

# NEW CLINICAL TRIALS IN THORACIC SURGERY FOR CANCER

*In May, the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery joined the recently established American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACoSOG) in order to participate in multi-center clinical trials of thoracic surgery for the treatment of lung cancer and other cancers in the chest. Our surgeons' participation will provide patients with the only available access to these trials in Suffolk County.*

**At present, eligible patients may be enrolled in the following four ACoSOG clinical trials designed to evaluate potential treatment advances for lung and esophageal cancer:**

- Randomized prospective trial of mediastinal lymph node sampling versus complete lymphadenectomy during the conduct of pulmonary resection in patients with N0 and N1 (less than hilar) non-small cell carcinoma
- A prospective multi-institutional study in resectable lung cancer of the prognostic significance and incidence of occult distant disease
- A multi-center clinical trial to assess the utility of positron emission tomography (PET) in the staging of potentially operable non-small lung carcinoma
- A multi-center clinical trial to assess the utility of positron emission tomography (PET) in the staging of potentially operable esophageal carcinoma

The primary goal of the ACoSOG is to conduct clinical trials evaluating surgical therapies in the management of patients with malignant solid tumors. Initially studied will be patients with the most common tumors, such as lung cancer, breast cancer, and colorectal cancer. The trials will also evaluate selected new operations, technology, and instrumentation as they are introduced into clinical practice.

In addition, the ACoSOG will perform trials that are based on new basic science discoveries, such as the evaluation of new molecular markers in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cancer and the role of interventional therapy in patients who are found to have a genetic predisposition for cancer.

Last year, ACoSOG received funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to conduct multi-center cooperative group trials. In cancer research, cooperative groups are networks of medical centers around the country that conduct studies jointly. ACoSOG is the first new cooperative group sponsored by the NCI in 18 years and the only one to focus on surgery.

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery; its achievements have established it as an important advocate for all surgical patients.

The participation of our thoracic surgeons in the ACoSOG trials—in addition to that of our surgical oncologists—will make a significant contribution to Stony Brook's Cancer Institute, now in the final stages of its development to become a world-class, regional comprehensive cancer institute for the very best in cancer care, research, and prevention.

*For more information, please call (516) 444-1820.*

## SCREENING for colorectal cancer may include:

- **Digital rectal exam:** Examines the last few inches of the colon (rectum).
- **Fecal occult blood test (FOBT):** Tests the stool for microscopic blood, which may be one of the earliest signs of colorectal cancer.
- **Flexible sigmoidoscopy:** Examines the last 2 feet of the colon (rectum, sigmoid colon, and descending colon) with a flexible lighted scope. Sixty percent of all cancer occurs in this region.
- **Colonoscopy:** Examines the entire colon (rectum to cecum) with a flexible lighted scope.
- **Air contrast enema:** Uses x-rays to examine the colon (rectum to cecum).

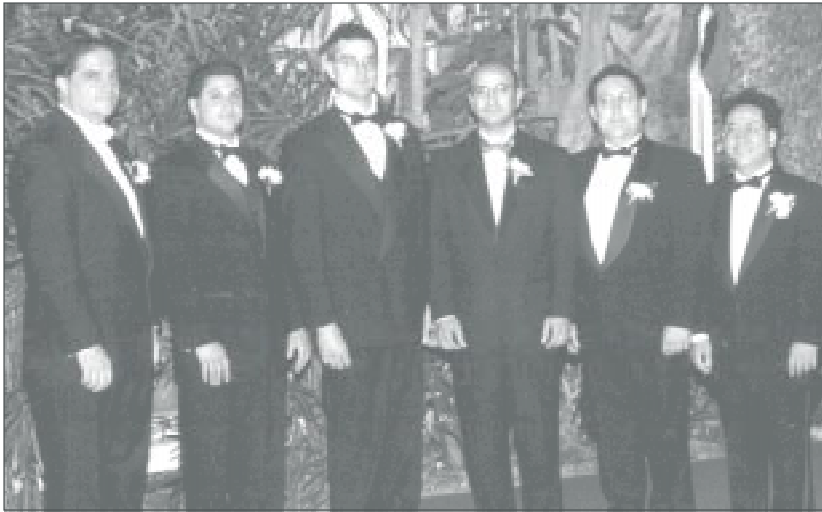
## IF YOU:

- Are over 50 years old
- OR**
- Have seen blood in your stool
  - Have a family history of colorectal cancer or colon polyps
  - Have a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, colon polyps, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, or any female genital cancer
  - Have unexplained weight loss or fatigue
  - Have had a change in the caliber or consistency of your stool
  - Have diarrhea or constipation
  - Have stomach discomfort, bloating, fullness, cramps, or excessive gas

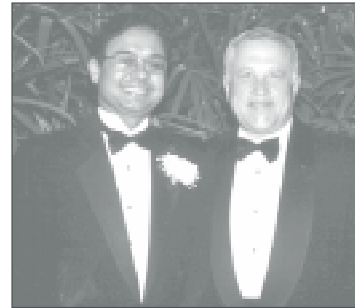
**THEN YOU SHOULD CALL TODAY:  
(516) 444-4393**

# Residency Update

Our fully accredited five-year nonpyramidal residency program fulfills the standards for professional excellence adopted by the American Board of Surgery, and leads to Board eligibility. Our residents receive a broad-based surgical education, which includes not only the clinical but the biological aspects of surgery as well, and provides the foundation for a successful career in private practice, research, or academic surgery. Five surgical residents are selected each year through the National Resident Matching Program.



Dr. John Ricotta (left) with our 1999 graduating chief residents (from left to right), Drs. Dean Pappas, James Lukan, Iman Karimpour, Saad Shukri, and Tong Ma, at the celebration banquet held on June 13.



Our graduating otolaryngology resident (left), Dr. Rajesh Kakani, with Dr. Arnold Katz, chief of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery.



Our graduating vascular surgery resident (second from left), Dr. Yara Gorski, with our vascular faculty (left to right), Drs. Fabio Giron, John Ricotta, and Paul van Bemmelen.

## 1999 Graduating Chief Residents

<u>Name</u>	<u>Medical School (Grad. Year)</u>
Iman Karimpour, MD	George Washington U ('94)
James Lukan, MD	SUNY-Stony Brook ('94)
Tong Ma, MD	U of Pennsylvania ('94)
Dean Pappas, MD	SUNY-Stony Brook ('94)
Saad Shukri, MD	U of Baghdad ('79)

## Career Direction

Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship at SUNY-Brooklyn  
 Trauma/Critical Care Fellowship at U of Louisville  
 Private Practice in Maryland  
 Colorectal Surgery Fellowship at Orlando Regional Medical Center  
 Private Practice on Long Island

## New Chief Residents

<u>Name</u>	<u>Medical School (Grad. Year)</u>
Luis Angarita, MD	Central U of Venezuela ('92)
Jaroslav Bilaniuk, MD	SUNY-Stony Brook ('95)
Daniel Char, MD	SUNY-Stony Brook ('95)
Hassan Reda, MD	American U of Beirut ('95)
Gustavo Torres, MD	Francisco Marroquin U ('93)

## Incoming Residents/All Categorical PGY-1\*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Medical School (Grad. Year)</u>
Victor Cruz, MD	SUNY-Stony Brook ('99)
Piotr Dumicz, MD	SUNY-Stony Brook ('99)
Vitaly Lyaskovsky, MD	SUNY-Brooklyn ('99)
Denise Ortega, MD	Cornell U Medical College ('99)
Jenny Speranza, MD	SUNY-Buffalo ('99)

\* As of July 1, 1999.

## Alumni News

Since the class of 1975 entered the profession of surgery, 139 physicians have completed their residency training in general surgery at Stony Brook. The alumni of our residency program now practice surgery throughout the United States, as well as in numerous other countries around the world.

### Obesity Surgery

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enhance their weight loss. For some patients this is a new experience since their preceding obesity may have made exercise impossible.

Dr. Brathwaite comments: "It is important to emphasize that surgery is not for everybody. Patients should come to the decision for surgery on their own and not be forced into it, since surgical therapy does require a number of changes in their lifestyle to be most effective. Support by the patient's family is crucial."

"However," he adds, "once patients do undergo the surgery, their future may be significantly changed, not only with respect to their health but also because of improved body image and psychosocial well-being."

Perhaps the most important things to recognize about obesity are the enormity of the problem and its associated risks. Whatever method of weight management is used is not as important as the pressing fact that obesity needs to be controlled.

For more information about the obesity surgery program, please call (516) 444-1045.

**Dr. Richard V. Dowden** ('76), a plastic surgeon, maintains three offices in different parts of Ohio—in Mayfield, Independence, and Westlake. His practice focuses on cosmetic surgery of the face, particularly endoscopic and laser procedures; and cosmetic and reconstructive breast surgery, including endoscopic body sculpting and liposuction. He is one of a few plastic surgeons in the United States trained to perform breast augmentation through the navel (transumbilical breast augmentation). The former head of the breast surgery section of the plastic surgery department at the Cleveland Clinic, he is the medical advisor for the American Cancer Society Breast

Reconstruction Unit of the State of Ohio. He has been active in medical missionary work since 1970, and currently leads a yearly charity surgery expedition for children with birth defects in South America. He recently published the following letter:

- **Dowden R.** Brown pigmentation in the outer lumen of breast implants. *Plast Reconstr Surg* 1999;103:1093-4.

The new address of his website is <http://dr-dowden.com>.

**Dr. Tom R. Karl** ('81), director of the cardiac surgery department at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, was visiting professor at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in February and March of this year. In June, he was visiting professor at the Japanese Society of Pediatric Surgery, Nagano Children's Hospital, and Jikei University,

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## OUR ELECTRONIC PHYSICIAN DIRECTORY



The Department provides a physician directory as part of its website on the Internet—please visit us at the following address to find information about our individual surgeons (see sample page below), as well as our programs in patient care, education, research, and community service:

<http://www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/surgery>



Dr. Jane T. Kugaczewski

**MD:** SUNY-Downstate Medical Center (1981).

**Residency Training:** General Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Fellowship Training:** Pediatric Surgery, Kings County Hospital/SUNY-Downstate Medical Center.

**Board Certification:** [Pediatric Surgery](#); [Surgery](#); [Surgical Critical Care](#).

**Specialties:** Surgical management of congenital and acquired anomalies/diseases of the neck, chest, abdomen, anorectum, and soft tissues in children (newborns to adolescents aged 17 years), including, but not limited to, repair of inguinal hernias, repair of undescended testes, treatment of appendicitis, and management of tumors of

the kidneys, adrenal glands, gastrointestinal tract, lymphatics, and soft tissues; surgical consultation in pediatric trauma.

**Additional:** Fellow, American College of Surgeons ([FACS](#)); Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics ([FAAP](#)).

**Honors:** One of the "Doctors of Excellence" featured in the latest edition (1999) of the Castle Connolly guide, *How to Find the Best Doctors—New York Metro Area*.

**Languages Spoken:** English; Polish.

**Consultations/Appointments:** 516-444-4538.

**Email (to contact Dr. Kugaczewski directly):** [kugaczew@surg.som.sunysb.edu](mailto:kugaczew@surg.som.sunysb.edu)

## Division Briefs

### Cardiothoracic Surgery

**Dr. Thomas V. Bilfinger**, promoted in September to clinical professor of surgery, was recognized as **one of the "Best Doctors in New York"** in cardiac surgery in the June 9th issue of *New York* magazine. He was again cited as one of the "Doctors of Excellence" in the latest edition (1999) of the Castle Connolly Guide, *How to Find the Best Doctors—New York Metro Area*.

As chief of the thoracic surgery section, Dr. Bilfinger is pleased to announce our participation in **new clinical trials of treatment advances for lung and esophageal cancer** (see page 9). In recognition of his outstanding work as a teacher, he received the **"Teacher of the Year"** award presented by the 1999 graduating chief residents of our surgical residency program.

In May, Dr. Bilfinger traveled to China, where he gave a presentation titled "The Role of Morphine in Blood Pressure Modulation: The Influence of Nitric Oxide Release," at the International Symposium on Advances in Neuroimmunology sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and held in Shanghai. Then, in June, he traveled to Denmark, where he participated in the 25th Congress of the Scandinavian Society of Anesthesiologists, speaking on morphine, stress, and immunity. There he also took part in a minisymposium on the cost benefit of fast-track surgery, arguing against it.

**Dr. Irvin B. Krukenkamp**, professor of surgery and chief of cardiothoracic surgery, has recently received two grants for basic science studies of which he is co-principal investigator. Funded by the American Heart Association (\$259,637), the study titled "Flow-Induced Thromboembolism and the Effect of Implantation Techniques in Mechanical Heart Valves" was initiated in January and

will be completed in December 2002. Funded by the National Science Foundation (\$237,025), the study titled "Whole Field Deformation Measurements of the Heart with CASI" was initiated in June and will be completed in May 2002.

So far this year, Dr. Krukenkamp has presented his research findings at the annual meeting of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons ("Nitric Oxide Generating Adrenergic Blocker Nipradilol Preserves Post-Ischemic Cardiac Function") and the annual meeting of the Biophysical Society ("A Novel Technique for Measuring Epicardial Deformation with High Spatial Resolution"; "Is  $I_i$  the Only Pacemaker Current in Mammalian Atrial Myocytes Resolution"; "Low Concentrations of Dihydroouabain [DHO] Stimulate the Na/K Pump in Human, Canine and Guinea Pig Cardiac Myocytes Resolution").

**Dr. Adam E. Saltman**, assistant professor of surgery, received a Targeted Research Opportunity Award (\$30,000) from SUNY-Stony Brook to support his one-year basic science study titled "The Mechanism, Treatment, and Prevention of Postoperative Atrial Fibrillation," starting in July. In addition, he also received a Student Scholar in Cardiovascular Medicine Award (\$2,000) from the American Heart Association for mentoring medical student Joby Chandy on this topic during the course of this summer.

### Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

**Dr. Arnold E. Katz**, professor of surgery and chief of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, served in April as guest examiner for the American Board of Otolaryngology (as he did last year). In July, he participated as a guest faculty member in the hands-on course titled "Anatomy, Re-

construction, and Cosmetic Surgery" sponsored by Boston University's School of Medicine; he contributed the section on cheek repair, one of the areas of his expertise in facial reconstruction. He was again cited as one of the "Doctors of Excellence" in the latest edition (1999) of the Castle Connolly Guide, *How to Find the Best Doctors—New York Metro Area*.

**Dr. Eric E. Smouha**, associate professor of surgery, has been selected for inclusion in the forthcoming Woodward/White publication, *The Best Doctors in America*. He was again cited as one of the "Doctors of Excellence" in the latest edition (1999) of the Castle Connolly Guide, *How to Find the Best Doctors—New York Metro Area*.

In April, Dr. Smouha presented his study titled "Hearing Preservation after Partial Labyrinthectomy" at the Fourth International Symposium on Meniere's Disease, in Paris, France. He is currently collaborating with Duke University colleagues in a **multi-center clinical study of the effect of antiviral drugs on sudden sensorineural hearing loss**.

A specialist in the management of acoustic neuroma, Dr. Smouha participated in a regional conference on acoustic neuroma, sponsored by the Acoustic Neuroma Association of New York, which was held in August at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY.

### Pediatric Surgery

**Dr. Jane T. Kugaczewski**, assistant professor of surgery, will give a presentation titled "Spontaneous Regression of a Neuroblastoma to Ganglioneuroma: A Relief for the Oncologist, A Challenge to the Surgeon," at the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Southeastern Surgical Congress, to be held in Lake Buena Vista, FL, in February 2000. Her paper, co-authored with Hassan Reda, MD, clinical assis-