Inside this issue

Latest Round of NIH K30 Grants
Page 2

Graduation News
Page 2

SCSP Program Governance Updates
Page 3

Course and Curriculum Updates
Page 6

MeRIT Program News
Page 8

Scholars in Clinical Science Program

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Program Director
Lauren Dewey Platt, PhD
Executive Director

Latest Round of NIH K30 Grants Awarded

The Harvard K30 Scholars in Clinical Science Program has been funded for five additional years, at $300,000 per year, from June 2005 through May 2010. The grants are now housed at the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Twelve (12) of these grants were awarded to new institutions not previously receiving K30 funds. These schools are listed below:

- Cornell University, Weill Medical College
- New York University
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Illinois
- University of California, Davis
- University of Vermont
- SUNY at Stony Brook
- Washington University
- University of South Florida
- Georgetown University
- University of Tennessee

Graduation News

Four classes of students have graduated since 2002, a year in which only two of our students received the Master of Medical Sciences degree from Harvard Medical School. The program has grown since then, and 2005 welcomed fifteen graduates to the podium to accept their diplomas:

- Sofia Ahmed
- Alice Brown
- Valerie Byrnes
- Daniel Cohen
- Morna Dorsey
- Jerry Evans
- Marsha Fearing Browning
- Olga Gumieniak
- Keith Loud
- Graham McMahon
- Constantine Mitsiades
- MingMing Ning
- Shona Pendse
- Jonathan Sadeh
- Kathryn Tinckam

See graduation photographs on pages 4 and 5.

The class valedictorian this year was Dr. Kathryn Tinckam, and the keynote speaker was Dr. Eugene Orringer, Professor of Medicine and Executive Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.
Where Are They Now?
As of the date of this newsletter, forty-seven (47) students have graduated from the program. Congratulations and good luck to all of them!

Dr. Steven Schachter, co-director of the Longitudinal Seminar, was recognized at the June graduation event by being awarded the second annual Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, an honor given by the graduating students. Dr. E. John Orav received the award the previous year. Congratulations also go to Dr. Juan Celédon, director of the Human Genetics course, who recently received the Young Mentor Award from the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity and Community Partnership.

Class of 2007
Twelve (12) new first-year students entered the program in July 2005, along with a visiting student, Emily Graham Kurtz, from the k30 program at Vanderbilt University. Their names, affiliated institutions, and mentors are listed here:

- Elly Barry (CHMC and DFCC, Dr. Lewis Silverman)
- Rhonda Bentley-Lewis (BWH, Dr. Ellen Seely)
- Erica Camargo (MGH, Drs. Karen Furie and Walter Koroshetz)
- Steven Chin (CHMC and BIDMC, Dr. Cynthia Cole)
- Christine Duncan (DFCC, Dr. Leslie Lehmann)
- Jeffrey Ellenbogen (BWH and BIDMC, Dr. Robert Stickgold)
- Mary Lucia Gregory (CHMC and BIDMC, Dr. Cynthia Cole)
- Peter Hulick (BWH and MGH, Dr. Othon Iliopoulos)
- Shamsah Kazani (BWH, Dr. Elliot Israel)
- Autumn Klein (BWH, Dr. Edward Bronfield)
- Janet Lo (MGH, Dr. Steven Grinspoon)
- Karl Yen (CHMC, Dr. Michael McManus)

Governance Updates
While Dr. Jules Dienstag served as Associate Dean under Dean Raphael Dolin, the Scholars Program reported to him directly. Shortly after taking this position he accepted the post of Dean of Medical Education, so the Scholars Program no longer falls under his purview. We are exceedingly grateful to Jules for his expert guidance during this brief period, particularly for his participation in our recent Executive Committee retreat. Dr. Daniel Singer has been installed as the new Associate Dean for Clinical Programs. The k30 program will now report to Danny, and we look forward to a progressive and fruitful relationship with him and his office.

Dr. Stavroula Osganian is the newest member of the Executive Committee, replacing Dr. Donald Goldmann, who is spending much of his time these days at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in Cambridge. Dr. Osganian, or Voula as we call her, is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Director of the Clinical Research Program, and Associate Director of the General Clinical Research Center at Children’s Hospital.

With the retirement of Dr. Daniel Federman, we welcomed Dr. Edward Benz, Jr., Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine and President of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, as Chair of the Advisory Board. We are grateful to Ed for his leadership and commitment to clinical research training.

continued page 6
Images of 2005 Graduation Dinner and Ceremony

The 2005 Commencement Dinner Clockwise from top: Dr. Gordon Williams, Program Director, congratulates graduates; the keynote speaker, Dr. Eugene Orringer, addresses the class of 2005 and their guests; classmates Sofia Ahmed, Valerie Byrnes, Alice Brown, and MingMing Ning with diplomas; a group portrait of the class; Outstanding Teacher of the Year awardee Steve Schachter with Sophia Reaud, Manager of Student Services; Dr. Kathryn Tinckum, graduate speaker, addresses the room.
Our Graduates

June 2005
“The course culminates in a Project Fair in the Spangler Building on the HBS campus. Past students have won awards and submitted patents, so plan on attending this year’s fair on Thursday, May 4, 2006.”

Course and Curriculum Updates

The departure of Dr. Richard Kuntz to Medtronic in Minneapolis left the program with a significant gap to fill, since Rick had served our students well as director of the Fundamental Methods of Clinical Trials course since the program began. This year the course is being co-directed by Dr. Laura Mauri and Dr. Donald Cutlip. We welcome their participation and thank them for taking charge on short notice.

The new course module on the subject of bioethics in clinical research, which is part of the first-year Longitudinal Seminar, is being co-directed by Dr. Robert Truog and Dan Brock. The module runs for eight consecutive weeks in the fall semester of the seminar.

For the second year in a row, Professor Lee Fleming of the Harvard Business School (HBS) has been teaching a course he developed entitled Commercializing Science and High Technology. Partially modeled after a course previously taught by Professor Stefan Thomke in managing product development, it is a required course for Scholars students and includes MBAs from the Business School, students from the School of Engineering, and Harvard Law School students. The course culminates in a Project Fair in the Spangler Building on the HBS campus. Past students have won awards and submitted patents, so plan on attending this year’s fair on Thursday, May 4, 2006.
Clinical Research 2006

Four Scholars submitted abstracts that were chosen for poster presentations at the Clinical Research 2006 conference in March—Erica Camargo, Jennifer Cohen, Shamsah Kazani, and Basel Ramlawi. Erica, Shamsah, and Basel made it to Washington to present their posters, while Jennifer was giving a platform presentation at another conference and couldn’t be in two places at one time. Basel was also chosen to receive the prestigious Henry Christian award from the American Federation for Medical Research. Congratulations to all of them!

Program Office News

Dr. Gordon Williams, Program Director and Principal Investigator of the Scholars Program, received the 2005 Robert H. Williams Distinguished Leadership Award from The Endocrine Society. The award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership in fundamental or clinical endocrinology as exemplified by the recipient’s contributions and those of his trainees and associates to teaching, research, and administration. Congratulations, Gordon!

In October 2005, Dr. Lauren Dewey Platt, Executive Director of the Scholars Program, was accepted as a Fellow in the Susan Vogt Leadership Program through The Boston Consortium for Higher Education. Her year-long tenure as a Fellow gives her access to academic leaders at the thirteen schools that constitute the Consortium. The program provides resources for Fellows to develop their leadership skills through ongoing reading, discussion in facilitated learning teams, executive coaching, and a strategic project supported by an institutional sponsor.

Sophia Reaud, Manager of Student Services, continues to serve ably as the principal contact for students and prospective applicants to the program. She also updates the website and recently added a new feature that allows applicants to apply online. In addition, she has instituted the use of the MyCourses online platform for students and faculty. We thank her for her assistance in guiding the Scholars Program into the 21st century!

We thank our current donors for their generosity in contributing to the education of future clinical investigators:

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www.hms.harvard.edu/gradprograms/scsp

Save the Date!
The Graduation Dinner and Ceremony this year will be on Monday, June 12, 2006. This year’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Judah Folkman. Details and invitations coming soon!

MeRIT Update
This past November the Scholars office welcomed Pam Mullaney as the Administrative Coordinator of the Medical Research Investigator Training (MeRIT) Program. MeRIT was originally conceived to address the educational needs of entry-level M.D.s in industry but is now expanding to include the academic community as well. The Faculty Director of the Program is Dr. Ajay Singh of BWH, and Dr. Shona Pendse, a Scholars graduate, is the Deputy Director. Its academic home is the Department of Continuing Medical Education, headed by Dr. Sanjiv Chopra, and course modules in the program provide CME credits to participants. For further information about MeRIT, contact Pam at 617.432.2280 or pam_mullaney@hms.harvard.edu.

Harvard Medical School
Scholars in Clinical Science Program

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