

THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center
Bassett Healthcare Network, Cooperstown, New York

Winter 2011



NEWS FROM THE BASSETT FRONT LINE



Alumni Association board members present at the annual meeting included: (front, left to right) John Davis, M.D.; Karen McShane, M.D.; Erin McKay, D.O.; Sally Ricketts, M.D.; Bill Streck, M.D. (Back) Don Pollock, M.D.; Ken Wilkins, M.D.; Jack Chamberlain, M.D.; G. Theodore Ruckert, IV, M.D.; Alan Kozak, M.D.; Doug DeLong, M.D.; Merideth Davis, M.D.; Nicole Lemanski, M.D.; James Dalton, M.D.; and Steven Ching, M.D.

Greetings! Your editor asked to me to put together a “what’s-going-on” message. I’ll start retrospectively and go back as far as my ever-more-feeble memory carries me.

The annual New Year’s Eve Bassett Gala was held at The Otesaga and honored Bill Streck for his 25 years as CEO. When one views the accomplishments of his administration over these years, it is truly impressive. Equally impressive to me is the reality that we are on the cusp of even more fundamental transformation with the implementation of the Epic electronic medical record, the maturation of our role as educators of select medical students and positioning ourselves to become a national model of an effective “accountable care organization.”

In October, the Alumni Board met for the 22nd time (or thereabouts). We, for the first time welcomed a medical student mem-

ber (Chris O’Brien) and worked on modifying the bylaws to reflect the changing face of the group. Ken Wilkins stepped down from his long-standing leadership as Alumni Association president, and Merideth Davis was elected to carry on. I do have to say that there have been many Bassett alumni who have had a strong social commitment but none stronger than that of Merideth, who “walks the walk” every day. We are fortunate to have her as the face of the alumni group.

The consolidation of Fox Hospital into the fold has progressed very smoothly indeed. After all the years of wrangling, it has turned out to be one of those “win-win” situations. Their financial situation has stabilized and improved. The Bassett Network no longer has a hole in the center. The Oneonta community has seen increased access to subspecialty services locally. I’m sure there were some rough patches, but they were not evident to me.

Although the tall pines were lost, the Harrison House has finally emerged from its rather forlorn appearance in a construction zone to a fresh coat of paint, a new parking complex and architecturally appropriate stone and steel fencing. The north end of the third floor in the hospital has yet to emerge from its phase of (de)construction. Amazing to think we have been in major construction mode for the last decade.

I could also comment on the onslaught of “hydrofracking” for natural gas in our pristine region, but I will spare you. Instead I want to thank all of you for supporting the Alumni Association and, through it, Medical Education at Bassett. It remains a special place.

—Doug DeLong, M.D., Executive Vice President, Bassett Medical Alumni



Mary and Steve Ching,



From left: Alumni board members Ken Wilkins, M.D., (outgoing board president); Merideth Davis, M.D., (incoming president) and G. Theodore Ruckert, IV, M.D.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings from your new president, Merideth Davis, M.D.

What a pleasure to have the honor of being the new president of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association! Bassett is clearly a very exciting institution these days, as this issue of *The Cupola* amply demonstrates. In particular, the enthusiastic message from your executive vice president, Doug DeLong, outlines

progress on many fronts. From my Miami abode, I even look back fondly on those winters in Cooperstown! Please keep in touch with your life updates, news, questions and ideas to help keep our association an active one, and stay warm!

Merideth Davis M.D.
President, Board of Directors
Bassett Medical Alumni Association

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center

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SURGICAL SUITE EXPANSION PLANNED



Dr. Streck with his family, from left: Brian and Kate Berry, William and Karen Streck, Margaret and Patrick Streck, Molly Streck and Michael Richtsmeier, at the 2010 New Year's Eve Gala. A sell-out crowd of more than 400 attended the event at The Otesaga Hotel to raise funds for the new surgical suite.

More patients who live and work within Bassett Healthcare Network's expanding 5,600-square-mile, eight-county service area come to Bassett Medical Center's Cooperstown campus for their surgical needs, often in times of crisis. Bassett's surgical program offers a wide range of sophisticated programs typically associated with large urban medical centers that include all forms of minimally invasive general surgery, bariatric surgery, cardiac surgery, gynecological surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic procedures, urologic oncology service and vascular surgery. In 2003, surgeons at Bassett Medical Center served 5,925 patients; in 2009, 7,571 were served. In 2011, 8,698 operating room cases are projected.

Responding to this growing volume of patients, Bassett Medical Center will expand its surgical services. Central to the project is the expansion of the surgical suite, the addition of a new operating room and adjacent support space.

Plans call for the relocation of the present OPCU to make way for the 700-square-foot operating room. Further expansion within the lower level of Bassett Medical

Center will create additional recovery and support space. Staff space for OR team lockers will be built adjacent to the OR, which will permit entry from locker rooms directly into the surgical suite, an improvement from the current configuration.

Renovations also include expanding space for pharmacy and OR storage to improve access and efficiency. New technologies and equipment that benefit surgical patients, such as the da Vinci robotic surgery platform, state-of-the-art portable fluoroscopy and endoscopic surgical equipment, have been incorporated into the floor plan.

The Friends of Bassett has organized a \$3 million fund-raising effort to support the construction and capital needs of the new high-tech operating suite. The Friends' most successful Gala ever, "Night of Silver," the 2010 New Year's Eve Gala honoring President and CEO Dr. William Streck's 25th anniversary, raised \$244,483 toward the project.

For more information on how you can contribute to this important project, contact Joshua Truman, director of Fund Development at (607) 547-3934 or joshua.truman@bassett.org.

SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAM EXTENDS MENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill reports that, of the 65 million people in America under the age of 18, approximately 7.5 million have diagnosable mental disorders, yet only one in five is receiving treatment. Bassett's School-Based Health Program is responding to this need by expanding its mental health coverage for students in local schools. The scope of care is being expanded at three sites where the mental health patient caseload is 50 percent above what is recommended. Rather than continuing to refer children to county services, the program will be strengthened by the addition of two mental health professionals.

Bassett's School-Based Health Program is the largest rural school-based health program in New York State with 18 highly successful school-based health centers in 13 school districts. Every Bassett school-based health center has a mental health professional as part of its health care team.

In 2009, more pediatric visits were completed through Bassett's school-based health centers (approximately 18,562) than in Bassett's outpatient clinic (10,988), and that trend was expected to continue.

For more information on how you can support Bassett's School-Based Health Program, contact Joshua Truman, director of Fund Development, at (607) 547-3934 or joshua.truman@bassett.org.

News Briefs

BASSETT JOINS THE SOCIAL MEDIA CONVERSATION

Bassett Healthcare Network now has Facebook and Twitter pages, and a YouTube channel. Visit the Bassett Web page (www.bassett.org) and click on the Facebook and Twitter icons at the bottom of the page to access links to articles about Bassett in the news, videos of Bassett providers and more.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/Bassett.Network

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/BassettNetwork

WATCH US ON YOUTUBE
youtube.com/bassettnetwork

BASSETT TO TRAIN EMPA RESIDENTS

Bassett will offer a new residency program for physician assistants beginning this year. It will be the sixth national postgraduate residency in emergency medicine but the first to specialize in rural emergency medicine. Two residents will train at Bassett for 12 months, working clinical shifts in the ED as well as rotating through several different services at Bassett

Medical Center. To increase their familiarity with rural EMS systems, residents will also participate in EMS training and crew with a rural EMS squad. Bassett already offers a Surgical Postgraduate Physician Assistant residency program and will welcome its first EMPA resident this spring, followed by the second resident in the fall.

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH PROGRAM HONORED

Bassett Medical Center is in the company of Cleveland Clinic Health System in winning a national award that recognizes innovative nursing programs and practices. Both Bassett and the Cleveland Clinic were awarded 2010 Magnet Honors by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and Cerner Corp. at the National Magnet Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., last fall.

The winning entry from Bassett highlighted its School Based Health Program (SBHP) for delivering medical, mental and dental care, health education and social services to children and adolescents on the school campus and addressing critical health problems that make it difficult for students to learn.



Dr. Debbie Hatmaker, left, president of the American Nurses Credentialing Center, presents the Magnet Honors award to Mary Schmitt, R.N., F.N.P., from the School Based Health Center Program; Jane Hamilton, R.N., SBHP manager; and Bassett Chief Nursing Officer Connie Jastremski.

Bassett's SBHP is the largest rural program of its kind in New York, with 18 school-based health centers in 13 school districts offering easy access to quality health care services for students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. The program aims to mitigate the real barriers to quality health care in rural areas due to climate, terrain, lack of insurance and other socio-economic factors. ■

SURVEY RESULTS WILL GUIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Results from the Bassett Research Institute's seven-county health survey in central New York show a troubling continued climb in the number of overweight and obese people. At the same time, the incidence of high blood pressure and diabetes may have leveled off. Those are just some of the findings, announced last fall, from the Upstate New York Health and Wellness Survey, which was mailed in 2009 to 55,000 people.

"The goal is to take what we learn and use it to develop interventions to improve the health of the population we serve in central New York," said Dr. John May, director of the Bassett Research Institute.

This work will be led by David Strogatz, Ph.D., who became director of the Bassett Research Institute Center for Rural Community Health in January. An epidemiologist with expertise in community-level health interventions, Dr. Strogatz came to Bassett from the Albany School of Public Health, where he served as chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and as director of a CDC-designated Prevention Center.

The Center for Rural Community Health will work with state and local public health agencies and Bassett health professionals to develop and test community-level interventions designed to address the most serious health challenges affecting people in Bassett's



Bassett Research Institute staff, from left (seated): Nancy Weisflog, Julia Earle-Richards, John May, Paul Jenkins, Lynae Hawkes; (standing): Nancy Tallman, Melissa Scribani, Kathy Kasprovic

catchment area. Currently, Dr. Strogatz is advising Bassett researchers Ida Baker and Jennie Kreis on a project aimed at assessing rural worksites as useful locations for weight control intervention; other Bassett researchers are working in schools to enhance nutrition education and reduce tobacco use. ■

IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

(Please tell us of former Bassett trainees and senior physicians who have passed on.)

DOUGLAS H. BARNES, M.D.

Dr. Douglas H. Barnes, 82, Bassett's retired Obstetrician and Gynecologist-in-Chief, passed away on Aug. 4, 2010, in Palm Coast, Fla.

Doug Barnes was born on Aug. 23, 1927, in Ogdensburg, to Thomas and Marion Barnes of Redwood, near Alexandria Bay, N.Y. After graduating first in his class from Redwood High School, he joined the Army and served as an observation station operator with the First Guided Missile Battalion in White Sands, N.M. He then attended St. Lawrence University, graduating in 1950 with a bachelor of science. (He continued his close relationship with St. Lawrence and was elected to the Board of Trustees from 1981-87.) He received his M.D. from Cornell Medical College in 1954, then began a long association with The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital as an intern and resident in Obstetrics & Gynecology.

In 1958, he accepted a position as attending obstetrician and gynecologist, and in 1971, after the retirement of Olaf Severud, M.D., he was appointed obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief. Among many other achievements, he developed the excellent mid-wife program and the modern birthing center that exists today. In his eulogy, Dr. Barnes' successor as chief, Marc Heller, M.D., commented that "Doug was a skilled technician and an excellent teacher. He would NEVER undertake sur-



Douglas H. Barnes, M.D.

gery unless it was clearly indicated, disparaging those physicians who, at the time, were lax in their indications to do frequent hysterectomies. He taught me how to operate and to respect the risks inherent in that process. So I appreciate Doug for his professionalism and expertise. He taught me a lot and provided a great service for his patients."

An avid skier, golfer and sailor, Doug's life was centered around his family and he treasured all the outdoor activities that upstate New York has to offer. From skiing at Mount Otsego to sailing or water skiing on Otsego Lake, he immersed himself in Cooperstown life and was an integral member of the community. He retired from Bassett in 1988, thereafter dividing his residence between Cooperstown and Palm Coast, Fla. With his wife of 49 years, Jean A. Barnes, who predeceased him in November 2001, he was the father of five children, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his sister, Sarah Wade and her husband, Howard; his five children: Tom and his wife, Julie; Susan and

her husband, Dan; Kathy and her husband, Carter; Tim and his wife, Cathy; and Pam and her husband, Joel; as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ROBERT HALE EDDY, MD

Dr. Robert Eddy, 84, of Camden, Maine, died March 16, 2010, following a short illness. Born Sept. 11, 1924, in Evanston, Ill., Dr. Eddy moved with his parents and brother to Bangor, Maine, in 1933 and attended the University of Maine for one year before being called in 1943 to serve in the U.S Army during World War II. He served three years in the Philippines as a first lieutenant and was wounded in combat, for which he received the Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart. He returned to the University of Maine and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1949. He married his wife, Mary, in 1948, a wonderful marriage that spanned 60 years.

Dr. Eddy obtained his M.D., AOA, at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, AOA, in 1953. He then came to Bassett for his medicine residency (1953-57, including chief resident), where he is remembered as being outstanding and a stickler for hard work and the best practice of medicine among the resident staff. He then moved with his family to Camden, Maine, to practice internal medicine at the Knox County General Hospital. He was influential in the founding



Robert Hale Eddy, M.D.

of Penobscot Bay Medical Center, where he helped to establish the coronary unit and practiced until his retirement in 1987.

Bob Eddy loved mid-coast Maine and, in retirement, took advantage of all it has to offer. From skiing at the Camden Snow Bowl to walking downtown checking on the activity at the harbor, he was seen as an integral member of the community. He was a sailor at heart who loved cruising the Maine Coast on his sloop, Panacea II, with his wife, Mary. His life was oriented to his family and to the Maine coast but reached well beyond through his fascination with history and extensive world travel.

In retirement, Dr. Eddy continued working on many hospital-related affairs, attending clinical conferences and helping to build seven houses with the Habitat for Humanity. He leaves behind his wife, Mary S. Eddy, and five children: Jonathan Eddy and his wife, Gail Butterfield; Christine Thompson and her husband, Jonathan Cohen; Robert Eddy Jr. and his wife, Patricia; Thomas Eddy and William Eddy, along with eight grand-

BIRTHING CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT COMPLETED

After years of planning and construction, the newly renovated Birthing Center on the third floor of Bassett Medical Center opened in February. Staff and individuals who made donations to help fund the reconstruction had the opportunity to tour the facility at a Feb. 8 reception organized by the Friends of Bassett and featuring remarks by Dr. Streck and Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology Siobhan Hayden, M.D.

"The midwives are looking forward to continuing to care for our patients in a truly collaborative and family-centered atmosphere," says Laura

O'Shea, R.D., C.N.M., M.S.N. "The new unit is designed to be aesthetically appealing, with a soothing color palette, new furnishings and enhanced space in the labor rooms, but the heart of the birth center will always be the professional and caring staff. Providing this excellent care in a new, improved environment is just an added bonus."

Bassett's Birthing Center has maintained very high patient satisfaction rates, and the nurse-midwives at Bassett were the first rural practice to receive the Golden Commendation from the American College of Nurse-Midwives for 25 years of service.



Birthing Center R.N. Tanya Jennison in one of the new labor, delivery and recovery rooms at Bassett Medical Center.

The new unit consists of four labor, delivery and recovery rooms, each with its own hydrotherapy tub, fetal monitor with telemetry capability and built-in infant care center. Once the birthing process is complete,

mother and baby are moved to a private postpartum room with a comfortable sleeping space for the support person.

In addition to the eight postpartum rooms, there is an operating room and a nursery

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please send us your notes and photos. They are what our Alumni Association is all about!

1950s

William Heydorn, M.D., (*Rotating Intern 1959-60*) writes: "I appreciate the opportunity provided in The Cupola to learn of the activities of some of those I had the opportunity to work with during my year as a rotating intern. I recall about halfway through the year when John Olson joined the surgical staff as the junior resident. I had hoped to stay on as a resident; however, the slot had been assigned to Cal Bigler, who was returning from his assignment with the Public Health Service. Thus followed a 30-year military career where I trained in first general and subsequently thoracic surgery. Subsequent to retiring from the military I have worked in hospital administration, health care education and as a surveyor for both the Accreditation



Dr. Heydorn at a hospital in Bursa, Turkey in 2010

Council on Graduate Medical Education and the Joint Commission. I have been fortunate that my health has permitted me to continue working as a surveyor for the Joint Commission and Joint Commission international. In the past four years I have worked in many hospitals in over 18 countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and South America. I look forward to working in four hospitals in Portugal and two in Ireland this fall. The quality of medical services in those hospitals that solicit accreditation is remarkable."

1980s

David O'Brien, M.D., (*Transitional Resident 1987-88*) sends the following from his new station in Honolulu: "After commanding the Air Force hospital at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, we were recently reassigned to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Korea took a little adjusting to, but we enjoyed getting to know our gracious hosts and learning about Korean culture. Needless to say, we are adapting quickly to Hawaii! Professionally, running the hospital was challenging and rewarding.

I had a great group of American patriots and caring healthcare givers helping me. Here in Hawaii, I oversee our Pacific Air Forces international engagement activities, medical readiness plans, and direct the DoD theater aeromedical patient movement center. We are enjoying the sun and surf on the island and look forward to several years in this tropical paradise!

1990s

David R. McNamara, M.D., (*Medicine Resident 1996-2000, including Chief Resident*) reports that in January, he and his family have moved for his new position at the Gundersen Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, Wis. "I will miss my co-workers and friends at Sanford Health and peaceful, majestic North Dakota, but I'm excit-



David O'Brien, M.D.

ed about the new job and am looking forward to working with one of my friends from Mayo." He adds, "Hope all is well for you in Cooperstown! Please say hello to Drs. Weil, Kozak and Sentochnik!"

2000s

Elyssa L. Pohl, M.D., (*Transitional*)

Resident 2006-07) sends word that she has completed her anesthesiology training at St Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital Health Center in New York, N.Y., and recently began a position as an attending anesthesiologist with Finger Lakes Health in Geneva, N.Y.

Robert J. Wu (*Surgery Resident 2003-08, including Chief Resident*) announces from Anaheim, Calif., the Sept. 9, 2010, birth of his and Sandy's first child, son Cayden Joshua Wu. Congratulations! ■



BASSETT LOOKS BACK

BASSETT OFFERED FOR SALE OR LEASE!

Unless our alumni give massive donations soon... But fortunately back in 1925 it didn't quite happen. Mary Imogene Bassett had died in October 1922, and the hospital struggled on, with its yearly deficits paid off by Edward Severin Clark, who had built the hospital in 1917-18, named it after his personal physician, and designated her as chief of the medical staff. Finally, Clark had had enough, and he closed the hospital, offering it up for sale or lease on June 26, 1925, to a "desirable educational institution." His letter of intent, rolled up in the original hospital blueprints, was found by John W. Sanford III, retired Bassett director, Facilities Engineering.

Clark described the location of the hospital, how it could be reached with ease from around the state by railroad and "excellent motor roads" and said there was "a first class summer hotel and golf course in the village." The "thoroughly fireproof" hospital buildings were described, with room enough on the 3.8-acre hospital plot "for a number of tennis courts," along with its attractive riverside location and a nearby tract of land suitable for "additional athletic facilities, including a football field, which an educational institution might require." He closed by stating that if he "could secure a desirable educational institution to occupy these premises, he would be willing to either sell or lease them for a period of years on very reasonable terms." Apparently, no educational institution pursued the offer, and the rest is history!

This vignette will be included in a book on Bassett's history, being put together by John Davis with the assistance of writer Molly Streck at the behest of Bassett's CEO Dr. William Streck and the Friends of Bassett. In addition to those donations to Bassett, alumni historical memories will be welcomed by Dr. Davis at davi7js4@hughes.net or by letter sent to the Medical Education Office. ■

BASSETT ALUM JOINS NEPHROLOGY TEAM

Yashaswini Rangan, M.D., has joined the Bassett Healthcare Network Nephrology Division. She sees adult dialysis patients in Cooperstown and at Bassett's dialysis center in Little Falls Hospital. She also sees patients in nephrology clinics in Cooperstown and at Herkimer Health Center.

Dr. Rangan earned her medical degree at Gandhi Medical College in Hyderabad, India, and completed a residency in internal medicine at Bassett Medical Center, where she was chief resident from 2007-2008. Dr. Rangan continued her training with a nephrology/hypertension fellowship at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The expanding Bassett Healthcare Network seeks physicians in the following areas, with openings at Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown and elsewhere in the network as noted.

Alumni and others you know who might be attracted by the Bassett model may contact Debra Ferrari of Medical Staff Affairs at (607) 547-6982 or debra.ferrari@bassett.org.

Anesthesiologist	Richfield Springs)	Orthopedic Surgeon-
Cancer Center - Director	Gastroenterologist	Joint Reconstruction
Dentist - Delhi	General Surgeon - Oneonta	Psychiatrist - Adult
Dermatologist	Hematologist/Oncologist	Psychiatrist - Child
Emergency Medicine	Hospitalist	Pulmonologist
Physician	Hospitalist - Hamilton	Radiologist
Endocrinologist	Internist - Herkimer	Rheumatologist
Family Medicine Physician	Internist - Oneonta	Spine Fellowship - Bassett
(Sherburne)	Obstetrician/Gynecologist	Spine Care Institute
Family Medicine Physician	Orthopedic Surgeon-	Urologist
(West Winfield and	Foot & Ankle	Vascular Surgeon



Yashaswini Rangan, M.D.

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