

Seen & Heard

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UPCOMING EVENTS

■ We're hard at work planning the Annual Spring Meeting and Awards Dinner for 2011. Look for your invitations in the mail.



In this issue:

- Specialties Update: Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Research Update
- In Development
- NYEE Alumni and Staff In the Spotlight
- Resident News

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Greetings from your old friends and colleagues at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary—and welcome to the inaugural issue of *Seen & Heard*, the Official Publication of the Alumni Association of NYEEI.

As you know, New York Eye and Ear was founded in 1820 as the country's first specialty hospital, and today we are recognized as a world leader in ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and plastic and reconstructive surgery. Our distinguished alumni are spread out all over the world, but they have one thing in common—they all trained at one of America's most prestigious subspecialty training programs.

Wherever you go in the world, you will always remain a member of our New York Eye and Ear family. We at the Alumni Association started this newsletter to keep you abreast of everything that's happening here at your alma mater on 14th Street—from innovative research initiatives to exciting new programs and centers to upcoming conferences and events.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find the latest news from the fields of ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and plastic and reconstructive surgery, as well as what's happening in the areas of research and development. You'll read about:

- Our Jorge N. Buxton, MD Microsurgical Education Center, which provides surgeons from around the world with unparalleled opportunities for advanced hands-on experience and training in a variety of innovative and delicate microsurgical procedures
- The prestigious \$2.5 million grant which was just awarded to New York Eye and Ear by the National Institutes

of Health—National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders for a cochlear implant study

■ The innovative advances in breast cancer surgery and new breast reconstruction choices for women being pioneered by our renowned plastic and reconstructive surgical team

■ The groundbreaking research being conducted at our new Shelley and Steven Einhorn Clinical Research Center, a state-of-the-art center that just opened last spring

■ Our new Surgical Suite Initiative, which was started to raise funds for the much-needed expansion and renovation of our surgical facilities, which will enhance our ability to meet escalating demand for our surgical services.

Founded more than 60 years ago, The Alumni Association offers you a chance to reconnect with your fellow alumni and to continue your relationship with the Infirmary. If you're not an active alumnus in the Association, I encourage you to become one—your membership helps the Association achieve its goals and helps you to stay in touch and network with other alumni.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. If there's anything you'd like to see highlighted in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us at drrichld@aol.com, jpugliese@nyee.edu or 212-979-4019.

Richard L. Deluca, MD
President, Alumni Association

Specialties Update: Ophthalmology

On October 7, 2010, more than 100 guests gathered to celebrate the innovations in microsurgical techniques and advanced microsurgical education provided by the Jorge N. Buxton, MD Microsurgical Education Center and the Jorge N. Buxton, MD Microsurgical Education Foundation at New York Eye and Ear.



Christopher J. Linstrom, MD; John M. Aljian, MD; Douglas F. Buxton, MD; and Jasmine Francis, MD at NYEE's President's Reception celebrating The Jorge N. Buxton, MD Microsurgical Education Center and Microsurgical Education Foundation on October 7, 2010.

Equipped with sixteen state-of-the-art workstations, the Center is the premier facility of its kind to link the operating room with academic medicine, making it an integral part of the Infirmary's historic mission to educate future generations of physician leaders. Since 2004, it has provided more than 2,000 physicians from around the world with the skills and technical expertise to perform delicate microsurgery in all of the hospital's specialties.

Formed in 2010, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing national and international initiatives in the practice and instruction of microsurgery in New York Eye and Ear specialties. Educational initiatives of the Center and Foundation include an International Professorship Program to bring accomplished microsurgeons to New York Eye and Ear, a Post-Graduate Fellowship Program to enable our physicians to serve as "Ambassadors to the Field" in underserved areas of the world, and an International Surgeon Exchange Program to train surgeons from around the world in advanced microsurgical techniques.

"Our Microsurgical Education Foundation is a strategic part of New York Eye and Ear's growth strategy of investments in new talent, expanded facilities and enhanced research programs to ensure the hospital's leadership for a third century of service," said Douglas F. Buxton, MD, Foundation Director.

Otolaryngology

The National Institutes of Health—National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders recently awarded the Ear Institute at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary with a \$2.5 million grant for a cochlear implant study.

This prestigious grant will fund research led by Richard Schwartz, MD, who has been conducting preliminary research

(funded by The Children's Hearing Institute) at the Cochlear Implant Center for the last several years. This grant represents a significant accomplishment for New York Eye and Ear, and was made possible with the long-term support of the donors and friends of The Children's Hearing Institute and their continued generosity in funding pilot research projects.

Dr. Schwartz, who is the Presidential Professor in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at The Graduate Center CUNY, will collaborate with Dr. Derek Houston, Associate Professor at Indiana University School of Medicine, and Elizabeth Ying, SLP, of The Ear Institute at New York Eye and Ear. Over the next five years, the team will investigate how children with cochlear implants acquire language compared with their normal-hearing peers, utilizing control groups consisting of normal-hearing children and children with cochlear implants.

Hopefully the findings of the study will help improve approaches by therapists as they evaluate and work with very young children with cochlear implants, optimizing the way they learn speech and language.

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

According to The American Society of Plastic Surgeons, nearly 70 percent of women eligible for breast reconstruction are not routinely informed of the full array of their options.

The New York Center for the Advancement of Breast Reconstruction at New York Eye and Ear is working hard to change those shocking numbers. The Center's staff members have dedicated themselves to educating women with breast cancer about their options—and working toward making those options available to all women regardless of economic status.



Alan Stoller, MD; Robert J. Allen, MD; Joshua L. Levine, MD; D. McWilliams Kessler at NYEE's President's Reception inaugurating National Breast Cancer Awareness Month on October 1, 2009.

Led by breast cancer surgeon Alan Stoller, MD, plastic surgeons Robert J. Allen, MD, and Joshua L. Levine, MD, the Center's team has successfully performed more than 2,500 breast reconstructions utilizing innovative microsurgical procedures. They are setting the gold standard for nipple-sparing mastectomy and breast reconstruction which uses the patient's own tissue without muscle sacrifice.

As it strives to remain the progressive standard of excellence for care of women with breast cancer, the Center is raising funds to

build a variety of exciting new programs. These programs include a liaison to help patients and their families navigate the treatment process, an online educational resource for both patients and the medical community, and a fellowship program to offer physicians from around the world training opportunities in state-of-the-art techniques of mastectomy and microsurgical breast reconstruction.

Research Update:

Introducing the Shelley and Steven Einhorn Clinical Research Center

In March 2010, The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary celebrated the opening of The Shelley and Steven Einhorn Clinical Research Center. Made possible by a generous contribution of \$1 million from visionary donors Shelley and Steven Einhorn, this state-of-the-art new Center will enable New York Eye and Ear to continue its important work of developing innovative treatments for an array of eye diseases.



Shelley and Steven Einhorn cutting the red ribbon with their grandchildren Noah and Talia Helfstein at the opening of New York Eye and Ear's Shelley and Steven Einhorn Clinical Research Center, March 18, 2010.

Our glaucoma research, under the direction of Robert Ritch, MD, Shelley and Steven Einhorn Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology, Surgeon Director and Chief, is at the global forefront of diagnostic and therapeutic innovation in the understanding and treatment of glaucoma. Researchers here have conducted several clinical trials sponsored by both the National Institutes of Health and the National Eye Institute.

Recent advances in our ability to image structures within the living eye at the microscopic level with new diagnostic tools and to determine their relationships to one another and to pathologic conditions are rapidly altering our understanding of glaucoma. At the Center, our researchers are able to perform important research through ultrasound biomicroscopy, optical coherence tomography, confocal scanning laser ophthalmoscopy, microperimetry, tissue culture studies, cell and molecular biology, and genetics.

Retina research at the Einhorn Clinical Research Center focuses on the advancement of ophthalmology through the development of technologies and involvement in clinical investigations aimed at conquering eye disease, preventing blindness, and restoring vision.

At the Center, current research studies are examining a vast array of innovative treatments, including combination therapies for macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and retina vein occlusions, anti-proliferative agents to prevent proliferative vitreoretinopathy, ocular trauma, and long acting anti-inflammatory agents for chronic severe vitreous hemorrhage.

Researchers at the Center are also currently involved in National Eye Institute-sponsored trials on therapies for diabetic retinopathy in collaboration with the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network, as well as several other NEI-sponsored studies.

To find out more specific information on these and other research studies at the Einhorn Center, please visit: www.nyee.edu/einhorn-clinical-research-center.html

In Development:

New Initiative Raises Funds for Surgical Suite Renovation and Expansion

Thanks in no small part to the excellence of its physicians, nurses, and staff, New York Eye and Ear has seen its surgical volume increase by twenty-three percent in the past five years. To address this need, we recently launched a three-year, \$13 million Surgical Suite Initiative to construct two new state-of-the-art operating rooms and renovate our current operating rooms, along with additional physical improvements.

The Initiative is being supported by a \$3 million New York State HEAL grant, along with a lead grant of \$250,000 to name The William Randolph Hearst Foundation Pediatric Recovery Unit. Additionally, the New York Eye and Ear donors, trustees, medical and non-medical staff, and business partners listed on the back panel are actively making gifts and pledges of support. Please let us know if you would like to join this fundraising effort.



Stimson Schantz, MD atop Mt. Baker on July 25, 2010. Dr. Schantz raised funds for the SSI Initiative through the Climbing for Sight and Sound Campaign at NYEE.

Surgical Suite Floor Plan



NYEE Alumni and Staff In the Spotlight...



Surgeon Director Robert Della Rocca, MD and Darlene Della Rocca, RN led 23 volunteer physicians, nurses and surgical technicians from our Volunteer Health Program, along with 40 other professionals from the tri-state area, on a mission of mercy this March, when they provided medical aid and eye surgery to 1,344 Dominicans and victims of the Haitian disaster...



Joseph B. Walsh, MD, Chair and Professor of Ophthalmology, congratulated attending staff, faculty, fellows and Residents for again making NYEE/New York Medical College Department of Ophthalmology one of the highest profile contributors at the annual meeting of the Association of Research and Vision in Ophthalmology this May...

Facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon **Andrew Jacono, MD** made a \$50,000 pledge in support **The Paul L. Chodosh MD Professorship Fund**, which we are growing to underwrite an endowed professorship in otolaryngology...

In observance of April 16 World Voice Day, **Michael Pitman, MD, Director of our Voice & Swallowing Institute**, led a free voice screening for 37 professionals, sponsored by MusicCares, the charitable arm of the National Recording Academy...

Benjamin B. Bert, MD (NYEE 2012) will be joining his father **Melvyn D. Bert, MD, FACS (NYEE 1973)** in practice in San Francisco. The "Bert Boys," as he would like to call the practice, are truly geared for success!...



Research on Exfoliation Syndrome is being assisted by **Ruojin Ren, MD**, an attending physician from Beijing Institute of Ophthalmology, who is working with **Robert Ritch, MD, FACS, Surgeon Director and Chief of Glaucoma Services**, thanks to a ARVO/Pfizer Collaborative Research Fellowship...



Through the personal connection of **Medical Director Robert Rosenthal, MD**, we were able to gain a \$10,000 grant from The Charles & Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation in support of The Ear Institute's Cochlear Implant/Hearing and Learning Program.

Lisabeth Hall, MD and Steven Rosenberg, MD, Director and Assistant Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology, welcomed more than 100 guests at our "Miracle Worker" luncheon and theater benefit, hosted March 7 by 10-year-old **Lillian Pravda**, a grateful patient of **Dr. Brian Campolaterro**...



If you have any news or announcements that you wish to have placed in future issues, please contact Jennifer Pugliese at jpugliese@nyee.edu or 212-979-4019.

2010 Graduates:

Department of Ophthalmology:

WENDEWESSEN AMDE, MD

Medical School: University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine. *Future Plans: Fellowship in Vitreo Retinal, Kresge Eye Institute, Detroit, MI*

TOMAS MARIANO GRIPPO, MD

Medical School: Universidad Austral, Facultad de Ciencias Biomédicas. *Future Plans: Fellowship in Glaucoma, University of California - San Diego with Dr. R. Weinreb*

ARUSHA GUPTA, MD

Medical School: SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine. *Future Plans: Fellowship in Cornea, Wilmer Eye Hospital, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD*

ANISHA ADVANI JANGI, MD

Medical School: Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. *Future Plans: Fellowship in Cornea, Ophthalmic Consultants with Dr. J. Seedor and Dr. D. Ritterband, The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, New York, NY*

JULIE HYUNJOO KIM, MD

Medical School: New York Medical College. *Future Plans: Fellowship in Glaucoma, Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, Boston*

RICHARD JONATHAN MACKOOL, MD

Medical School: New York University School of Medicine. *Future Plans: Private Practice, Mackool Eye Institute, Astoria, NY*

JULIA PAULA SHULMAN, MD

Medical School: Mount Sinai School of Medicine. *Future Plans: Fellowship in Vitreo Retinal, Moran Eye Institute at University of Utah, Salt Lake City*

Department of Otolaryngology:

JOSHUA ROBERT BEDWELL, MD

Medical School: Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. *Future Plans: Fellowship, Pediatric Otolaryngology at Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC*

DUOC CHUNG, MD

Medical School: Emory University School of Medicine. *Future Plans: Private Practice, Lawrenceville, GA*

Philip Alfred Weissbrod, MD

Medical School: Stony Brook School of Medicine. *Future Plans: Fellowship, Laryngology at University of Washington, Seattle*

YUSHAN CHANG WILSON, MD

Medical School: New York Medical College. *Future Plans: Fellowship, Facial Plastics at University of Toronto, Canada*

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery:

CHIA JEN CHUNG, MD

Medical School: Wake Forest
Future Plans: Private Practice, San Francisco

SAMARA SPRING CHURGIN, MD

Medical School: George Washington University. *Future Plans: Private Practice, Deer Park, NY*

Incoming Residents for 2010: Department of Ophthalmology:

AMBIKA HOGUET, MD

Medical School: Duke University

KEVIN I. ROSENBERG, MD

Medical School: University of Michigan

LAUREN R. SCHNEIDER, MD

Medical School: SUNY-Brooklyn

CHRISTOPHER J. SEEBRUCK, MD

Medical School: University of Wisconsin

TIMOTHY SULLIVAN, MD

Medical School: University of Michigan

DAVID J. WARROW, MD

Medical School: University of Michigan

DAN YIN, MD

Medical School: New York Medical College

Department of Otolaryngology:

JONATHAN CABIN, MD

Medical School: Yale University Medical School

LEON CHEN, MD

Medical School: Tulane University School of Medicine

PATRICK COLLEY, MD

Medical School: Albert Einstein School of Medicine

TOVA FISCHER, MD

Medical School: Albert Einstein School of Medicine

MICHELE GANDOLFI, MD

Medical School: New York Medical College

NANCY KING, MD

Medical School: Jefferson Medical School

MASOUD SAMAN, MD

Medical School: University of Texas at San Antonio

MICHAEL BASSIRI-TEHRANI, MD

Medical School: Stony Brook University Health Science Center

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery:

BRIAN COHEN, MD

Medical School: Albert Einstein Medical School

WROOD KASSIRA, MD

Medical School: University of Miami

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