



# The University of Michigan John M. Sheldon Allergy Society

Travis A. Miller, M.D., President

9220 MSRB III • 1150 West Medical Center Drive • Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0648  
<http://www.med.umich.edu/sheldonsociety/>

## 2009

### Dear Sheldon Society Members:

The last 2 years have marked a significant transition for the Allergy Division, The Allergy Training Program and the Sheldon Alumni Society. I would like to thank Drs. James R. Baker, Jim Baldwin, Cem Akin, Marc McMorris, Ben Gold and Echo Reed for their superior patience, leadership and consistency through these times. As your new President, I hope that you will find the Society useful to you for continued education, clinical support and referrals, camaraderie with alumni and colleagues, and for the betterment of our specialty.

Change has clearly come to our world and our practices. Much of this is not for the better. A slack economy, worsening insurance contracting and reimbursement, decreasing income, and increasing overhead and costs affect us all. During this struggle, I would encourage you to turn to the Alumni Society, as well as our Regional, State and Local Allergy Societies to press on for the good of your practice and the specialty. By communicating with each other, sharing our concerns and remaining unified in our requests, we can press our lawmakers, payors and communities for the betterment of our patients, practices and specialty. In return, I ask that you consider the Allergy Fellowship Endowment for your charitable giving.

Few other Training Programs can boast national specialists in Immune Deficiency, Complex Food Allergy, Airway Management and Outpatient Drug Desensitization programs right around the corner for the benefit of your patients and your practice. The University of Michigan Allergy Division is truly a regional powerhouse medical system supporting all who reside in the Great Lakes area. Be proud of your institution! Applaud this magnificent team. And support the future of our program.

### 2008 Annual Dinner

The 2008 Sheldon Society Annual Dinner was held at **Joe Pesci's** in Philadelphia and was attended by over 45 members and invited guests.

### 2009 AAAAI Annual Dinner

The 2009 John M. Sheldon Society Annual Dinner Meeting will be held in Washington, DC, during the annual AAAAI meeting, on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at Morrison Clark Inn Restaurant, 1015 L St NW, Washington D.C. 20001. Contact (202) 898-1200/ (800) 332-789 or [www.MorrisonClark.com](http://www.MorrisonClark.com)

The evening will begin with a reception from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner will follow and our speaker Kenneth Rundell, Ph.D, will discuss the finer details of Exercise Induced Asthma, one of his many fortes.

***Remember: The cost of dinner for you and your spouse or invited guest is covered by your annual dues.***

### Allergy Specialty Clinic & Food Allergy Clinic

The Food Allergy Service (FAS) is progressing into its fifth year with Marc McMorris, M.D., as Director. Nancy Polmear-Swendris, MS, RN has joined Dr. McMorris as the Food Allergy Clinical Program Coordinator. She brings a wealth of knowledge from her background in health education.

### TRAINING PROGRAM

#### Program Director Announcements

James L. Baldwin, M.D., continues as the Program Director for the Fellowship Program and Cem Akin, M.D., Ph.D. as Associate Program Director. The program recently received a Clinical Fellowship Stipend from the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI). This grant will fund one full fellowship position for 2 years. Congratulations to Dr. Baldwin and the Fellowship Program for your efforts and achievement!

We are extremely pleased to announce that **Dr. Bernard Gold received the 2009 AAAAI Outstanding Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award** for his dedication to teaching, which will be presented at the AAAAI Annual Meeting in March. Dr. Gold is an outstanding physician and teacher who has contributed to the education of the Allergy and Clinical Immunology Fellows for the past 23 years. Dr. Gold provides a unique educational opportunity for allergy fellows, house officers, and medical students during their rotation at the University Health Service Allergy Clinic. Congratulations Ben!

## New Fellows

The Training Program's incoming fellows are Carrie Dichiaro and Whitney Dunlap.

Dr. Dichiaro received her medical degree in 2003 from the University of Kentucky, College of Medicine and completed her residency in Internal Medicine – Pediatrics at the Wright State University in 2007.

Dr. Dichiaro's title of research project—Exhaled Nitric Oxide Levels in African American Children With and Without Asthma.

Dr. Dunlap received her medical degree in 2005 from Eastern Virginia Medical School and completed her residency in Pediatrics at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital in 2008.

Dr. Dunlap's Research is titled, A Novel Intranasal Streptococcus pneumonia Vaccine Using a Nanoemulsion Adjuvant.



**Dr. Carrie Dichiaro**



**Dr. Whitney Dunlap**

## Second-year Fellows

Dr. Darlene Kassab, a graduate of Wayne State University, and Dr. Anna Kovalszki, a graduate of the University of Michigan, are scheduled to complete their A/I training on June 30, 2009.

Drs. Kassab and Kovalszki have been selected to present their research at the ACAAI Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA and the AAAAI in Washington, DC. Dr. Kassab's title of research project: Surrogate Marker of Food Anaphylaxis. Dr. Kovalszki's title of research project: Effects of Prostaglandin E2 on Lung Fibroblasts.



**Dr. Darlene Kassab**



**Dr. Anna Kovalszki**

## 2008 Graduates

Drs. Matthew Greenhawt and Miguel Wolbert, successfully completed their training in June 2008.

Dr. Greenhawt joined a private practice in Georgia. <http://www.aaaai.org/physref/detail.asp?id=97285&loc=64930>

Dr. Wolbert joined a private practice in Indiana. <http://www.evansvilleallergy.com/content.asp?title=Our%20Staff>

Dr. Greenhawt and Dr. Wolbert presented their research at the AAAAI Annual Meeting held in March, 2008.



**Dr. Miguel Wolbert**



**Dr. Matthew Greenhawt**

## MEMBER NEWS

Dr. David Meriney, an allergist in Upper Montclair, NJ for 37 years, died June 1, 2008. Completed training program in 1968.

Dr. John Kent, a founder of Buffalo Amherst Allergy Associates died on January 16, 2007. Completed training program in 1961.



**The timeless Bill Solomon, M.D., discussing the finer details of Ragweed with Cem Akin, M.D., Ph.D.**

Dr. Solomon continues to enjoy Divisional activities and teaching. His support of the Training Program has been unwavering. Come to Ann Arbor this July for the Tri-Annual Meeting and speak with him.

Dr. Anjana Khuntia relocated from Chicago, IL to Philadelphia. Dr. Khuntia joined Allergy & Asthma Specialists in Blue Bell, PA.

***If you have updates information or news from our fellows, please don't hesitate to submit an update to us. We'd love to hear from you!***

### **DUES & CONTRIBUTION RESPONSE FORM**

If you haven't submitted your dues for 2009, please visit The John M. Sheldon Allergy Society web site at: <http://www.med.umich.edu/sheldonsociety/about/dues.htm> and return your information form along with your annual dues payment of \$100.

***\*Dues are optional for retired members.***

### **ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE**

To help support the training program fellowship position, we continue to seek your contributions to the Endowment Fund. As you are aware, this fund was established more than 10 years ago. The main goal of the endowment is to support continual funding for at least one Allergy Fellow position. Each year we strive to meet this objective, and it is only through your continued support of the U-M Allergy Division that we will achieve this important goal.

### **How You Can Help**

**Gifts** - Make a planned gift or a bequest. These gifts are wonderful ways to commit to the promises that lie ahead in the field of Allergy and Clinical

Immunology. Your **charitable remainder trust** or **charitable gift annuity** provides income during your lifetime as well as the assurance that your gift will have an impact on the future of medicine. These giving opportunities have been well received because of the high distribution rate, simplicity, and tax benefits.

**Endowments** - A gift of a permanent endowment is a gift forever, a gift that will generate distributions to benefit the Division in perpetuity. What does this mean? It means that the Allergy Division Endowment Fund, year by year, will be able to help more and more Fellows complete their fellowship.

If you are interested in establishing your own perpetual fund or if you would like to discuss the tax advantages or income possibilities of making a gift now or through your will, you may do so by contacting John Perry. John is available at your convenience to assist you with establishing your fund and also with making year-end stock transfers. For more information, please contact John at (734) 998-7012.

For details on these programs and others, please visit the Office of Medical Development and Alumni Relations web site at:

<http://www.med.umich.edu/intmed/about/make.htm>

Again, I would like to thank you for your attention to this newsletter and also for your continued support of the Allergy Division.

Please do not hesitate to contact me:

(916) 580-2424 voice mail or (916) 770-7080 mobile  
[tmiller@capitalallergy.com](mailto:tmiller@capitalallergy.com) or [tncmiller@msn.com](mailto:tncmiller@msn.com)

or you may contact Echo Reed in the Allergy Division at (734) 232-2154 or [echoreed@umich.edu](mailto:echoreed@umich.edu) if you have any questions or need assistance.

# Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis A. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Travis A. Miller, M.D.,  
President, Sheldon Society



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