New Leadership Roles Announced

THIS SPRING, Dean Michael E. Cain, MD, announced two changes to his senior leadership team.

Kenneth Blumenthal, PhD, chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics, will serve as senior associate dean for research and graduate education in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. In addition to continuing his responsibilities as chair, Blumenthal will oversee the school’s basic science research programs and graduate education. This will involve his engaging faculty to develop strategic initiatives that will enable the school to grow its sponsored activities and be more competitive for new programmatic research funding. In all these areas, he will work closely with Timothy Murphy, MD, senior associate dean for clinical and translational research, to facilitate “bench to bedside” research initiatives and mentored-research training grants. The pair also will collaborate to further promote and strengthen the school’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (PhD) and its Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD).

Leonard Epstein, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Social and Preventive Medicine, has been named a SUNY Distinguished Professor, in recognition of national or international prominence in his fields. The rank of distinguished professor, the highest faculty rank in the SUNY system, is an order above full professorship and has three coequal designations—distinguished professor, distinguished service professor and distinguished teaching professor. An internationally recognized scholar in the fields of behavioral medicine, nutrition and therapy, Epstein is one of the world’s foremost experts in the area of childhood obesity. He developed the Stoplight Diet Plan to help families instil healthy eating habits in overweight children, and it remains one of the few plans shown to produce long-term success for obese children. He also was the first researcher to demonstrate a relationship between television watching and childhood obesity. His most recent work explores the role of the dopaminergic system and food habituation in obesity.

In making the announcement, Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the school, said Curtis has all the skills needed to move the department forward, including expanding its basic and clinical research programs to fulfill UB 2020’s strategic goals, and working collaboratively with UB’s hospital partners to build the department’s clinical services.

“Dr. Curtis is that rare individual who is an innovative applied clinical investigator, a world-class clinical cardiac electrophysiologist, an exceptional educator, and a recognized leader in academic medicine,” said Cain.

During the past 24 years, she has developed an internationally recognized effort in investigative clinical cardiac electrophysiology. Most of her 110 peer-reviewed manuscripts pertain to work that has significantly enhanced our knowledge in many areas of human cardiac electrophysiology and heart rhythm abnormalities.”

Curtis earned her medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1979, and did her residency in internal medicine at New York City’s Presbyterian Hospital. She went on to complete fellowships in cardiovascular disease and clinical and investigative cardiac electrophysiology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Prior to her appointment at the University at South Florida, Curtis spent 19 years teaching and practicing at the University of Florida, Gainesville, and directing its clinical, investigative, and mentored-educational programs in cardiac electrophysiology.

“DR. CURTIS IS THAT RARE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN INNOVATIVE APPLIED CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR, A WORLD-CLASS CLINICAL CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGIST, AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR, AND A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN ACADEMIC MEDICINE.” —MICHAEL E. CAIN, MD, DEAN

Curtis Named Chair of Medicine

ANNE B. CURTIS, MD, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, CHIEF OF THE UNIVERSITY’S DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY AND DIRECTOR OF CARDIOVASCULAR SERVICES, HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE INAUGURAL MARY AND CHARLES BAUER PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES.

Laychock Named SUNY Distinguished Professor

Suzanne Laychock, PhD, has been named senior associate dean for faculty affairs and facilities. This new position has been created to fulfill goals related to renovating that space is utilized efficiently and that facilities remain updated and current. Laychock will continue to oversee the school’s migration to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. In addition, Laychock will work with UB’s hospital partners to ensure that facilities remain updated and current.

In her new position, Laychock will continue to oversee the school’s migration to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. In addition, Laychock will work closely with Timothy Murphy, MD, senior associate dean for clinical and translational research, to facilitate “bench to bedside” research initiatives and mentored-research training grants. The pair also will collaborate to further promote and strengthen the school’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (PhD) and its Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD).

A member of the UB faculty for 16 years, Epstein heads the Division of Behavioral Medicine in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, in addition to holding faculty appointments in the School of Public Health and Health Professions and the medical school. Epstein is a member of the Department of Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Biophysics. He developed the Stoplight Diet Plan to help families instil healthy eating habits in overweight children, and it remains one of the few plans shown to produce long-term success for obese children. He also was the first researcher to demonstrate a relationship between television watching and childhood obesity. His most recent work explores the role of the dopaminergic system and food habituation in obesity.

In making the announcement, Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the school, said Curtis has all the skills needed to move the department forward, including expanding its basic and clinical research programs to fulfill UB 2020’s strategic goals, and working collaboratively with UB’s hospital partners to build the department’s clinical services.

“Dr. Curtis is that rare individual who is an innovative applied clinical investigator, a world-class clinical cardiac electrophysiologist, an exceptional educator, and a recognized leader in academic medicine,” said Cain.

During the past 24 years, she has developed an internationally recognized effort in investigative clinical cardiac electrophysiology. Most of her 110 peer-reviewed manuscripts pertain to work that has significantly enhanced our knowledge in many areas of human cardiac electrophysiology and heart rhythm abnormalities.”

Curtis earned her medical degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1979, and did her residency in internal medicine at New York City’s Presbyterian Hospital. She went on to complete fellowships in cardiovascular disease and clinical and investigative cardiac electrophysiology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Prior to her appointment at the University at South Florida, Curtis spent 19 years teaching and practicing at the University of Florida, Gainesville, and directing its clinical, investigative, and mentored-educational programs in cardiac electrophysiology.

“DR. CURTIS IS THAT RARE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN INNOVATIVE APPLIED CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR, A WORLD-CLASS CLINICAL CARDIAC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGIST, AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR, AND A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN ACADEMIC MEDICINE.” —MICHAEL E. CAIN, MD, DEAN

Curtis Named Chair of Medicine

ANNE B. CURTIS, MD, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, CHIEF OF THE UNIVERSITY’S DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY AND DIRECTOR OF CARDIOVASCULAR SERVICES, HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE INAUGURAL MARY AND CHARLES BAUER PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES.
By Lois Baker

Wrabetz to Head Hunter James Kelly Research Institute

His spouse and co-investigator, Laura Feltri, MD, also will join faculty

Lawrence Wrabetz, MD, head of the myelin biology unit at San Raffaele Scientific Institute in Milan, Italy, has been appointed director of the Hunter James Kelly Research Institute (HJKRI) at UB. Laura Feltri, MD, who heads the neuroglia unit at the Institute and is Wrabetz’s spouse, also has been recruited to the HJKRI.

Both are highly regarded neuroscientists with significant backgrounds in basic and translational research on myelin, known as white matter—the sheath protecting brain nerve fibers that are essential for all normal functions of the nervous system. The appointments are in collaboration with Hunter’s Hope Foundation, established in 1997 by Jim Kelly, Buffalo Bills Hall of Fame quarterback, and his wife, Jill, after their infant son Hunter was diagnosed with Krabbe leukodystrophy, an inherited fatal disorder of the nervous system. Hunter died in 2005 at the age of eight.

The HJKRI research focuses on remyelination techniques and the biology and pathophysiology of Krabbe Disease, with the goal of discovering ways to correct the genetic defect responsible for Krabbe Disease and other leukodystrophies. HJKRI research on remyelination techniques also is expected to benefit patients with multiple sclerosis, stroke, and other diseases involving white matter destruction.

Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, in announcing the appointments, said, “We are entering a unique and exciting environment in Buffalo that promotes excellence in research and the advancement of medical science through collaboration.”

“We are elated and honored to have both Dr. Larry Wrabetz and Dr. Laura Feltri join the Hunter’s Hope family. Their appointments complete our leadership team for the HJKRI.” —Jacque Waggoner, chief executive officer of Hunter’s Hope Foundation

Wrabetz has all the skills needed to direct and build the basic and clinical research programs that will be established in the Hunter James Kelly Research Institute,” said Cain. “His leadership coupled with the scientific excellence of the Wrabetz and Feltri laboratories will help fulfill UB’s 2020 strategic goals in biomedical research and have an important impact on the public health.

“They are entering a unique and exciting environment in Buffalo that promotes excellence in research and the advancement of medical science through collaboration.”

The clinical arm of the HJKRI, headed by Dr. Patricia Duffner, has been functioning for more than three years, and has made significant progress in the development of a Krabbe Worldwide Registry, clinical evaluation and treatment protocols for Krabbe, as well as initiatives to maximize the success of Krabbe Neonatal Screening programs.”

Waggoner said. “With Larry and Laura driving basic science research in conjunction with Dr. Duffner, our hopes and expectations could not be higher.”

Wrabetz will hold a primary appointment in the Department of Neurology, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. Feltri will have a primary appointment in the Department of Biochemistry. Both will begin transitioning their laboratories to Buffalo this fall and will work as a team in the HJKRI, located in UB’s New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in Downtown Buffalo.

Wrabetz received his bachelor’s degree at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, in 1980 and his medical degree from the University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine in 1984. He completed his residency in Neurology a year later. In 2006 Wrabetz was named head of the Neurology Unit. Her research has been supported since 1998 by grants from the Italian Ministry of Health, and as subcontractor on NIH grants collaborating with researchers at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, including the Italian Society of Neurology, and is a member of the American Society of Neuroscience, the American Society of Neurochemistry, and the AAAS.

Both researchers are author or co-author on many papers published in peer-reviewed journals.
Quattrin Named Pediatrics Chair

TERESA QUATTRIN, MD, professor of pediatrics at UB and an internationally known physician-scientist with expertise in childhood diabetes and obesity, has been appointed chair of the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Her appointment, which followed a comprehensive national search, was effective February 1. She had been serving as interim chair of the department, which is based in Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo (WCHOB).

In announcing the appoint, Dean Michael E. Cain, MD, said: “Dr. Quattrin emerged clearly as our top candidate. She possesses the administrative skills needed to move the department forward.”

“With her knowledge and experience,” he continued, “she will expand the department’s basic and clinical research programs to fulfill UB 2020’s strategic goals, and develop and align clinical programs with Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo through our affiliation with Kaleida Health.”

Cheryl Klass, president of WCHOB, said of the appointee: “I’m thrilled that Dr. Quattrin’s leadership and clinical expertise will allow Women and Children’s Hospital to continue advancing the care we provide to children from Western New York and beyond.”

“As the major pediatric teaching hospital for UB’s school of medicine, our patients and families will benefit from Dr. Quattrin’s leadership. She will strengthen innovation and quality of care delivered by our comprehensive team of pediatric specialists.”

In addition to her chairmanship, Quattrin will serve as Kaleida Health’s pediatrician-in-chief, chief of the department’s Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and director of the WCHOB Diabetes Center.

Quattrin and colleagues currently are testing a novel family-based, weight-control intervention in preschool children in urban and suburban pediatric practices in Western New York. The intervention, called Buffalo Healthy Tots, is the first of its kind in the U.S.

“This accreditation is in its fourth year, the first rank of public health programs in each of five core public health (MPH) degree programs. UB’s SPHHP was founded in 2003, the vision was to become a world-class, cutting-edge school a valuable asset locally and nationally. “

With her knowledge and experience, she will expand the department’s basic and clinical research programs to fulfill UB 2020’s strategic goals, and develop and align clinical programs with Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo through our affiliation with Kaleida Health.”

Cheryl Klass, president of WCHOB, said of the appointee: “I’m thrilled that Dr. Quattrin’s leadership and clinical expertise will allow Women and Children’s Hospital to continue advancing the care we provide to children from Western New York and beyond.”

“As the major pediatric teaching hospital for UB’s school of medicine, our patients and families will benefit from Dr. Quattrin’s leadership. She will strengthen innovation and quality of care delivered by our comprehensive team of pediatric specialists.”

In addition to her chairmanship, Quattrin will serve as Kaleida Health’s pediatrician-in-chief, chief of the department’s Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and director of the WCHOB Diabetes Center.

Quattrin and colleagues currently are testing a novel family-based, weight-control intervention in preschool children in urban and suburban pediatric practices in Western New York. The intervention, called Buffalo Healthy Tots, is the first of its kind in the U.S.

“This accreditation aids us in carrying out the mission of public health—to help prevent and treat health problems that shorten lives and reduce quality of life, and to train public health and health professionals in an environment focused on wellness, disease prevention and environ-

mental and population issues.”

“We have a significant shortage of public health workers,” continues Kozlowski, “and this shortage challenges us in Western New York, in the state, in the nation and in the world. We will need more than 250,000 public health workers by 2020 to meet the world’s health-care needs—a challenge that is com-
pounded by the impending retire-
ment of nearly one-fourth of the current public health workforce.

SPHHP now can accelerate its training of public health workers and help deal with this shortage.”

Accredited schools of public health must provide master of public health (MPH) degree programs in each of five core public health areas: epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, social and behavioral sciences, and health services administration. They also must offer at least three doctoral degree programs. UB’s SPHHP offers those five MPH degrees, plus three highly regarded doctoral programs: in biostatistics, epidemiology, and community health and health behavior.

“Our MPH degree programs, coupled with health profes-
sions programs in exercise and nutrition health sciences and rehabilitation medicine, produce health professionals who make the world a better place locally and beyond,” says Kozlowski. “Our programs in assistive technology, occupa-
tional therapy and physical therapy indicate we are acutely aware, perhaps more so than schools of public health without these programs, that disability is a public health issue of critical and increasing importance.”

“With her knowledge and experience,” he continued, “she will expand the department’s basic and clinical research programs to fulfill UB 2020’s strategic goals, and develop and align clinical programs with Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo through our affiliation with Kaleida Health.”

Cheryl Klass, president of WCHOB, said of the appointee: “I’m thrilled that Dr. Quattrin’s leadership and clinical expertise will allow Women and Children’s Hospital to continue advancing the care we provide to children from Western New York and beyond.”

“As the major pediatric teaching hospital for UB’s school of medicine, our patients and families will benefit from Dr. Quattrin’s leadership. She will strengthen innovation and quality of care delivered by our comprehensive team of pediatric specialists.”

In addition to her chairmanship, Quattrin will serve as Kaleida Health’s pediatrician-in-chief, chief of the department’s Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and director of the WCHOB Diabetes Center.

Quattrin and colleagues currently are testing a novel family-based, weight-control intervention in preschool children in urban and suburban pediatric practices in Western New York. The intervention, called Buffalo Healthy Tots, is the first of its kind in the U.S. The project is funded by a $2.58 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

She also is principal investiga-
tor on Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet, a study conducted nationally and internationally to prevent diabetes and halt its progres-
sion. Blood samples are collected in relatives of persons with type 1 diabetes to establish the risk for the disease and to enroll them in protocols to prevent it. In conjunction, therapies are being tested to explore the possibility of halt-
ing the progression of Type 1 Diabetes in children who were newly diagnosed.

Closer to home, Quattrin has received one of five Type 2 Diabetes Center of Excellence grants from the New York State Department of Health to screen youth at increased risk of devel-
oping the disease. The $300,000 award is in its fourth year.

Lois Baker

Stem Cell Analysis Center Funded

RICHARD GRONOSTAJSKI, PhD, professor of biochemistry in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and his colleagues have received $3.3 million from the Empire State Stem Cell Board to establish the Western New York Stem Cell Research and Analysis Center.

The funds will be used to promote and facilitate research in the use of mouse and human embryonic, adult, induced pluripotent and can-
cer stem cells. Pluripotent cells have the ability to become nearly any type of cell in the body.

“All these types of stem cells have tremendous potential for our understanding and treatment of human diseases, including diabetes, cancer, spi-
cinal cord injury, Parkinson’s disease, cardiomyopa-
thises, neurodegenerative diseases and the damage or degeneration of various organs due to aging or injury,” says Gronostajski, who is principal investigator on the grant.

The center will provide highly specialized and easy-to-use resources to obtain, culture, expand and store stem cells, and to generate new stem cells by genetic reprogramming of somatic cells—cells that form the body of an organism.

Researchers in the center also will analyze the growth, differen-
tiation and tumor— inducing characteristics of stem cells to determine their ability to repopulate and heal organs in mice and other animals, and to determine the genetic and regulatory regions responsible for the growth and differentiatied characteristics of stem cells and their progeny.

“We need specialized facilities for these functions in order to speed and maximize research efforts by scientists currently using stem cells, and to create an easy access point for new investiga-
tors to begin to use stem cells in their research,” says Gronostajski. “Such a center will be used by scientists in New York State and from surrounding regions to conduct important stem cell studies.”

The center will be comprised of four core facilities: a stem cell culture, banking and training facility; an induced pluripotent stem cell generation facility; a stem cell engineering facility; and a stem cell sequencing/epigenetics facility.

The cores will be led by a UB interdisciplinary team of Jun Feng, PhD, associate professor of physiology and biophysics; Michał Stachowiak, PhD, associate professor of pathology and anatomical sciences and director of the Molecular and Structural Neurobiology and Gene Therapy Program; Emmanouil Triantaka-
is, PhD, assistant professor of chemical and biomedical engineering; and Michael Buck, PhD, assistant professor of biochemistry.

The award is part of $30.5 million in funding to support bio-
medicai research infrastructure and stem cell research training throughout the state. Gronostajski’s research was supported by the UB 2020 Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund.
Olson Heads New Division

The UB School of Public Health and Health Professions has established a Division of Environmental Health Sciences and appointed James R. Olson, PhD, professor of pharmacology and toxicology in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, as director.

The division will be part of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine (SPM), which currently has research and teaching programs in environmental epidemiology and environmental health. Olson has held a secondary faculty appointment in SPM since 1994.

Jo L. Freudenheim, PhD, professor and chair of SPM, says, “Having the expertise Jim brings in environmental toxicology as part of our program will be terrific for both students and other faculty doing work on environmental health.

“While there has been a long collaboration between Jim and others in SPM, this is a chance to bridge the work that we are doing in our department with the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and with the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.”

“Environmental Health Sciences is highly interdisciplinary, and requires faculty from a wide range of backgrounds to address diverse environmental health problems through multidisciplinary research, teaching and service,” says Olson.

The new division’s multidisciplinary research will support the UB 2020 strategic strength in molecular recognition in biological systems and bioinformatics.

Under Olson’s leadership, the new division will broaden the scope of environmental health sciences by hiring new faculty and by establishing cross-discipline affiliations with faculty in environmental epidemiology, toxicology/environmental and occupational health, environmental engineering, environmental chemistry, environmental geography, environmental law and other areas.

The division will support environmental health research, and will assist in teaching the MPH environmental health concentration in the department’s master of public health program.

—Lois Baker

Milch Receives National Award

Robert Milch, MD ’68, clinical professor of surgery and former medical director of The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, is one of four physicians who have been named recipients of the first Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Physician Awards.

The awards were given by the Cunniff-Dixon Foundation, whose mission is to enrich the doctor-patient relationship at the end of life, in partnership with The Hastings Center, a bioethics research institute known for its pioneering work on end-of-life decision-making. The nomination and selection process was administered by the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life.

The award not only honors the achievements of these fine doctors, but also advances the reach and prestige of the field of palliative and end-of-life care and its power to achieve true holistic, high-quality, patient-centered care.

An individualized program is developed for the fellows, who attend clinics, see patients on the wards and work with a principal NIH investigator on selected clinical research projects to be determined on-site. Participants learn about translational research, the first step in the progression from the bench to the bedside and back to the bench. They also will attend lectures on clinical research and participate in interactive group learning activities with the members of the class and leading NIH physicians and scientists.

The program is supported jointly by the NIH and the Foundation for NIH through grants from Pfizer Inc. as part of its public-private partnerships initiative.

—S. A. Unger

Students Accepted into Prestigious Research Training Programs

SARNOFF SCHOLARS. Two students in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences won scholarships from the Saroff Cardiovascular Research Foundation to conduct intensive work in a biomedical research laboratory in the United States.

Joshua Balderman and Mojdeh Kappus, both second-year medical students, were among 11 finalists selected from 50 applicants. This is the first year UB medical students have entered the competition.

Winners are selected based on intellectual and academic achievement and leadership ability. They also submitted an essay detailing how they would solve a specific problem.

Fellows select a laboratory where they will spend their next year, based on their specific research interest in cardiovascular disease. Balderman hopes to work in a laboratory where he can do research on small vessel engineering. Kappus plans to continue her research into atherosclerosis.

Winners receive a $27,500 stipend, plus up to $7,000 for travel to select a preceptor and fellowship laboratory, moving expenses, health insurance and computer equipment. They also receive financial support to attend the Saroff Annual Scientific meetings, American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, American Society for Clinical Investigation Annual Meeting and NIH Clinical Investigator Student Trainer Forum.

The students will present the results of their research at two national conferences at the end of their research year.

—Lois Baker

NIH CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING. Anita Tipirneni and Gary Altwerger, third-year medical students in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, will be spending the upcoming year as fellows in the Clinical Research Training Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The 12-month training program is conducted at the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD, for medical and dental students.

Fellows take part in a mentored clinical or translational research project in an area that matches their personal interests and goals. Only 30 students a year are accepted into the program.

—Lois Baker
Canty received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, which recognizes the work of those who engage actively in scholarly and creative pursuits beyond their teaching responsibilities. In addition to the Rekate Chair, he serves as director of UB’s Center for Research in Cardiovascular Medicine, chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and vice chair of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease Group in UB’s Department of University Cardiologists.

A graduate of the UB medical school, Canty is an attending cardiologist at the VA Medical Center, Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the UB Alumni Association in 2008 for his service to UB and for his research.

Mary Anne Rokitka, PhD, received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service, which honors professional staff performance excellence “both within and beyond the position.”

A clinical professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Rokitka began her academic career at UB in 1973 as a research associate in hyperbaric physiology. She has studied such topics as the sensitivity of terrestrial snails to ambient water vapor and temperature, and served as a co-investigator for space shuttle studies designed to evaluate the time course of cardiovascular deconditioning during exposure to weightlessness.

Rokitka has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on such subjects as environmental physiology and life in space. She has served as director of the Hospital Nursing Program; assistant to the vice president for health sciences; acting dean of the Division of Undergraduate Academic Services; associate dean of the Undergraduate College, and assistant dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She is the recipient of the first annual Dr. Mary Anne Rokitka Award and the Charles W. Shilling Award from the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.

She is the recipient of the 1993 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 2004 Milton Fleur Excellence in Teaching Award from the undergraduate Student Association. Rokitka holds a bachelor’s degree in education from Medaille College and a master’s degree in natural sciences and biology and a PhD in biology, both from UB. Prior to starting her university career, she taught biology, chemistry, physics and earth science for several years at secondary schools in upstate New York.

By Sue Wuthert

Myers named Director of Simulation Center

Jeffrey W. Myers, DO, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, has been named director of the Behling Simulation Center, which brings together UB’s five health sciences schools for purposes of creating a multidisciplinary, interprofessional simulation.

CANTY received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, which recognizes the work of those who engage actively in scholarly and creative pursuits beyond their teaching responsibilities. In addition to the Rekate Chair, he serves as director of UB’s Center for Research in Cardiovascular Medicine, chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and vice chair of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease Group in UB’s Department of University Cardiologists.

A graduate of the UB medical school, Canty is an attending cardiologist at the VA Medical Center, Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the UB Alumni Association in 2008 for his service to UB and for his research.

Mary Anne Rokitka, PhD, received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service, which honors professional staff performance excellence “both within and beyond the position.”

A clinical professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Rokitka began her academic career at UB in 1973 as a research associate in hyperbaric physiology. She has studied such topics as the sensitivity of terrestrial snails to ambient water vapor and temperature, and served as a co-investigator for space shuttle studies designed to evaluate the time course of cardiovascular deconditioning during exposure to weightlessness.

Rokitka has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on such subjects as environmental physiology and life in space. She has served as director of the Hospital Nursing Program; assistant to the vice president for health sciences; acting dean of the Division of Undergraduate Academic Services; associate dean of the Undergraduate College, and assistant dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She is the recipient of the first annual Dr. Mary Anne Rokitka Award and the Charles W. Shilling Award from the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.

She is the recipient of the 1993 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 2004 Milton Fleur Excellence in Teaching Award from the undergraduate Student Association. Rokitka holds a bachelor’s degree in education from Medaille College and a master’s degree in natural sciences and biology and a PhD in biology, both from UB. Prior to starting her university career, she taught biology, chemistry, physics and earth science for several years at secondary schools in upstate New York.

By Sue Wuthert

Myers named Director of Simulation Center

Jeffrey W. Myers, DO, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, has been named director of the Behling Simulation Center, which brings together UB’s five health sciences schools for purposes of creating a multidisciplinary, interprofessional simulation.

As part of a strategic focus to better integrate its clinical services, Catholic Health System (CHS) has named Richard J. Ruh, MD ’90, senior vice president of service lines. A primary care physician with a private medical practice in Orchard Park, NY, Ruh will provide oversight for the continued development of CHS’s clinical service lines, which include vascular disease, made up of cardiac, stroke and vascular services; women’s services, orthopedics; and oncology.

Ruh has been a member of CHS’s board of directors since 2007, serving on its executive committee and as chair of its finance committee. He has served as vice president of medical affairs and vice president of the medical staff at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. He is also a member of the Catholic Independent Practice Association, serving on its board of directors from 2000 to 2005 and as its chair from 2003 to 2004.

Along with his sister and medical partner, Jennifer Ruh, Richard Ruh has introduced many innovative quality initiatives in his own medical practice. “Dr. Ruh has a clear vision of what patients need and want from their health-care providers,” says Joseph P. McDonald, president and chief executive officer of CHS. “He is also a respected leader in the local physician community, bringing with him the physicians’ perspective to service line development.”

Ruh will provide oversight for the continued development of CHS’s clinical service lines, which include vascular disease, made up of cardiac, stroke and vascular services; women’s services, orthopedics; and oncology.

Ruh Named Senior VP at CHS

As part of a strategic focus to better integrate its clinical services, Catholic Health System (CHS) has named Richard J. Ruh, MD ’90, senior vice president of service lines. A primary care physician with a private medical practice in Orchard Park, NY, Ruh will provide oversight for the continued development of CHS’s clinical service lines, which include vascular disease, made up of cardiac, stroke and vascular services; women’s services, orthopedics; and oncology.

Ruh has been a member of CHS’s board of directors since 2007, serving on its executive committee and as chair of its finance committee. He has served as vice president of medical affairs and vice president of the medical staff at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. He is also a member of the Catholic Independent Practice Association, serving on its board of directors from 2000 to 2005 and as its chair from 2003 to 2004.

Along with his sister and medical partner, Jennifer Ruh, Richard Ruh has introduced many innovative quality initiatives in his own medical practice. “Dr. Ruh has a clear vision of what patients need and want from their health-care providers,” says Joseph P. McDonald, president and chief executive officer of CHS. “He is also a respected leader in the local physician community, bringing with him the physicians’ perspective to service line development.”

Over the next year, Ruh will gradually transition from his private medical practice to become a full-time member of CHS’s senior leadership team. “By developing our clinical service lines, Catholic Health will not only improve the quality of care available to patients in our hospitals and health centers, but more importantly, will raise the bar on clinical care in our community,” he says.

John M. Canty (left) and Mary Anne Rokitka (above)

Ruh Named Senior VP at CHS

As part of a strategic focus to better integrate its clinical services, Catholic Health System (CHS) has named Richard J. Ruh, MD ’90, senior vice president of service lines. A primary care physician with a private medical practice in Orchard Park, NY, Ruh will provide oversight for the continued development of CHS’s clinical service lines, which include vascular disease, made up of cardiac, stroke and vascular services; women’s services, orthopedics; and oncology.

Ruh has been a member of

By Sue Wuthert

John M. Canty (left) and Mary Anne Rokitka (above)

Ruh Named Senior VP at CHS

As part of a strategic focus to better integrate its clinical services, Catholic Health System (CHS) has named Richard J. Ruh, MD ’90, senior vice president of service lines. A primary care physician with a private medical practice in Orchard Park, NY, Ruh will provide oversight for the continued development of CHS’s clinical service lines, which include vascular disease, made up of cardiac, stroke and vascular services; women’s services, orthopedics; and oncology.

Ruh has been a member of CHS’s board of directors since 2007, serving on its executive committee and as chair of its finance committee. He has served as vice president of medical affairs and vice president of the medical staff at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. He is also a member of the Catholic Independent Practice Association, serving on its board of directors from 2000 to 2005 and as its chair from 2003 to 2004.

Along with his sister and medical partner, Jennifer Ruh, Richard Ruh has introduced many innovative quality initiatives in his own medical practice. “Dr. Ruh has a clear vision of what patients need and want from their health-care providers,” says Joseph P. McDonald, president and chief executive officer of CHS. “He is also a respected leader in the local physician community, bringing with him the physicians’ perspective to service line development.”

Over the next year, Ruh will gradually transition from his private medical practice to become a full-time member of CHS’s senior leadership team. “By developing our clinical service lines, Catholic Health will not only improve the quality of care available to patients in our hospitals and health centers, but more importantly, will raise the bar on clinical care in our community,” he says.

John M. Canty (left) and Mary Anne Rokitka (above)

Ruh Named Senior VP at CHS

As part of a strategic focus to better integrate its clinical services, Catholic Health System (CHS) has named Richard J. Ruh, MD ’90, senior vice president of service lines. A primary care physician with a private medical practice in Orchard Park, NY, Ruh will provide oversight for the continued development of CHS’s clinical service lines, which include vascular disease, made up of cardiac, stroke and vascular services; women’s services, orthopedics; and oncology.

Ruh has been a member of CHS’s board of directors since 2007, serving on its executive committee and as chair of its finance committee. He has served as vice president of medical affairs and vice president of the medical staff at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. He is also a member of the Catholic Independent Practice Association, serving on its board of directors from 2000 to 2005 and as its chair from 2003 to 2004.

Along with his sister and medical partner, Jennifer Ruh, Richard Ruh has introduced many innovative quality initiatives in his own medical practice. “Dr. Ruh has a clear vision of what patients need and want from their health-care providers,” says Joseph P. McDonald, president and chief executive officer of CHS. “He is also a respected leader in the local physician community, bringing with him the physicians’ perspective to service line development.”

Over the next year, Ruh will gradually transition from his private medical practice to become a full-time member of CHS’s senior leadership team. “By developing our clinical service lines, Catholic Health will not only improve the quality of care available to patients in our hospitals and health centers, but more importantly, will raise the bar on clinical care in our community,” he says.

John M. Canty (left) and Mary Anne Rokitka (above)
Siegel Awards for Excellence in Teaching

The Louis A. and Ruth Siegel Awards for Excellence in Teaching are the foremost means for recognizing extraordinary teachers in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. A student award committee composed of representatives from each medical class reviews nominations provided by students and selects awardees in four categories. Considerations for this prestigious annual award include instructional skill, ability to stimulate thinking and develop understanding, demonstration of sensitivity toward the human condition, and serving as a role model for students.

THE 2010 SIEGEL AWARD RECIPIENTS

FULL-TIME TEACHING IN THE BASIC SCIENCES
Thomas Madl, MD Medicine

FULL-TIME TEACHING IN THE CLINICAL SCIENCES
Kenneth Kahn, MD Obstetrics/Gynecology

VOLUNTEER PHYSICIAN
Daryl Ellinwood, MD Pediatrics

RESIDENT TEACHING
Ivan Dominguez, MD Surgery

Stockton-Kimball Award 2010

BY SUZANNE LAYCROCK, PHD

Paul R. Knight, III, MD, PhD, is the 2010 recipient of the Stockton-Kimball Award, which honors a faculty member for academic accomplishments and worldwide recognition as a researcher.

Knight came to UB from the University of Michigan Medical Center in 1992 when he was named chair and professor of anesthesiology, and professor of microbiology and immunology. He is one of our best examples of a physician-scientist. He has a great passion for research, and in recognition of his accomplishments he has been continually funded since 1980 by National Institutes of Health (NIH), American Heart Association grants or other sources.

Knight’s research specialization is in the pathogenesis of aspiration pneumonitis and the role of anesthetic agents in inflammation and infection. He has published more than 150 articles, books and chapters, and has made more than 60 presentations at national and international venues. He also edited the current Seventh Edition of Wylie and Churchill-Davidson’s A Practice of Anesthesia, the leading international medical text on the medical specialty of anesthesiology.

Suzanne Laycrock, PhD, is senior associate dean for faculty affairs and facilities, and professor of pharmacology and toxicology.

Knight is an attending anesthesiologist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. For more than six years he has served as director of the Medical Scientist Training (MD/PhD) Program in the school, and he has trained more than 100 graduate students, fellows and junior faculty, and mentored many undergraduate students in research. He has also lectured in pharmacology and microbiology.

Knight has served on numerous UB committees, on NIH study sections, as a member of the Research Committee of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, and on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Association of University Anesthesiologists, among many other professional service activities. He has shown consistent academic accomplishment during his career, producing significant research contributions, and demonstrating a concern for the progress of the University at Buffalo—excellence in its broadest sense that is the hallmark of the Stockton-Kimball Award.

Calkins Receives Network in Aging Award

DEAN’S AWARD

The Dean’s Award is given in recognition of extraordinary service to the school. This year’s recipient is Suzanne Laycrock, PhD, senior associate dean for faculty affairs and facilities, and professor of pharmacology and toxicology. A prolific researcher, Laycrock also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, among many other professional service activities. She has shown consistent academic accomplishment during her career, producing significant research contributions, and demonstrating a concern for the progress of the University at Buffalo—excellence in its broadest sense that is the hallmark of the Stockton-Kimball Award.

NAUGHTON AWARD

The Naughton Award recognizes “an individual who, day in and day out, in his or her quiet way, makes our school, with its affiliated teaching hospitals, a stronger, healthier and happier place for the rest of us to learn, work, conduct research, provide patient care and teach.”

This year’s recipient of the Naughton Award is Mary Anne Rokitka, PhD, associate dean for biomedical undergraduate education, and clinical professor of physiology and biophysics (see also Chancellor’s Award on page 21). “A review of Mary Anne’s professional services does not come close to defining the contributions that she has made to the school and university,” said Dean Cain in presenting the award. “She has been a ‘triple threat’ in that she participates in teaching physiology, directing an undergraduate major and serving as an administrative dean. ‘Mary Anne can truly be described as altruistic in her acts to enrich the lives and education of our students. As one of her former biomedical sciences undergraduate students expressed it: ‘She is the best part of the SUNY system; she is a hidden treasure.’”

BERKSON MEMORIAL AWARD

The Robert S. Berkson, MD Award is given to an individual who demonstrates excellence in patient care and teaching provided by volunteer physicians specializing in internal medicine. This year’s recipient is Joseph Wandass, MD ’87, PhD ’96, who is a partner in a medical-pediatric practice in Orchard Park, NY. Wandass has played a key role in providing ambulatory care training to the school’s medical residents for many years.

Calkins Receives Network in Aging Award

This year’s recipient of the Network in Aging Award is Joseph Wandass, MD ’87, PhD ’96, who is a partner in a medical-pediatric practice in Orchard Park, NY. Wandass has played a key role in providing ambulatory care training to the school’s medical residents for many years.

This year’s recipient of the Network in Aging Award is Joseph Wandass, MD ’87, PhD ’96, who is a partner in a medical-pediatric practice in Orchard Park, NY. Wandass has played a key role in providing ambulatory care training to the school’s medical residents for many years.

THE 2010 SIEGEL AWARD RECIPIENTS

FULL-TIME TEACHING IN THE BASIC SCIENCES
Thomas Madl, MD Medicine

FULL-TIME TEACHING IN THE CLINICAL SCIENCES
Kenneth Kahn, MD Obstetrics/Gynecology

VOLUNTEER PHYSICIAN
Daryl Ellinwood, MD Pediatrics

RESIDENT TEACHING
Ivan Dominguez, MD Surgery

This year’s recipient of the Network in Aging Award is Joseph Wandass, MD ’87, PhD ’96, who is a partner in a medical-pediatric practice in Orchard Park, NY. Wandass has played a key role in providing ambulatory care training to the school’s medical residents for many years.

This year’s recipient of the Network in Aging Award is Joseph Wandass, MD ’87, PhD ’96, who is a partner in a medical-pediatric practice in Orchard Park, NY. Wandass has played a key role in providing ambulatory care training to the school’s medical residents for many years.

This year’s recipient of the Network in Aging Award is Joseph Wandass, MD ’87, PhD ’96, who is a partner in a medical-pediatric practice in Orchard Park, NY. Wandass has played a key role in providing ambulatory care training to the school’s medical residents for many years.

This year’s recipient of the Network in Aging Award is Joseph Wandass, MD ’87, PhD ’96, who is a partner in a medical-pediatric practice in Orchard Park, NY. Wandass has played a key role in providing ambulatory care training to the school’s medical residents for many years.
HAS A LOT OF POTENTIAL AS A WAY TO MONITOR progression of ALS, which will be helpful in developing new medications, and possibly as an aid in diagnosis. It also may help us to better understand the underlying disease process itself.”

In this capacity, he will work with Avery Ellis, MD ’77, PhD ’79, MBA, senior associate professor of neuromuscular medicine at UB, to oversee the student, admissions, multicultural, academic, and educational affairs in the OME. “Establishment of this new senior associate dean position emphasizes the school’s commitment to medical student development and education, and will better align administration with the school’s updated objectives and goals that were developed through our recently completed LCME self-study process,” said Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the school, at the time he announced the appointment in August.

Milling earned a bachelor of science degree in pharmacy and a medical degree from UB. He completed his residency in internal medicine at UB, serving as chief resident. Following residency, he completed a primary care faculty development fellowship at Michigan State University.

He joined UB’s faculty in 1993 as a clinical instructor and is a two-time recipient of the coveted Louis A. and Ruth Siegel Award for Teaching Excellence (1994 and 2000). He also is a recipient of the Carter F. Panell Award for Outstanding Teaching presented to a junior faculty member in the Department of Medicine (2000).

Prior to his current position, Milling served in a number of roles in the UB Office of Medical Education, including associate dean for multicultural affairs, medical director of the Clinical Competency Program, director of the Post-Baccalaurate Program, and director of the Science and Technology Entry Program. He is board certified in internal medicine and a member of the American College of Physicians and the National Medical Association.

Duffy Receives Concept Award for Autism Research

MICHAEL E. DUFFY, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, is one of nine recipients from a field of 66 applicants to receive an Autism Research Program grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), under the U.S. Department of Defense.

Duffy, who is a specialist in molecular mechanisms of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, has received an $118,620 Concept Award, established in fiscal year 2007 “to support exploration of an initial idea or novel observation that could result in a testable hypothesis,” according to the CDMRP.

His grant will support an investigation of certain cellular mechanisms that may be related to gastrointestinal problems diagnosed in persons with autism.

Autism is defined by behavioral patterns and delays in language development, but research has shown that chronic GI problems, such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, constipation, epigastralgia and gaseousness also may be involved.

“The central hypothesis of this proposal is that altered handling of calcium ions by GI nerve and muscle causes some of these GI disorders,” says Duffy. “To study these disorders, we will use a genetically altered mouse that exhibits the rare disorder of Timothy Syndrome (TS).

“Individuals with TS have a particular genetic mutation in cell membrane calcium ion channels,” he explains, “strikingly, approximately 80 percent of patients carrying this mutation also have been diagnosed with autism. No other human mutation shows this high degree of correlation.”

Duffy and colleagues James Russell, PhD, Glennetta Betts, PhD, and Randall Rasmusson, PhD, all of the UB Department of Physiology and Biophysics, will examine intestinal smooth muscle in TS mice to determine if intracellular calcium ion overload alters the ability to propel food through the intestines. They also will determine if nerves of the intestine abnormally regulate the absorption processes, and will use molecular biological techniques to determine the mechanisms that lead to altered function of these channels.

“Study of this unique mouse will provide key insights into the cellular basis of autism and its relationship to GI disorders and will provide a model for testing new therapies,” says Duffy.

—S.A. Unger

IN MEMORIAM

Faiza Ansari, MD ’10

Fourth-year medical student aspired to be a pediatrician

Faiza Ansari, 25, a fourth-year student in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, died in a fire at her family’s home in Cheektowaga, NY, on December 23, 2009. Also killed were her sister, Saahia, 22, a mechani- cal engineering student at UB, and their father, Mohammad, 60, a UB graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Ansari, who aspired to be a pediatrician, had recent- ly visited Baylor University Medical Center to interview for a residency.

“She was a woman who loved kids and loved people,” Nancy Nielsen, MD ’76, PhD, senior associate dean for medical education, told the Buffalo News in the days following the tragedy. “She was a beautiful person, both outwardly and inwardly, and someone who was very talented.”

Ansari had been working with Susan S. Baker, MD, PhD, professor of pediatrics, on research about bone health and children who have inflammatory bowel disease.

“She was very smart. She was a very hard worker and extremely conscientious,” said Baker, who is co–division chief of the Center for Digestive Diseases and Nutrition at Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. “She had a lot of vitality, and she voiced a real love of pediatrics—she would have been a marvelous physician.”

On February 11, 2010, a memorial for Ansari was held in Butler Auditorium. This spring, the Department of Pediatrics renamed its summer internship in her honor, as did the Pol’ytic’s Pediatric student-interest club.

Ansari was awarded her medical degree posthumously. She survived by her mother, Sobalia; an older brother, Zaudadn; and an older sister, Saaraa, all of whom attend- ed graduation, where her brother accepted Faiza’s degree.

BUFFALO PHYSICIAN SPRING/SUMMER 2010
Albert C. Rekate, MD ’40

Physician leader, teacher, mentor and philanthropist

Albert C. Rekate, MD, a retired cardiologist and UB faculty member who endowed several awards and chairs at the university, died on February 6, 2010, after a long illness. He was 93.

A 1940 graduate of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Rekate completed his residency at E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital (now Erie County Medical Center) and served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1944 to 1947.

He joined the UB medical school faculty in 1954. Among his numerous contributions, he established the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, serving as acting chair from 1972 to 1975, and also played a role in the creation of the School of Health Related Professions, now the School of Public Health and Health Professions.

Over the years, he has been a generous benefactor of the health sciences at UB, establishing the Albert and Elizabeth Rekate Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases and endowing the Glen E. Gresham, MD, Visiting Professorship in Rehabilitation Medicine, both in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He also endowed the Deans Award Fund in the School of Public Health and Health Professions and contributed seed money to develop an undergraduate core research curriculum in the school.

Throughout his tenure as professor and chairman of rehabilitation medicine, Dr. Rekate was a trusted advisor who provided unwavering support and encouragement,” says Glen Gresham, MD, who was recruited to UB by Rekate in 1978 to serve as the first permanent chair of the Department of Rehabilitation. “He was a constant source of inspiration to me and all of my colleagues in the department,” he adds. “Because of his vision, we were able to establish a Spinal Cord Injury Center at ECMC, a Head Trauma Rehabilitation Program for the community and engage in extramurally funded research in Functional Assessment and other important areas with the resultant publication of several textbooks and invaluable articles in the medical literature.”

John Carty, MD ’79, Albert and Elizabeth Rekate Professor of Medicine at UB, states: “As a faculty member in the early years of cardiology at UB, Dr. Rekate was known for his enthusiasm and talent as a clinical educator. He was an influential role model, encouraging many students to enter this new and rapidly emerging subspecialty of medicine. Upon retiring, he remained keenly interested in the development of the division of cardiology. I found him to be a great source of encouragement and support, even as an emeritus professor, he had a strong and lasting commitment to academic medicine.”

Willard Boardman, MD ’44, was a friend of Rekate’s for more than 60 years and established an endowment to support the Rekate Chair in Cardiology. “In addition to being a friend and mentor, Dr. Rekate was a great teacher,” says Boardman, who first met Rekate as a third-year medical student at UB and continued to be guided by him as an intern and resident at the E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital. “He did so much for the school and for those of us who were interested in cardiology. He was an exceptionally kind and generous man and an inspiration to me throughout my career.”

Francis Klocke, MD ’60, professor of medicine emeritus (cardiology) in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University and chief of cardiology at UB from 1976 to 1991, first met Rekate when he was a medical student at UB. “We all recognized and admired him as one of our best clinical teachers,” recalls Klocke. “Indeed, his explanations of heart sounds and murmurs were one of the factors leading me to consider cardiology as a career. “Dr. Rekate was a great friend and valued mentor throughout my 25 years on the UB faculty,” Klocke continues. “His personal contributions were pivotal to the development of many fruitful programs at both UB and ECMC. His always-positive and insightful approach to complex issues facilitated interactions that were synergetic rather than merely additive. His establishment of the Rekate Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases provided new and unique options for expanding cardiovascular research and recruiting talented young faculty.”

Rekate was active in numerous medical societies on a local, state and national level and served as president of the Western New York Heart Association, the Medical Union, the Buffalo Academy of Medicine and UB’s Medical Alumni Society.

He received the Samuel P. Capen Award from the UB Alumni Association for notable and meritorious contributions to the university and its family in 1982 and the Deans Award from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 1983.

Rekate is survived by his wife, Linda Holt Rekate, retired UB clinical assistant professor and director of the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic. He was predeceased in 1985 by his previous wife, Elizabeth Foster Rekate.

Memorials may be made to the Albert and Elizabeth Rekate Chair in Cardiovascular Diseases in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, or to the School of Public Health and Health Professions, c/o the UB Foundation, P.O. Box 900, Buffalo, NY 14226-0900.

Ivan L. Bunnell, MD ’43

Cardiology pioneer and longtime UB professor

Ivan L. Bunnell, MD ’43, an internationally renowned cardiologist and longtime UB clinical professor of medicine, died on February 20, 2010, in Amherst, NY, after a brief illness. He was 92.

Bunnell was born in Waterbury, CT, and earned a bachelor’s degree from Middlebury College. He began his association with the UB medical school in 1938 when he accepted a position as a student assistant in physiology. In 1941 he earned a master’s degree in physiology before completing his medical degree in 1943.

Bunnell completed his internship and residency at E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital (now Erie County Medical Center). He served in the Army from 1941 to 1946 and in the Public Health Service in Kansas City, MO, from 1946 to 1948.

Bunnell established the area’s first adult cardiac catheterization laboratory in 1948 at Buffalo General Hospital with the late David G. Greene, MD, his medical partner for 43 years.

In addition to developing the world’s first complex-angled X-ray view of the coronary arteries in 1973, he was one of the first physicians to recognize that a similar technique could be used in the study of renal disease, and he wrote a book on the topic.

“Ivan L. Bunnell, MD ’43, was a very compassionate and caring person,” says S. A. Unger, professor of cardiology and director of the Cardiac Arrhythmia Research Laboratory. “Dr. Bunnell was a loyal faculty member and a respected colleague who always put his patients first.”

“Dr. Bunnell was a wonderful teacher, friend and counselor to everyone in cardiology at UB,” says Francis J. Klocke, MD ’60, professor of medicine emeritus (cardiology) in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University and chief of cardiology at UB from 1976 to 1991. “Together with Dr. Greene, he pioneered angiography and interventional cardiology in Western New York. His development of angulated views of the coronary arteries in the late 1960s and early 1970s facilitated the identification of often unappreciated major arterial narrowing. Not surprisingly, his approach was quickly adopted by other laboratories in the United States and abroad.”

“Although based at Buffalo General Hospital, Dr. Bunnell also was generous and thoughtful in assisting in the development of cardiac catheterization programs at Erie County Medical Center and other local institutions,” Klocke adds. “His gentle demeanor and understanding of patients’ individual needs enhanced his effectiveness as a physician and were an example to all of us.”

Bunnell is survived by his wife, Alice; a daughter, Anne Damm; and two sons, Gene and Mark.

S. A. UNGER