

# CALENDAR

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

**WHITE COAT CEREMONY  
AUGUST 4**

3 p.m.  
Scaife Hall, Auditoriums 5 and 6  
Reception to follow  
Petersen Events Center lobby  
For information:  
Jen Moritz, 412-648-9059  
Jlm337@pitt.edu

**HEALTH SCIENCES  
ALUMNI RECEPTION  
SEPTEMBER 7**

6 p.m.  
Los Angeles, Calif.

**WILLIAM S. MCELLROY  
AWARD PRESENTATION  
OCTOBER 18**

4 p.m.  
John G. Rangos Sr. Research Center  
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC  
Recipient— Ian Pollack, MD  
Pitt chief of pediatric neurosurgery

**EVENING WITH THE DEAN  
NOVEMBER 3**

Philadelphia, Pa.

**HEALTH SCIENCES  
ALUMNI RECEPTION  
FEBRUARY 19, 2014**

Palm Beach, Fla.

**WINTER ACADEMY  
FEBRUARY 21, 2014**

Naples, Fla.

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](http://health.pitt.edu) and  
[maa.pitt.edu](http://maa.pitt.edu).

No matter how much this little fella eats, he won't lose his lunch.



CORBIS

## FOR REAL! TWEEN SCIENCE.



You probably try not to think about barfing too often, but some researchers at the University of Pittsburgh think about it all the time. They are interested in the action of vomiting, which is a pretty complicated maneuver that requires a lot of muscles and nerves working together in a coordinated process. As it turns out, evidence suggests that rodents don't throw up. Ever. Not if they eat something poisonous; not if you give them medicine that causes vomiting; not even if you stimulate the nerves that cause emesis (a fancy medical term for puking) in humans and other animals. They simply cannot toss their cookies—no matter how many they eat. If we knew more about why some animals throw up and some don't, we might be able to help people who suffer from nausea because of dizziness, motion sickness, drugs that put people to "sleep" for surgery, cancer-fighting medicines known as chemotherapy, or pregnancy. Vomiting is controlled by a group of nerve cells at the bottom of the brain (in its "stem") that mice and other rodents don't have. Now researchers are looking for a way to stop those nerve cells from revving up the puke process in the first place; they are imagining a barf-free future. —*Jenifer Lienau Thompson*

Many thanks to Pitt School of Medicine prof Charles Horn, a PhD, for telling us more than we ever wanted to know about losing our lunch. For more kid-friendly science, visit How Science Works at [www.howscienceworks.pitt.edu](http://www.howscienceworks.pitt.edu)