

CALENDAR

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

MEDICAL ALUMNI WEEKEND 2013

MAY 16–19

SENIOR CLASS LUNCHEON (ALUMNI WELCOME)

MAY 17, 11 a.m.

Connolly Ballroom, Alumni Hall

OPENING COCKTAIL RECEPTION

MAY 17, 5:30 p.m.

Ballroom, Pittsburgh Athletic Association

NIGHT AT THE SYMPHONY

MAY 17, 8 p.m. Curtain

Heinz Hall

CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST

MAY 18, 9 a.m.

11th Floor, Scaife Hall

TOUR OF BIOMEDICAL

SCIENCE TOWER 3

MAY 18, 11 a.m.

(Following Champagne Breakfast)

REUNION DINNER GALA

MAY 18, 6 p.m.

LeMont Restaurant

CLASS OF 2013 COMMENCEMENT

MAY 19, 10 a.m.

Carnegie Music Hall

SCOPE AND SCALPEL PRODUCTION

MAY 17, 7:30 p.m., and

MAY 19, 2 p.m.

McGonigle Theater

Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh

www.scopeandscalpel.org

UPCOMING HEALTH SCIENCES

ALUMNI RECEPTIONS

MAY 23, Houston

DATE TBA, Los Angeles

Unless otherwise noted, for more information: Pat Carver 412-648-9059, cpat@pitt.edu. To find out what else is happening at the medical school, go to health.pitt.edu and maa.pitt.edu.



Our ears, especially men's, grow bigger as we age. (For other reasons, the Buddha, shown young here, is typically represented with long ears.)



FOR REAL! TWEEN SCIENCE.

Do his ears hang low? Are your grandfather's ears bigger than your dad's? European scientists noticed that older people's ears seem bigger than those of younger adults. To confirm their suspicions, they measured ears on people of all ages. It turns out that human ears actually keep growing throughout our lifetimes! But why would ears continue to grow when the rest of the body stops? The answer lies in the difference between long bones (like arm and leg bones) and the cartilage that shapes and supports our ears. Long bones have growth plates at each end that add bone in response to hormones our bodies make in large quantities when we are young and growing fast. These plates stop adding bone after puberty, when hormone production slows and we've reached our full height. Ear cartilage lacks growth plates, and it continues to grow—and so do our ears, even when we're old. —*Jenifer Lienau Thompson*

Thanks to Pitt profs Steven Handler, Ernest Manders, and Tahsin Oguz Acarturk for giving us an earful about ears. For more kid-friendly explorations, visit How Science Works at www.howscienceworks.pitt.edu