The event was the culmination of generous support from past students and colleagues who wished to honor Dr. Hanson’s indelible impression as a teacher, outstanding researcher and remarkable leader during his 30-year tenure at the School of Medicine, which included 21 years as chair of the Department of Biochemistry.

Scholarly lectures took place throughout the day, on September 2, 2010, while attendees enjoyed a dinner and remarks from honored guests afterward. Among the guests, who attended from cities around the country, was Dr. Hanson’s first doctoral student, Shirley M. Tilghman, PhD, president of Princeton University.

Many individuals who could not attend honored Dr. Hanson by making gifts to the newly created Richard W. Hanson, PhD Endowment Fund. Once fully funded, this endowment will sustain a yearly scholarship to support a student pursuing his or her passion for research in the field of biochemistry and metabolic disease, as well as an annual lecture to foster the exchange of knowledge and advance discovery in the field. Dr. Hanson himself made a gift of $20,000 to the endowment fund, as a continuation of his tremendous legacy at the School.

A scientist, artist and musician, Dr. Hanson serenades guests gathered in his honor at a reception following the Richard W. Hanson Symposium.
I want to call special attention to the many volunteers who provide essential support that elevates Case Western Reserve School of Medicine to be among the Top 20 medical schools in the United States.

You give your time to help set the course for our institution through board and committee work. Many of you have also graciously served as hosts for alumni events around the country. You lend your wisdom and experience to our students, serving as small group learning instructors, medical preceptors on campus and in the field, research mentors, career advisors and simply as friendly alumni whose on-the-ground knowledge in distant cities provides invaluable perspective.

In the years ahead, I will continue asking for your support. We are working harder than ever to provide meaningful volunteer experiences for our alumni that will help our students find their passion and career pathway in medicine.

Thank you for all you do.

With gratitude,

Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD
Dean, School of Medicine
Vice President for Medical Affairs,
Case Western Reserve University

Class News and Notes

We’d love to hear from you! Submit your class news and notes to somalumni@case.edu, call (800) 315-4438, or mail to:

Case Western Reserve University
School of Medicine, Office of Alumni Relations
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-4923

1956
Alan Roberts, MD, [MED ’56] recently published his book titled, “Hot Flashes in a Cold World: My struggle to remain a husband, a doctor and a man in the face of prostate cancer.” Dr. Roberts describes his experience of facing and surviving prostate cancer and the ways it has made him “a more sensitive physician and human being.”

1961
Robert P. Mack, MD, [MED ’61] was inducted into the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine’s [AOSSM] Hall of Fame, in Providence, Rhode Island. He is a pioneer in ski safety for his research that resulted in the formation of the ASTM [American Society of Testing and Materials] F-8 Ski Safety Committee that established safety standards for ski bindings. The net result of this research was the virtual elimination of tibia fractures in alpine skiing.

1970
Louis A. Novak, MD, FACRO, [MED ’70] has dedicated the past 13 years to facilitating the development of radiation oncology services at the University Hospitals Ambulatory Ireland Cancer Centers. Dr. Novak also served as director of the radiation oncology residency program at UH for 15 years. When not serving patients, Dr. Novak raises horses on his farm in Newbury and competes in national horse shows. He enjoys spending time with his family and colleagues, most of whom reside in Geauga County, Ohio.

1975
Arthur J. Ross III, MD, MBA, [MED ’75] was named dean of the West Virginia University School of Medicine on June 4. Dr. Ross previously served as dean of Chicago Medical School and vice president for medical affairs of Rosalind Franklin University. A respected researcher and award-
winning teacher, Dr. Ross was selected following a national search. He began his new role in August.

1976

Gary Westbrook, MD, [MED '76] will hold the Dixon Professorship in Oregon Health and Sciences University’s Jungers Center for Neurosciences Research. Dr. Westbrook is an expert in neurotransmission, the regrowth of brain and nerve cells and the functions of neuronal networks. In addition to being a professor of neurology, he serves as co-director of the OHSU Vollum Institute and Brain Institute and will now serve as co-director of the OHSU Jungers Center for Neuroscience Research. He was elected in 2008 to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

1980

Katherine L. Wisner, MD, MS, [MED '80] was a featured speaker at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) meeting on May 17, 2010. Dr. Wisner’s lecture focuses on treatment options for depression during pregnancy, with an overview of antidepressant treatment. An interview with Dr. Wisner has been posted on the ACOG website and the ACOG YouTube channel.

1983

Cynthia Koelker, MD, [MED '83] recently released her book entitled, “101 Ways to Save Money on Health Care.” The book is endorsed by CNN’s senior medical correspondent, Elizabeth Cohen, and recommended in the current issue of Reader’s Digest. Her book is a practical consumer’s guide for individuals looking to save money on doctor visits, hospitalizations, prescription drugs and acute illness. Dr. Koelker resides in Akron, Ohio, where she practices family medicine.

1985

Daniel A. Finelli, MD, FACR, [MED '85] was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology [ACR] in May. The induction took place at the 87th ACR Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. The honor demonstrates a history of service to the College, organized radiology teaching or research. Approximately 10 percent of ACR members achieve this distinction. Dr. Finelli resides in Solon, Ohio.
Resident Focus: Dermatology Event at Progressive Field, Home of the Cleveland Indians

With words from famous players and voices forever linked to Cleveland’s sports history, guests and alumni gathered at Progressive Field to learn about the School of Medicine’s skin cancer research advances led by Department of Dermatology Chair Kevin Cooper.

Research highlights include new applications for photodynamic therapy, testing the effectiveness of ingredients used for sun protection and using antioxidants to enhance skin cancer prevention. Learn more at http://casemed.case.edu/dept/dermatology/.

Commencement 2010

More than 1,925 Case Western Reserve University degrees were conferred at ceremonies throughout the day on May 16, 2010. Katie Couric, anchor and managing editor of the “CBS Evening News with Katie Couric” and correspondent for “60 Minutes,” served as the keynote speaker at the University’s Commencement Convocation and received an honorary degree from the University. Ms. Couric has been a staunch supporter of Dr. Sanford Markowitz’s colon cancer research efforts at the School of Medicine.

The School of Medicine’s diploma ceremony took place at Severance Hall, graduating 167 students, including 27 students from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Serving as keynote speaker was Bernadine Healy, MD, health editor and columnist for “U.S. News & World Report.” Dr. Healy was the first woman to head the National Institutes of Health, a former president of the American Heart Association, and a deputy science advisor to President Ronald Reagan.

CWRU Med Students take 1st and 2nd Prize at MedWAR

Students of Case Western School of Medicine have added wilderness adventure racing to their impressive list of talents. Four teams of med students had a successful foray into MedWAR (Medical Wilderness Adventure Race) in Danville, Pennsylvania on August 28. The trail included trail running, orienteering, mountain biking, and kayaking. Teams were stopped along the way to manage simulated rattlesnake bites, broken bones, lightning strikes, near-drownings, hypothermia, and more. CWRU teams took home 1st and 2nd prize, practicing and learning wilderness medicine along the way.
Student Clinician Ceremony
Celebrating Humanism in Medicine

The second annual Student Clinician Ceremony took place on July 9, a tradition that marks the transition of second-year medical students to full-time clinical immersions. The ceremony is made possible through the Philip D. Junglas Compassion in Medicine Fund, established by Diane Collier and Friends. Mrs. Collier opened the ceremony by sharing her personal account of the impact a caring physician has on both patients and families. She noted the significant role Dr. Philip Junglas (MED ’91) played in caring for her late husband, Richard A. Collier.

The program’s featured speaker was Dr. Aaron Lazare (MED ’61), the Celia and Isaac Haidak Distinguished Professor of Medical Education and professor of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Lazare spoke on the subject of shame in medical encounters and encouraged students to be aware of their words and actions that can enhance the dignity of patients while minimizing feelings of humiliation.

A grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation will enhance physician and nursing education through a student-run free clinic and other programs at Case Western Reserve. The proposed Saturday Free Clinic, slated to open in 2011 for Cleveland’s underserved population, will provide the training grounds for future doctors and nurses to learn to work as healthcare partners for the patient. The Clinic would partner with the already existing resource for the community, The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, for which students also devote many hours of volunteer services.

The Saturday Free Clinic is part of a project called “Interprofessional Learning Exchange and Development Program” (I-LEAD) at Case Western Reserve University’s School of Medicine and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing that received a $640,000 grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. This project supports the foundation’s goals to improve education for health professionals in the interest of public health and to reflect changes in the healthcare system.

“This grant works toward changing the culture of healthcare. In addition to providing services, student doctors and nurses will experience how people think and function in their different roles as health professionals and learn to work as a team,” said Daniel Ornt, vice dean for education and academic affairs at the School of Medicine.

Macy Foundation Grant Enhances Physician and Nursing Education

Diane Collier and Philip D. Junglas, MD [MED ’91]
Aaron Lazare, MD [MED ’61] Celia and Isaac Haidak Professor in Medical Education and professor of psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School

Michael J. DeFranco, MD, [MED ’01] recently wrote the book “Surviving a Season: Essential Advice for Young Athletes, Coaches and Parents on Staying Healthy and Avoiding Sports Injuries.” The book is being used in a national campaign to raise awareness about sports injuries. Approximately nine years ago, the “Protect Your Bones” program started in Cleveland high schools. Medical students from CWRU School of Medicine participated in that program by teaching high school students about musculoskeletal injuries, arthritis and osteoporosis. Subsequently, the program was adopted by the United States Bone and Joint Decade and used in communities across the country. The program received the Presidential Citation Award from the Academy of Medicine. This book is based on his experience with the program and caring for athletes as a team doctor.

Ryan Hedgepeth, MD, [MED ’01] was recently recruited to Trinity Health in Minot, North Dakota, as a urologist and director of Trinity’s advanced robotic surgery program. Dr. Hedgepeth completed his urology residency at the Cleveland Clinic, and later completed fellowships in Urologic Cancer Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery from the University of Michigan.

Rahul Rathod, MD, [MED ’02] was featured on a new ABC show called “Boston Med,” an eight-part series about the doctors, nurses, and patients of Massachusetts General and Brigham & Women’s hospitals and Children’s Hospital Boston. Rathod is a pediatric cardiologist at Children’s Hospital Boston and an instructor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He completed his pediatrics residency at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital in Cleveland, where he served as chief resident. He also completed a cardiology fellowship and a senior non-invasive fellowship at Children’s Hospital Boston.

2001
Michael J. DeFranco, MD, [MED ’01]

Ryan Hedgepeth, MD, [MED ’01]

2002
Rahul Rathod, MD, [MED ’02]
Alumni Global Service

The School of Medicine coordinates hundreds of programs for student research and service experiences abroad, and our global impact is further extended by alumni across the country who are answering the call to volunteer through a variety of unique endeavors. A few alumni share their recent experiences abroad.

Haiti – Perspective Before and After the Earthquake

Wayne S. Barry, MD [MED ’73]
Urgent Care Center Physician – Daytona, Florida

In 2009, Dr. Barry’s 16-year-old daughter Caryn cleaned out her closet and asked where she could give away her extra shoes. This simple question led the two on a mission trip to Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

A year later, Dr. Barry returned to volunteer at a clinic run by the nonprofit farm, Double Harvest. The people were mostly healthy, Dr. Barry said. There were cases of malnutrition and a lot of undiagnosed hypertension and diabetes. The team gave de-worming meds, eye exams and distributed shoes.

Then, on January 12, 2010, the city of Port-au-Prince was destroyed by an earthquake that killed 250,000 people and left 3 million homeless. Dr. Barry joined a rotating staff of medical volunteers in June and was stunned to see the incomprehensible need for infrastructure and the decrepit hospital and conditions for the patients. The city’s general hospital had been destroyed in the earthquake. “Although we had no functional CT, EKG, or X-ray, the medical staff still felt useful in the care we were able to provide,” says Dr. Barry.

“I am not good with water pipes and electricity, but I do have medical skills to offer,” Dr. Barry explained. He has developed a strong bond with the people of Haiti and plans to return.

Teaching Surgical Techniques in Africa

Andrew Kaufman, MD [MED ’65]
Neurosurgeon - Kansas City, Missouri

Mostly retired from Midwest Neurosurgery Associates, Dr. Kaufman’s sense of adventure led him to a hospital in Gondar, Ethiopia, where he taught general surgeons, attended rounds and consulted on patients.

The hospital, which had 36 doctors and a medical school there, has never had a neurosurgeon on staff and serves more than 4 million individuals in the city and surrounding areas.

Because of the equipment needs, there are very few medical mission groups affiliated with neurosurgery, which suited Dr. Kaufman’s interests. “I didn’t want to have patients lined up for me,” says Dr. Kaufman. “I felt I could contribute much more by teaching them about neurosurgery and how to do procedures with the equipment and knowledge available to them, and that’s what they seemed to appreciate.”

Dr. Kaufman has returned multiple times since his initial visit in 2009. He is currently involved with a group of East African countries trying to establish a neurosurgery residency program in Africa. He also met with Kenyan neurosurgeons in Nairobi to teach a simple outpatient balloon compression procedure to treat Trigeminal Neuralgia, a specialty of his.

“Medically, it’s probably the single most rewarding thing I’ve ever done in my life,” says Dr. Kaufman. “I see their excitement in learning something new and they feel like their moving into the 21st century finally. It’s very satisfying to me.”

For questions or to connect with these alumni about global service, please contact Alumni Relations at somalumni@case.edu or call 216.368.6830.

OBITUARIES

Amy Louise Kuhn Feldstein, MD, [FSM ’28, MED ’31] passed away August 12 at the age of 103. Dr. Feldstein was very grateful to CWRU School of Medicine for her education. Last year, she made a $750,000 will commitment to the School of Medicine; her bequest created the Amy Kuhn Feldstein, MD, Scholarship Fund for medical students. She came from a modest background and understood the cost of a medical education. The generous fund she established has made a difference to many of our students who otherwise may not have been able to pursue their medical career without scholarship assistance. After a successful career with the Washington, D.C. health department and in family medicine, Dr. Feldstein and her husband, Marc J. Feldstein [ADL ’36], retired near Manassas, Virginia. In her later years, she continued to be a competitive Scrabble player and always took the stairs everywhere she went. She died peacefully in her sleep.

Paul J. Vignos, MD, [MED ’44] was an expert on muscular dystrophy, helping countless patients and publishing numerous papers, book chapters and a book on the disease. At University Hospitals where he spent his career, he founded the rheumatology division and muscle clinic and led its arthritis clinic. He created the Vignos scale to rate a patient’s muscle function and promoted physical

Martin Epstein, MD, [MED ’44] passed away on May 5 at the age of 90. He was the founder of Mercer Medical Group, the first health maintenance organization in New Jersey. Dr. Epstein also dedicated his leadership to the Mercer Regional Medical Plan, Mercer Regional Medical Group, Blue Cross NJ and the NJ Department of Human Services. Dr. Epstein served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps during World War II and the Korean War. He is survived by Maxine, his wife of 67 years, three children and six grandchildren.

For your news and notes, or to become a Class Rep, contact somalumni@case.edu or call (800) 315-4438.
Improving Sight in Honduras

David Silbert, MD [MED '89]
Ophthalmologist - Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Dr. Silbert’s work in his community introduced him to CARE (Central American Relief Effort), a Lancaster-based nonprofit group that mobilizes volunteers and aid to benefit the poor of Central America.

In 2009, he and his family along with a group of medical volunteers from his practice, Family Eye Group, saw 500 patients in rural areas of Honduras during their weeklong visit. “One woman was in tears after we fitted her with glasses because she said she could read her Bible now,” says Dr. Silbert.

Since then, Dr. Silbert committed to raising funds to make an even greater impact. In 2010, he raised $11,000 from foundations, corporations and patients, which allowed him to bring bilingual team members along, as well as more trained ophthalmologic personnel from his office. The group provided vision screenings and examinations to 1,700 patients in five days across rural and remote villages.

They fitted 265 people with glasses and identified 80 patients for surgery—several returned with the team to the ZOE Clinic in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, where Dr. Silbert operated on them.

“I became a physician because I want to help people,” says Dr. Silbert. “I feel blessed that I’ve been educated and am able to give back in this way, that I can do this with my family, and teach my girls the importance of helping others.”

Daniel W. Mathias, MD, [MED '48] was an ensign in the U.S. Navy, a first lieutenant in the Air Force and attended Williams College prior to medical school. He pursued an ophthalmology residency at the Harnkess Eye Institute at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He returned to Akron, Ohio, to join his father in private practice and became Akron’s first ophthalmologist specialist. He began an ophthalmology training program at Akron City Hospital and served as its head until 1990. He enjoyed the arts, the outdoors, his dogs and model trains. He is survived by his wife, Mary Alice, four children, ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He died on May 2.

Robert W. Minick, MD, [MED '48] provided medical service to Oak Harbor, Ohio, area residents continuously for more than six decades, outside of a two-year period where he commanded a field hospital in West Germany for the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He was president of the Ottawa County Medical Society and served 16 years on the Bento-Carroll-Salem Board of Education. He spent his career on the active medical staff of Magruder Hospital, as team physician for Oak Harbor High School and as medical director of Riverview Nursing Home and Edgewood Manor Nursing Home. He was an avid boater and golfer and loved to read. Dr. Minick is survived by his wife, Sally, four children, two stepchildren and 10 grandchildren.

Max McKibben ’12 (University Program/Robbins Society), will spend a year in Kenya researching vaccine antibody responses in Kenyan children and how maternal parasitic infections during pregnancy may affect the child’s immune response. McKibben left in August 2010 and will work with Dr. Chris King, a professor in the Center for Global Health and Diseases.

Qiaqia Wu ’13 (University Program/Satcher Society), was selected among thousands of applicants for a World Health Organization (WHO) summer internship in 2010. Wu updated draft WHO guidelines for health care providers on the diagnosis and management of infertility and helped to create a WHO counseling tool that provides facts about infertility for community care-level providers and patients in targeted countries.

Dr. Silbert’s daughter Jillian presents a water purification system to the nurses in the Tegucigalpa hospital so patients on the pediatric floor no longer need to purchase clean water to drink. Jillian and her sister Ariel raised $2,000 to purchase multiple systems as Jillian’s Bat Mitzvah project.

Zain Ahmed ’15 (Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine), a first-year medical student, will bring a chapter of the NGO he founded, called Global Health, Education, Empowerment and Development (HEED) to the campus of Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. The nonprofit engages students across the United States to work with communities in developing countries to address issues related to health, education and economic development. The group previously built a health clinic and school in Guatemala and established a micro-credit initiative there.

Students in the Spotlight

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Reflections on a Career
Soheyla Gharib, MD [WRC ’76, MED ’79]

Dr. Gharib was appointed the first woman chief of Medicine at Harvard University Health Services in 2004, where she currently oversees the care of the Harvard University community. We asked Dr. Gharib about the evolution of her career.

How did you become interested in women’s health?
I always wanted to go into medicine. My father, an anesthesiologist, used to take me to the hospital with him, and I loved to go. Then, when I was an undergraduate, Chuck Hoppel got me interested in pharmacology and endocrinology. I also have three sisters, so the interest in women’s health was natural.

When I started medical school, I was assigned to a pregnant patient and followed her from the first trimester until the day she delivered. When I looked around that delivery room table, all of the doctors and nurses were women. At the time, only 25 percent of my medical school class was women. Today, it is more 50/50. It was exciting—we thought for sure she was going to have a girl because of all of the women in that room, but she had a little boy named Tony.

Why did you found the Women’s Health Center at the Brigham in 1995?
I did my internship at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. I then became an endocrine fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital doing molecular biology research on gonadotropin gene expression. At that time, I had my first two children. I loved the research, but I didn’t have the patience for it. I wanted to be practicing medicine more, and the Brigham wanted to set up a Women’s Health Clinic to focus on the comprehensive care needs of women—not just obstetrics and gynecology.

I wanted to have an ongoing relationship with my patients, so it seemed like the right time to make the transition. I saw internal medicine and endocrine patients. Over time, I became the sole medical director and started a women’s health fellowship. It was a busy, thriving clinic.

How is your role as chief of Medicine at Harvard University Health Services different than your role at the Brigham?
I oversee the HMO for the Harvard community: faculty, staff, students and retirees. We care for 30,000 patients. I’ve done a lot of quality improvement initiatives. We have a large international population, and we need to consider that group’s unique medical needs. All of the issues you hear about on the national scale today—we’re dealing with them too, like electronic medical records and establishing a medical home for every patient. It’s been a wonderful learning experience and a great opportunity.

I feel like everyone says life is short, but your professional life is kind of long. I’ve had a taste of lots of different things, and I feel like I’ve been incredibly lucky. My great education prepared me for a rich career.

To share your news and notes, or to become a Class Rep, contact somalumni@case.edu or call (800) 315-4438.

Earl E. Hellerstein, MD, [MED ’50] died September 7, 2009. Dr. Hellerstein resided in the Newton, Massachusetts, area. He was a physician, Harvard professor and World War II veteran. He was the beloved husband of the late Marjorie [Schecter]; father of Deborah, Marc, Daniel, Seth and Nathaniel; and grandfather of Leah, Erica, Sam, Andrew and Hannah.

Nancy Michael, MD, [MED ’50] was a devoted child psychiatrist at Bellefaire in Shaker Heights, Ohio, for thirty years and masterfully balanced work and family. She is survived by her husband, Dr. John F. Michael, five children and nine grandchildren. Dr. Michael passed away August 7.

John A. Meyer, MD, [MED ’51] Prior to medical school, Dr. Meyer served in the U.S. Army and attended Elmhurst College in Illinois. He became a professor of Thoracic Surgery at Upstate Medical University for more than 30 years. The son of American missionaries, Dr. Meyer was born and raised in India, where he later returned with his family for a yearlong sabbatical. He worked at the Wanless Chest Hospital in Wanlesswadi, India. He was actively involved in many medical boards and associations and was also author of the book, “Lung Cancer Chronicles.” He leaves behind his loving wife, Mary Ann, two sons and one granddaughter.

Arthur C. Cherry, MD, [MED ’53] received his Bachelor’s of Science from Yale before attending CWRU School of Medicine. He practiced pediatrics and resided in the Topeka, Kansas, area. Dr. Cherry passed away November 22, 2008.

Keith Stickler Muntz, MD, [MED ’55] died January 1, 2010. Dr. Muntz earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Middlebury College. He resided in Fargo, North Dakota, where he practiced internal medicine.

James R. Armstrong, MD, [MED ’56] was the beloved husband of Ann; father of Carol Reinthal and Barbara Buckley. He was the grandfather of Elizabeth, Mary, and Ben Reinthal and Mark and Christopher Buckley. Dr. Armstrong passed away in April.

H. Bruce Dull, MD, [MED ’56] died February 1, 2010. Dr. Dull was a longtime resident of Atlanta and a graduate of Harvard University, CWRU School of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health Law and Policy. He had a long career with the Center for Disease Control, retiring as assistant surgeon general. He was also a clinical associate professor at the Emory University School of Medicine and Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Dull was an active member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.
PhD Corner:
Recruiting the
Next Generation of Scientists

On June 30, approximately 90 undergraduates from around the
nation packed the Biomedical Research Building lobby to share
posters that represent the culmination of internships through the
Summer Program in Undergraduate Research (SPUR) at Case
Western Reserve School of Medicine.

Many undergraduates face the choice, "science or medicine?" and
the research internship is often key to that career decision. With
mentor guidance, summer interns work full-time for 8-10 weeks on
leading-edge research to jumpstart their role as scientists. The
internship is when theory comes to life and when a student first
realizes, "I can do this!"

Competition is high for the coveted grant-funded internships,
which provide a living stipend, housing and travel support. This year,
140 students applied for 12 paid slots for the National Heart Lung
and Blood Institute (HLBI) summer program at the School of
Medicine.

Fewer positions will be available in coming years, as funding
provided by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for the SPUR
program is not being renewed.

"Paid internships are becoming less common, even for a research
powerhouse like CWRU," says Alison Hall, PhD, associate dean for
Graduate Education. "This makes it difficult for many students who
need to work in the summer to meet life’s expenses."

Students who do catch the research bug need substantial experience to
get into competitive graduate programs, including all CWRU biomedical PhD
programs and affiliated Medical Scientist Training Program, which is one of
43 NIH funded programs in the country that offers a combined MD/PhD
degree.

"Each of us remembers the experience that led us to a career of
biomedical discovery," says Dr. Hall. "We hope to find new supporters who
will help the next generation find their place in science."

Future PhD?

Victoria de Leon, a senior at CWRU, received a SPUR program
internship in the lab of Helen Salz, PhD.

de Leon characterized the ovarian tumor phenotype of the aret
mutant in fruit flies, a common model used to study ovarian
germ cell tumors.

"Only a few other people have looked at my specific gene, but
not for this purpose," says de Leon. "I got some really interesting
data, and it was exciting to realize I did something that no one
else has done before."

Hermann “Bud” Menges, MD, [MEd ’57] died on August 26. He was a loyal
alumnus, faithful volunteer and dedicated clinical professor of medicine
at Case Western Reserve University for 45 years [eminent]. He most
recently gave his service to the School of Medicine’s Commission for the
Advancement of Academic Medicine. Dr. Menges was a longtime member
of the Medical Alumni Board, serving as vice president in 1965 and
president for three terms in 1966, 1969 and 1988. In 2007, he served as
vice chair of his 50th Reunion. Dr. Menges also participated on executive
and alumni committees for previous School of Medicine fundraising
campaigns. He was a legend in the Cleveland Medical Community for his
insight, wisdom, compassion and good humor. Dr. Menges was one of the
founders of University Suburban Health Center [USHC], a 150-physician
multi-specialty practice group affiliated with University Hospitals.
When he stepped back from full time clinical practice his friends and
colleagues collected the funds to endow a chair in his honor, which is
held by Fabio Cominelli, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal
and Liver Disease at University Hospitals Case Medical Center and Case
Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Menges received
his undergraduate education at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, a
medical degree from Western Reserve University in 1957, and a master’s
degree [Med] from the University of Minnesota. He completed fellowships
in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic and in cardiology at University
Hospitals. In 1968, along with Dr. Thomas Driscoll, Dr. Menges performed
the first coronary angiogram at University Hospitals. He published
numerous articles in the field of Cardiology including some of the original
work on hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Dr. Menges is survived by his wife,
Sally, their five children, 10 grandchildren and two siblings.
Larry Posner, MD, [MED ’74]

Larry Posner, MD, comes from a family of doctors, and he pursued his medical education in part because it was “always part of the family expectation.” Today, he is incorporating his interests in research and economics to leave his own mark on the vocation.

“I thought I was going to do what my father and his brother and their father had done, and go into the retail part of medicine, open a practice and treat patients,” Dr. Posner said. Instead, he went to the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C. and spent two years with famed researcher Dr. Robert Gallo, the co-discoverer of the human immunodeficiency virus.

Dr. Posner eventually transitioned into pharmaceutical research and spent 23 years in the industry, becoming senior vice president and head of global regulatory affairs for Bayer Pharmaceuticals. In 2004, he took a year off to get his master’s degree in economics from the University of Connecticut – what he calls “one of the hardest things he’s ever done.”

The master’s in economics gave him the opportunity to blend his zeal for medicine, research and business, which he now uses as a partner at Vedanta Capital to make private equity investments into existing and emerging national and international healthcare businesses.

“The chairwoman of the UConn economics department once told me that business is about making money, and economics is about making decisions. Economics teaches you why people behave in concert with their perceived personal benefits,” Dr. Posner said. “I knew laboratory medicine, and I had a good idea of how the pharmaceutical industry worked. I felt I could combine medical experiences with economics to make decisions on what companies we should invest in and also provide these companies some degree of counsel.”

New Silk Route Capital Partners and its sister company, Vedanta Capital LLC, recently made a $40-million investment in Nectar LifeSciences, a generic pharmaceutical manufacturer in India. “We’re helping them navigate the global drug regulatory environment to get marketing approvals in the United States and abroad.”

Dr. Posner serves on the boards of Noxxon AG in Berlin, Germany, and Labopharm, Inc. in Laval, Quebec, Canada. Additionally, he is a research specialist in the Department of Economics at the University of Connecticut and a manuscript reviewer for Annals of Internal Medicine. He resides in Greenwich, Connecticut, with his wife, Amy Newburger, MD. Their daughter, Amanda, is a third-year medical student at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and their son, Russell, is a graduate student at the Courant Institute for Applied Math at New York University. An avid runner, Dr. Posner runs a 10K every day. He is also a fan of classical music and enjoyed the proximity to Severance Hall as a student at the School of Medicine. Dr. Posner remains an active volunteer, donor and event host for the School of Medicine.
Elena Wagner ‘13

Elena Wagner thought she wanted to pursue a career in research science. That was, until she studied in Ecuador and met a village of people who risked Malaria exposure in order to make a living in the middle of a mosquito breeding ground.

While on a Public Health and Development Study Abroad program in Ecuador, Elena visited a small village in the middle of a banana plantation to observe the spraying of a house with mosquito pesticides. There, she learned that banana plants can be an excellent home for mosquitoes, and despite the health risk, an entire village lived and worked there because it was the only way they could support their families.

“I was already considering a career in medicine, yet there I was able to see the big picture. I could see how social, environmental and biological factors can all play a role in disease, and it made me even more excited about pursuing a career in medicine,” Wagner said. “Part of why I picked CWRU is because they make an effort to address the big picture components as well as the minutia that is necessary to fight disease.”

This past June, Wagner’s public health experience came full circle by spending four weeks in Peru at the Lamay Clinical Project. Whereas during her time in Ecuador she did not have the clinical skills necessary to help the villagers, in Peru, she used her first-year of medical education to conduct full medical histories on villagers, fit people for eyeglasses and provide general health and wellness advice. “I want to become a doctor because I want to make a difference in people’s lives through science,” says Elena. “One of the reasons that I was so excited to go on the Peru trip was that I had a skill set that allowed me to contribute to the health goals of the Lamay district and apply what I had learned in Ecuador there. These experiences make me excited to learn more and to do more.”

Although Wagner hails from Oak Harbor, Washington, a small island community north of Seattle, the decision to attend medical school across the country was an easy one for her. “If I could design a curriculum that was a perfect fit for me, it would be the curriculum at CWRU. I liked the mix of small groups, lectures, the research, as well as the early clinical education focus and excellent clinical opportunities during the later years,” she said.

A Dean’s Scholarship, funded by gifts to the Medical Annual Fund, makes it possible for Wagner to attend Case Western Reserve University, and for that, she is extremely thankful. “The price of a medical education can be really daunting. When I tell people how much it would cost without the scholarship, they are astounded by how much debt students take on to go into medicine,” she said. “I really felt like CWRU was the ideal curriculum and the right atmosphere. When I found out I received that scholarship, it made it so easy to say ‘yes.’ I was able to choose my education based on what’s best for me, rather than focus solely on the financial considerations.”

to become one of the world’s first black neuroradiologists. He completed a Neuroradiology Fellowship at the Karolinska University Hospital in Sweden. Dr. White practiced privately and spent most of his time at Euclid Hospital, University Hospitals, Huron Hospital, MetroHealth and Geauga Regional. He was an assistant professor and clinical professor at CWRU School of Medicine. He wrote numerous scholarly articles and presented internationally. He was active in the community, an advocate for educational programs and a choral singer and choirmaster. He died June 30 and is predeceased by his wife, June. He is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and numerous family and friends.

Grant Albert Mason, MD, [MED ’65] passed away October 19, 2009. Dr. Mason attended Kenyon College, where he was later inducted into the Athletics Department Hall of Fame for his swimming achievements. He conducted postgraduate work at the University of Kansas, prior to medical school. After residency in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology Dr. Mason joined the practice of Dr. Warburton, Shipley, Pratt and Mock, and co-founded the North Canton Medical Foundation in Ohio. He also served on the staff at Aultman Hospital until his retirement in 2006. Dr. Mason was an attending physician for multiple Cleveland area hospitals, Suburban and St. Vincent Charity, before moving to California in 1994. In 2006, he moved to Portland, Oregon, near his sister and her family. He was known as a compassionate physician, master gardener, gourmet cook and dog lover. He is survived by his mother, sisters, brother-in-law and beloved nephew. Dr. Fog passed away May 3.
During his career, Dr. Hanson pioneered the use of molecular biology for the study of the metabolic processes and the development of animal models to understand the control of metabolism in the intact animal.

Researchers in Dr. Hanson’s lab genetically engineered a mouse model commonly referred to as “mighty mouse” (PEPCK-Cmus mice). These mice eat more, run faster and longer, reproduce into old age and live twice as long as normal mice. The mouse model is expected to provide important insights into the effect of diet and exercise on longevity and the development of cancer.

Dr. Hanson recently received the Honorary Alumni Award during the 2010 School of Medicine Reunion Weekend festivities. In recognition of his contributions to the university, he was also recently named a Distinguished University Professor and is the recipient of the Hovorka Prize, the highest award given by Case Western Reserve University.

For more information on the Richard W. Hanson, PhD Endowment Fund, or to honor Dr. Hanson with your gift, please contact Michael Holub, director of development, at 216.368.6165 or mrh12@case.edu.

Calendar of Events

To attend an event, or for more information, please contact the Alumni Office at 216.368.6830 or somalumni@case.edu. Watch for event details in our monthly e-newsletter, AlumNews. Contact somalumni@case.edu to subscribe.

October 29, 2010 - Friday
Alumni & Friends Reception
Pittsburgh Field Club
Pittsburgh, PA
Hosts: Dean Pamela B. Davis, Larry John, MD [MED ’77] and Marna John, MD [MED ’78]

November 7, 2010 - Monday
Alumni & Friends Reception
During AAMC Conference
Marriott, Wardman Park
Washington, DC
Hosts: Dean Pamela B. Davis, Jonathan Altschuler, MD [MED ’83] and Mark Knepper, MD, PhD [MED ’76, GRS ’75]

November 29, 2010 - Monday
Alumni & Friends Reception
During Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Conference
Adler Planetarium
Chicago, IL
Hosts: Dean Pamela B. Davis and Radiology Chair Pablo Riera Ros, MD, PhD

December 11, 2010 - Saturday
Doc Opera and Alumni & Friends Reception
Lakewood Civic Auditorium
Cleveland, OH
Contact somalumni@case.edu for ticket info

March 17, 2011 – Thursday
Match Day – 11:45 a.m.
School of Medicine
Wolstein Research Lobby

May 15, 2011
Commencement Weekend
School of Medicine

October 13, 14, 15, 2011
Reunion Weekend
School of Medicine

Corrections?
Please know we strive for accuracy in every issue. However, if you notice an error or would like to report a change in your information, please contact Erin Henninger, manager of special projects, at 216.368.4761.

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