

CLASSNOTES

Updates from alumni of the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine

1950s

A. L. (Art) Eberly, M.D. '56, has been appointed by the AMA Board of Trustees to the Senior Physicians Group Governing Board. The Senior Physicians Group is composed of physicians over age 65 who may be retired, although it is not necessary to be retired.

1970s

Andres J. Pumariega, M.D. '76, was recently made president-elect of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the nation's only interdisciplinary organization in mental health. Last year, Pumariega assumed the position of chair, Department of Psychiatry, at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center and professor of psychiatry, Temple University School of Medicine.

1980s

Lawrence Berman, M.D. '84, recently joined the Department of Anesthesia at Hutcheson Medical Center in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Tamberly Ford McCarus, M.D. '87, is the newly elected president of the Florida Obstetrical and Gynecological Society. A physician with a practice in Winter Park, she co-authored an article in the June 2007 issue of *OBG Management* titled, "Laparoscopic Hysterectomy: Learn it—or Get Left Behind."

2000s

M. Albert Malvey, M.D. '00, recently completed an M.B.A. degree at Duke University, while engaged in a part-time emergency practice and a yearlong fellowship with a life science venture firm in the Research Triangle. After earning

his M.B.A., Malvey joined Accuitive Medical Ventures, a medical device venture capital firm and incubator.

Stewart B. Davis, M.D. '03, has been made the COO for SafeStitch Medical, Inc., a publicly traded medical device firm headquartered in Miami. SafeStitch develops and markets endoscopic and minimally invasive surgical devices.

Jena Carter Miller, M.D. '03, is currently doing a fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. She and her husband, Geoffrey, recently attended the medical alumni reception at the Association of American Medical Colleges annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

In Memoriam

George T. Venis, M.D. '61, a highly respected and beloved longtime Coral Gables and Miami physician, passed away in September. He was 82. Venis was a decorated World War II pilot,

owner of a fleet of shrimp boats that ranged from Charleston, South Carolina to Key West, an avid skier, world traveler, and a family practice physician for more than 40 years. Venis was an instructor in the medical school's Department of Family Medicine and was on the medical staffs of South Miami Hospital and Doctors Hospital, where he served as chief of family medicine for many years.

Stephan D. Plager, M.D. '64, died in September of leukemia at Stanford Medical Center. He was 68. Plager had been in private practice as an ophthalmologist in Santa Cruz, California, for 23 years. He was the medical director of Plager Vision Center and was assistant clinical professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at Stanford University. Plager received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in 1960 and was president of the medical fraternity at the Miller School of Medicine. His internship was

at Los Angeles County General Hospital. He later served for nine years in the U.S. Air Force.

Alvin E. Smith, M.D. '64, died in Daytona Beach last September. Smith was born in Talladega, Alabama, and moved to the Daytona Beach area at a young age. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida. Smith was a veteran of the Korean conflict, having proudly served in the Army for 12 years, and was in the reserves for an additional ten years. He was one of the founding members of the Florida Society of Clinical Oncology and was on the Council of the Florida Society of Internal Medicine.

Michael J. Lerner, M.D. '75, of Miami, passed away in September from complications of colon cancer. A longtime practitioner of internal medicine and cardiology, Lerner did his undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina.

ALUMNI PROFILE

A. KYLE MACK, M.D. '99

An assistant director of pediatrics at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, A. Kyle Mack, M.D. '99, is the son of Astrid Mack, Ph.D., a research associate professor of medicine and associate dean for minority affairs with the Miller School of Medicine.

Profession: I am presently an attending at Children's Memorial Hospital in pediatric hematology. Children's has an affiliation with Northwestern University's medical school, and I am an assistant professor of pediatrics.

Professional Accomplishment I'm Proudest Of: Was receiving a \$200,000 grant for research from the National Institutes of Health. This grant was designed to fund a novel translational research project. My project involved looking at alternative therapies for patients with sickle cell disease.

Person Who Influenced Me Most In Medical School: The person who influenced me the most was my father, Astrid Mack.

Funniest Medical School Experience: I had lots of fun experiences in medical school. I made several friends—Ajay Patel, Vannessa Laibl, Amit Chokshi, and Steve Lemery—who I have unfortunately lost contact with. I do have

several classmates that I have stayed in touch with, including Katie Thurer and Brian Cauff.

What About Medical School Could Have Been Improved?: I think my medical school experience would have been improved had there been a requirement that medical students had to participate in research projects.

Personal Accomplishment I'm Proudest Of: I'm proud of the fact that I've managed to become an attending physician, happen to be working in a great city and with a great institution, and will be getting married at the end of the year.

Pet Peeve: I really don't have any, aside from people being rude and inconsiderate.

Has Being A Physician Met Your Expectations?: I'd have to say that it has. It entails a lot of hard work and there's a lot of responsibility, but the rewards are tremendous.



MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Office of Medical Development
Post Office Box 016960 (R-100)
Miami, Florida 33101

Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs
and Dean

Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D.

Associate Vice President for Development
and Alumni Relations

Marsha Kegley

President of the Medical Alumni Association
Gerardo M. Perez, M.D. '81

Executive Editor
Glenda Weiss Rodriguez
Director for Medical Alumni Development

Editor
Blair Walker
Director of Medical Advancement Communications

Designer
Kevin Alexander Corrales

Contributor
Jennifer Mullen Ray

Published by the Office of Medical Development,
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US Postage
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Miami, Florida
Permit 438

medical alumni news

For Alumni of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

A Legacy to Benefit His Alma Mater

The late Jack Sanders, M.D. '57, made largest alumni gift in school history

In pre-Internet days, investors kept tabs on the stock market by using ticker tape machines, unwieldy contraptions that spewed a narrow strip of paper imprinted with stock symbols and updated prices.

The late Jack Sanders, M.D. '57, had two of the devices—one at his medical office in Graceville, Florida, the other at his home. The incessant tick-tick-tick of his mechanical sentinels was music to Sanders's ears, because he loved Wall Street nearly as much as practicing family medicine. Pursuing both passions enabled him to leave the Miller School of Medicine more than \$2.1 million, the largest gift from a graduate in the institution's 51-year history.

Sanders, who died of cancer in 2004, asked that his estate create the Bernard J. Fogel M.D. Endowed Chair in Medical Education. A ceremony dedicating the chair to Mark O'Connell, M.D., the Miller School's director of undergraduate education, took place two months ago and was attended by UM President Donna E. Shalala as well as Miller School Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D.

Sanders's gift to the Miller School was a fitting comeuppance to other medical schools that denied him admission. They basically questioned whether Sanders, who was born with craniofacial deformities and had associated hearing and speech problems, was

suiited to practice medicine.

Aware that actions invariably trump words, Sanders let his sterling medical legacy, as well as his largesse, speak loud and clear about his abilities and personality.

"He had a hard time getting into medical school," says Sanders's first cousin, Eddie Register. Sanders's admission difficulties materialized despite the fact that he was the top scholar in his high school and had earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Florida. "He applied to several medical schools and when the University of Miami accepted him, he was grateful for that," Register says.

Sanders and Register grew up in Graceville, a small Panhandle town three miles south of the Alabama border that looks like it dropped out of a Norman Rockwell painting. Sanders was born with a hare lip and a hole in his palate, among other problems, and underwent several surgeries as a small boy to address his medical issues.

Sanders discovered early on that people, especially youngsters, can be cruel to those with deformities. "He had different people that sort of made fun of him," Register remembers. "I had several fights on account of him."

The son of a father who was a Standard Oil Company tanker captain and a mother who once worked as a

schoolteacher, Sanders was urged to refrain from roughhousing due to his ongoing medical treatments. So he sought refuge in books but sometimes secretly played football and other sports, much to the chagrin of his mother, Erma Sanders.

"His mother kept a close eye on him to keep him from getting hurt," says Graceville resident Kathleen Turner, a close friend. "If he got bumped or anything, his face could get damaged."

By all accounts, Sanders's physical

challenges toughened and motivated him, instead of bringing about bitterness or self-pity. He had a quiet confidence that never wavered, not even after his high school attempted to quash his valedictory speech on the pretext that Sanders's diction was difficult to understand. After his outraged mother intervened, Sanders was granted his rightful place at the podium.

An only child, Sanders began focusing on medicine around the age of 18, following the sudden death of his father, John Sanders, from a heart

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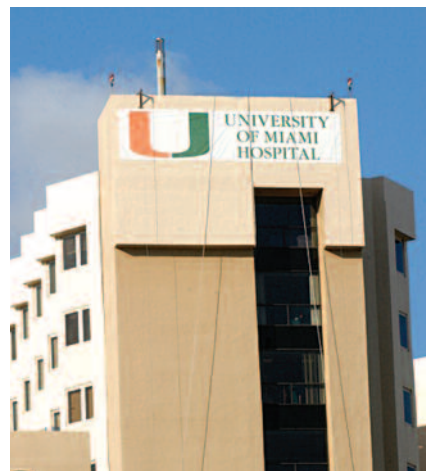
A perpetual passion for medicine: The historic gift from Jack Sanders, M.D. '57, seen in these personal photos, funded an endowed chair in medical education.

Miller School Now Has a Hospital All Its Own

In a major move that promises to change the hospital industry in South Florida, the University of Miami has purchased Cedars Medical Center, a 560-bed facility located in the Miami Health District just across Northwest 12th Avenue from the Miller School of Medicine. The facility is now known as the University of Miami Hospital.

The purchase from Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) came after the Board of Trustees voted in late October to give UM senior officers the authority to complete the deal. The University assumed ownership and operation of the hospital December 1.

The acquisition will help accelerate the Miller School's transformation into a first-class destination medical center—a place where people from all over the United States and the world come



New colors: Temporary signage announcing the University of Miami Hospital was unfurled shortly after the facility was acquired.

for care and treatment, much like the renowned Mayo and Cleveland clinics.

Calling the acquisition a "great opportunity" for the University to own

its own hospital, Miller School Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., says the purchase will help UM "develop services that are totally unique in the region and serve patients in Miami, South Florida, and beyond in a way that no other hospital could."

Ever since he became dean of the Miller School in the spring of 2006, Goldschmidt has reeled off a series of accomplishments to improve the school, luring physicians, researchers, and administrators who are leaders in their fields and overseeing the completion of the campus's Clinical Research Building and forthcoming Biomedical Research Building.

"The creation of a university hospital environment enables us to provide the very best academic medical care to the people of South Florida and

beyond," Goldschmidt says. "With this new flagship hospital, our top-ranked physicians will forge a new era in University of Miami-delivered care. This academic medical center will become a true medical destination."

Patients and physicians will be among the biggest beneficiaries of the deal, as the Miller School plans on being a resource for the entire community.

"The type of very sophisticated, cutting-edge, state-of-the-art care that we are planning to develop ... can only be developed if we entirely control the delivery of care from the time a patient makes an appointment to the time the patient leaves the hospital," Goldschmidt says.

By owning its own hospital, UM is expected to strengthen its ability to recruit top-notch physicians and

Continued on page 2

Alumnus Steven Falcone Advances the Miller School's Mission on Multiple Levels

Veteran faculty member now heads clinical affairs at Miller Boca Raton campus

Like many medical school students, Steven Falcone, M.D. '87, M.B.A. '03, found his calling during his third and fourth years of medical school when he started doing clinical rotations. Fascinated by the imaging that supports neurology and neurosurgery, Falcone gravitated to neuroradiology and eventually became the Miller School's medical director of MR services.

After spending 20 years mastering a field where CT scanners and MRIs rule the day, three months ago Falcone made a fairly dramatic career change.

Instead of driving to the Miller School's campus five days a week, these days Falcone treks to Palm Beach County, specifically Boca Raton. Falcone has taken a position as the executive regional dean, clinical affairs, for the Miller School of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University.

One of Falcone's responsibilities is to oversee the final two years of medical school training for students at the Miller School of Medicine at FAU. Given that the second half of medical school helped Falcone crystallize his career aspirations, he appreciates how crucially important those years are.

"I'm helping lead a great team with the transition from a two-year program to a four-year pro-

gram," Falcone says of his new duties.

The overarching theme of the program's curriculum is chronic illness and care, with an emphasis on continuity of care. To achieve these goals, the regional campus seeks to depart from the traditional clerkship format and offer integrated clerkships.

"Although our students begin their clinical experience early in the first year of medical school, the last half of medical school is when students begin to immerse themselves in the clinical aspects of their education," Falcone continues. "Those years have a tremendous impact on career choices, so I'll be



Serving the students: Steven Falcone, M.D. '87, M.B.A. '03, is now executive regional dean, clinical affairs, at the Miller School at FAU. He is also vice president of the Medical Alumni Association.

making sure that students have appropriate places to perform their clinical rotations."

Prior to working at the Boca Raton campus, Falcone had also been a Miller School associate professor of radiology, neurologic surgery, and ophthalmology in addition to serving as director of imaging services. He misses the give and take he used to have with the medical students, residents, and fellows he trained in neuroradiology.

"But now I'm in a position to have a greater impact on South Florida's health care landscape," he observes.

A diehard Mets baseball fan born in New York City, Falcone and his family moved to Broward County while he was in high school. His interest in medicine blossomed around that time, after a younger sister developed type 1 diabetes and his mother developed a pituitary abnormality.

After graduating from Coral Springs High School, Falcone earned a

B.S. in chemistry from UM, followed by M.D. and M.B.A. degrees. In the course of performing his responsibilities as a medical clinician and teacher, Falcone also played an active role helping the Miller School realize its \$700 million fundraising goal as part of the *Momentum* campaign.

"The research and teaching missions of our school cannot survive without a foundation of strong philanthropic support," Falcone says. "As faculty members, we must set the example for both our colleagues and those potential donors outside.

"I've contributed not only financially, but through having trained students, residents, and fellows," notes Falcone, a married father of three daughters who resides in Weston. "There are so many things that an individual can do to contribute, whether it's working as a voluntary faculty member or by giving in a financial sense."

JACK SANDERS *from page 1*

attack. From that point on, Sanders unleashed a formidable intellect and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge on all things medical.

After enrolling in Emory University in Atlanta, Sanders transferred to the University of Florida and got a pharmacy degree. The year was 1953, a time when the University of Miami's fledgling medical school was filling out its second class of medical students.

The president of the first graduating class, Norman Kenyon, M.D. '56, says Sanders was very friendly and very quiet, with a disarming, dry sense of humor. "He walked with a limp and obviously had facial deformities," Kenyon recalls. "He had a purpose about him and he worked really hard."

The other thing that stood out about Sanders, according to Kenyon, was how he easily bonded with patients. "The key to a good bedside manner is that you give a damn," Kenyon says. "I think that thanks to his own problems, he had an insight the average person just doesn't have."

The late John Holly, M.D. '57, was one of Sanders's classmates. Holly's wife, Miami Shores Village Mayor Herta Holly, can still hear Sanders speaking with a "deep, gravelly voice that came out in spurts.

"He had a remarkable memory—once he read something, he knew it, and once he heard it, he knew it," says Holly, who was taken with Sanders's loyalty and generosity. "Every Christmas, I would get a gift from

Neiman Marcus from Jack," Holly laughs. And following the births of Holly's three sons, Sanders gave each Standard Oil stock that became quite valuable over time.

With his M.D. from the University of Miami in hand, Sanders headed back home to Graceville, a town of roughly 5,000 where he was widely known as "Dr. Jack." In addition to delivering approximately 1,500 babies, repairing hernias, and treating an occasional rattlesnake bite, Sanders played an instrumental role in founding Campbellton-Graceville Hospital.

In 1996 Sanders traveled to Washington, D.C. and met Shalala when she headed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Their meeting took place at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, under the auspices of the White House Conference on Rural Medicine.

On July 15, 1998, hundreds of Graceville residents showed up to fete Sanders, after the town proclaimed that date "Dr. Jack E. Sanders Appreciation Day." Sanders was also a recipient of the Heartland Award, the highest gubernatorial honor a citizen of Florida can receive, from former Governor Lawton Chiles.

"Jack represented everything that UM's medical school was founded for in the early 1950s," says Fogel, who was the school's dean from 1981 to 1995. "Jack epitomized the training of bright young men and women to meet Florida's medical needs."

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HOSPITAL *from page 1*

researchers, and the acquisition will also benefit Miller School medical students, who will now be able to train in the three major inpatient clinical settings: private hospitals, Veterans Affairs medical centers, and public hospitals such as Jackson Memorial. "And that's very important," Goldschmidt says.

"Providing them with the full spectrum of medical experience is a major plus."

Cedars Medical Center and the University of Miami have had a strong,

long-standing relationship, with Miller School students and trainees rotating at Cedars in nearly a dozen specialties, including oncology, urology, and orthopaedics. In addition, some UM physicians have offices at the hospital and regularly practice at the facility.

UM faculty-physicians also serve as the medical staff of Jackson Memorial Hospital, which is owned and operated by the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County.

SAVE THE DATE

Get Ready for Medical Alumni Weekend, March 7-9

Make plans to attend Medical Alumni Weekend, from March 7 to 9, 2008. The Miller School and the Medical Alumni Association are putting together a celebration that will provide medical alumni a chance to witness our school's impressive growth, interact with students, and learn more about the school's mission. Included on the weekend's agenda are class reunions, medical campus tours, CME sessions, and a senior class golf tournament.

For more information about the event, please contact Glenda Weiss Rodriguez at 305-243-2291 or alumni@med.miami.edu.

Maria Abreu Returns to the Miller School as Chief of Gastroenterology

Alumna committed to developing faculty, clinical services

On February 1, 2008, things came full circle for Maria T. Abreu, M.D. '90. That date marked Abreu's first day as chief of gastroenterology at the Miller School of Medicine, returning Abreu to her alma mater as well as her adopted hometown.

Abreu had been director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center and an associate professor of medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City since 2003.

"There's such tremendous energy at the Miller School along with a sense that things can really change drastically for the better," Abreu says. "That's something Miami has needed for a long time."

As is often the case, Abreu found her work at Mount Sinai engrossing and wasn't looking to leave when she

Among her objectives at the Miller School is the eventual formation of a research center focusing on mucosal immunology as well as gastrointestinal cancer.

"I think the first priority is to meet the clinical needs of the medical campus," Abreu adds. "The GI division has been understaffed for a long time, and we want to be able to offer people excellent care as well as build up the faculty."

A Cuban-American born in New Jersey, Abreu and her family moved to Miami when she was 13. An accomplished scholar who had already amassed 24 college credits by the time she graduated from high school, Abreu segued directly into medical school under a six-year University of Miami honors program in medical education.



Energized: Maria T. Abreu, M.D. '90, is excited to be serving her alma mater as a faculty member.

Abreu has initiated studies involving the response of the intestinal lining to disease-causing bacteria and has investigated osteoporosis associated with inflammatory bowel disease. Over the course of her career, she has been awarded research grants from a number of sources, including the National Institutes of Health and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America.

In many ways, Abreu's return to the

Miller School is a family affair. Not just because her parents still live in Miami, but also because her husband, Paul Martin, M.D., was recently named the Miller School's new chief of hepatology. Martin moved from New York to Miami in late 2007, with Abreu and the couple's children, Aileen, 10, and Brian, 12, following this year.

When it comes to her offspring, Abreu says "Miami is really their second home. My parents are there, and my children have been catching planes to Miami since they were newborns."

According to Abreu, her tenure at Mount Sinai has been great professionally and personally. "If it weren't for this particular Miller School of Medicine opportunity at this particular time, I wouldn't contemplate leaving," Abreu notes.

"But the allure of going to the Miller School was having the opportunity to build something from the ground up, having the ability to shape something that will have a lasting impact for at least the next ten years," Abreu says.

"There aren't too many positions where you can do that."

"THERE'S SUCH TREMENDOUS ENERGY AT THE MILLER SCHOOL ALONG WITH A SENSE THAT THINGS CAN REALLY CHANGE DRASTICALLY FOR THE BETTER."

was approached about leading gastroenterology at the Miller School.

Abreu was flattered to be considered—for the most part. "I'm really kind of young for this job," Abreu demurred to Miller School representatives extending feelers. "The bad part is that everybody insisted that I'm not too young, which was kind of insulting!" Abreu laughs.

After earning her M.D. in 1990, Abreu traveled to Boston for an internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, followed up by a GI fellowship at UCLA. After that, Abreu remained in Los Angeles and joined the faculty of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where she began conducting research on inflammatory bowel diseases.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The University of Miami Hospital has **560 patient beds, 13 floors, 1.5 million square feet of space**, and three emergency generators that can churn out 750 kilowatts of electrical power.
- The University of Miami Hospital has **240 telemetry-monitored patient beds**, located on the facility's south side.
- The University of Miami Hospital's **104 psychiatric beds make it one of South Florida's biggest psychiatric providers**.
- The Miller School was asked to raise **\$450,000 of UM's total \$1.1 million contribution for the United Way** in 2007.
- **Richmond Naval Air Base** formerly operated on the **106-acre South Campus site** where the Miami Institute for Human Genomics has laboratories and medical equipment.
- In the 1950s, **UM's Medical Research Unit used to conduct malaria experiments on spider monkeys** at the South Campus.
- **The Class of '85 produced more Miller School faculty and attending physicians** than any other (William Darpini, Enrique Ginzburg, Thomas Harrington, Marilyn Glassberg, Gail Ironson, James Jacque, Daniel Kett, Walter Lambert, Dennis Patin, Alberto Penalver, and Fred Telischi).
- One glass of **milk can give a person a .02 blood alcohol concentration** on a breathalyzer test, enough in some states for persons under 21 to lose their drivers license.

THE POET'S CORNER

From music to athletics to oratory, students entering the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine bring with them a wide range of talents and interests. The Poet's Corner is a showcase for alumni who regularly heed their muse.

If you have a poem or essay 600 words or shorter that you'd like to share, please forward it to: Glenda Weiss Rodriguez, director of Medical Alumni Development, at grodriguez3@med.miami.edu.



Brian Greer, M.D. '86

Author's note: This was written for my autopsy presentation during my sophomore year of medical school. The deceased was hit by a car one afternoon and died in the hospital five weeks later of a pulmonary thromboembolus. There were no records of his family or background.

Eulogy for Mozell Lovett

Mozell Lovett was a man
A man I didn't know
He might of course have been a King
An aimless monarch with nowhere to go
It might have been with Kingdom gone
King Lovett was downcast in defeat
And it was amidst this soulful ruin
That he was struck in the street

No, I can't be sure of the circumstance
Which surrounds this woeful tale
And the doctor's morose investigation
Though thorough, was still to no avail
The tell-tale clot, which still tells not
Of motive, character, weak or bold
I am therefore at liberty to assume
That his heart was worth its weight in gold

He might have been a prophet
Carrying a Godsent message to us all
And perhaps it was blinding joy and rapture
That led to his mundane fall

Mozell Lovett was a man
A man who is no more
But his dying has cast me into wonder
And isn't that what death is for?

Brian Greer, M.D. '86, is a double board-certified adult, adolescent, and child psychiatrist working in Boca Raton, Florida. Greer has appeared as a medical expert on Oprah as well as on Eye to Eye with Connie Chung.