

# THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital  
Bassett Healthcare Network, Cooperstown, New York

Spring 2010



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.*

Greetings from Cooperstown, N.Y., and New Bern, N.C.

Spring is really in full bloom down here, and I'm sure it will hit upstate New York soon. Much is happening at Bassett, and most of the excitement surrounds the new clinical campus. Experience so far has been almost uniformly positive, and no less is expected from the new relationship with Columbia University. As always, this time of year is exciting because of Match Day, and the results are included in this issue.

On a sad note, the loss of John Olson and others on the obituary page reminds us of our ultimate frailty; Latham Murray was a contemporary of mine at Bassett who was practicing surgery in his hometown before his untimely accident.

Please let us hear from you. We like to know what happens to folks as they move into new phases of their lives.

*Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.*  
*President, Board of Directors*  
*Bassett Medical Alumni Association*

## COLUMBIA-BASSETT TRACK RECRUITS FIRST CLASS

An inaugural class of 10 outstanding medical school students has been selected for the new Columbia-Bassett Program, capping an exciting recruitment season that saw widespread interest from high-caliber students across the country.

A total of 758 students applied for the program's 10 slots – a ratio of applicants to positions that is more than double the ratio recorded last year at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons (P&S). After the 758 applications were screened, 105 students were invited for interviews. The 10 students chosen for the inaugural class have MCAT scores and grade-point averages comparable to those of students at the top medical schools in the country. They are also well-rounded, showing interests in music and athletics and excelling in multiple areas of their lives.

The quality of the students interested in the new program is an important measure of its success, said Dr. Henry Weil, Columbia's assistant dean for education at Bassett, because Bassett's ability to attract high-caliber physicians is tied to its future. "We believe the blood supply of Bassett is its people," Dr. Weil said. "Having



*The Columbia-Bassett Program team pores over the 750-plus applications received for 10 slots in the first year of the program. From left: Leann Smith, medical education specialist; Stephanie Harris, administrative assistant; Walter Franck, M.D., senior associate dean; Bassett Attending Surgeon Timothy R. Siegel, M.D.; and Henry Weil, M.D., assistant dean for education.*

wonderful medical students will help attract wonderful senior physicians; and wonderful senior physicians help draw and retain the other outstanding people who work here."

"With this infusion of individuals – individuals who were selected not just for their professional excellence but for their personal excellence – it is our hope that in the years to come, some of the students will remain in health care systems like ours, including ours,"

said Dr. Walter Franck, Columbia's senior associate dean at Bassett.

In addition to addressing the shortage of rural physicians, the Columbia-Bassett Program seeks to train a new generation of doctors capable of leading health systems that promote both quality and cost-effective delivery of care. Students will spend their first 18 months learning the basic science curriculum with the rest of their

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## BASSETT ADOPTS NEW NAME

To better reflect the organization it is today, Bassett has adopted a new corporate identity, Bassett Healthcare Network, and The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital is now doing business as Bassett Medical Center. "Our geographic size, wide range of programs and level of integration warrant a new identity, one that matches the breadth of services provided to patients



**Bassett Healthcare Network**

throughout the eight-county region we serve," notes President and CEO Dr. William F. Streck, who has guided Bassett's growth for the past 25 years. ■

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. 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.

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THE CUPOLA is published three times a year. Please send comments and news, including change of address information to: Editor, The Cupola, Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail <cupola@bassett.org>.

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## UNDER THE CUPOLA: MEASURE FOR MEASURE

by William Streck, M.D.



*Editor's Note: This message by Bassett's president and CEO appeared in the March issue of BassettWORKS, the monthly employee newsletter. His note on where the institution is heading should encourage all Cupola readers as well!*

Measurement is now an intrinsic part of health care. What, in the past, would have been classified under the Art of Medicine is now found under process measures, outcome measures and comparative effectiveness data. All of our collective work in patient care, it seems, can now be summed, divided, sliced and diced to generate new pieces of information that presumably relate to the quality of care provided to patients. It is a flood of information coursing around us as we try to keep up with the demands of caring

for patients and delivering care.

Is all this emphasis on information and analysis worth the trouble? The answer is yes. Every time a definitive piece of information emerges from this current of data, it provides a focus for action and improvement. At Bassett, our efforts in identifying these areas and improving upon them are really quite good. Our Quality Management Council oversees this process. The Performance Improvement Committee of the Board is very active. Departmental and divisional programs flourish. But even here, we have difficulty keeping up with the amount of information, altering our course to do better, and mobilizing the seemingly unlimited resources that continual improvement demands.

None of this will change; it will only intensify. That is why we need to look to new ways of approaching these measurements. These new ways will be increasingly dependent upon our using technology effectively. Our electronic medical record must be capable of multiple measurements, checks on appropriateness and increases in efficiency. The information systems must generate measurements that allow us to move into action. Our future cannot be dependent upon paper-based analytics and time-consuming analysis. We need active, real-time information at our fingertips.

Fortunately, not only do we recognize this, we are acting on this basis. Our plans for electronic medical records, business intelligence software and expanded connectivity across all systems will allow us to move into this new era of effective, real-time use of clinical measures. And the result will be better, safer care and reinforcement of our efforts to always perform at our best." ■

## News Briefs

### LABORATORY STAFF RECEIVES FUNDAMENTALS AWARD

The staff of Bassett's Laboratory is the first recipient of a new Mary Imogene Bassett Fundamentals Award, created by Bassett CEO William F. Streck, M.D., and COO Bertine C. McKenna, Ph.D.

"Dr. Bassett believed in doing things right, the first time, every time," said Dr. McKenna, in remarks at a January management team meeting where the award was announced. "She was passionate about following things through until they were completed. Today, we award the first management prize in her honor."

The lab was singled out, in part, for its superb performance during a recent five-day Joint Commission survey. The two surveyors said Bassett's lab was the best of the more than 130 labs they had surveyed over the past year and took away five best practices to share with the home office.

### BASSETT OPENS HARTWICK SEMINARY SPECIALTY SERVICES

Bassett has opened a new facility in Hartwick Seminary, four miles south of Cooperstown on state Route 28. The new health center will allow for expansion of existing programs in Dermatology, Plastic Surgery and Pain Management. In addition, the facility houses the Bassett Plastic Surgery and Advanced Skin Care Center, a new program focused on cosmetic interventions and surgery.

The Division of Dermatology has relocated all Cooperstown-based outpatient clinical services to Hartwick Seminary to enable the growth of the practice. The Plastic Surgery and Advanced Skin Care Center represents a collaboration of the Bassett's plastic surgeons and dermatologists, focusing on the provision of cosmetic interventions. The Interventional Pain Management Center represents a collaboration between physiatrists and neurosurgeons who specialize in procedures to alleviate chronic pain. ■



## THE EVOLVING BASSETT “SKILLS LAB”

The Bassett “Active Learning Center” now encompasses a reconfigured Mackenzie Medical Library with a transition to multiple computer consoles, the gradual addition and, in some cases, replacement of printed journals by electronic access, the elimination of “the stacks” of past journals, the addition of a learning center for medical students and the development of a “Skills Lab” for hands-on training of a host of patient procedures using various electronic simulators. The Skills Lab has been funded by grants from the Gladys Brooks Foundation and the Medical Education Endowment Fund. It is being used by medical students, nursing students, medical and surgical residents, nurses, respiratory therapists, paramedics, anesthesiologists, CRNAs and attending physicians. The lab is open at all times for residents and others to practice on their own.

Among many other features, the Skills Lab includes: basic “skills trainer” models for NG insertion, venipuncture, IV start, Foley catheter placement, tracheal suctioning, central line insertion, etc. that are used for intern orientation and by nurses and nursing students; a “METI” virtual patient simulator trainer for practice by surgery residents with camera navigation as well as laparoscopic suturing and

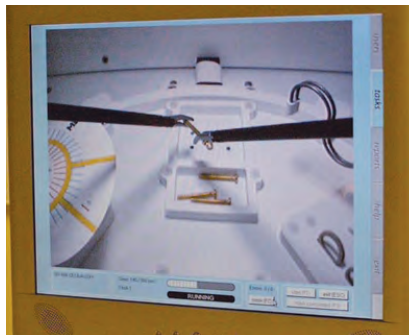


Chief Surgery Resident Cecilia Loh, M.D., manipulates surgical instruments with mentor, Attending Surgeon Stephanie Strauss, M.D.

other key components of common surgical procedures. Skills sessions include review of tasks such as stapling techniques, peg transfer, laparoscopic cutting, intracorporeal and

extracorporeal knot tying and endoloop use, with timing of each resident on their performance. Each resident must pass the written and skills test prior to finishing residency.

Close-up of the video screen showing small bolts being grasped and moved by the forceps



A key component of simulation training is the debriefing that occurs after the simulated scenario, aided by a large, high-definition wall screen. Several grant applications are in the works by physician and nursing staff for a variety of additional high-fidelity simulation models, and the trainers are scheduled to attend hands-on sessions elsewhere. As this cutting-edge lab evolves and its users multiply, space constraints, required educational standards, managerial issues and the need to add and upgrade equipment will become paramount.

For those of us who remember the agonies for the patient — and ourselves — even to learn how to do a venipuncture, these new techniques represent an astounding advance, both for teaching skills and also for the actual practice of surgery and other procedures! ■



The Mackenzie Medical Library

### **COLUMBIA** from page 1

class in Manhattan and will then come to Bassett for two and a half years of clinical training. They will manage the care of individual patients over time and through different types of medical problems and be exposed to health care features including finance, risk management, patient safety, quality improvement and medical informatics.

This nontraditional curriculum was what attracted Haley Masterson, a University of Kansas senior, and Blake Alberts, a senior at the University of South Dakota, who were among the 10 accepted to the program. After spending two days interviewing in Cooperstown and New York City, Masterson said, “I was set in my mind. I could not hope to do better than getting

*‘I could not hope to do better than getting accepted to the Columbia-Bassett Program.’*

*Haley Masterson  
University of Kansas senior*

accepted to the Columbia-Bassett Program.” Alberts saw the program as an opportunity to attend a top medical school and also see medical

care delivery in a hospital with a mission similar to that of rural South Dakota hospitals. “Bassett has the same mission but is 180 degrees opposite in how it approaches health care,” he said.

In the inaugural class of the Columbia-Bassett Program, Alberts and Masterson will join students from Oregon, Arizona, California, New Hampshire and Australia (by way of Cornell) and three upstate New York colleges (Colgate, Hamilton and Geneseo).

Dr. Franck credited the two groups of Albany Medical College students who spent their third year of clinical studies at Bassett with being the “pioneers” who helped Bassett build, test and refine the Columbia-Bassett Program. “This experience has enabled us to develop faculty both at a formal and an operational level,” he said. ■

## “HOW TO BECOME AN EXPERT” BY DA HENDERSON, M.D

*Editor's Note: The following excerpt is from a featured interview of Donald A. (DA) Henderson, M.D., in the Fall/Winter 2009 issue of Rochester Medicine. Dr. Henderson obtained his M.D. from the University of Rochester School of Medicine, was an intern, resident and fellow at Bassett, and later a Bassett trustee and founding member of the Bassett Alumni Association. For a brief review of DA's career, see [www.bassett.org/edu/newsletters/fall-winter2001.pdf](http://www.bassett.org/edu/newsletters/fall-winter2001.pdf).*

“An important development in my learning curve derived from the teachings of John Romano and George Engel. They dwelt on the fact that in interviewing a new patient, one needed to question him carefully and to listen attentively. They made the point that if one lis-

tened carefully and the patient was given sufficient time, he would more often than not make the diagnosis and give a clear indication as to the best possible course of therapy. I found the advice to be applicable in other puzzling situations. I remember on more than one occasion being sent on an emergency epidemic call and trying to anticipate what I should do and recommend. It was often supposed that because I came from CDC, I must be an expert when, in fact, I frequently knew little more than what I had been able to read en route to the scene of the epidemic. Inevitably on arrival, I was invited immediately to meet with government officials, local physicians and others. It proved useful to recall the Romano-Engel advice and to ask questions



Donald A. (DA) Henderson, M.D.

and to listen. What do you think is the trouble? How might the problem be handled? As I discovered, many people had both insight and good ideas but had been reluctant to offer them or they were ignored.

As an outsider, I could ask questions and solicit answers that others could not. I routinely asked many questions and listened. Surprisingly often the problems were readily resolved and appropriate directions emerged.

As I moved on to other positions for which I had neither prior training nor experience—director of the global smallpox eradication program, dean of a school of public health, and presidential adviser in the White House—I followed the Romano-Engel advice in asking questions, listening, and learning. It was a pleasant and gratifying surprise in every setting to discover the many astute, creative, and helpful people I was working with but it was necessary to take the time to question and to listen. ...” ■

### NEW BASSETT STAFF

Bassett is pleased to announce the return of two former trainees to positions on the senior staff. Anesthesiologist **David Ullman, M.D.**, who was a Surgery Resident from 1983-85, and Physiatrist **Emily DeSantis, D.O.**, who spent time at Bassett during her third and fourth years as a student from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. Both are board certified in their respective specialties. ■



David Ullman, M.D.



Emily DeSantis, D.O.

### MATCH RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Bassett recently announced the following postgraduate appointments for the 2010-2011 academic year:

#### GENERAL SURGERY

Charles R. Baldwin, M.D., University of Washington School of Medicine  
Ian J. Kendrick, M.D., University of Utah School of Medicine  
Gillian E. Lavik, M.D., University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Akemi Watkins, M.D., University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

#### INTERNAL MEDICINE

Anju Agarwal, M.B.,B.S., Sardar Patel Medical College – India  
Saeed Ahmed, M.B.,B.S., King Edward Medical College – Pakistan  
Srujana Angirekula, M.B.,B.S., Andhra Medical College – India  
Shalini Arora Chowdhry, M.B.,B.S., Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College – India  
Wisit Cheungpasitporn, M.D., Chulalongkorn University – Thailand  
John M. Horne, M.D., Chicago Medical School – Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science  
Quanhathai Kaewpoowat, M.D., Chiang Mai University – Thailand

Jin Terry Lim, M.D., SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Venkatrao Medarametla, M.B.,B.S., Guntur Medical College – India  
Atchuytaramkumar Pachigolla, M.B.,B.S., Andhra Medical College – India  
Vengamamba Polu, M.B.,B.S., SVS Medical College – India  
Kunatum Prasadthratsint, M.D., Mahidol University, Siriraj Hospital – Thailand  
Promporn Suksaranjit, M.D., Mahidol University, Siriraj Hospital – Thailand  
Yasemin S. Tashman, M.D., University of Arizona College of Medicine  
Minhui Xie, B.M., Guangzhou Medical College – China

#### TRANSITIONAL YEAR

Morgan J. Carlson, M.D., University of Vermont College of Medicine  
Shirley Chan, M.D., SUNY Upstate Medical University  
Michael Fikhman, M.D., SUNY Upstate Medical University  
Nicole Lemanski, M.D., Albany Medical College  
Shyam G. Patel, M.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School  
Dawn Piarulli, M.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School  
Amit A. Shah, M.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School  
Charles N. Weber, M.D., SUNY Upstate Medical University  
Joanne E. Zhung, M.D., UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School ■



## THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

Again, thanks to those who have sent the following news.  
Keep your notes and photos coming!

### 1940s

**Edward T. Bello, M.D.**, (Intern 1949-50) is pictured with his wife and daughter, **Jacqueline A. Bello, M.D.**, (First Post-Graduate year, Flexible 1980-81) when she received a Columbia University Alumni Medal from University President Lee Bollinger at the May 2009 P&S commencement exercises. Dr. and Mrs. Edward Bello reside in Milford, N.Y. Dr. Jacqueline Bello, the director of the Division of Neuroradiology at the Montefiore Medical Center, is a founding and continuing member of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association.



Dr. and Mrs. Ed Bello and daughter Dr. Jacqueline Bello

in those days but since we were in uniform, hitchhiking was rather easy, even in the boondocks. We also got to go horseback riding at one of the nurses' farm. A wonderful change from the big city for us. I do know that Bassett Hospital is a much larger institution than when I was there and I'm sure the students will have a great education in a great place." (Editor's note: It seems entirely fitting that we include notes from former medical students, in addition to former residents, in our Family Album.)

### 1960s

**Jay P. Mohr, M.D.**,



Jay P. Mohr, M.D.  
and Joan Mohr

(Medicine Intern and Assistant Resident 1963-64) sends the following: "After two happy years by Lake Otsego, one year at the NY Neurological Institute,

a long period at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, briefly as chair of Neurology at the University of South Alabama, we came back to NYC for JPM to be the newly-created Daniel Sciarra Professor of Clinical Neurology and later the founding Director of the Doris & Stanley Tananbaum Stroke Center.

"Over the last 26 years, the attractiveness of the NI, Columbia P&S, and NYC have provided the setting for a steady stream of trainees and rising star faculty, one of whom is the president-elect of the American Heart Association, its first vascular neurologist. Work at the Center includes the NIH Stroke Data Bank, the Warfarin-Aspirin Recurrent Stroke Study, the Northern Manhattan Stroke Study, Patent Foramen Ovale in Cryptogenic Stroke Study, and current studies in stroke prevention, neuroprotection and post-stroke compensatory neurotransmitter mechanisms.

"Joan recently retired after 25 years a docent at the Cloisters branch of the Metropolitan Museum. She obtained an advanced degree at Columbia, her thesis written on one of history's first women's lib, Hildegard of Bingen, a

mystic whose spells Joan speculated might have been from repeated seizures and hemorrhage from a brain arteriovenous malformation, not from the usual claim of migraine. Some insights might have arisen from her husband's interest in brain AVMs, and her all-too-frequent exposure to the topic. JPM is currently engaged directing an NINDS-funded international clinical effort A Randomized trial of Unruptured Brain Arteriovenous malformations (ARUBA), an acronym designed in part to attract interventionalists and neurosurgeons to the trial.

"The Bassett is responsible for much of this, having given two callow products of Virginia exposure to the Columbia system and the world at large. Our two children are healthy and happy involved in the TV industry in Los Angeles, our daughter having produced a daughter who looks like her grandmother, thank God."

### 2000s

Residents **Teeranun (Bia) Jirajariyavej** and **Atipon Kangwanpornisiri** were married in the Bassett Chapel on Nov. 30, by



Drs. Bia Jirajariyavej and Atipon Kangwanpornisiri

chaplain Betsy Jay, and a ceremony was also held in Thailand. Teeranun tells us she and Atipon have known each other for about eight years and met in medical school. Atipon is pursuing a nephrology fellowship this year in Rochester.

### LET'S HEAR FROM YOU

We hear from Bassett alumni that The Cupola is one of the ways they keep up with past colleagues. To do that well, we need to hear from you. Contact John Davis with items at [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org) or write to Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, Attn: John Davis, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown 13326. ■



Bassett chaplain Betsy Jay performs the Cooperstown ceremony.

## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

*(Please forward to us information about former Bassett physicians who have passed on.)*

### JOHN E. OLSON, M.D.



*John E. Olson, M.D.*

John E. Olson, M.D., 78, passed away at his home outside of Cooperstown on March 16, 2010, from a malignant thymoma. Born on Feb. 29, 1932, in Dwight, Kan., John was raised on the family farm, the youngest of seven children. Among his early role models was the local "horse and buggy" doctor, who had delivered him in the kitchen of his parents' farm. He received his M.D.,AOA in 1956 from the University of Kansas. John and Rita (Shipp) were married on March 7, 1954; she worked as a physical therapist while John completed medical school. He heard

about Bassett from a neurosurgeon who had been there as a Columbia P&S student. He did a last-minute coin toss to choose between his top two Match choices, the University of Michigan and Bassett. He recalls that Michigan won, but he realized that the result was flawed, and that he really wanted Bassett for a year, with plans to head "west of the Kansas/Colorado border after that."

The extraordinary personal standard, intellect and hard work he brought to his intern year at Bassett were quickly recognized by his fellow interns and all levels of staff. After service as a flight surgeon in the Naval Reserve, Dr. Olson returned to Bassett as a surgical resident from January 1960 to June 1963, which included six months as Harkness Chief Resident Surgeon at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. His interests in surgical metabolism and endocrinology then led to a research fellowship under Dr. Francis Moore at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. In 1964, John returned to Bassett as an attending surgeon and director of the Tumor Clinic. He directed the ICU from 1969 to 1982 and became clinical professor of surgery at Columbia University in 1981.



*John E. Olson M.D., 1971*

John Olson was a clinician with a renowned bedside manner, diagnostic skills and judgment, an excellent technical surgeon, a consummate educator and a clinical researcher, always demanding excellence from himself and others. His lifelong interests were particularly in

breast and endocrine malignancies. He remained instrumental in Bassett's oncology program throughout his career and was appointed chief of Surgical Oncology in 1992. He led Bassett's participation in numerous multi-institutional surgical adjuvant breast and bowel projects, in particular with the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group. He

retired in 1995 with the title of professor emeritus of surgery, Columbia University.

John and Rita traveled extensively around the globe. It was commonplace for them to combine medical outreach efforts with these adventures, and John spent two months in 1972 in Brazil on the hospital ship HOPE teaching local surgeons modern techniques and principles of surgical care. His dedicated and passionate personal standard of surgical practice and teaching helped turn surgical residents into superbly trained surgeons. Beginning in 1988, he began a series of trips as a consultant to Taiwan to promote multidisciplinary treatment of cancer at three medical schools and to set up a surgical oncology fellowship program. He retired from Bassett in October 1995 but continued a part-time clinical and teaching role for several years.

A lifelong conservationist, John served as president of the Otsego County Conservation Association. As a hunter and angler who insisted on the highest ethics afield, he instilled this same ethic in his sons, was the consummate stickler for gun safety and taught them the finer points of hunting and sportsmanship. John was a regular at the Cooperstown Sportsman Association Sunday skeet shoots and had a deep passion for hunting quail, grouse and pheasants. He traveled often to Kansas, South Dakota or Arizona to hunt with family and old friends. He could be counted on to provide fare for wild game dinners that were savored with family and friends. He and Rita relished spending time at their cabin in the Adirondacks.

Dr. Olson is survived by his wife Rita of 56 years; their sons, Stephen E. Olson, M.D., of Harney County, Ore.; Thomas G. Olson of Walla Walla, Wash.; and Timothy J. Olson, his wife, Paige, and their son, John E. Olson of Pierre, S.D.; a brother, George W. Olson, D.V.M., of Prairie Village, Kan.; a sister-in-law, Barbara Dunlap of Garden City, Kan.; and numerous nephews and nieces.

### GUY W. AMSDEN, PHARM.D.

Guy W. Amsden, Pharm.D., died unexpectedly at age 44 on March 22, 2010, at Bassett Medical Center. The director of Pharmacy Services for Bassett Healthcare Network in Cooperstown and Little Falls, he received his B.S. in Pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy, followed by his doctorate in pharmacy from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Pharmacy. Guy was a registered pharmacist, a diplomate of the American Board of Clinical Pharmacy, and a fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. During his career, he taught and was the author of many publications and book chapters in the field of infectious disease. A recipient of many research grants, he was on the editorial boards for several journals and textbooks. Guy leaves behind his wife, Jennifer Ann (Potratz) Amsden and their two children, Kyle W. Amsden and Katelyn M. Amsden, along with many other relatives.



*Guy W. Amsden, Pharm.D.*



**LATHAM MURRAY, M.D.**

Dr. Latham Murray, of Earlysville, Va., died tragically by drowning at age 58 on Nov. 29, 2009, at Panorama Farms, his childhood home. He received his M.D. from the University of Virginia in 1981. He then completed his surgery residency at Bassett Hospital, including chief resident, followed by a fellowship in non-cardiac thoracic surgery at East Birmingham Hospital in Birmingham, England. Dr. Murray was an attending surgeon at Memorial Hospital in Easton, Md., before joining the medical staff at Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville in July 1995. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and board certified in general surgery with added accreditation in thoracic surgery. Throughout his career, his focus never wavered from the personal care and interaction he enjoyed with countless patients and their families, always serving the community with pride and great satisfaction.

Outside the hospital, Latham was a stone mason, tree surgeon, cabinetmaker and writer. He will be fondly remembered for his passion and unique skill in working with his hands on the farm or in the shop. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Langhorne King Murray; their five children, Brad, Wistar, Jack, Margaret and Stephen; with his parents, James B. Murray and Jean Brundred Murray, and seven brothers and their families.

*Latham Murray, M.D.***ALLAN G. RAMSAY, M.D.**

Allan G. Ramsay, M.D., died Dec. 2, 2009, at his Cooperstown home. He was 84. Raised in London, Ontario, he received his B.S. and M.D. from the University of Western Ontario and completed a nephrology fellowship at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. He worked at Victoria Hospital at the University of Western Ontario, the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, at several hospitals abroad, including one in Saudi Arabia, and at Bassett Hospital from 1970-1981, where he established the institution's first dialysis unit. In addition to his clinical practice, he was a researcher and medical-legal expert.

He was a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and a member of several medical and physiology research organizations. Allan married Margaret Yvonne Forsyth 1951; she predeceased him in 1999. An avid historian, Allan loved discussing history and politics, and he and Margaret were known for their high-energy and active lifestyle; he continued skiing into his 70s. He is survived by two children, Jennifer Ramsay, M.D.C.M., of Ancaster, Ontario, Canada, and Alastair Ramsay of Bellevue, Wash., and four grandchildren.

*Allan G. Ramsay, M.D.***WILLIAM H. HERMANN,  
FORMER BASSETT EXECUTIVE**

William H. Hermann of Dublin, N.H., a senior vice president at Bassett Hospital for over two decades, died Oct. 20, 2009, at age 85 after a sudden illness. Born April 6, 1924, in Hillsboro, Ill., he served in the Navy as a pharmacist and as a registered nurse from 1945-47 and received a World War II Victory Medal and a commendation from the secretary of the Navy. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a B.A. in social work in 1951, and an M.S. from the Yale School of Public Health in 1953. He worked as an administrator for the Arabian-American Oil Co in 1953-58, and as executive director of Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, in 1958-67, where he

*William H. Hermann*

became associate professor of tropical medicine and public health at Tulane Medical School. He came to Bassett in 1967 and served as senior vice president, an indispensable right-hand-man to Directors Drs. Charles Ashley and William Streck until he retired in 1989.

He was named associate professor of public health at Columbia University. He moved to Keene, N.H., in 1994 and founded the Wright Mansion Inn & Conference Center, which he ran for 10 years. He was a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators, American Public Health Association, Yale Club and Yale Alumni

Association. He was hospital historian, a member of numerous regional boards and a vestry member at Christ Episcopal Church. A man of many accomplishments and an unassuming nature, he was well-known for his sense of humor and was recognized for his many philanthropic efforts. Survivors include his former wife, Loretta, of Houston; two daughters, Karen Fisher and her daughter, Elise, of Boca Raton, Fla., and Diane Evans and her husband, James, of Eden, Utah.

**MARGARET KEELER,  
DR. JAMES MITHOEFER'S WIDOW**

Margaret (Peggy) Keeler, widow of Bassett Hospital surgeon Dr. James Mithoefer, died on Oct. 27, 2009, in Dorset, Vt., from a stroke at age 91. Born in 1918, she married James Mithoefer in 1941 and had five children. Two years after Jim died in 1963, Peggy moved to New Haven, Conn., and taught at the Foote School. In 1975, she married Robert T. Keeler, a lawyer practicing in Cincinnati. They divided their time between Cincinnati and Dorset until they moved permanently to Dorset. In Cooperstown and Dorset, she cultivated bountiful and varied gardens. Survivors include children James Mithoefer of Manchester, Vt., Peter Mithoefer of Chappaqua, Meg Mithoefer of Dorset, Vt., and Molly Mithoefer of Trescott, Maine; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

As most readers are aware, James Mithoefer, M.D., was the general surgeon who, at age 49, died tragically from hornet stings at the height of his Bassett career, which had begun in 1950. An outstanding teacher of surgery, with extra training in orthopedics and plastic and reconstructive surgery, he was working to expand the field of plastic surgery in upstate New York at the time of his death. He was the prototypical rural surgeon,

*Margaret Keeler*

# BASSETT LOOKS WAY BACK

## FARMERS' MUSEUM SHOWCASES MARY IMOGENE BASSETT AND FAMILY

Last year, the doctor's office at The Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown underwent extensive interior renovation to make it more in line with its original appearance and purpose in the mid-19th century. The renovated office is a rather spartan place where two Drs. Jackson and subsequent physicians had their practice headquarters, mainly used for preparing drugs, record-keeping, storing medical equipment and, occasionally, treating patients. The actual practice of medicine in those days was mostly by house call.

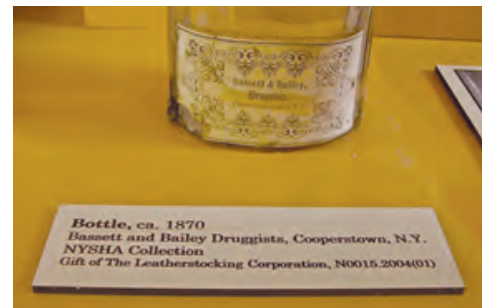
Mary Imogene Bassett, of course, was born in her father's home; Wilson T. Bassett's adjacent medical office still exists in Mount Vision on state Route 205, originally a free-standing building but now attached to the renovated, private home. The office at The Farmers' Museum now features a display of artifacts and photos related to Mary Imogene Bassett, her parents (mother Mary A. Bassett also became a physician several years after MIB's birth) and MIB's brother, Liston Bassett, who ran a drug store in Cooperstown. ■



### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Bassett Healthcare Network seeks physicians for the following positions. Openings are at the Cooperstown Campus unless otherwise indicated. There are also openings for physician extenders and administrative positions. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Debra Ferrari, Medical Staff Affairs, at (607) 547-6982 or [debra.ferrari@bassett.org](mailto:debra.ferrari@bassett.org)

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
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| Critical Care - Intensivist | Nephrology                   |
| Dermatology                 | Neurology                    |
| Emergency Services          | Obstetrics/Gynecology        |
| Endocrinology               | Pediatrics                   |
| Gastroenterology            | Psychiatry - Child and Adult |
| Gynecology/Oncology         | Radiology                    |
| Hematology/Oncology         | Radiation Oncology           |
| Hospitalist - Cooperstown   | Rheumatology                 |
| Hospitalist - Hamilton      |                              |
| Family Medicine - Sherburne |                              |



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