



# THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center  
Cooperstown, New York

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## Gadomski Appointed as New Director for Bassett Research Institute

Anne Gadomski, M.D., M.P.H., research scientist and pediatrician, was selected as the new director of the Bassett Research Institute (BRI) to succeed John May, M.D., effective May 2, 2016.

In announcing the appointment, President and CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network Vance Brown, M.D. noted that Gadomski was the top choice following a national search that identified three finalists. "It was quite evident to the search committee that Anne possesses the skills, experience and desire to build on Dr. May's leadership and take Bassett's clinical research mission to the next level," says Brown.

"I am delighted to pursue this next chapter in my professional career because I think research is critically important to improving population health as well as improving patient outcomes," says Gadomski. "Prevention research, population health promotion, clinical research and implementation science in health care and health promotion are my research interests. It boils down to what works in health care and promotion for whom, where, how and when."

"However, this position is about much more than my research interests—it's about fostering research through the



Anne Gadomski, M.D., M.P.H.

## A Closer Look at the Research Institute and Its New Director

*(Read aloud)* **Question: Why did Miss. Tomato turn red?**

**Answer: Because she saw Mr. Green Pea!**

This example of a pediatric sense of humor (more successful when spoken than written) is one of many assets that Anne Gadomski, M.D., M.P.H., the new Director of the Bassett Research Institute (BRI), brings to her leadership position and sets her apart from her predecessors. After two decades as a pediatrician and a researcher at Bassett Healthcare Network, Gadomski says she "welcomes the opportunity to help shape the BRI's future and heighten awareness of its many contributions and connections."

In her first month, Gadomski initiated strategic planning, beginning with interviews of all 30 BRI staff members, to set the course for the next five years. Ongoing conversations with current and potential academic partners and funders will further inform the development of the plan. She stated she is "optimistic that this process will result in a vision that will better align what the BRI is doing with the mission of Bassett Healthcare Network overall."

Presently, BRI facilities are undergoing renovations that reflect the shift in recent years from bench research to clinical

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## Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

Greetings to everyone from Boston. No beach weather yet, but it's nice to see the sun. I hope the sun is shining wherever you are and that all of you are having a lovely summer.

I would like to highlight the hard work of the editors of *The Cupola* for their continuous efforts in making this publication appealing and relevant. One of the newer features is the Alumni Donor Profiles. In this issue, two of Bassett's alumni look back on their training at Bassett and life in Cooperstown. Though they have been away from Cooperstown for a long time, they have nonetheless maintained a strong connection to Bassett and have been supporters of the Medical Education Program for many years.

Their fond recollections of co-workers at Bassett brings to mind an experience I had during my intern year. One night I was walking home from Bassett—dragging, actually—to the Fernleigh apartments after trying to stabilize a patient in the ICU. It was midnight and quite cold



Merideth Davis, M.D.,  
President, Board of  
Directors, Bassett  
Medical Alumni  
Association

outside, with thick steam rising from the Susquehanna. It was lovely but eerie, and I recall thinking of a scene from *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* in which Ichabod Crane is being chased over the bridge by the Headless Horseman. As I walked through the fog and over the bridge a lone car passed me, then stopped just ahead. I remember feeling a bit spooked, but then reminded myself that I was in Cooperstown. I heard someone call out my name, and as I stepped out of the fog I saw that it was one of the respiratory therapists. He insisted on giving me a ride home even though it was a short walk, saying that he knew that I had to get up early and that I must be tired. It was one of the many personal kindnesses that I experienced during my time at Bassett and in Cooperstown.

I imagine that many of you have memories of Bassett that are also meaningful and enduring, and I invite you to share these memories with other readers of *The Cupola*. ■

*The Cupola* is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett's Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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## Faculty Training Update

After five years of mentoring by members of the Royal College of Physicians in London (RCP) through semiannual educational sessions, a core group of Bassett faculty members was able to launch its own first Faculty Development Program on May 12-13, 2016. With 20 participants of diverse backgrounds enrolled, the program was conducted at Cooperstown's Otesaga Hotel. Themes covered included basic elements of teaching in different settings, performance of learner evaluation, and provision of learner feedback. Sessions were very interactive, and attendees were energetic contributors to various exercises and discussions. The diversity of the group, which included internists, surgeons, family physicians, an ER physician, nurse practitioners, and a nurse midwife, fostered a stimulating exchange of views from many vantage points. Interjections of humor helped to promote a comfortable and relaxed ambiance.

Staff presenters included: Edward F. Bischof, M.D., Medicine Residency Program Director; Megan M. Brennan, M.D., Assistant Dean for the

Columbia-Bassett student program; James Dalton, M.D., Director of Medical Education; John Dier, M.D., Associate Medicine Residency Program Director; Eric L. Knight, M.D., Transitional Residency Program Director; Alan Kozak, M.D., Medicine Clerkship Director for the Columbia-Bassett student program; Darah Wright, M.D., Family Medicine Clerkship Director for the Columbia-Bassett student program. Also present and providing support where needed were the RCP mentors with whom this group had been working over the preceding five years.

This inaugural program's enthusiastic review by its enrollees will serve to further nurture its sustenance. In the fall, another program whose theme is leadership will be offered by another staff focus group.

It has been only through the expert help of our Royal College of Physicians colleagues and funding from those making donation to the Medical Education Endowment Fund that these programs have been made possible and will be continued on a regular basis. ■

### Director from page 1

Bassett network. I am open to new methods and ideas," explains Gadomski. "My goal is to revitalize the Research Institute and create a shared vision within the Institute that will increase research productivity within the next five years."

Gadomski has been a research scientist and pediatrician at Bassett for 22 years and involved in health services research for 30 years. She has studied the efficacy of various clinical interventions and implemented study designs ranging from inpatient, primary care and community-based care to rural, national and international settings. Through this work, she has gained experience in developing collaborative research partnerships and has earned the respect of her colleagues not only within Bassett Healthcare Network, but also throughout the research, health services and public health communities.

Gadomski has an adaptive leadership style and plans on creating teams organized around specific research topics, and she has a keen interest in mentoring junior faculty interested in clinical research.

She will retain her position as an attending pediatrician and continue seeing patients on a limited basis in the pediatric clinic in Cooperstown.

Although stepping down as director of the Bassett Research Institute, May will remain involved in research and research grant development.

### A reminder: Who are the members of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association?

You are past and current interns, residents and fellows.

You are former and current members of the senior doctoral staff.

And you are students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program or students who spent your final two years of medical school at Bassett.



# Columbia-Bassett Medical School Marks Third Graduation



**Columbia-Bassett Medical School Graduating Class of 2016**  
*Front row (L-R): Alana Aylward, Adam Hsu, Maeve O'Neill, Kathryn Williams, Anna Zuckerman*  
*Back row (L-R): Margaret Dowd, Annette Georgia, Laura DiCola, Samuel Porter, David Drouillard*

The third class of medical students in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program attended their graduation in New York City, on May 18, 2016. Preceding the official program at Columbia, there was a ceremony to honor the graduates held on May 15th at The Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, which was attended by 130 members of the Bassett community, students and their families.

Henry Weil, M.D., Senior Associate Dean, opened the ceremony with welcoming comments. The keynote speaker was Margaret Plews-Ogan, M.D., M.S., Associate Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine, University of Virginia Medical Center, who stirred the audience to a standing ovation with her talk on the healing powers of human wisdom.

There was a moving memorial to Jimmy Watts, a member of this class who died tragically in an avalanche on Mount Washington, N.H., in March of 2013. Both his father and his widow spoke, and a memorial which will hang in the Columbia-Bassett program area was unveiled.

The Columbia-Bassett Class of 2016 presented the inaugural Cupola Award for the Columbia-Bassett Teacher of the Year to "the person who most exemplified the traits they would hope to embody themselves in the future, including dedication to teaching, patient care, scholarliness, probity, humanism, and warm attention to their growth as people." This award was presented to Alan Kozak, M.D.

Individual faculty were joined by Megan Brennan, M.D., Assistant Dean for Education, in awarding graduation certificates as well as a commemorative, engraved baseball bat from the Cooperstown Bat Company. ■



*Alan J. Kozak, M.D., first recipient of the Cupola Award at the graduation ceremony in Cooperstown*

## Awards Announced

The 2016 Golden Apple awards, given by the residents to the faculty members they felt were their most outstanding teachers. The internal medicine residents selected Eric Bravin, M.D. The surgical residents chose Timothy Whitaker, M.D. and Eric Mooney, M.D.

Golden Stethoscope awards, given by medical students and residents to a senior resident for excellence in teaching, were presented to Harish Pulluru, M.B.,B.S. (Internal Medicine) and David Fredenberg, M.D. (Surgery).

### Columbia-Bassett Students Present Awards to Residents of the Year

Students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School have introduced the Cupola Award for the C-B Resident of the Year in recognition of the residents who best exemplify dedication to teaching, mentorship and patient care. Selected by the Class of 2017, the first two residents recognized as recipients are Jessica Carlson, M.D., a surgery resident and Nataliya Yuklyeva, M.D., a resident in internal medicine. ■

### Closer Look from page 1

research, population studies and community health interventions for rural populations. Gone are the laboratories that many alumni associate with research, replaced by computer desks and work stations appropriate for data collection, analysis and management.

While five-year strategic planning is underway, research projects carry on. The Institute's E. Donnell Thomas Committee continues to pair clinicians who have research interests with residents seeking clinical research experience, and review and fund their collaborations. The BRI staff are also involved in research conducted by the Columbia-Bassett medical students. And each year, four of the incoming students are offered summer research positions to introduce them to Bassett and facilitate their research projects.

Bassett participates in many multi-center research projects with academic partners including Columbia University, University of Rochester, Cornell University, as well as SUNY Oneonta, and Umea University in Sweden. Many of these projects bring together investigators from diverse disciplines such as economists, psychologists, epidemiologists, behavioral scientists, biometric statisticians, microbiologists and others who apply their expertise to look at problems from different perspectives.

Moving ahead, Gadomski hopes to integrate more evaluation of programs and research undertaken to ascertain the pragmatic outcomes, track costs, and estimate return on the investments made in research and community interventions.

Gadomski intends to see patients one day/week so she can stay in touch with the clinical side of Bassett's work. She will continue her studies of babies, children and teens which have been the focus of her research to date. Current projects include a study of early recognition of developmental delays in children less than three years old which involves applying screening tools at several clinic sites. Another study getting underway is an investigation into the extent of opiate usage in and around Otsego and its neighboring counties to help identify the gaps between needs and resources to respond to this growing epidemic.

It's obvious that she will not be idle or bored in her larger role at the Bassett Research Institute. And she's promised that in six months she will share the renewed vision, plans for the future and update alumni on the BRI. ■

# THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

*Please keep your notes and photos coming!*

## 1960s

### **Gideon G. Panter, M.D.**

(Rotating Intern 1961-62) is a practicing Gynecologist in Manhattan and Associate Professor of OB/Gyn at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Recently he has been working with an Israeli Medical Technology Company which has developed "AutoLap", a robotic control of the laparoscopy camera during laparoscopic surgery. He welcomes anyone seeking more information or a demonstration to contact him.

### **Gurdon Hamilton, M.D.**

(Medicine Resident 1968-69) retired in 2011 after a varied career that ranged from general medicine and public health to migrant health and geriatrics, and took him overseas to Southeast Asia, Idaho, Oregon and eventually to over a decade in Marshfield, Wisc. He has many interests including opera, drama, curling, and keeping up with grown children and grandchildren in Stevens Point, Wisc., where he resides with his wife.

### **Peter Walzer, M.D.**

(Medicine Resident 1968-70), writes, "I was reading the Spring issue of *The Cupola* and almost fell over when I saw the 1969 picture of morning teaching rounds on the Medical Service. I instantly recognized all the participants." He reminds readers that, "The late 1960s were very scary for medical students because many of us were drafted into the military to later serve in Vietnam. Walzer recalls that Malcom Page, M.D. encouraged him to apply for a position at the Centers for Disease Control which offered him a very good experience. He added, "MIBH is a very special place and I bet that Malcolm Page helped a lot of young

physicians to pursue their dreams." Walzer and his family live in Cincinnati where he worked for the University of Cincinnati and its affiliated VA Medical Center before retirement several years ago.

## 1970s

### **Thomas Kennedy, M.D.**

(Surgery Resident 1973-74) currently serves as Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Penn., where he has been working since 1980. He and his wife Kathi had six children, and now have seven grandchildren. He wrote, "My wife and I still have fond memories living in Cooperstown."

### **Richard Yarger, M.D.**

(Surgery Resident 1976-79) let us know he is "retired and still vertical!" after practicing in General Vascular Laparoscopic surgery.

## 1980s

### **Gerald Kolski, M.D.**

(Attending Physician Pediatrics/Allergy 1986-93) continues to work 1-2 days a week doing Allergy-Immunology and volunteering with Healthy Hoops an asthma screening program for inner-city, high-risk children in Philadelphia area. He and his wife Sue will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in December.

## 2000s

### **Suzanne Manzi, M.D.**

(Transitional Year Resident 2005-06) Completed her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine and then a fellowship at Michigan State University in Pain Management and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. She has opened her own practice in Houston, Texas. Learn more at: [www.performancepainhouston.com](http://www.performancepainhouston.com)



*Erin Gillaspie, M.D. and E. Donnell Thomas, M.D.*

### **Erin Gillaspie, M.D.**

(Surgical Resident 2009-13) recently had an article featured on the front cover of the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* entitled: From 3-Dimensional Printing to 5-Dimensional Printing: Enhancing Thoracic Surgical Planning and Resection of Complex Tumors (Ann Thorac Surg 2016;101:1958-62). She will complete her fellowship in Thoracic Surgery at The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and has accepted a position with Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn. During her time at Mayo, Erin presented her research at nine national and international conferences, was a finalist at the 'Top Gun Suturing Competition' and helped her team to victory at the international 'Master's Cup'—a thoracic surgery knowledge competition. Along the way, she traveled to Stockholm and, of course, stopped in the Nobel Museum. Above is a photo of Erin Gillaspie and E.

**Donnell Thomas** from the interactive stations where she was able to look up the prizes by year; it reminded her of all the fun times she had as a resident at Bassett. (Gillaspie was the E. Donnell Thomas Research Award recipient in 2012.)

### **Kara Willenburg, M.D.**

(Transitional Year Resident 2005-06; Internal Medicine Resident 2006-08; Chief Resident 2008-09; Attending

Physician 2011-13) and her husband Michael are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Yael Rose Hanft. She was born on May 15, 2016 and weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz.

## 2010s

### **Wisit Cheungpasitporn, M.D.**

(Internal Medicine Resident 2010-13) is finishing a Nephrology Fellowship in June 2016 and will start a one-year Transplant Nephrology fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He was recently promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and was recognized with three awards in recognition of his achievements in research: the 2016 Donald C. Balfour Research Award, the 2016 William H. J. Summerskill Award and Fellow Research Award from the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension.



*Wisit Cheungpasitporn, M.D. at the Balfour Research Award ceremony*

### **Yasemin Tashman, M.D.,**

**M.P.H.** (Internal Medicine Resident 2010-11) recently met an orthopedic spine surgeon from Vestal, N.Y. and they were married in March 2016. Tashman will be working as a sleep physician at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Ariz. She wrote, "I am grateful to the attendings, staff and residents at Bassett for the outstanding teaching, leadership and camaraderie."

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## Family from page 4

### Wonngarm “Jay”

**Kittanamongkolchai, M.D.** (Internal Medicine Resident 2011-14) will be starting her final year of Nephrology fellowship training at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., in July 2016. She is obtaining her diploma in Clinical and Translational Science.

### Narat “Pat” Srivali, M.D.

(Internal Medicine Resident 2011-14) will be starting his final year of Pulmonary and Critical care fellowship training at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., in July 2016.

### Supawat “Best” Ratanapo, M.D.

(Internal Medicine resident 2011-14) will be starting his final year of Cardiology fellowship training at The Medical College of Georgia in July. He is happy to share the news that he has been accepted into an Interventional Cardiology Fellowship training for 2017 at Emory University. He added, “my wife just had our first baby Celine. She is currently four months old.”



*Douglas DeLong, M.D. with Dipendra Chaudhary, M.B., B.S. who presented a poster at the annual American College of Physicians meeting this spring in Washington D.C.*

### Dipendra Chaudhary, M.B., B.S.

(Internal Medicine Resident 2008-11, Chief Resident 2011-12) currently a hospitalist at Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston-Salem, N.C. received his fellowship in the American College of Physicians in the spring.

### Nate Permpalung, M.D.

(Internal Medical Resident 2012-2015) is finishing his first year of his Infectious Disease Fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess in Boston, Mass. He will be pursuing a Master’s degree at Harvard

School of Public Health concurrently with his second year of fellowship.

### Usiwoma Abugo, M.D.

(Transitional Year Resident 2012-13) was nominated for and inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha(AOA) Medical Honor Society for excellence in scholarship and the highest ideals in the profession of medicine at the Howard University Gamma Chapter on May 4, 2016. She completes an ophthalmology residency in June 2016 and will start an oculoplastics fellowship in Central Valley, Calif., in the fall.

### Christopher Atkinson, M.D.

(Albany Medical College Class of 2012, Bassett Medical Center student 2010-2011) finished a residency in internal medicine at Boston Medical Center, and is starting work as a research fellow in medical informatics at the Boston Veteran’s Health Administration. He enjoys the work and has done research in advanced imaging techniques used in gastroenterology, and setting up a 3D-printing

facility at the hospital. He was married in September 2015 and writes, “I know I chose a great wife because she let me take a detour on our honeymoon to go to a gastroenterology fellowship interview. A few months later, I received word that I matched in a GI fellowship at University of New Mexico.”

### Nataliya Yuklyaeva, M.D.

(Internal Medicine Resident 2012-15, Chief Resident 2015-16) and **Donald Raddatz, M.D.** (Attending Physician and Division Chief of Rheumatology, 1981-present) are to be congratulated for their acceptance to the 2016 European League Against Rheumatism. They will present their poster research presentation, “Duration of Immune Response to Influenza Vaccination in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis Treated with Biological Agents,” in London in June. This project was funded by the E. Donnell Thomas Resident Research Program. ■

## Profiles from page 8

no one could make a successful draw.” They called the IV team, which happened to consist of two women who were neither on call nor at work. It was the middle of the night. Both came right into work and managed to get the blood drawn. They were cheerful about it and happy to come in. Meisler said, “I was just floored. That would never have happened in the city.”

The other incident occurred after a long period of work in the winter. He was finally going home to see his family for a brief break. Hiking back to his apartment through knee-deep snow, he realized that he hadn’t moved his car in two weeks. It was buried under a deep pile of snow heaped up by the plow. Warily he went to get a shovel. Two men who worked at Bassett saw this and approached him. They said, “Doc, you work hard enough in the hospital. Go inside and sit down. We’ll dig out your car for you.” And they did.

Meisler said these two stories exemplify the pride people took in their work and the spirit of cooperation they had about it. The technicians, the nurses—everyone was helpful and dedicated. He was astounded by the difference in attitude he found in Cooperstown when compared to the attitude he had experienced in the city.

Now, he feels that one of Bassett’s strengths is its rural location. It gives students a unique opportunity to study medicine at a very high caliber in a really rural location. ■



*Two current Bassett physicians (L) Komron Ostovar, M.D. and (R) Nazir Lone, M.D. flank Douglas DeLong, M.D., upon receiving their fellowships in the American College of Physicians in the spring, 2016*



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Bassett Medical Alumni Association

## Departing Residents Announce Plans

Members of the Bassett Medical Center house staff completed their training in June and are moving on to new endeavors. Departing residents, their programs at Bassett, and their plans upon leaving are:

**Mudassar Ahmad, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Penn.

**Oneeb Ahmad, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, United Health Services Hospital, Johnson City, N.Y.

**Jessica R. Carlson, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgery Practice, Curry General Hospital, Gold Beach, Ore.

**Ahmad Chaudhary, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y.

**Chetan V. Dodhia, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence, Mass.

**Nathaniel C. Doro, D.O.** (Internal Medicine), Radiology Residency, Albany Medical Center, Albany, N.Y.

**Kulothungan Gunasekaran, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

**Carlos Guzman, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgery Residency, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, N.Y.

**Andrew S. Karasick, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Preventive Medicine Residency, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md.

**Colm B. Kelleher, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.

**Shashank Kotakonda, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Geisinger Health System, Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

**Timur Kotlyar, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, North Shore – LIJ Health System, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

**Joseph R. Lang, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, Wisc.

**Lawrence Lo, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Diagnostic Radiology Residency, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Md.

**David J. Morrow, M.D.** (General Surgery), Captain, United States Air Force, Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska.

**James C. Prezzano, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Clinical Trials Fellowship, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, N.Y.

**Harish Pulluru, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, N.Y.

**Margaret J. Riesenber-Karges, M.D.** (General Surgery), General Surgery Practice, Canyon Vista Medical Center, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

**Ibrahim Sayyid, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Penn.

**Abdullah Shahid, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Penn.

**Amish Talwar, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Preventive Medicine Residency, University of California-San Diego, San Diego, Calif.

**Lianna M. Valdes, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, SUNY-Upstate, Syracuse, N.Y.

**Dinesh C. Voruganti, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, University of Iowa Medical Center, Iowa City, Iowa.

**Nataliya Yuklyaeva, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y. ■



*Nataliya Yuklyaeva, M.D.*



*Ahmad Chaudhary, M.D.*

## Alumni Join Bassett Staff

Nataliya Yuklyaeva, M.D. joined Bassett as attending physician working as a Hospitalist in June 2016. After earning her medical degree at Novosibirsk State Medical Institute, Novosibirsk, Russia, she completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Bassett Medical Center.

Ahmad Chaudhary, M.D. joined Bassett in June 2016 as an attending physician working as a Hospitalist. He earned his medical degree at Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore, Pakistan after which he undertook a residency in Internal Medicine at Bassett Medical Center.

Chaudhary and Yuklyaeva served as chief medical residents at Bassett Medical Center in 2015-16. ■

## Bassett Looks Back



This early image of the Tower above the Medical Library, dating from the 1940s, was the creation of Bennett R. Berkhausen, M.D.

(General Surgery resident 1946-48) who gifted this woodcut to Francis F. Harrison, M.D., revered Attending Physician 1928-1965 (Physician-in-Chief 1963-65). The view, now hidden by later construction, looks southwest toward Fair Street.

The main portion of the hospital building would have been to the left with the Medical Library above the arch, then an automobile passway, which is long gone. The original cupola atop the hospital was removed in 1997 and replaced by a new one closer to the Atwell-Road entrance to the fieldstone building. ■

### Physician Employment Opportunities in the Bassett Healthcare Network

Thinking of a career move? Do you know another physician seeking a position in an award-winning network of six hospitals and 28 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown.

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Or call the Medical Staff Affairs office at 607-547-6982.



## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

*Alumni: Please send copies of obituaries of former Bassett trainees, faculty or other members of the "Bassett Family" to [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org)*

### Susan Hadley, M.D.

Susan Hadley, M.D., age 65, died peacefully at home in Boston after a long illness. She was Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. From 2008 to 2010, she was Attending Physician in the Department of Medicine, Infectious Disease Division at Bassett Healthcare.

Hadley was a physician of exceptional skill, heart and commitment, devoted to patients and their families and to training young physicians in the both the science and the deeper, sacred obligations of medicine. She began her career during the early days of the AIDS crisis and ended it inspiring young physicians to work in global health.

She maintained a home in Cooperstown and returned as often as possible to this sanctuary for the serenity and deep friendships that it provided. Her vitality, welcoming smile and empathic soul were cherished by all who were fortunate to know and love this amazing woman.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Martin Obin of Boston, Mass., by her brothers, Dr. James Hadley of Bonita Springs, Fla., and Rick Hadley of Park City, Utah, their children's families, and by her beloved lab, Sammi.

### Robert Orville Jensen, M.D.

Robert Orville Jensen, M.D. (1925-2016) died at home on January 29, 2016 at the age of 90. He was born in Potter, N.Y. where he helped on the family dairy farm. He graduated from Penn Yan Academy in 1941 at the age of 15. After working on the farm for a number of years, he served in the United States Army as a flight simulator instructor. He then graduated from Purdue University with a degree in aeronautical engineering, followed by his M.D. from the University of Rochester in 1955. Jensen did his internship at Bassett (1955-56), and then finished a general surgery residency at Yale University, followed by being chief resident at Upstate Medical Center.

Jensen stayed on at Upstate as an associate professor of surgery. In 1963, he returned to his roots in Penn Yan to start his practice of general surgery. There, he and his wife of 61 years, Donabeth, raised their nine children. "Doc" Jensen was a true

Renaissance man with expert skills in welding, engines, plumbing, electric, masonry and woodworking. He had a love of flying, getting his pilot license at age 16 and sharing his passion with others as a flight instructor for more than 50 years. He was an expert marksman and enjoyed pheasant and deer hunting.

Jensen was also the complete surgeon of the day: The time has passed that a family can go to the same surgeon for their child's tonsillectomy, sister's gallbladder surgery, mother's breast cancer, uncle's prostate operation, grandfather's aortic aneurysm repair, cousin's hysterectomy, in-law's hip replacement, neighbor's thyroid surgery, or a house call to sew up a laceration. No longer can you hope for the receipt of "paid in full" with a bushel of corn. He volunteered countless hours on the sidelines as "team doctor" for numerous athletic teams.

Robert Orville Jensen is survived by his wife Donabeth and children, Rebecca (Sohail) Shahzada, Robert (Julie) Jensen, Donabeth (William) Dahar, Eric (Kim) Jensen, Kimberly (John) D'Amore, Kristen Jensen, Wendy (Steve) Hill, Reid (Gretchen) Jensen, and Peter (Jerri) Jensen, along with 17 grandchildren.

### Anita Paine Vance, M.D.

Anita Paine Vance, M.D., 78, a retired psychiatrist who was one of the earliest female graduates of Harvard Medical School (1962), died on March 28, 2016 at her home in Arlington, Va. Anita Paine did her internship at Bassett (1962-63), along with Drs. Kenneth Berkes, Charles Feuer and William Warren among her nine colleagues. Until her retirement in 1996, Vance maintained a private psychotherapy practice and served on the staffs of Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Waltham Hospital, and The Harbour Hospital. In 1970 she married Verne Vance, a Boston attorney. Vance was active in civic affairs in Newton, Mass. She is remembered fondly for her ability to connect instantly to people through the glow of her warm and caring personality. Anita Paine Vance is survived by her husband Verne; two daughters, Lisa of Los Angeles, Calif., and Virginia of Boise, Idaho; a son Charles (Chip) of Arlington, Va.; two grandsons, a granddaughter and other members of her extended family. ■



*Shashank Kotakonda, M.B., B.S. poses with his research poster.*

## Kotakonda Receives E. Donnell Thomas Award

Shashank Kotakonda, M.B., B.S., internal medicine resident in his third year of training at Bassett Medical Center, was presented with the 2016 E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award. Kotakonda's research project and poster were among nine recently presented as part of the E. Donnell Thomas Research Day. The award-winning research study project is titled "Topical Pharyngeal Anesthesia during Sedation for EGD." The study explores differences in patient tolerance during an EGD (upper endoscopy procedure) when topical pharyngeal anesthetics are used in conjunction with intravenous sedatives.

Kotakonda worked on the study project with mentors Sheikh A. Saleem, M.D., and David Ullman, M.D., at Bassett Medical Center. "This study aims to find out if topical pharyngeal anesthetics have any role during EGDs when used with sedatives such as Propofol," says Kotakonda. "This combination may ease the endoscopy experience by diminishing the gag reflex, thereby improving patient tolerance during the procedure, which is our ultimate goal."

Kotakonda earned his medical degree from Andhra Medical College in India. After completing his residency at Bassett, he plans to specialize in hospital medicine.

The E. Donnell Thomas Award is given annually to a Bassett trainee who has conducted exceptional research while at Bassett Medical Center during residency. The award is named in honor of E. Donnell Thomas, who served as Bassett's physician-in-chief from 1955 to

1963. He was awarded the 1990 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his pioneering work in bone marrow transplantation, which he began at Bassett. Thomas performed the world's first human bone marrow transplant at Bassett in 1956. ■



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## Alumni Donor Profiles: Malcolm M. Brown, M.D. & William J. Meisler, M.D.

***Two Bassett alumni who came to Cooperstown in the 1970s, now living in different states and specializing in different branches of medicine, are considered side by side in this brief profile. Why? Because, despite their different locations and different specialties, both are long-time supporters of medical education at Bassett, and both continue to feel connected to the place, despite their years away and distance removed from it.***

Malcolm Brown, M.D., attended Yale College in New Haven, Conn., before studying medicine at Columbia Medical School in New York City. He was a medical intern at Bassett from 1973 to 1976. Although he has lived in North Carolina for many years, he still feels a bond with Bassett because of those years as a Bassett intern. “We really enjoyed those years,” Brown said. “Living in Cooperstown was an interesting experience.”

Brown was one of six medical interns, a close group that he felt got along well. “We had a great camaraderie among the house staff,” he noted. He loved the surroundings and liked the countryside, although the winters were difficult. He remembered getting out in the snow, and also getting stuck in the snow.

Most of all, he felt that “the hospital delivered super medicine,” and also “a very good education.” The interns worked long hours for that education, he remembered. “We worked 36 on, 12 off for quite a bit. It’s good they’ve changed that,” he said. Even with those long hours and the hard work they entailed, he remembers his time at Bassett fondly.

A key component of those fond memories was his teachers.

“John Davis was a superb teacher,” Brown emphasized, and “Walter Franck was my mentor. I became a rheumatologist because of him.” Summing up, he said, “It was a good life. It was just a good life.”

William Meisler, M.D., grew up in New York City and, like Malcolm Brown, attended Columbia Medical School. Emphatically, he stated, “Of all the professional decisions I made in my life, the smartest one I made was the one to do my internship at Bassett.”

Meisler came to Bassett in 1978. Prior to that, all of his training had been in the city. The experience of rural medicine changed his attitude about where he wanted to practice, where he wanted to live, and ultimately what he would do with his life. Meisler described his training in the city as working with a lot of people who inflicted harm upon themselves— “rod and gun club members,” he called them, meaning gang members. In rural medicine, by contrast, he said he dealt with “people hurt on tractors, people who had heart attacks, not people deliberately hurting themselves or each other, who would get treated and just go out and do it again. These people only came to the hospital if they had to. They didn’t take the facilities for granted, because there weren’t a lot of facilities.”

Like Brown, Meisler has not returned to Cooperstown in many years, but he still feels a very strong connection to Bassett. Two short stories help to explain why.

Late one night when Meisler was working at the hospital, he had to get blood drawn on a patient “who had impossible veins, just invisible veins,” he said. “Everyone on staff tried, but