



CLASS NOTES

'60s

Bert O'Malley (MD '63), professor and chair of molecular and cellular biology at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, spent a decade on Pitt's campus as a young man. He's now at the top of his profession, and he's going to be hanging around Pittsburgh permanently. O'Malley earned his bachelor's degree at Pitt in 1953. A decade later, he received his MD here, as well. Since then, he has blazed a path in science, becoming what many call "the father of molecular endocrinology."

Now he has been immortalized in oil paint. His portrait will hang with other Pitt med luminaries—including Thomas E. Starzl, Julius Youngner, and Jonas Salk—in the Gallery of Scientists in the Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower lobby.

"It looks great!" O'Malley said at the unveiling ceremony. "In fact, it looks better than me." Turning serious, O'Malley added, "This is wonderful. This is where I grew up, and this is where my life changed."



Bert and Sally O'Malley with Dean Levine at the portrait unveiling.

Sheldon Weinstein (MD '63, Obstetrics and Gynecology Resident '67) was awarded the 2009 Patricia Kovac Vaginal Surgeons Award. Weinstein is a clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. He is the vice chair of the pelvic surgery fellowship and director of the obstetrics residency program at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas. Among Weinstein's accomplishments is his invention of the loop electrosurgical excision procedure, commonly known as LEEP, which uses an electrical current to remove diseased cervical tissue.



Weinstein (right) invented LEEP to remove diseased cervical tissue.

'70s

David Bahnson's (MD '73, Orthopaedic Surgery Resident '78) medical aspirations were cultivated as a child and, later, as a medical student, by regularly seeing his father, the late Henry Bahnson, return from work with a sense of elation. The elder Bahnson was a cardiothoracic surgeon and chair of Pitt's Department of Surgery from 1963 to 1987. David Bahnson is now a surgeon at Vermont Orthopaedic Clinic, in Rutland, where he sees a lot of injuries related to skiing. In his spare time, he indulges in his hobby, aviation. As a boy, he was always fas-

inated by the early history of flight, and his special interest is wooden propellers. His web site, www.woodenpropeller.com, lists some 40 examples in his collection, including the 8-foot mahogany prop from a Sopwith Camel, circa 1917. Bahnson also owns and flies two planes, a Piper J-3 and a Cessna 206.

'80s

Joseph Strayhorn (Child/Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow '83) is a psychiatrist teaching behavioral and psychological skills that help children with issues like self-discipline and anxiety management. To refine and expand his learning-based approach to mental health, he founded Psychological Skills Press, through which he publishes books and electronic media for parents, educators, and youth. A homeschooling father, Strayhorn recently published an article with his daughter Jillian in *Reproductive Health*. Using data from the U.S. Census, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, the Strayhorns found strong correlations between teen birth rates and the degree of religiousness. The more religious states had higher teen birth rates. Strayhorn speculates that conservative religious communities may be better at discouraging use of contraception than they are at discouraging sexual intercourse. But he cautions that the findings by themselves do not permit causal inferences.

'90s

It was the third inning of a game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds when a 60-year-old man in the stands at Pittsburgh's PNC Park became short of breath. Fans sitting in front of him turned to ask if he was okay, but he slumped in his seat and turned ashen. Sitting 40 feet away, **James Christopher Post** (Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellow '91, Pediatric Otolaryngology Research Fellow '92) saw the commotion and didn't hesitate to react. As a former Army Green Beret medic with a Combat Medical Badge and a Bronze Star, Post is a good person to have around in a medical emergency. He administered CPR for a few minutes. When he saw the man grimace, he knew it was a good sign. Paramedics took over and transported him to a hospital. Several days later, the lifelong Reds fan was sitting up in bed, thanking his lucky stars, and wearing a Pirates cap.

Post, who earned a PhD in human genetics from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health in 1999, is president and scientific director of the Allegheny-Singer Research Institute; medical director for its Center for Genomic Sciences; professor of otolaryngology, microbiology, and immunology at Drexel University; and a member of the Pitt-UPMC McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Post conducts research on bacterial biofilms.

There was a time when **Rick Ganzi** (Anesthesiology Resident '94) couldn't even run a mile. After being disappointed at the amount of weight he gained while in



**Ultramarathoner
Ganzi finishes first
among Americans
in Durban.**

residency, Ganzi began running with an old friend who said it was a sure way to shed pounds.

Ganzi started out running modest distances and not very fast, but somewhere along the line, he picked up a great deal of momentum. That's putting it mildly. Since turning 40, he has finished seven marathons in less than three hours. Last year, he was the first American to cross the finish line at the 2009 Comrades Marathon in South Africa. And this is no ordinary

marathon. Ganzi describes it as the "Boston Marathon of Ultramarathons." Covering 56 miles between the inland city of Pietermaritzburg and Durban on the coast, the race is the oldest and largest ultramarathon in the world. Ganzi was the third American to finish in 2008, and he returned in 2009 to be the first of 61 Americans. His finishing time of seven hours and 28 minutes earned him a silver medal.

In addition to managing his own training, Ganzi helps to design customized training programs for other runners. In Grand Rapids, Mich., where Ganzi and his wife, Lois Ganzi (Anesthesiology Resident '94), practice, he is the pace team director of the Metro Health Grand Rapids Marathon.

—Brandon Ellis, Joe Miksch, Chuck Staesinic, and Jamar Thrasher



LOUIS SULLIVAN VISITS

During Homecoming in October, the University of Pittsburgh again held a Health Sciences Diversity Alumni Reunion Banquet for all the schools of the health sciences. Hosted by Paula Davis, assistant vice chancellor for health sciences diversity, the program included a keynote address by Louis Sullivan, an MD, the former secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and first dean of the Morehouse University School of Medicine. The banquet offered a chance for far-flung alumni to reconnect, as well as inspiration for all to work to increase diversity in the health sciences professions. Vaughn Clagette (MD '93) returned from Atlanta for the chance to chat with Sullivan and others. (See p. 31 for more on Clagette.) Pictured above with Sullivan (center) are Clagette and Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew (MD '94, Res '98), Pitt assistant professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences.

THE WAY WE ARE CLASS OF '89

From inside the cafeteria at UPMC Presbyterian, a group of third-year medical students on an intensive care rotation heard the code. They put down their sandwiches and raced to the ICU.

David Gerber (MD '89, Fel '98), now the chief of the abdominal transplant division and associate professor of surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was one of the first to arrive. The patient had been on cardiac service for several weeks, and now he was in cardiac arrest. His once-rosy cheeks had faded to gray. Gerber was called to assist, and he administered chest compressions for several minutes. An upperclassman noticed the sweat building up around his neck and said, "Hey Gerber, take your shirt off. It'll make you more comfortable."

So Gerber, who didn't realize the suggestion was a joke, continued the resuscitation—without his shirt. A defibrillator was brought in, and the students eventually stepped back to realize that, for the first time, they had helped save a life.

"I assumed it would be an extension of my college years," says Gerber of medical school at Pitt, "but it was a quantum leap." In Chapel Hill, Gerber's clinical work includes liver and kidney transplantation. The surgeon, who went to Emory University for residency but returned to Pittsburgh for a fellowship at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, conducts research on liver and islet stem cells, with an eye toward the development of bio-artificial organs to treat patients with diabetes and liver failure.

Jill Baren (MD '89) was one of those third-year students called to the ICU at Presby. Baren fondly remembers the camaraderie among the class of more than 100 Pitt med students. When she arrived at Harbor-UCLA for her emergency medicine residency, she felt like medical school had prepared her well. "I had been exposed to the demand and rigor of top-notch physicians," she says, pointing out that when a med student walks the same halls as Thomas E. Starzl and other Pitt mentors, it can lead to high aspirations.

Baren is an associate professor of emer-

gency medicine and pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2009, she was named president of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. In her new role, she hopes to boost federal funding for emergency medicine research and enhance the development of young academic researchers in the field.

Bruce Pollock (MD '89, Res '96) says that inspiration was everywhere when he was a med student, to the extent that he wrestled with indecision when it came to choosing a specialty. He became fascinated with brain surgery when he attended a lecture by Pitt's Peter Jannetta, then chair of neurological surgery.

"I was thinking about pursuing a PhD in molecular biology, but then I saw the lecture," he says. In his final year of medical school, Pollock was invited to be a Pitt neurological surgery resident. He stayed in Pittsburgh for a fellowship in stereotactic and functional neurosurgery. Today, he is a professor of neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He has become an authority on the use of stereotactic radiosurgery in which focused beams of radiation are used to treat tumors and other malformations without incisions.

This past summer, Pollock and Gerber vacationed together with their families in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

When **E. Gene Deune** (MD '89) left Pittsburgh, he took with him the Pittsburgh Surgical Society Scholarship, which is given annually to the top graduating med student going into surgery. For the next seven years, Deune, now a hand surgeon, trained at Washington University in St. Louis.

Today, he is an associate professor of orthopedic and plastic surgery at Johns Hopkins University and codirector of the Division of Hand Surgery, performing a wide range of procedures. As a reconstructive microsurgeon, he is nationally known for his work restoring soft tissue defects and function in upper and lower extremities affected by sarcoma surgery.

Deune, thinking back to his med student days, notes that he was well prepared to meet the challenges of internships and residency.

—Chuck Staesinic and Jamar Thrasher



Gerber



Baren



Pollock



Deune



Gitlin

DAVID GITLIN

AUG. 7, 1921–JAN. 4, 2010

In the 1950s, David Gitlin and Harvard University colleague Charles Janeway solved the riddle of agammaglobulinemia, a syndrome that causes repeated, severe, and often fatal infections in children. This work led to gamma globulin replacement therapy, which continues to save lives.

Gitlin also elucidated the metabolism of plasma proteins in children with kidney disease, discovered the mechanisms of iron absorption in the intestine, identified ceruloplasmin deficiency as a biochemical marker of Wilson disease, and found that alpha fetoprotein is a biomarker for various life-threatening birth defects.

The MD was heralded internationally for his work and suitably proud of his achievements. Yet his son, Jonathan Gitlin (MD '78), who chairs the Department of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt University and is physician-in-chief at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital of Vanderbilt, says his father was most proud of being a professor. The elder Gitlin was a professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh from 1963 until his retirement, after which he held emeritus status.

"If you met him on a plane, he'd say that he was a professor, not a doctor or a scientist," Gitlin says. "He loved being part of the University of Pittsburgh." —Joe Miksch

RONALD J. HOY

SEPT. 30, 1916–SEPT. 21, 2009

Ronald Hoy taught a generation of budding radiologists to remember that behind every image, there is a person.

Hoy, 92, longtime Pitt professor of radiology, died at his home in Sydney, Australia, in September. Hoy came to Pitt from Yale University in 1971 and retired from the department in 1992. During his 20-plus years here, Hoy was instrumental in implementing the med school's radiology curriculum. He imparted the need for critical thinking when using new imaging technologies in diagnosis and treatment.

"Nowadays, we have evidence-based medicine," says former colleague Carl Fuhrman, chief of thoracic radiology and Pitt professor of radiology. "Ron was 30 years ahead of his time in understanding the question, 'Is this test I'm about to give a patient really valuable?'"

A captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps during World War II, Hoy became one of the first dedicated radiologists in Australia in the 1950s. He was also among the first clinicians to use angiography and ultrasound in his home country, and he taught radiology to medical students in Malaysia and Vietnam.

In 1991, his contributions to radiology medical education were recognized by Pitt with the naming of the Ronald J. Hoy Excellence in Teaching Award, given each year by radiology residents to an outstanding faculty educator. —Reid R. Frazier



Hoy



Kahler Hench

PHILIP KAHLER HENCH

SEPT. 19, 1930–OCT. 28, 2009

Philip Kahler Hench (MD '58) was born with one famous name in Rochester, Minn. His mother, Mary Genevieve Kahler, was the daughter of the founder of the Kahler Hotel adjacent to the Mayo Clinic. (The hotel included a hospital wing with operating suites when it opened in 1921.)

Before he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1958, Hench would have two famous names. Hench's father was rheumatologist Philip S. Hench (MD '20). In 1950, the elder Hench was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of cortisone and its ability to relieve the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis.

When he was 20, P. Kahler Hench accompanied his father to Stockholm to accept the prize. After medical school, he completed training in rheumatology at the Mayo Clinic, where his father was on the faculty until his death in 1965.

The younger Hench was head of the rheumatology division at Scripps Research Institute and Clinic in California from 1974 to 1982. He retired from Scripps in 1998 and continued to live in La Jolla until his death last fall. Hench published widely on nonarticular rheumatism and coined the term fibromyalgia to describe it.

—Chuck Staresinic

JEFFREY SHOGAN

OCT. 12, 1953–JAN. 9, 2010

Jeffrey Shogan (MD '82, Res '86) spent his life searching for a better way to fight cancer, and in the process, he helped create one of the world's largest cancer networks. He died Jan. 9, of cardiac arrest. He was 56.

Shogan was director and chief business officer of the UPMC Cancer Centers and "a driving force" in streamlining and expanding the network, says Stanley Marks, director of clinical services and chief medical officer of UPMC Cancer Centers. In 1989, Marks recruited Shogan to Pittsburgh to start a bone marrow transplant center at Allegheny General Hospital. Then UPMC recruited the pair in 2000; the doctors brought with them one of the country's largest oncology practices. Under Shogan and Marks, the network expanded into dozens of sites throughout the region and internationally.

Shogan received his MD from Pitt in 1982, was chief resident at UPMC Presbyterian, and completed a fellowship in oncology at Duke University Medical Center.

He had recently begun steps to open a charitable medical clinic for Burmese refugees in Thailand, where he had spent two years in the Peace Corps.

"When he died, I picked up a lot of his patients the next week," Marks says. "Many of them felt like they lost their best friend."

—RRF



Shogan

IN MEMORIAM

'40s

DAVID FLOM
MD '42
DEC. 8, 2009

THOMAS EVANS
MD '43A
OCT. 20, 2009

'50s

JOHN DAVIS
MD '55
NOV. 17, 2009

FRANK BEGG
MD '56
DEC. 5, 2009

'60s

LAWRENCE MULHERN
MD '60
NOV. 19, 2009

EUGENE HERRON
MD '62
NOV. 30, 2009

'70s

FRANCIS PLUNKETT
MD '75
OCT. 26, 2009

'80s

STEPHEN ESTNER
MD '84
OCT. 17, 2009

FACULTY

FRANK LUPARELLO
JAN. 5, 2010

ON THE MOVE ENDOCRINOLOGIST THERESA GUISE

BY SHARON TREGASKIS

Theresa Guise (MD '85, Res '88) ran her first marathon in 1989. A few months later—inspired by the mentorship of pituitary expert Joseph Verbalis (MD '75), an attending during her residency at Pitt—she headed for an endocrinology and metabolism fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. There she would garner a young investigator award in mineral metabolism and eventually build a world-class reputation for her work on the site-specific chain of molecular processes that brings about bone metastasis, the leading cause of cancer deaths.

"He made us think a lot about mechanisms," says Guise of her training under Verbalis. "I think that helped drive my interest in understanding how disease works."

In the intervening 15 years, Guise ran 25 more marathons—in New York, San Diego, and Boston. "Theresa has tremendous energy," says David Roodman, formerly associate chair of research at San Antonio and now director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute's Hematologic Malignancies Program. "She is also one of the nicest people you'd ever want to deal with. She's civil, rational. Her intellect and knowledge of the literature and of her own work make her an outstanding collaborator."

Despite her current post—as the Jerry W.

and Peg S. Throgmartin Professor of Oncology at Indiana University's Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center—and the fact that her research investigates the mechanisms of bone metastasis, Guise is no oncologist. Rather, she brings the sensibility of an endocrinologist to her investigations of how cancer of the breast, prostate, and lung affects both uncontrolled cell growth and destruction in the skeleton.

"Tumors are like little endocrine organs," she says, describing how the growth factors they secrete work both locally and at distant sites to prepare for metastasis. In the process, cancer can so weaken the skeleton that merely rolling over in a hospital bed can induce a hip fracture, as with a San Antonio man whose case inspired her inquiry into the field. In addition to pursuing research and clinical care for people with bone metastasis, Guise investigates and treats osteoporosis precipitated by the hormone-blocking drugs used to fight breast and prostate cancer.

These days, the sustained pounding of the marathon circuit doesn't suit Guise's joints; she runs fewer than 15 miles a week. Instead, she cycles, practices yoga, and combines underwater photography with scuba diving.

She also trots the globe. This past December, Guise traveled to South Korea to lecture at Seoul National University and give two talks at the Korean National Osteoporosis Meeting. Earlier in 2009 she spoke at the Chinese Metastases Society Meeting in Beijing; at a research seminar at the University of Leuven, in Belgium; and on pathology grand rounds at the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research in Brisbane, Australia. "She's invited to every meeting in the world," says Roodman, who credits Guise with a capacity to inspire interest in the field among scientists with a wide array of expertise. "She's a champion of bone research."

Guise was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 2004, and in 2007 she was appointed to a two-year term as chair of the National Institutes of Health's Skeletal Biology Structure and Regeneration Study Section. Last fall, the University of Pittsburgh honored her by naming her a Legacy Laureate. Ultimately, says the physician-scientist, it is the synergy of bench and bedside that has proved most satisfying.

"There's long-term gratification when you do make discoveries that have clinical meaning," she says, noting that molecular discoveries she published in the '90s are currently being tested in clinical trials. "And in the clinic, there's a lot of reward and immediate gratification in taking care of patients." ■

JOE KAPLEWSKI / CIDDE

Guise was honored as a Pitt Legacy Laureate in fall 2009. She's shown here with Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.

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