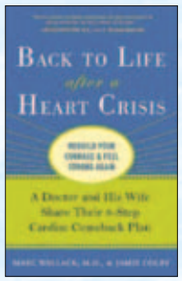


COURTESY OF JIMMEB PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASS NOTES

'70s

During a typical run one day in 2002, surgical oncologist **Marc Wallack** (MD '70) felt pain in his chest. Although he initially dismissed it as acid reflux, the pain persisted. Within the week, he underwent an emergency quadruple bypass, and the hard road to recovery began. Finding the self-help literature less than helpful in the aftermath, Wallack and his wife, Jamie Colbie, a national news correspondent and anchor for Fox News, were inspired to write *Back to Life After a Heart Crisis*, an eight-step plan for overcoming fear and depression following heart surgery. The book was released in February 2010.



Wallack is chief of the Department of Surgery at Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York City and a professor of surgery and vice chair of the Department of Surgery at New York Medical College. He's also an avid runner once again. He returned to marathon racing less than three years after his surgery.

'90s

David C. Seaberg (Emergency Medicine Resident '90), dean of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga, has spent his career planning for the worst. An emergency physician, Seaberg has testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security on how to fight a potential avian flu pandemic. In the fall, Seaberg was named president-elect of the American College of Emergency Physicians. He will assume the presidency of that organization in October.

During his psychiatric residency at Pitt, **Shitij Kapur** (Psychiatry Resident '92) developed an interest in the biological basis of schizophrenia. Today, Kapur is internationally known for his use of brain imaging to understand how psychosis works and how to tame it. Much of Kapur's research has dealt with treatment tactics and dosing issues. In a 2001 study published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, Kapur (with Phillip Seeman) argued that what matters most in antipsychotic medications is how they block dopamine receptors, not how much—which pushed the field toward lower dosing guidelines.

Kapur is professor and head of the Section on Schizophrenia, Imaging, and Therapeutics, as well as dean of the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London. His current research synthesizes imaging, genetics, and sociobiology to develop a "holistic" understanding of psychosis.

Off-the-clock, Kapur studies dosage gradations of another sort; he's developing the perfect lamb biryani recipe.

While a Pitt research assistant professor based at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, **Ruhul Kuddus** (Molecular Genetics and Microbiology PhD '93) saw how patients had to suffer while waiting for suitable organs for transplant. This experience sparked his interest in bioethics, eventually leading to his 2009–2010 fellowship at the Center for the Study of Ethics at Utah Valley University, where he is now on the biology faculty. Kuddus gave the keynote speech at the university's Ethics Awareness Week in September. His talk touched on a variety of topics, including the ethics of organ transplantation through the lenses of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; the importance of preserving individual lives; and the morality of organ-donation policies. He also discussed the preservation of species. "As much attention as we put to human life," he said, "we should pay as much attention to the well-being of other species."

When **Stewart Anderson** (Psychiatry Resident '94) was in college, he boarded with a young man who'd just been released after his first hospitalization because of hearing voices and other symptoms of schizophrenia. One afternoon, as they were watching MTV, Stewart's roommate turned to him and asked, "Is it me, or did the screen just flash orange and green with stripes sliding across it?"

It was an eye-opening moment for Anderson, who's now a professor of psychiatry and of psychiatry in neuroscience in Weill Cornell Medical College and an attending psychiatrist at New York–Presbyterian Hospital. "I learned throughout that year that many people who suffer with schizophrenia are 97 percent as normal as you and me," he says, "and the 3 percent that's not normal causes them to have perceptual experiences that are intensely disturbing."

Anderson has dedicated his lab at Weill Cornell to uncovering the molecular genetic influences on inhibitory interneurons—work that he hopes will enable researchers to ask more involved questions about this complex illness.

MATTHEW STULL:
THOSE WHO CAN'T WAIT TO TEACH

Recent graduate Matthew Stull (MD '10) is taking an unusual approach to his residency training: He's skipping it. For now, anyway. It's not for lack of enthusiasm about the learning process, though. In July 2010, Stull became the first education and research fellow for the American Medical Student Association (AMSA).

It's an ideal crash course for Stull, who aspires to a career in academic emergency medicine—and eventually, deanship of a medical school.

A first-generation college student, Stull hails from a rural South New Jersey county where "nowhere near 100 percent of [high school] graduates go into a four-year institution," he says. "So for me, college was a really exciting opportunity. It was eye-opening to see what doors education could open, and I became enamored with it. Whatever I could learn, I would learn. Wherever I could teach, I would teach."

At Pitt med, he served for his first two years as the



Stull is AMSA's first education and research fellow.



In September, UPMC Shadyside's family medicine residency program turned 40. One of the oldest accredited family medicine residencies in the country, the program now boasts 242 graduates. To celebrate, dozens of alumni, current residents, and staff came out with their families for a picnic, petting zoo, and pony rides in Schenley Park. The crowd of kith and kin totaled some 220 people. *—KB*

'00s

Lisa (Allenbaugh) Goss (MD '98, Family Medicine Resident '01) craves variety, which is one of the reasons she's enjoying her new position at Washington Hospital in Washington, Pa. "My schedule changes week to week," she says. An assistant director for the hospital's family medicine residency program, Goss splits her time among teaching residents, fulfilling her administrative duties, and treating patients of all ages—a juggling act that suits her. In the past five years, she and her husband have traveled to Italy, Scotland, England, Alaska, and many U.S. national parks.

Lauren Weinberger (MD '06) had an eventful 2010. In July, after wrapping up her residency in emergency medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, she joined its faculty as assistant residency director in the Department of Emergency Medicine. She uses simulators to teach about emergency care for both children and adults—an approach she learned from her mentor, Pitt associate professor of emergency medicine Susan Dunmire (MD '85, Emergency Medicine Resident '88).

In September, Weinberger married **Thomas Conlon** (MD '06, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Resident '10). Last June, Conlon finished his residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Pitt. He is now a fellow in pediatric critical care at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Conlon and Weinberger met the week before they began med school and were good friends throughout. They were busy from the beginning—Weinberger served as class secretary, and Conlon was president.

—Kelsey Balance & Kristen Cosby

school's local AMSA advocacy chair, then in his fourth year as AMSA's national chair for medical education. As a fellow, he's been charged with beefing up the association's educational programming, including training on universal health care advocacy, AIDS patient safety and advocacy, and LGBT (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender) health issues.

He's also helping med students far and wide advocate to reform their schools' curricula, addressing such issues as the eight-hour preclinical teaching model and the 80-hour resident work week. Stull is on the road a lot, working with students on the local level and representing them at conferences. While working with med students on every continent, Stull has noticed something: "We're all dealing with the same issues. Curriculum reform is everyone's top concern, whether starting from scratch and building a new med school or couched in a highly complex system like ours here in the U.S."

Stull misses the clinic and is itching to get back to it. But in a way, this time away from the bedside could help rather than hinder his skills as a clinician, he says. After all, the word *doctor* is Latin for teacher.

"It's essential that we as physicians recognize that we educate people every day, whether we're academics or not. We teach medical students, other residents, attendings, but more importantly we teach our patients and their families in every interaction." *—Elaine Vitone*

COURTESY LAUREN HUGHES

THE WAY WE ARE

CLASS OF '66

John Krause (MD '66, Pathology Resident '71) was chair of pathology and laboratory medicine at Tulane University in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina slammed into the city and virtually destroyed the medical school. After sending his residents and most of his faculty elsewhere, he was faced with the trying task of rebuilding the department, starting with several trips through the waterlogged building with a hardhat and flashlight to salvage books and materials. "It was the most difficult period of my professional life," says Krause, a former Pitt professor of pathology and vice chair of pathology graduate medical education.

The experience has not diminished Krause's love of his work, however. Last year, just as he was on the verge of retirement, a former fellow of his clued him in on an opening at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas as director of hematology. He applied and was offered the job. "As long as I'm enjoying what I am doing, God willing, I'll keep doing it," he says. Over the years, Krause has lectured on hematology at more than 175 workshops across the country. In 2010, he won the American Society of Clinical Pathology's H.P. Smith Award for Distinguished Pathology Educator.



Krause

Another Dallas alum is **Philip Raskin** (MD '66, Internal Medicine Resident '68). After his residency, he served a two-year stint in the U.S. Air Force, then headed to Big D and never left. "I thought the weather was nice," he says. Raskin holds the Clifton and Betsy Robinson Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He is also an attending physician at Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he supervises resident education.



Raskin

Raskin, a diabetes researcher who has published more than 270 papers, found new approaches to using the insulin pump. "When I first heard about it, I thought it was the craziest thing in the world," he says, but he later came around. In studying the devices he found that they were as effective as insulin injections for treating type 1 diabetes. His newest project is working with a National Institutes of Health–funded study group, TrialNet, to develop new approaches to preventing the

disease; he's investigating whether anti-inflammatories can fight beta-cell destruction.

Like Raskin (and Krause), **David Maybee** (MD '66) joined the military. He served for 32 years, achieving the rank of full colonel. A pediatric hematologist-oncologist, he has held a range of positions, from director of a fellowship training program to consultant to the surgeon general. Now, he's a medical reviewer at the FDA's Division of Clinical Evaluation & Pharmacology/ Toxicology Office of Cell, Tissue, and Gene Therapy in the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "I feel like I've done everything over the course of my professional life," he says. In his new gig, Maybee checks the safety of clinical trials of all shapes and sizes, many of which deal with gene therapy, umbilical-cord blood, and regenerative medicine. Although he misses seeing patients, he savors the idea that he's helping research and the public at the same time.

A. Richey Sharrett (MD '66) earned a PhD in public health at Johns Hopkins University and then served as an epidemiologist for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. During his 30 years there, Sharrett was a project officer working on the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study, a comprehensive detailing of the habits and heart health of 16,000 people in four communities. After leaving the institute, Sharrett continued his work on atherosclerosis. Now an adjunct professor in Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, he's focusing on how atherosclerosis contributes to various diseases, including dementia. —*KB*



Sharrett

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HEATHER HEINRICHS WALKER (MD '99)
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ROBERT G. SELKER

JULY 25, 1930–NOV. 1, 2010



Selker

Robert G. Selker (MD '57) spent his life trying to solve the puzzle of malignant brain tumors. In addition, he was such a renowned neurosurgeon and devoted clinician that patients came to him from around the world. "He was a 24/7 doctor," says his wife, Ellen Selker. "Nothing was too much for his patients." Selker died last November at age 80.

A former clinical professor of neurosurgery at Pitt, Selker advanced brain-tumor treatment throughout his career. He taught at Yale University, Emory University, and the University of Chicago. He designed the Selker Reservoir, a device for spinal-fluid sampling and medicine injections, which was more user-friendly than previous reservoirs. His former clinical coordinator, Jeanne Clancey, says that Selker had been pushing for individualized treatment since the 1990s, before personalized medicine became popular. He was a gifted teacher, she says—someone "you couldn't help but learn from." Selker presided over or was a member of many medical societies and received numerous awards. He was the vice president of the Brain Tumor Cooperative Group, a national collaboration sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, for 20 years. Selker also loved to build and fly model planes with his children. Whenever he lectured, he told his two sons his fee was going into the "flying fund." —*KB*

IN MEMORIAM

'40s

WARREN T. KABLE JR.
MD '44
NOV. 3, 2010

'50s

E. DAVID CHERUP
MD '51
NOV. 23, 2010

WALLACE ZERNICH
MD '51
JULY 14, 2010

THOMAS HOHMANN
MD '54
OCT. 26, 2010

JAMES W.G. CARMAN
MD '56
DEC. 16, 2010

'60s

CHARLES PAUL GENNAULA
MD '63
NOV. 7, 2010

ALEXANDER FEFER
RES '66
OCT. 3, 2010

'80s

LONN BRADLEY LOCKHART
FEL '85
DEC. 8, 2010

ROBERT J. STENGEL
MD '85
NOV. 4, 2010

FACULTY & STAFF

SAMUEL L. FLESHER
JAN. 27, 2010

HISASHI SHINOZUKA
SEPT. 20, 2010

PAUL OFFIT: CLAIMING THE HIGH GROUND IN THE VACCINE CONTROVERSY

BY BRIAN G. CONNELLY



ILLUSTRATION FRANK HARRIS/ PHOTO COURTESY AMY SAUL

Offit is co-inventor of the rotavirus vaccine RotaTeq, which was recommended for routine immunizations in infants by the World Health Organization.

When Paul Offit (Res '80) was a resident in the emergency department at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in the late 1970s, he had a patient—a 9-month-old infant—who died of rotavirus. Offit was shocked to realize that this common intestinal infection still killed children in the United States. A leading cause of severe diarrhea in infants and young children, rotavirus contributes to more than half a million deaths worldwide each year.

Some three decades later, in 2009, RotaTeq— a vaccine for rotavirus—was recommended by the World Health Organization to protect against the deadly infection. RotaTeq is the fruit of 25 years of labor for Offit, the vaccine's coinventor who is now a renowned expert in virology and immunology. Helping to develop a vaccine that is administered around the world has made him "enormously proud," says Offit. "Professionally, it's the best thing I've ever done, and I did it for the right reasons."

That he would be in a position of defending his intentions has come as a surprise to Offit. Yet he has found himself at the center of a heated debate over whether childhood immunizations—arguably one of the greatest achievements in public health in the past century—are safe.

Offit is the Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania. He also heads the infectious diseases division at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and was a member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Offit's research has led to his becoming a prominent defender of vaccines, which in turn has led to his publication of mass-market books on the topic—most recently, *Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All*, which was released in December.

Since the early '80s, some activist groups have advanced the belief that there's a link between vaccines and autism. The suspect vaccines change, but the story remains the same: Citing anecdotes or data taken out of context, activist groups accuse physicians and pharmaceutical companies of concealing what they believe are harmful effects associated with vaccines. These accusations are widely publicized; the epidemiological and other studies that disprove them, however, are not.

It's been wearing for Offit, who has been threatened, sued for libel, vilified on television by actress Jenny McCarthy, and accused of profiteering. (Offit was copatent holder when Children's Hospital of Philadelphia sold the RotaTeq patent to Merck and does not receive payments for subsequent sales.) One study linking vaccines to autism has been widely discredited and recently described as "an elaborate fraud" by the *British Medical Journal*. Yet Offit says the general confusion and controversy won't go away completely until a clear cause for autism is identified.

The contrast between the hype-driven mass media and the stories told by scientists—who work within a very different conceptual framework than the journalists, politicians, and lawyers shaping the vaccine debate—is striking to Offit. His advice: "Scientists and physicians need to claim the emotional high ground. I'm in this because I'm motivated by kids being hurt. We need to show the concern that motivates the science."

Offit, who has testified in congressional hearings on vaccine safety, says the consequences of skipping vaccines are not theoretical. He points to the pertussis outbreak in California this year, which killed 10 infants and infected 9,000 people. "We're past the tipping point," he says. "We're losing the herd immunity, where enough people are vaccinated to protect those who can't be vaccinated."

The age of the observer makes a great difference in how the vaccine debate is perceived. Younger people have simply never encountered a child blinded by measles, for instance. But Offit is old enough to remember the toll of childhood diseases.

In 1956, when he was 5 years old, he had surgery for a clubfoot and spent three weeks in a Baltimore polio ward. Jonas Salk and his team at the University of Pittsburgh had developed a vaccine that had been approved the previous spring, following a nationwide clinical trial. New cases were declining—but thousands of victims still lived with braces and iron lungs.

It was a life-shaping experience for Offit, who never forgot the vulnerable children in that ward. Those memories helped drive his choice to become a pediatrician and infectious disease specialist.

"When I take criticism—or praise—I think of those kids and others," Offit says.

"Fear of vaccines causes children to get sick and die." ■