



Dear Fellow Alumnae:

At this year's Annual Alumni Spring Dinner I was thrilled and honored to be elected President of the Alumni Association of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. Our immediate past president, Dr. Jeanne Rosenthal, had previously announced that she would not be seeking re-election. Without question Jeanne was instrumental in both an effective modernization and re-organization and in creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm and congeniality. I congratulate her for all her efforts and hope that I will prove a worthy successor. Both Drs. Melissa Pashcow as Vice-President and Richard DeLuca as Secretary-Treasurer were re-elected to their respective positions.

For those who are not familiar with me, I am an anterior segment surgeon living in Manhattan and located geographically full-time at the Infirmary. While not an official member of the salaried faculty, I am actively involved in the teaching program and participate on the General, Cornea and Trauma Services. I am also President of the Staff Society and sit on the Medical Board as a non-voting observer. I graduated from the Infirmary's eye residency program in 1986, took a two year Cornea and External disease fellowship at the Infirmary with my father, Dr. Jorge N. Buxton and continue to practice in his office space on the Fourth Floor of the old South Building. Drs. Pashcow's and DeLuca's condensed CV's are enclosed for review at your convenience. Enclosed please also find your dues invoice for the 2003-2004 season. A prompt remittance would be greatly appreciated, as we need to budget our upcoming Academy cocktail parties, as well as our projected yearly newsletter.

My intention is to continue Drs. Jeanne Rosenthal's and Sol Liebowitz's vision of an interactive association with social, educational as well as fund-raising activities. Dr. Rosenthal has kindly accepted to continue to oversee our web page, which can be accessed at <http://www.nyee.edu>. I urge all alumni to take advantage of this new modality to obtain information, comment on our activities and update their demographic data or simply network with colleagues, all in a protected area.

I am happy to report that our little and beloved eye and ear hospital on Manhattan's eclectic Lower East Side continues to thrive and prosper. Over 140,000 EYE and ENT patient clinic visits a year are masterfully managed by an enthusiastic and expertly supervised corps of 21 EYE residents and their 16 ENT counterparts. Surgical volume, including refractive cases performed at our new Vision Correction Center across the street at the old bank building, routinely surpasses 19,000 procedures a year. We are also proud to announce that our Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department has now taken on a full time fellow for the past two years. This Department's surgical volume and reputation continue to grow. The new 9,600 square-foot state of the art Retina Center is proving to be a resounding

success. Plans are being drawn up for a totally renovated microsurgical lab with the most technologically advanced surgical microscopes and audio-visual equipment available today. Our research activities result in dozens of papers, posters and articles published and presented yearly throughout the world and our microsurgical training is of national renown. The Infirmary is still the place to be if one wishes to receive expert and humane care as a patient, as well as world class post-graduate training in ophthalmology and otolaryngology as a resident surgeon.

I urge you to mark your calendars and make every effort to attend our next Annual Spring Dinner scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2004 in Manhattan at a venue to be determined. We will be honoring two deserving alumnae that have distinguished themselves in their professional lives. You will be receiving an invitation and more detailed information within the next several months.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology Alumni Cocktail Party will be held on Sunday, November 16th starting at 6:30PM at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, Anaheim, California. For the first time the Alumni Association will also be sponsoring the ENT Department's Cocktail Party to be held at the AAO-HNS Meeting in September 2004 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City. Detailed announcements will be mailed in the coming months. Also search our web site for more details.

My fellow officers, Melissa Paschow and Richard DeLuca, join me in wishing you all a wonderful summer and end to 2003 and hope that the coming year brings us all peace, hope and prosperity.

God Bless the Infirmary, America and those who serve her.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas F. Buxton, MD
President, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary Alumni Association