



# THE CUPOLA

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

Spring 2018  
Vol. XXII No. 1

## Alumni Celebration Scheduled Columbus Day Weekend in Cooperstown

The Bassett Medical Alumni Association will celebrate friendship and collegiality and offer participants the chance to explore current issues in medical education and health care, with a family reunion in Cooperstown on October 5 and 6, 2018. The reunion will provide participants a refreshing reconnection to the core of their medical career ambitions—taking care of people in the most beneficial way possible. Presenters will include Bassett alumni from across the U.S., current medical staff and faculty, residents and medical students.

A replay of a popular aspect from the previous reunion will be offered on Saturday afternoon. Dubbed “IMY Talks” these sessions mimicked a trend in the world of idea-sharing. Named in honor of Mary Imogene Bassett, these are intended to be “Innovative Mostly Medical Yarns.” Speakers are asked to offer succinct (no more than 12 minutes in length) creative talks on any topic. The goal is to offer six diverse, thought-provoking and engaging presentations.

An array of social events will offer alumni and their family members informal opportunities to reconnect with former classmates, local friends and Bassett colleagues. A luncheon

and dinner will be included in Saturday’s schedule of events. Tours of Bassett facilities and other Cooperstown attractions will be available.



Douglas DeLong, M.D., executive vice-president of the Alumni Association encourages present and past medical staff, faculty and alumni to participate in this special gathering. According to DeLong, “This will be an opportunity for those of us who have experienced Bassett’s high-quality clinical training to pause and consider our good fortune, and a time to learn about what is new in Medical Education at Bassett and think about the field at large.” Furthermore, DeLong

expresses the hope that, “alumni will join in idea-sharing about the future of medical education and explore how together we may ensure its continuance at Bassett.”

If you wish to help with this event, please contact DeLong at [douglas.delong@bassett.org](mailto:douglas.delong@bassett.org)

Save the dates October 5 and 6, 2018 for this special weekend. A complete schedule of activities, presentations and additional information will be forthcoming. See page 2 for more information about visiting Cooperstown. ■

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



*Kenneth Wilkins,  
M.D., President,  
Board of Directors*

I’m really excited to return as President of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association, as 2018 is a reunion year. Your alumni board has a great weekend planned, October 5 and 6, and we’d really like to see as many of you as possible. There will be noted speakers, IMY talks (the Bassett version of TED talks), social gatherings, and the opportunity to return to your medical roots in the beautiful village of Cooperstown. We promise an Indian summer weekend!

Please don’t miss the rest of this edition of *The Cupola*. My favorite is always the Alumni News, where you can see what some of your colleagues are doing these days.

The Alumni Association was formed in the early 1990s and has become an integral part of the ever-growing Bassett health system. The group meets annually, advises on distribution of the Medical Education Endowment funds, plans events like this year’s reunion, and receives updates on the current state of Bassett. Speaking of which, we express our thanks to Vance Brown, M.D., for nearly four years of excellent leadership, and a warm “welcome back” to Bill Streck, who re-assumed the reins as CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network in April.

I’m looking forward to serving as President. Let us hear from you. We’d really like to include your recent doings in the updates section. Finally, mark your calendars for the Bassett Family Reunion, October 5 and 6, 2018. Hope to see you then. ■

*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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*The Cupola* is published three times a year. Please send comments and news, including change of address information to: Editor, *The Cupola*, Office of Medical Education, Bassett Medical Center, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org).

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## Columbia-Bassett Program Class of 2018 Match

The 2018 class of the Columbia-Bassett Program entered the NRMP Main Residency Match this year. Their results are:

**Surbhi Agrawal, M.D.**, Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at NYU School of Medicine

**Jemma Benson, M.D.**, Internal Medicine residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital

**Eric Bland, M.D.**, Psychiatry residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

**Stephanie Colello, M.D.**, Medicine-Pediatrics residency at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

**Rachel Criswell, M.D.**, Family Medicine residency at Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine

**Brandon Garcia, M.D.**, Transitional Year residency at Bassett Medical Center, followed

by an Anesthesiology residency at the University of Utah

**Sarah Harney, M.D.**, Pediatrics residency at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital

**Lauren Onofrey, M.D.**, Internal Medicine residency at University of Washington

**Rachel Severin, M.D.**, Preliminary Internal Medicine residency at Icahn School of Medicine St. Luke's-Roosevelt, followed by a Dermatology residency at NYP Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center

**Justin Spring, M.D.**, Psychiatry residency at Northwestern University

Deferred:

**Karel-Bart Celie, M.D.**

**Christopher Clayton, M.D.**

**Christopher Jackson, M.D.** ■

### Cooperstown...A Perfect Destination for an Autumn Visit



*Autumn view of Otsego Lake from The Farmers' Museum*

Do you remember the natural beauty, the friendly community and historic atmosphere of Cooperstown? It still retains that charm even though Bassett and Cooperstown's other major institutions have undergone significant changes over the past three decades.

Whether you completed your residency in 1960 or 2000, you will be impressed to discover that The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Fenimore Art Museum, The Farmers' Museum and the Clark Sport Center have seen major renovations.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum continues to tell the story of America's pastime. It offers 14 exhibits with interactive technology and multimedia presentations about the history of the game. Special exhibits focus on the game's most recognizable stars, aspects of the sport's development over time, and those who have contributed to its history.

At Fenimore Art Museum, in addition to permanent exhibitions of American fine and folk art, the museum also houses an extraordinary collection of American Indian art. In the fall, visitors are invited to see a special exhibit featuring the works of 20th-century photographer Imogen Cunningham.

The Farmers' Museum has enriched its visitor experience with new structures and programs. On Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, the museum will host a Tractor Fest providing visitors the opportunity to see classic and modern tractors.

In June 2017, the Clark Sports Center unveiled a major renovation that was two years in the making and added 56,000 sq. ft. of new facilities. The alterations include a 7,000 square foot fitness center, a third pool and expanded aquatics area, and a rock climbing wall in the lobby. Fitness rooms provide spaces for more classes and a game room offers electronic games that require kids to be active to play.

If you are visiting from out of the area, make your reservation now. Cooperstown continues to offer a wide range of accommodations from the luxury resort to campgrounds. For more information about lodging options, visit the website [www.cooperstownchamber.org](http://www.cooperstownchamber.org)



*New rock climbing wall at the Clark Sports Center*

## Bassett Healthcare Network Announces Transition in Leadership

In mid-March, Ralph H. Meyer, chairman of the Bassett Healthcare Network Board of Directors, announced that William F. Streck, M.D., will return to the organization to assume the role of President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bassett Healthcare Network. The announcement follows the decision by current Bassett Healthcare Network CEO Vance M. Brown, M.D., to step down, effective April 20, 2018, in order to pursue opportunities outside of Bassett.

"The board is appreciative of Dr. Brown's leadership over the past nearly four years," said Meyer. "During that time the network has successfully undertaken a number of initiatives in response to a difficult and ever-evolving health care environment. We are fortunate now to have Dr. Streck, who is intimately familiar with Bassett and experienced in health care policy, agree to return as part of a plan to complete the network corporate restructuring initiated by Dr. Brown last year."

Streck served as Bassett's President and CEO from 1984 to 2014. He then joined the Healthcare Association of New York State as Chief Medical and Health Systems Innovation Officer. In that capacity, he has worked the last three years with hospitals and health systems across the state on emerging models of care, population health initiatives, risk management strategies, and physician relationships.

Upon his return to Bassett, Streck will be tasked with developing a long-term leadership strategy for Bassett Healthcare Network. Last fall, as part of the corporate restructuring, William LeCates, M.D., was appointed acting president of Bassett Medical Center and will be president of Bassett Medical Center when the network CEO transition is completed. As President of Bassett Medical Center, LeCates' responsibilities will include patient care, quality and safety, strategy, financial management, and recruiting. ■

### 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 30 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown.

#### Deputy Director Rural Community Health Emergency and Trauma Services

Endocrinology

Family Medicine

#### Family Medicine Residency Program Director

Gastroenterology

Internal Medicine

Otolaryngology

Rheumatology

Urology

For more information visit:  
<http://recruitment.bassett.org/physician-jobs/>  
or call the Medical Staff Affairs office at  
607-547-6982.

## Heart Care Institute Welcomes New Chief of Cardiovascular Services



Mun K. Hong, M.D.

Mun K. Hong, M.D., a nationally recognized interventional cardiologist, has joined Bassett Healthcare Network as Chief of Cardiovascular Services. Hong comes to Bassett after three years as chairman of the Department of Cardiology at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. Prior to that, he was director of the cardiac catheterization lab and interventional cardiology at Mount Sinai St. Luke's

Hospital in Manhattan. Hong also spent seven years as director of cardiovascular intervention and research at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell Campus in New York City.

Given the rural nature of Bassett's eight-county service region, Hong is interested in working with the heart care team to increase access through the capabilities of telemedicine, particularly for patients who lack transportation or have mobility issues that keep them homebound. He's also hoping to engage patients more proactively in their care to head off preventable conditions.

"I'm an interventional cardiologist by training, but I would prefer that patients don't need my interventional care. I feel strongly that preventive cardiology must be part of the equation. We need to collaborate with our patients so they understand what can cause heart disease, which risk factors they can modify, and how to be healthier." ■

## F. Todd Wetzel, M.D., Joins Network as Chief of Orthopedics

Orthopedic and spine surgeon F. Todd Wetzel, M.D., has been named as Chief of the Department of Orthopedics. Wetzel comes to Bassett from Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia where he was Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Neurosurgery since 2004, and the Vice Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine since 2008.



F. Todd Wetzel, M.D.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Wetzel join our medical group," notes Bassett Healthcare Network Chief Clinical Officer Steven Heneghan, M.D. "He is a respected and well-known figure in the world of orthopedic surgery and a highly skilled spine surgeon. Todd brings a great deal of experience to bear on the program at Bassett that will benefit patients, clinicians and the network as a whole."

Among Wetzel's key goals are to increase orthopedic services throughout the network and improve communication via electronic medicine for patient care and patient access. "I want to improve rural quality care delivery and accessibility, and I found this opportunity at Bassett attractive because of the ability to work with a group of outstanding physicians in a rural academic health care setting. Bassett impressed me as a mobile organization with the accountability of an academic institution but with the ability to be a bit more agile and encourage growth," explains Wetzel. ■

# THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

*Please keep your notes and photos coming!*

## 1950s

**Donald Pollock, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1955-58, Chief Medicine Resident 1958-59, Attending Physician 1967-99) was feted for his 88th birthday with a large family and community gathering. He is pictured below with **Debbie Dickenson, R.N.** (Nurse Practitioner 1978-99) who worked with Pollock at the Edmeston Health Center.



## 1960s

**Bruce McClennan, M.D.** (Rotating Intern 1967-68) reports that although retired, he is serving as a medical advisory board member for Koios Medical Company and he has been working with their artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm for reading breast ultrasounds and imaging for women with dense breasts. He writes, "It has been an exciting learning experience and one where I can use my many contacts in the healthcare arena." He recently delivered an honorary lecture at the annual meeting of the American Roentgen Ray Society for which he is chair of the Senior Radiology section.

**Karl T. (Ted) Wickstrom, M.D.** (Rotating Intern 1969-70) after training at Bassett, and Rochester General, he has had a career in many locations including six years at the University of Utah, four years with Kaiser Permanente in Denver, a fellowship in interventional

radiology at the Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., two years building MRI facilities in Melbourne and Hobart, Australia, until finally settling in 1996 in Prescott, Ariz. as founder and medical director of an imaging center. Wickstrom reports he retired in September 2016. When not at home in Prescott, he and his wife divide their time between a cabin in northern Utah and Hermosillo, Mexico where they have four sons and eight grandchildren.

## 1970s

**Walter Franck, M.D.** (Attending Rheumatologist 1973-2015, Physician-in-Chief 1980-2009, Director of Medical Education 1995-2002, Senior Associate Dean at Bassett Medical Center, College of Physicians and Surgeons 1998-2015; Co-Director of Columbia-Bassett Program 2009-15) continues to be involved with Bassett. He is on the committee to interview applicants seeking entry to the Columbia-Bassett Medical Schod Program. In the summer of 2017, he was invited to join the Bassett Medical Center Board of Trustees and he is now a vice-chair of the Board, serving on the Education, Executive, Joint Advisory and Performance Improvement Committees.

## 1980s

**Cathy Sandstrom, M.D. and C. Scott Smith, M.D.** (Transitional Year Residents 1980-81) have been busy 'practicing' for retirement using their vacation time to enjoy travels. Smith retires after 33 years of Federal service in June preceded by Sandstrom who retired two-years ago from private

practice pediatrics. She remains busy working with the refugee community in Boise, Idaho.



*The Smith family enjoying a Christmas visit to Hawaii.*

**Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1980-84) and his wife Dru (pictured below) enjoyed a magnificent trip to Antarctica where they saw penguins, whales, other birds, seals, and plenty of ice!



**Mark D. Darrow, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1983-86; Attending Physician 1988-93) is Director of Graduate Medical Education in the Gwinnett Hospital System, north of Atlanta, Ga. He began there five years ago to start a primary care training program. He writes, "We have been successful in creating three: Transitional year, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine. Surgery is next, then I will retire!" Both his adult children are physicians nearby.



*The Darrow family on vacation in Jackson, WY.*

**Joseph P. Berley, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1987-90) entered Occupational Medicine in 1992 and has enjoyed working on disease prevention while employed by various corporations. In 2011, he began his own consulting practice, Precision Occupational Health Management, Inc. based in Canandaigua, N.Y. He writes, "Overall it has been a fantastic experience, and through my work I have been able to positively impact our clients' companies and their employees in the areas of health and welfare, medical surveillance, mental health, substance abuse, and general wellness!" He and his wife Teresa will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary this year.

## 1990s

**Alan James, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1994-98) practices allergy and immunology at Bellin Health in Green Bay, Wisc. His wife, Amy, also a physician, specializes in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He writes, "Between us we have some interesting stories to tell... and I still enjoy advising patients about other medical problems beyond allergy."

**Family to page 5**

## Family from page 4

**Joseph Dutkowsky, M.D.** (Attending Surgeon 1995-present) recently published the book *Perfectly Human* which reflects his 30 plus years of caring for and learning from persons with disabilities, their families, and those on the margins of society. Dutkowsky tells the stories of persons he cared for and who have taught him many lessons, in the hope that readers will discover the wonder of life even in some of life's most trying times.

## 2000s

**Brian White, D.O.** (Transitional Year Resident 2004-05, Attending Psychiatrist 2010-present) was primary author on two chapters in the newest edition of the *Atlas of Image-guided Spinal Procedures*. He has recently presented at the annual meeting of the Academy of Academic Psychiatrists Annual and Grand Rounds at the Rutgers School of Medicine.



**Kelly Currie, M.D.** (General Surgery Resident 2008-13) is a Hand and Plastic/Reconstructive surgeon in St. Louis. She and her husband Dean are very proud of their son Jackson Luke (pictured above) who will be celebrating his first birthday soon.

**Deborah Colony, M.D.** (Attending Physician Emergency Medicine 2005-08) is now teaching bedside ultrasound and echocardiography at the Arnot Ogden Hospital in

Elmira, N.Y. She has designed interactive touch-screen programs which allow the user to manipulate the ultrasound probe and perform a virtual ultrasound and echo exam. Also, she is the lead author of the recently published paper, "Ultrasound Assisted Evaluation of Chest Pain in The Emergency Department" which appeared in the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*.

**Reggie Knight, M.D.** (Vice President - Medical Affairs, A.O. Fox Hospital and Director of Bassett Spine Care Institute, 2008-present) was recently named a recipient of the State University of New York's prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award. Knight is one of three alumni being recognized in 2018 for outstanding community, academic, and professional contributions.



Keri Allen, M.D.

## 2010s

**Keri Allen, M.D.** (Medicine resident 2011-12) will complete her ophthalmology residency from Palmetto Health USC Ophthalmology in Columbia S.C., in June 2018. She writes, "I am proud to be an alum of Bassett Healthcare."

**Carolyn Wolf-Gould M.D.** (Attending Family Practice Physician 2017-present) will be one of the keynote speakers at the Transgender Health and Wellness 2018 conference at the University of Rochester Medical Center presenting the topic: From Margins to Mainstream: A History of Transgender Medicine in the U.S. ■

## What Do Retired Physicians Do for Fun?



Photos by John Dier, M.D.

There's a group in Cooperstown who meet regularly for competitive ping pong and a few laughs together. Pictured L to R: John S. Davis, M.D., Robert Dewell, M.D., Emery Herman, M.D., and Peter Arquin, M.D. Not pictured: Herbert Marx, M.D.



### 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.

## Residency 2018 Match Results Announced

All of Bassett's residency programs had success in the NRMP Residency Match. The following is the roster of the first postgraduate year residencies for the 2018-19 academic year.

### General Surgery

**Matthew M. Habib, M.D.**, Albany Medical College

**Elizabeth A. Jacob, M.D.**, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

**Victor Janmey, M.D.**, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Buffalo

**Levi Smucker, M.D.**, Indiana University School of Medicine

**Anne N. Young, M.D.**, University of Kansas School of Medicine – Kansas City

### Internal Medicine

**Nancy Bethuel, M.D.**, St. George's University School of Medicine (Grenada)

**Aneeqa Butt, M.B., B.S.**, Allama Iqbal Medical College (Pakistan)

**Farah Deshmukh, M.B., B.S.**, Tianjin Medical University (China)

**Samir Jha, M.B., B.S.**, College of Medical Sciences, Bharatpur (Nepal)

**Vijaykumar Sekar, M.B., B.S.**, Stanley Medical Center (India)

**Omid Shah, M.B., Ch.B.**, Sheffield University School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (Great Britain)

**Bishesh Shrestha, M.B., B.S.**, International Medical College (Bangladesh)

**Anukrati Shukla, M.B., B.S.**, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (India)

**Nadir Siddiqui, M.B., B.S.**, Jinnah Sindh Medical University (Pakistan)

**Harshith Thyagaturu, M.B., B.S.**, Navodaya Medical College (India)

### Transitional Year

**Eugene Carragee, M.D.**, Weill Cornell Medicine

**Connor S. Davenport, M.D.**, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

**Andrew S. Ea, D.O.**, University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Brandon Garcia, M.D.**, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia-Bassett Program)

**Jennifer Kramer, M.D.**, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

**Rupin N. Parikh, M.D.**, Albany Medical College

**Lynn Shi, M.D.**, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Stephanie A. Sutter, M.D.**, Weill Cornell Medicine

**Marissa L. Tan, D.O.**, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine ■

## Residents Awarded Fellowship Positions



Photo Caption: (L to R) Charat Thongprayoon, M.D.; Karn Wijarnpreecha, M.D.; Ayesha Jameel, M.B., B.S.; and Mathhar Aldaoud, M.D.

Four residents completing their internal medicine residency successfully matched into prestigious fellowships. They are:

**Mathhar Aldaoud, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Cardiology Fellowship, St. John Providence Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

**Ayesha Jameel, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Endocrinology, Lahey Clinic, Burlington, Mass.

**Charat Thongprayoon, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Nephrology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.

**Karn Wijarnpreecha, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Gastroenterology, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education-Florida, Jacksonville, Fla. ■

### Alumni from page 8

now a cardiologist, was doing a rotation at Bassett, and Kuzminski went to visit her. When it was time for Kuzminski to pursue a sub-internship, she contacted Bassett. The team attending was Alan Kozak, M.D., and the team resident was John Dier, M.D. The teaching was intense, and Kuzminski loved it. She found it difficult to return to Hawaii.

She applied for a transitional internship at Bassett and came back. That was a very good year, but she had to return to Hawaii to finish her two years of integrated medicine.

Kuzminski is an internist. "When I became an internist, it was the queen of all disciplines—because it was the most complicated and cerebral—I graduated from medical school in 1977." She is still a champion of practitioners who do primary care, noting that "it's very difficult work. An internist walks into a room and has to have a wide range of diagnostic skills—has to be able to hear a heart murmur, to feel a belly mass, and to ascertain what's going on."

Today, although she is retired, she's still very much involved in the community, and she still supports Bassett. "I always found great joy in reading medicine and learning and making diagnoses. That was always tremendously satisfying."

Describing herself, she said: "I'm a Bassett girl. I think Bassett will always be special, given its history."

If Bassett is special to you, you can also support medical education and superlative patient care by calling the Friends of Bassett at 607-547-3928.

Thank you! ■



See our latest news and updates at  
Bassett Medical Alumni Association

## 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*



### **Stuart A. Babcock, M.D.**

Stuart A. Babcock, M.D., passed away at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center in Fla. on December 14, 2015 following a 45-year career as a pediatrician in Palm Beach County. After graduating from Hamilton College, he attended the University of Rochester School of Medicine, receiving his M.D. in 1964.

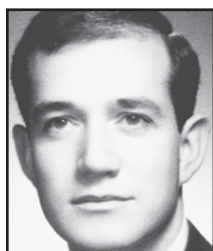
He then completed a Rotating Internship at Bassett Hospital (1964-65), followed by a Pediatric Residency at Strong Memorial Hospital. He subsequently served four years as a ship physician in the US Navy. After a Fellowship in Neonatology at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1971, he began his practice in West Palm Beach as a pediatrician and neonatologist. He was one of the first neonatologists to practice in Palm Beach County and was credited with saving literally hundreds of lives of newborn babies and children. His long practice career afforded him the opportunity to treat several generations of families. He is survived by his brother, Nelson Babcock and many other relatives.



### **Richard D. Gerle, M.D.**

Richard D. Gerle, M.D., of Wesley Chapel, Fla., passed away at age 87 on September 20, 2017 after a brief illness. He attended Denison University and went on to medical school at the University of Rochester School of Medicine (M.D. 1957). He then did a Rotating Internship at Bassett Hospital,

followed by return to the U of R for a three-year residency in Radiology. He came back to Bassett for one year as Associate Radiologist (1962-63). His further career in Radiology included positions at Emory University School of Medicine 1963-1965, Associate Professor of Radiology at SUNY Upstate College of Medicine 1965-1998. In 1979, he founded CNY Diagnostic Imaging, PC, specializing in mammography. He had an extensive medical bibliography and was a Fellow of the American College of Radiology, the Radiological Society of North America, and the American Roentgen Ray Society. In retirement he and his wife Janice (Bettinger) Gerle settled at the Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel, Fla. He is survived by his wife and his three daughters, their spouses and five grandchildren, his brother, Fred Gerle, and many nieces and nephews.



### **Bruce S. Harris, M.D.**

Bruce S. Harris, M.D., retired Bassett neurosurgeon, died at age 78 on March 31, 2018 from metastatic prostate cancer.

A graduate of Cornell University, Harris received his medical degree from Hahnemann Medical College in 1968 and completed neurosurgical training at

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, where he met and married his wife Mona (Skredsvig) Harris. After service as a

naval officer and a stint as neurosurgeon in Portland Maine, the family moved to Cooperstown in 1977, where he joined Bassett to work with Robert Mackie, M.D., as Bassett's second neurosurgeon. A Diplomate of the American Board of Neurological Surgery, Harris was Assistant in Clinical Neurological Surgery at Columbia P&S. He "retired" in 2004 but continued as a very active Bassett consultant in neurosurgery and loved by his patients and their families. Henry Weil, M.D., summed up his work ethic in a letter to Harris' close friend neurologist Mary Anne Whalen, M.D., "in 1986, when in one long night Dr. Harris took three emergency head trauma cases to the operating room from three separate accidents, I was his intern from internal medicine doing a required month of surgery. He applied the same impeccable attention, judgment and compassion in each case, returning to each family to give updates and to listen to their thoughts and needs, and continuing this attentiveness well into the evening of the next day."

Many who knew Bruce Harris thought of him as a Renaissance man. A near-professional pianist, he was an early board member of the Glimmerglass Opera, where he sang in nearly 100 chorus performances. He was a founder of the Voices of Cooperstown and served on the board of the Cooperstown Music Festival. He and his wife also sang in the Catskill Choral Society. He described himself as grounded in medicine and harnessed by his beloved Lochiel Farm near Cooperstown, where there were always fences to be pushed back, stone walls to be built, and endless buildings to be modeled, remodeled and painted. He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, where he was a choir member, and vestryman.

Harris is survived by his beloved wife, Mona; daughter, Kirsten; and son, Colin, his 3-year-old grandson, Lucas Harris Mabelle; sister, Nancy Rieser of New Zealand; and nephew, William Harris and family of New York.



### **C. Stephen Szlatenyi, M.D.**

C. Stephen Szlatenyi, Jr., M.D., 65, of Wakefield, R.I., passed away on March 3, 2017.

He was a physician in the emergency department for Rhode Island Hospital and Kent County hospital many years. He also worked in the Wound Recovery and Hyperbarics Medical Center at Kent.

He served as a member of the Disaster Medical Assistant Team of Rhode Island. Szlatenyi also ran a foundation called Health on Earth for many years.

Szlatenyi received his medical degree from Albany Medical College, and was a Transitional Year Resident at Bassett in 1977-78, before completing a Residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Cincinnati.

He is survived by his wife Valeria, children Chris Szlatenyi, Dena Ortiz and her husband Ernesto, his sisters Deb Tosoni and her husband Rocco, Judith Szlatenyi, and grandchildren Frankie, Leticia Ortiz and nieces and nephews. ■



THE CUPOLA  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Alumni Donor Profile: Antoinette Kuzminski, M.D.

*By Jill Maney*



*Antoinette Kuzminski, M.D.*

Antoinette Kuzminski's journey to medicine was unconventional. A history major at Smith College—when the school did not even offer biology classes—she initially thought she might be a musician. There is still music in her home: a grand piano, which she plays, is covered with open scores. She married her husband, Adrian, after she graduated and worked while he pursued a Ph.D. at the University of Rochester.

She decided that she should get a master's degree so she could teach history in high school, but she felt lonely studying history; she found research isolating, and she also found the degree of relativism then favored in the discipline intolerable.

This was during the Vietnam War, which the couple actively protested. Then members of the National Guard shot and killed university students at Kent State. That changed Antoinette Kuzminski's mind. She decided that she needed to do something different, something that would give her more power than marching could.

When her husband won a Fulbright to Trinity College in

Ireland, they relocated to Dublin. Once there, she decided to take some science classes at Trinity—a beautiful renaissance-era structure that preserved some early academic traditions. She tried physics and loved it. There was no relativism—just natural laws that could be understood and relied upon.

"It was heavenly," she said: "I thought, oh yeah, I've got to go into the sciences. This is for me!"

But their future was dicey: America was engaged in a war, and her husband might be drafted if they returned. They sent letters to 150 colleges—her husband flew to the American Historical Association meeting for interviews; he had a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and the Fulbright, but he received no job offers. At that point, they also had a new child.

A friend who had a job in Hawaii that he hated contacted them and offered Kuzminski's husband the job if they would move. They went, although it was an enormous adjustment.

That is how Antoinette Kuzminski ended up in medical school at the University of Hawaii. It was, in part, a happy accident. She was enormously impressed with the quality of education: much of the teaching was one-on-one. At that point, she was an older student, well-prepared and eager to learn.

In her third year, she began to go out into communities "to learn what the world is like," as she put it. Her first experience was in a clinic in a rural area where cattle were the main industry and the hospital had two beds. She loved that, too.

She first came to Bassett at her sister's urging. Her sister,