby Ritter and The Ritter Foundation have endowed the Louis Ritter Memorial Research Fellowship Fund at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Established with a gift of \$300,000 in memory of Mr. Ritter's late father, the fund will provide fellowships to medical students interested in pursuing summer research projects.

"The Ritter family has always had a commitment to support medical research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The establishment of the fellowship fund allows us to continue to benefit the medical school by helping it meet a critical need," said Mr. Ritter, a member of the Board of Overseers and president of The Ritter Foundation, Inc. The Foundation, an Einsein Benefactor, previously established a program offering both scholarship and student loan funds at the medical school.

In addition, The Ritter Foundation has provided funding to the Department of Psychiatry for research in schizophrenia. One project has led to a \$4 million multi-center grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to study the benefits of high-dose glycine in the treatment of schizophrenia.

"We are extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Ritter and the Foundation for this generous leadership gift. It will help Einstein maintain its ability to encourage and support research projects undertaken by medical students during the summer months," said Dr. Albert Kuperman, associate dean for educational affairs.

The College of Medicine sponsors a wide array of summer programs for its medical students. Dr. Kuperman noted that approximately 100 students participate in programs in the United States and abroad that encompass basic

medical research, public health, investigating tropical diseases in Costa Rica and learning medical Spanish in Cuba and Guatemala. He estimates that the Louis Ritter Memorial Fellowship Fund will support between five and ten research projects each summer.

Members of the Ritter family are among the earliest supporters of the medical school. Toby Ritter, a partner in Leo Ritter & Company, a real estate management firm, is a founding member of the Men's Division. His parents were members of the College's Society of Founders.

His mother, the late Gladys Ritter Livingston, was a founding member of the College's National Women's Division, an honorary vice president of its National Board and an honorary president of its New York Chapter. The Division's annual National Women's Day is lovingly named in her memory, and underwritten by The Ritter Foundation.

Nataly Ritter follows her mother-in-law's tradition of service to Einstein and its Women's Division. She serves as corresponding secretary of the Division's National Board and is an honorary president of its Westchester/Fairfield Chapter. <

College Hosts Special Reception

As New York City settled in for a cold and snowy winter, Benefactors, Founders, faculty members and friends of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine had the opportunity to bask in the warmth of a retrospective of the life and times of Professor Albert Einstein, who gave his name to this institution five decades ago.

Last winter, the College hosted a special viewing of the American Museum of Natural History's comprehensive exhibition about Professor Einstein. The exhibit, which included manuscripts and other personal documents, explored Professor Einstein's scientific and humanitarian legacy—of which the College of Medicine is a part.

The centerpiece of the exhibit was a large version of Robert Berks' impressive monument to Albert Einstein: a 22-foot



(From left) Benefactor Jack Rudin, sculptor Robert Berks and Einstein Dean Dominick P. Purpura pose with Mr. Berks' statue of Albert Einstein.

seated figure located at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. Mr. Berks, the featured speaker at the reception, recalled his meeting with Professor Einstein. In 1953, the same year that he gave his name to the medical school, Einstein posed for Mr. Berks.

"Einstein wanted to know how everything starts. He wanted to know what it would feel like to ride a beam of light. He was persistent in his search for knowledge," Mr. Berks recalled.

Mr. Berks is noted for sculpting portraits and larger-than-life size monuments of some of the most influential and well-known people of the 20th century, including Franklin Roosevelt, Pablo Casals, John F. Kennedy, Golda Meir, and, of course, the "person of the century," Albert Einstein. <



Nataly and Toby Ritter

Of Note

Einstein Dean Honored by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Dr. Dominick P. Purpura, Einstein's Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, received a special medallion, in recognition of his years of service as chairperson of the Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation's National Advisory Committee of the Minority Medical Faculty Development Program. Dr. Purpura served as the committee chair from 1989 to 2002.

An Einstein First: Alumnus Runs for President

dr. Howard Dean, a member of the Einstein Class of '78 and the scheduled keynote speaker for the 2003 Commencement, is the first alumnus of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine to run for President of the United States. Dr. Dean, the former Governor of Vermont, is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The first—and only—alumnus to serve as a state governor, Dr. Dean received the Einstein Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993.

After graduating from Einstein, Dr. Dean completed his residency training and opened a private practice in Vermont with his wife, Dr. Judith Steinberg, Einstein Class of '79. He began to combine his medical career with an interest in



Dr. Howard Dean at Einstein's 1993 Commencement

politics, and in 1982, was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives. He was serving as Lieutenant Governor when, in 1991, Governor Richard Snelling had a fatal heart attack, and Dr. Dean assumed the office.

In 1992, he was elected to his first two-year term as Governor, a position he held for 10 years through several elections. During his terms of office, he expanded health care, conservation efforts and educational resources, while reducing the state deficit and unemployment. He strengthened Vermont's program to provide health coverage to virtually every child in the state age 18 and younger.

Dr. Dean and Dr. Steinberg are the parents of two children, Anne and Paul. <

Bequest Endows Research Fund

albert Einstein College of Medicine has received a gift of \$1.8 million from the estates of the late Bronka and Jacob Weintraub.

Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub bequeathed \$1 million to Einstein to endow a fund supporting the research of faculty and graduate students. They also named Einstein as a recipient of \$800,000 in unrestricted funds from a charitable remainder trust.

Mr. Weintraub died in April 2000, Mrs. Weintraub in November 2001.

"We greatly appreciate the generosity that Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub have shown to our medical school during their lives and in their estates. They had the wisdom and foresight to arrange for their good fortune to benefit others in perpetuity," said Dr. Dominick P. Purpura, Einstein's Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean.

During their lifetimes, Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub, Benefactors and long-time friends of the medical school, also provided financial aid to students in Einstein's Sue Golding Graduate Division of Medical Sciences by establishing the Weintraub Research Scholars Award.

In 1988, Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub received the College's Humanitarian Award at a dinner at Sotheby's. "Knowledge and beauty belong together: they enhance life," Mrs. Weintraub, a member of the National Women's Division, once told an interviewer.

The Weintraub's story is the stuff from which novels are made. Mrs. Weintraub was born and raised in Warsaw, Poland. In her parents home, at a gathering attended



Bronka and Jacob Weintraub

by Ze'ev Jabotinsky, then head of the Revisionist Movement, she met her first husband, Abraham Stawski, a Zionist who helped to bring "illegal" immigrants to Palestine during the British Mandate. They were married and, in 1941, immigrated to the United States, where they staunchly supported Israeli independence. Mr. Stawski died in 1948, during Israel's War of Independence.

After Mr. Stawski's death, she married Harry Rabin, a well-known business executive and philanthropist. They became actively involved with the College of Medicine and were well-respected members of the Society of Founders. Mr. Rabin died in 1978.

Mr. Weintraub, a survivor of the Holocaust, came to the United States from Berlin in May 1946. Always interested in art, he opened a small gallery on Lexington Avenue in 1950. This small gallery grew into the Weintraub Gallery on Madison Avenue, considered to be one of the leading 20th century sculpture galleries in the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub were introduced by a mutual friend, Zygfryd Wolloch, a long-time member of the Einstein Board of Overseers. They were married for 21 years. <

Of Note

Dr. Peter Werner Receives Grant from Michael J. Fox Foundation

Dr. Peter Werner, assistant professor of neurology and of pathology at Einstein, has received a grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research to investigate the role of protein degradation in Parkinson's disease.

Einstein was one of 11 institutions worldwide to share a total of \$2.6 million from the Foundation. The grants were given for the study of the key proteins involved in Parkinson's disease. Dr. Warner's research focuses on the cells of the brain that produce the neurotransmitter, dopamine.

Parkinson's disease is accompanied by a selective destruction of dopamine neurons in the midbrain and is treated with L-dopa, a precursor for the production of dopamine in the brain.

Michael J. Fox, an actor who starred in motion pictures and on television, revealed in 1998 that he suffered from Parkinson's. He left the ABC-TV series, "Spin City," for which he won an Emmy, in 2000, and established the Foundation.

Women's Division Launches Two Special Initiatives

albert Einstein College of Medicine's National Women's Division has launched two special fundraising initiatives—the “Fifty for Fifty” project and the “Wall of the Future”—in conjunction with the commemoration of its 50th anniversary and its project to name a floor in the new Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine.

Conceived by Nancy Lane, president of the Division's New York Chapter, “Fifty for Fifty” is an effort to secure more than 50 gifts of \$50,000 each to provide equipment for medical research at the College.

“The Wall of the Future,” an initiative proposed by Melissa Smith, a leader of the Young Women's Committee, marks a commitment to medical advancement and a healthier future for our children. One wall of the Women's Division Floor in the new Center will be dedicated to the generations who will benefit the most from new medical discoveries. For a gift of \$1,000, parents and grandparents can place a child's name on the “Wall of the Future.”

“Both these projects give Division members an opportunity to make a meaningful and fitting tribute to the Women's Division's legacy of support for medical research at Einstein and those who will benefit from it,” explained Linda Altman, president of the National Women's Division.

Founded in 1953, two years before the College admitted its first class of students, the Division will celebrate its fifty



Linda Altman

years of service to Einstein with a series of events beginning in the Fall.

“We will be celebrating a truly remarkable accomplishment. In 1953, no one would have imagined that we would raise over \$80 million in 50 years,” said Ms. Altman.

The new fundraising initiatives will complement the Division's current \$5-million effort on behalf of the Price Center. The Center is being developed as a research facility focusing on genetic-based medicine

and its vast potential for breakthrough treatments for almost every disease from cancer and heart disease to diabetes and Alzheimer's disease.

For further information about “Fifty for Fifty” or the “Wall of the Future,” please contact the Einstein Women's Division at (718) 430-3806. ◀

New Program for Ph. D. Students

albert Einstein College of Medicine has teamed with North Shore-Long Island Jewish Research Institute to offer a collaborative biomedical research program for students studying at the College's Sue Golding Graduate Division.

“We are delighted that our graduate students have the very significant benefit of working with the superb scientists of the North Shore-LIJ Research Institute in a truly state-of-the-art facility. We are equally pleased that a number of these outstanding scientists have joined our faculty,” said Dr. Dominick P. Purpura, Einstein's Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean.

The new program focuses on disease-oriented research. Participating Ph.D. students elect to do research in four major fields: genetics, immunology, oncology and neuroscience.

The Research Institute is a component

of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, which has a long-standing affiliation with Einstein. Long Island Jewish Medical Center is a University Hospital and the Long Island Campus for the medical school. ◀

Dr. Rossetti *continued from page 2*

Dr. Rossetti and his colleagues are currently studying molecular and pharmaceutical approaches to solving this problem. They have been able to selectively modify fatty acid metabolism in the neurons within the arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus. By modifying metabolism and artificially creating “lipid sensing,” they were able to bring about a decrease in food intake and an improvement in insulin action in animal models.

“We can now use a genetic approach to modifying lipid metabolism that affects only the specific area of the hypothalamus and does not impact other areas of the hypothalamus or the brain,” Dr. Rossetti said. Einstein holds the patent for “artificial lipid sensing.”

Dr. Rossetti and his colleagues are exploring a pharmacological approach

to lipid sensing. “Our understanding of the biology of obesity has made enormous progress during the past decade and created a paradigm shift in the scientific community's view of obesity,” he said.

“We know that there is an organic reason that makes some people more susceptible to weight gain than others. If medical science can develop a biological approach to reducing obesity, then the incidence of type II diabetes would be reduced by 80 to 90 percent,” he continued.

Dr. Rossetti thinks inroads to finding a treatment for obesity—and by extension diabetes—that combines behavioral modification with drug therapies is less than a decade away. Throughout his career, Dr. Rossetti has distinguished himself as an international authority on the way glucose metabolism is regulated within liver and muscle cells in both normal and diabetic conditions. He has been widely recognized for his work, and his honors include the prestigious Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award from the American Diabetes Association. ◀

Spirit of Achievement Luncheon Raises \$400,000

The 49th annual Spirit of Achievement Luncheon—the most successful in the history of the Einstein National Women’s Division—has raised more than \$400,000 to benefit the Women’s Division Floor in the new Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine at the medical school. Sponsored by the Division’s New York Chapter, the luncheon honored model Christie Brinkley, Olympic figure skating champion Sarah Hughes, author Susan Isaacs, businesswoman Trish McEvoy and actor, singer and activist Dana Reeve. Ms. Reeve received the Lizette H. Sarnoff Award for Volunteer Service. Michele Marsh, WNBC news anchor, was “mistress of ceremonies.”

(From left) Michele Marsh, Susan Isaacs, Sarah Hughes, Trish McEvoy, Christie Brinkley and Dana Reeve



(From left) Luncheon chairwomen Joanna Sirulnick, Melissa Smith, Rebecca Stein, and Cheryl Minikes



(Far left) Sarah Hughes with Amanda Steiger (left) and Emily Kaskel, granddaughters of Linda Altman, president of the National Women’s Division.
(Above) Dr. E. John Gallagher and Nancy Lane, president of the New York Chapter.

Dr. E. John Gallagher, professor and chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine, received the Distinguished Service Award for his major contributions to health and medicine. Dr. Gallagher, who developed Einstein’s emergency medical residency program—one of the first in the nation—was recently elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He is only the fourth emergency medicine physician to be elected to this prestigious institution.

Nancy Lane is president of the Division’s New York Chapter. Cheryl Minikes, Joanna Sirulnick, Melissa Smith and Rebecca Stein chaired the luncheon, held at The Pierre on May 7 and attended by 450 guests. ◀

Genetic Diseases continued from page 1

grandparents and, of course, the children, many of whom die at a very early age,” Dr. Gross said. “We have the tools to prevent this; we just need to apply them on a massive scale.”

Dr. Gross stressed that the focus of the new program was “having healthy babies.” She pointed out that the groundwork is already in place for making this project possible. The genes for major recessive diseases (these require one gene from each parent) that afflict the Ashkenazi population have been identified, and recent technology allows for the screening of all these diseases at once.

The new program will reach out to people of reproductive age and educate them about the importance of genetic testing and counseling. Those couples carrying the same recessive gene will receive information about the options available to them, including in vitro fertilization and pre-implantation genetic diagnosis. Pre-implantation allows couples at risk to select healthy embryos for implantation.

Dr. Gross has already received a generous grant from the Jonas Ehrlich Charitable Foundation to support research in genetic disorders at Einstein. “I am very grateful to the Foundation and its trustees, Karen Spitalnick, Dr. Elliot Steigman and Gisela Steigman, for their generous support,” she said.

Dr. Gross explained that, using modern genetic techniques, one cell can be removed from an in vitro fertilized egg for DNA examination. If the cell shows no evidence of disease, the embryo can then be implanted and the parents can expect a healthy child.

“We want to reach young adults in the at-risk population before they marry and conceive,” Dr. Gross explained. To do this, she needs the cooperation of community-based Jewish groups, such as synagogues and Hillel Society chapters on college campuses.

After the initial pilot phase of the project, Dr. Gross and her colleagues plan to implement the project nationwide and ultimately on an international scale.

Acknowledging that genetic diseases are not limited to the Jewish population alone, Dr. Gross hopes that the project will serve as a model for eradicating other inherited diseases common to other population groups.

For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Susan Gross at (718) 405-8150 or, by email, at sgross@acom.yu.edu. ◀

Einstein Infectious Disease Expert Enlists in War Against SARS

dr. Arturo Casadevall, a renowned infectious disease specialist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, has joined in the international effort to control the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS. Dr. Casadevall is the Selma and Dr. Jacques Mitrani Professor of Biomedical Research.

“Our job now is to discover what medications currently in use for other diseases will cure this one, or to develop new therapies to stop the virus,” said Dr. Casadevall, who spoke at a recent luncheon of the College’s Men’s Division. He credited the quick response of infectious disease specialists throughout the world to the SARS epidemic for the rapid mapping of the virus’ genome. His research team at Einstein plans to generate monoclonal antibodies to a protein produced by the SARS virus.

Born in Cuba, Dr. Casadevall, now a United States citizen, received his

this area and in finding new antibodies that may be effective against tuberculosis has the potential of helping millions of people throughout the world.

Dr. Casadevall has received many honors for his work, including three of the most prestigious in biomedical science: a Pfizer postdoctoral scholarship, a three-year fellowship from the James S. McDonnell Foundation that funded studies of the molecular and genetic factors involved in AIDS and cancer; and the Experimental Therapeutics Scholars Award from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, which provided research funding for five years. ◀



Dr. Casadevall

undergraduate degree from Queens College and his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from New York University. He came to Einstein in 1989 as a postdoctoral fellow at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center.

In addition to his efforts to combat SARS, Dr. Casadevall, professor of medicine and of microbiology and chief of the division of infectious diseases, heads Einstein’s bio-defense initiatives. His research has focused primarily on the development of drugs and vaccines to combat fungal infections. He has shown that antibodies can be developed that could treat and serve as a vaccine against *Cryptococcus neoformans*, a life-threatening fungal infection that afflicts about 10 percent of all AIDS patients. Furthermore, he collaborates with Dr. Aharona Freedman of the Department of Pediatrics in research on tuberculosis. His work in

Dr. Susan B. Horwitz Is Honored

dr. Susan Band Horwitz, co-chair of the Department of Molecular Pharmacology and the Rose C. Falkenstein Professor of Cancer Research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, recently received several awards recognizing her accomplishments as a cancer researcher, educator and mentor.

Dr. Horwitz, who directs the Hallenbeck/Kalman Laboratory for Cancer Research, received the Einstein Alumni Association’s Honorary Alumna Award at the medical school’s commencement on June 4. This award is presented each year to a faculty member who has played an exemplary role in the life of the College and its students as an outstanding teacher and mentor.

In May, Dr. Horwitz received The Barnard Medal of Distinction—the highest honor bestowed by Barnard College—for her work in the field of cancer and cancer drug research.



Dr. Susan Band Horwitz

Of Note

Einstein Researcher Receives Prestigious Japanese Award



Dr. Seiji Ogawa, visiting professor of biophysics and physiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a member of the Gruss Magnetic Resonance Research Center, has received

the 2003 Japan Prize for his innovative contributions to the development of medical imaging techniques that are now widely used in all aspects of medicine. The award, sponsored by the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan, is considered the Japanese equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Dr. Ogawa, who is also director of Ogawa Laboratories for Brain Function Research in Tokyo, received approximately \$400,000 as part of this prestigious honor. His current work at Einstein focuses on clarifying the physiological basis of functional magnetic resonance imaging for mapping brain activity.

Associate director for therapeutics at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center, Dr. Horwitz is widely known for identifying the anti-tumor potential of Taxol, one of the most important anti-cancer drugs of the 1990s. She currently serves as president for the American Association of Cancer Research.

Dr. Horwitz, who holds the academic rank of professor of molecular pharmacology and of cell biology at the College of Medicine, also received an honorary degree from the Université de la Méditerranée, in Marseille, France.

Dr. Horwitz received her undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College and her Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from Brandeis University. She came to Einstein as a research associate in 1967. She is one of the first medical researchers in the country to receive an Outstanding Investigators Grant from the National Cancer Institute. ◀

Daniel R. Tishman
continued from page 3

press coverage and my friendship with members of its Board,” he continued.

“The Golf and Tennis Tournament will be our major fundraising event,” explained Neil Clark, Division chairman. Proceeds will benefit the Men’s Division’s new \$5-million project to establish a floor for research in cell transplantation and human genomics at Einstein. In conjunction with the event, the Division will publish its annual Journal and Yearbook, chaired by Jack Somer and Jeff Spiritos. Professional golfer and PGA Tour member Jay Delsing will be the Division’s special tournament guest.

Mr. Tishman earned his Bachelor of Science degree in ecology and planning from Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA and a Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Lesley College in Cambridge, MA. Before joining the Tishman organization, he operated his own land development and construction company, based in Maine.

In addition to his leadership in organizations concerned with the environment, Mr. Tishman is the chairman of the New York Division of Israel Bonds, a member of the executive committees of both United Jewish Appeal and the New York Building Congress, and a governor of the Real Estate Board of New York.

He and his wife, Sheryl, have two sons: 11 year-old Joshua and 6 year-old Gabriel. ◀

Of Note

Einstein Student Receives Prestigious Award

Dr. Jeffrey Levsky, who earned his Ph.D. degree at Einstein, is one of 16 graduate students from North America and Europe to receive the 2003 Harold M. Weintraub Graduate Student Award, sponsored by the Basic Sciences Division of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Dr. Levsky completed his doctorate in the laboratory of Dr. Robert H. Singer, professor and co-chair of anatomy and structural biology at Einstein.

Dr. Levsky was recognized for his research on the detection of single cell gene expression, which has many applications within the field of molecular cell biology. Currently, he is completing the clinical studies needed for his M.D. degree.

In Memoriam: Isidore Falk, Samuel J. LeFrak

albert Einstein College of Medicine mourns the passing of Isidore Falk and Samuel J. LeFrak, two cherished friends, who generously contributed to the growth of the medical school.

Isidore Falk, who died on January 6 at the age of 99, was a philanthropic leader known for his dedication to furthering Jewish scholarship. An Einstein Benefactor, he recognized the importance of physical fitness and relaxation in the life of an academic community, and established the Anne and Isidore Falk Recreation Center at the medical school.

Mr. Falk, who was affectionately known as “Issie,” was a highly successful textile manufacturer and business investor, who emigrated to the United States from Poland at the age of 13. In addition to Einstein, he and his late wife, Anne, supported many other educational and communal organizations.

He is survived by his children, Maurice and Judi Falk, Rebecca and John Stein-decker, Serafina and Dr. Melvin Weiner, by 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. A son, Michael, predeceased him.

Samuel J. LeFrak was 85 when he died on April 15. One of the nation’s most prominent and influential builders, he was an early member of the College’s Society of Founders, who contributed generously to medical research and education programs at Einstein.

Mr. LeFrak, who was born and raised in New York City, was a pioneer in providing affordable housing for middle-income people. He headed the LeFrak Organization, founded by his grandfather in 1905, for four decades from post-World War II through the 1970s and 1980s. A noted art collector, he financed underwater archeological expeditions, including the successful search for the Titanic.

Mr. LeFrak is survived by his wife, Ethel, a founding member of the Einstein National Women’s Division. She currently serves on its National Board and the Board of its New York Chapter. He is also survived by three daughters, Denise LeFrak Calicchio, Francine LeFrak Friedberg and Jacqueline LeFrak Kosinski, a son, Richard, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ms. Calicchio, Ms. Friedberg and a granddaughter, Allison Koffman, are actively involved with the College’s Women’s Division. ◀

Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University

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Dr. Norman Lamm
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Calendar

Monday, July 21...

Men's Division Annual Dinner honoring Daniel R. Tishman and featuring a day of gold and tennis. At Old Oaks Country Club, Purchase, NY. Sponsored by the Einstein Men's Division. Tournament Chairman: Marc Karetsky. Journal Chairmen: Jack Somer and Jeff Spiritos. For information: (718)430-3818. E-mail: ymd@aecom.yu.edu.

Thursday, Oct. 30...

Gala Dinner-Dance celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Women's Division. At The Plaza Hotel. Co-sponsored by the National Women's Division and the Men's Division. For information: (718)430-3806 or (718)430-3818.

For information about gifts or bequests to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, please contact Jerome A. Kleinman, Senior Director of Development, (718)430-3810 or Ira Lipson, Associate Director, (718)430-3842.

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Albert Einstein College of Medicine
of Yeshiva University

Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus

1300 Morris Park Avenue

Bronx, NY 10461-1602

(718) 430-3650

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