

THE CUPOLA



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

Summer 2013

Alumni Association Announces Campaign to Boost Endowment

The Bassett Medical Alumni Association is undertaking a campaign to raise additional funds for the Medical Education Endowment. This endowment was established in 1997 through the generous contributions of members to provide enhancements to Bassett's Medical Education Program.

The endowment currently stands at \$3.5 million. Its proceeds have underwritten such improvements as the design and construction of the Simulation Lab, an active learning center. It has funded the purchase and installation of audience response mechanisms in the auditoriums and meeting spaces to enhance two-way communications in lectures and grand rounds. In recent years, funds have provided faculty development opportunities.

To underwrite significant and impactful programs relating to Medical Education requires an endowment considerably greater than \$3.5 million. According to Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., Executive Vice-President of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association, "There is real and present danger threatening the caliber of Medical



Monika Laszkowska, Columbia-Bassett class of 2014, examines an infant with Chris L. Kjolhede, M.D.

Education and we have insufficient funds to meet the challenges for the immediate present and the future."

It is a changing environment for health care and medical education. External pressures are creating new demands on teaching

hospitals, and reliable funding streams of the past are no longer available. At the same time that Medical Education Programs are threatened by losses of federal and state funding – through such actions as reimbursement reductions, there are new requirements of the faculty.

To improve their effectiveness as teachers, clinicians are expected to develop new skill sets beyond those of the disciplines of medicine, specifically evaluation skills and teaching methods. The American College of General Medicine (ACGM), the Institute of Medicine, Congress and the public are demanding that medical educators demonstrate the competencies of their students and graduates.

A well-funded program can give Bassett an advantage in attracting high-caliber students and residents as well as clinicians and medical administrators who serve as faculty. An enlarged program endowment will foster greater consistency in funding and support aspects of the program not readily subsidized in other ways.

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Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

As I mentioned in the previous edition of *The Cupola*, the Bassett Medical Alumni Association will be hosting our 25th anniversary reunion on October 11th and 12th. I imagine that there are at least a few of you—or maybe more—who haven't been back to Bassett or seen your former colleagues and mentors for many years, and perhaps feel a bit apprehensive about coming to the reunion. I understand.

A few months ago I received an invitation to my 30th college reunion. I hadn't been back to campus for 29 years and hadn't been in touch with college friends for a long time. Along with the invitation was a newsletter with updates from several class members. One wrote that she and her husband were restoring a 200 year-old farmstead, while raising three biological and five adopted special needs children, running their own businesses, leading bible-study group, coaching basketball,



Merideth Davis, M.D.,
President, Board of Directors,
Bassett Medical Alumni
Association

singing in the church choir, and growing their own vegetables. Pictures were included; both she and her husband looked happy and fit, with no sign of wrinkles, gray hair or fatigue. Other similar updates from successful classmates appeared in the newsletter.

I was very ambivalent about registering for the reunion. I had visions of being among wealthy, Botox'ed, aerobicized classmates who traveled the world, bought companies, and were training for triathlons. Worse, they might not remember me.

Despite my apprehension, I did attend the reunion and had a wonderful time. Everyone looked and acted like the regular people they were. Everyone there was happy to see others with whom they had shared a specific time and experience. It

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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 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.

The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center

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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 Healthcare Network, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail <cupola@bassett.org>.

Alan J. Kozak, M.D.
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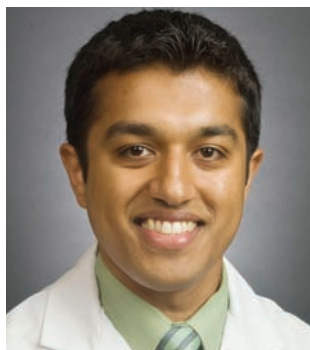
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Residents Leave Bassett to Pursue New Endeavors

- Usiwoma E. Abugo, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, Howard University Hospital, Washington, D.C.
- Anju Agarwal, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Allen Hospital, Waterloo/Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Srujana Angirekula, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, S.D.
- Erica L. Archer, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Md.
- Shelly Bhowmik, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Preventive Medicine Residency, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, Md.
- Eitan S. Burstein, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, SUNY-Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Wisit Cheungpasitporn, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Nephrology Fellowship, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.
- Daych Chongnarungsin, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Critical Care Medicine Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio
- Kelly Currie, M.D.** (General Surgery), Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship, University of Colorado, Denver, Colo.
- Erin Gillaspie, M.D.** (General Surgery), Thoracic Surgery Fellowship, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.
- Nathan Goldman, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Radiation Oncology Residency, SUNY-Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, N.Y.
- Quanhathai Kaewpoowat, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Infectious Disease Fellowship, University of Texas at Houston Medical School, Houston, TX.
- Grace M-Y Ma, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Radiology Residency, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- Julia Manzerova, M.D., Ph.D.** (Transitional Year), Radiation Oncology Residency, Cornell-New York Hospital Medical Center, Queens, N.Y.
- Venkatrao Medarametla, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Mass.
- Dara Omer, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Radiology Residency, University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, N.Y.
- Atchuytaramkumar Pachigolla, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, S.D.
- Vengamamba Polu, M.B., B.S.** (Internal Medicine), Hospitalist, Vidant Medical Health Hospital, Greenville, N.C.
- Dani C. Porter, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Anesthesiology Residency, Fletcher-Allen Medical Center, Burlington, Vt.
- Kunatum Prasadthratsint, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Infectious Disease Fellowship, University of Iowa Hospital and Clinic, Iowa City, Iowa
- Stephen J. Smith, M.D.** (Transitional Year), Ophthalmology Residency, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- Costas Stavrakis, D.O.** (Internal Medicine), Radiology Residency, Albany Medical Center, Albany, N.Y.
- Promptorn Suksaranjit, M.D.** (Internal Medicine), Advanced Cardiac Imaging Fellowship, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Sanjay Thomas, M.D.** (General Surgery), Private Practice, Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. ■

Golden Awards Announced



Sanjay Thomas, M.D.

Bassett residents and students recently honored two of their own with the Golden Stethoscope awards. The Surgery students chose Sanjay Thomas, M.D., as the resident they felt was their best teacher. The Internal Medicine residents selected Promptorn "Pat" Suksaranjit, M.D.

The 2013 Golden Apple awards, given by the residents to the faculty members they felt were their most outstanding teachers were presented to Patrick H. McNulty, MD (Medicine) and Craig A. Henson, M.D., and Nicholas J. Hellenthal, M.D. (Surgery). ■



Promptorn "Pat" Suksaranjit, M.D.

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was great to see old friends and get to know other classmates for the first time.

We are very excited to be hosting this reunion weekend, and encourage everyone to attend — alone, with family, or with friends. We also hope that you will reach out to other alumni via our page on Facebook or by contacting the Medical Education office at Bassett. The planning committee has scheduled several events including receptions, presenta-

tions, "Imy" talks, and a barbecue. There will also be activities for children. With all the tremendous changes going on in the medical field and the world at large, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends and mentors. Why not join us and make new acquaintances, see what's new at the Bassett Medical Center and the Columbia-Bassett medical school campus, and simply celebrate the shared experience of being at a place like Cooperstown. ■

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Reunion Update

By Douglas M. DeLong, M.D.

Plans for our Family Reunion to be held on October 11 and 12 are shaping up nicely. I hope that many of you will join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Mary Imogene Bassett Medical Alumni Association and spend a glorious fall weekend in Cooperstown.

The gathering will feature some of Bassett's accomplished alumni presenting on a range of topics and will provide opportunities for participants to reflect on their medical training experience here and look forward to what the future may hold for training and study at Bassett.

The weekend kicks off with the Dr. John Davis Lecture on Friday morning. This year's speaker, Nicholas Wolter, M.D., is CEO of the Billings Clinic, and a two-term Commissioner on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). Dr. Wolter received his medical degree at the University of Michigan Medical Center. He completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in 1980. The John Davis Lecture is presented annually for the Bassett Medical Staff, residents and students and features outstanding faculty from around the country nominated by the staff. Following the lecture, the Board of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association will hold a meeting to which members are invited.

Friday evening we invite local alumni and our guests from out of town to join us for an opening reception at Brewery Ommegang at 6:00 p.m. Located only four miles from Bassett, Ommegang offers an experience that is akin to a trip to Belgium. We will enjoy camaraderie, beer tastings, and light repast at this unique farmstead-style brewery. Some of you might want to join us at Ommegang after attending the Appreciation Celebration honoring Drs.



Brewery Ommegang, the unique Belgian-style brewery, will be the host location for the Reunion's Opening Reception on Friday evening, October 11th.

James Bordley and Patrick Dietz. (See the article on page 4.)

Saturday's agenda features former and current Medical Education administrators including John S. Davis, M.D., who will provide an historical perspective. Walter A. Franck, M.D., will offer an update on Undergraduate Medical Education and James T. Dalton, M.D. will share an overview of the status of Graduate Medical Education at Bassett.

Mimicking a trend in the world of idea-sharing, we will introduce a new format for some of our presentations. We will offer a half-dozen "Imy Talks," succinct creative sessions on a range of topics chosen by the speakers. Among the alumni who agreed to share their thoughts in this format are: David Pratt, Andrew Coates, Jocelyn Wittstein and others.

The highlight of the day will be the Lipsky Memorial Lecture offered immediately following lunch. Dr. Nicholas Wolter will address current trends in health care deliv-

ery and payment reform. This presentation will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Drs. Pratt, Coates and Wolter, moderated by myself. The panel will be asked to prognosticate 25 years into the future on what medical education, health care, and the payment system might look like.

There's some free time in the afternoon to explore Cooperstown and its museums, visit with friends, enjoy the outdoors or relax. Alumni and their family are invited to attend a barbecue which begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Sugar Shack.

The cost for attending this weekend is \$100 (per family unit) which will help off-set expenses. This includes: the Friday night reception at Brewery Ommegang, Saturday's educational program with a luncheon, and the family barbecue.

If you have any questions or if you wish to help with this event, please contact me at douglas.delong@bassett.org. I look forward to welcoming many friends and colleagues back to Cooperstown. ■

First Annual Bassett Cupola 5K Run/Walk

Alumni and their family members are welcome to take part in the first annual Bassett Cupola 5K Run/Walk, to be held on Sunday, October 13, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This event is organized by the Bassett Network's Celebration and Wellness committees and it is open to all of the Bassett community as well as friends and families. It is intended to

gather participants ranging from serious to beginner runners.

First-time runners are highly encouraged to join and run their first 5K. There is plenty of time to start training and planning. Details on registration, costs, and the course will be available at the reunion registration desk.

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming! Editor

1940s

Edward Bello, M.D. (*Surgical Intern 1949-50*) a very proud father wrote to provide an update of his daughter **Jacqueline Bello, M.D.** (*Flexible Intern 1980-81*). "After her P&S graduation Jacqueline Anne Bello followed me as she interned at MIBH and then went into radiology. She has been president of many medical organizations. She has been chief of interventional neuroradiology at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx and she is a professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. We are both fellows of the American College of Radiology. It tires me just to think of her activities and her regular travels. Of course at 88 years of age it becomes automatic to be tired."

1950s

Donald A. (D.A.) Henderson, M.D. (*Intern 1954-55, Fellow in Medicine 1958-59, member Board of Trustees 1995-2001*) has been in Taiwan to accept one of the nation's top civilian awards, the Order of Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon from the President of the Republic of China in recognition of Dr. Henderson's work in the prevention of smallpox infection. While there, he was invited to lecture at the scientific academy, medical center, and school of public health. Dr. Henderson continues in his position as Professor of

Medicine and Public Health at the UPMC Center for Biosecurity in Baltimore. He writes, "Retirement is still over the horizon."

Irwin Friedman, M.D. (*Internal Medicine 1959-61*) is working four days a week doing consultations at Buffalo General Medical Center. He is also a Clinical Professor of Medicine at University of Buffalo. He pleased to share that he has eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

1970s

James T. Dalton, M.D. (*Medicine Resident 1979-83*) attending physician in Internal Medicine and Director of Medical Education and **John G. Dier, M.D.** (*Medicine Resident 1976-79*) attending physician in Internal Medicine both at Bassett Healthcare Network are now Fellows in the American College of Physicians.

1980s

Jacqueline Bello, M.D. (*Flexible Intern 1980-81, current member of the Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors*) won election into the board of trustees of the American Medical Association in June.

Madeline Waid, M.D. (*Surgery Intern 1986-87*) has accepted a position in the anes-

esthesiology department at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, Vt., after working 21 years as an anesthesiologist at CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburgh, N.Y. She reports, "My kids are grown. My daughter is in graduate school at the Maine College of Art and my son an undergraduate at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Mass."

2000s

Gary P. Chimes, M.D., Ph.D. (*Medicine Resident 2002-03*) writes about a major shift in his life, "After six years in academics, most recently at University of Pittsburgh, I've joined a friend in the Bellevue, Wash. in private practice." While Gary looks "forward to enjoying the outdoor lifestyle and hiking and biking that I loved so much from living in Cooperstown," he also recalled

that, "one highlight of my time in Pittsburgh was that I patented a back brace for the active population, called ActivAided.com." He shared this photo from his 41-day cross-country tour to his new home with his dog.



Capt. Dave Prakash, M.D.

Dave Prakash, M.D. (*Transitional Year Resident 2003-04*) poses in his various uniforms at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Capt. Dave Prakash is working in the flight medicine department in the 2nd Medical Group and serving as a 96th Bomb Squadron pilot. Recently he earned the title of pilot physician, a title held by less than 12 Air Force pilots. He is also currently working on groundbreaking projects to advance medical capabilities for the 2nd MDG.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Micaiah Anthony) ■



Gary P. Chimes, M.D., Ph.D.

Surgeons Celebrate Bordley and Dietz on Their Years of Service



James Bordley, IV, M.D. and Patrick A. Dietz, M.D.

After a combined service of more than 70 years at Bassett Healthcare, two senior surgeons are being honored. James Bordley, IV, M.D., the son of James Bordley III, M.D., Bassett's Director from 1947-1966, came to Bassett directly from his medical schooling at Columbia University, completing his surgical internship and residency at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital from 1970 to 1975. He returned to work at Bassett in 1977. During his time at Bassett, he was Division Chief of General Surgery and specialized in gastrointestinal surgery.

As Program Director of the Surgery

Residency Program from 1984 to 2008, Patrick A. Dietz, M.D., is well-known to many alumni. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, he came to Bassett in 1979 and served as Division Chief of Vascular Surgery.

An Appreciation Celebration in honor of Drs. Bordley and Dietz will be held on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Louis C. Jones Center at The Farmers' Museum on Rt. 80, Cooperstown. Past surgical alumni are invited to attend. For more information, contact Kelly Stone at kelly.stone@bassett.org; 607-547-3202. ■

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

William E. Bowers, Ph.D.

William ("Bill") E. Bowers, Ph.D., a former Bassett staff member and a driving force behind the establishment of the Bassett Research Institute, passed away May 9, 2013, in Columbia, S.C. Dr. Bowers, who was a graduate of Princeton University and obtained a Ph.D. at the Rockefeller Institute, joined Bassett in 1980 as a research immunologist. Dr. Bowers' particular area of interest, accomplishment and inspiration for faculty, residents and students, came from his work studying the ways immune cells communicate with each other, particularly dendritic cells and T-lymphocytes. In 1984, the Bassett Research Institute was created and Dr. Bowers was named acting scientific director, a position he held four years.

In 1990, Dr. Bowers left Bassett to join the staff of the University of South Carolina (USC) Medical School. He was designated Distinguished Professor

Emeritus by the University, having served as Chair of Pathology and Microbiology at USC Medical School.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, son Kevin (Ingrid), daughter Kendra (Mica), and six grandchildren: Ivan, Hagen, Acadia, Isabella, Natalie, and Joseph. He is also survived by his brother Henry (Katya), sister Sally (Ron), sisters-in-law Georgette and Joan, and numerous nephews, nieces, grandnephews, and grandnieces.

James A. Brockway, O.D.

James A. Brockway, O.D., 73, passed away May 26, 2013, at his residence.

Dr. Brockway was born December 21, 1939, in Constable, Mass., the son of the late Howard R. and Esther (Langdon) Brockway. He was married to Aida A. Brockway for 24 years.

He graduated from the New England College of Optometry in 1964 and practiced optometry at Bassett Healthcare Network for 41 years. He was a consult-

ing optometrist at Albany Medical College, and a member of the American Academy of Optometry.

He served in the U. S. Army 815th Station Hospital, Army Reserves. He was an active community volunteer serving on the local emergency squad, the School Board of Education and also in the New York State Optometric Association.

He loved music, played the organ, substituting at the Presbyterian and United Methodist churches. He was also a member of the Mohawk Organ Theatre, Schenectady and the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), where he played organ at noontime concerts.

Survivors include his wife, Aida A. Brockway; daughter, Janet Brockway Fuhrman (Craig); and grandchild, Hannah E. Fuhrman. He was predeceased by his daughter, Kris Brockway and grandchild, Robert James. ■

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A larger endowment will generate more annual income and enable Bassett to bring in specialists to help design the needed curriculum for our faculty and to help create objective measurements to demonstrate competencies. Ongoing faculty development will ensure that Bassett's Medical Education programs will continue improving. It will enable the faculty to successfully measure competencies beyond the traditional areas of medical knowledge and patient care, proficiencies such as professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, communications and health care systems.

Members of the Bassett Medical Alumni are being asked to protect the experience that alumni valued here. A contribution to this endowment campaign is an investment in the future of excellence in Medical Education at Bassett. Dr. DeLong states, "I believe that it is the obligation of every alumnus to preserve medical education at Bassett by supporting the program for those presently here and others to come."

The Medical Alumni Association has a goal to substantially increase this endowment through major gifts and planned giving opportunities. Alumni are asked to consider evaluating their financial and estate plans to establish a legacy gift to benefit the Medical Education Endowment. Major contributions may be given in cash, securities, property and other tangibles with cash value.

In the coming months, alumni will receive a mailing packet with more information about this campaign. A team of medical students

will be enlisted to help call past donors to identify those interested in exploring the potential of a contribution to the endowment.

Alumni who wish to support the campaign either directly or through a legacy gift are encouraged to contact Joshua Truman (joshua.truman@bassett.org), Director of Development, or Michael Stein (michael.stein@bassett.org), Vice President of Development and Executive Director at The Friends of Bassett at 607-547-3928. ■

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 28 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown. For more information visit:

<http://recruitment.bassett.org/physician-jobs/>

Or call the Medical Staff Affairs office at 607-547-6982

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Research Award Recipient Named

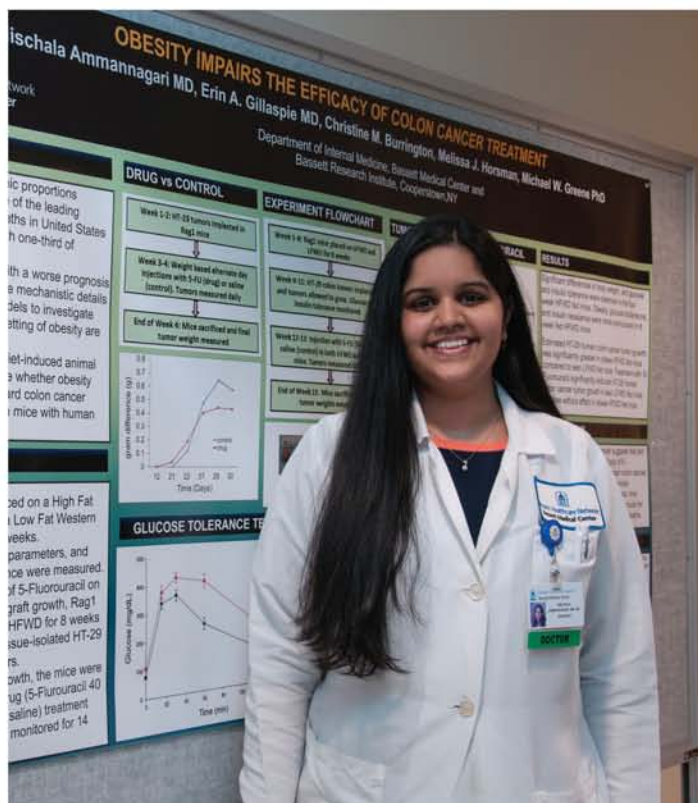
Nischala Ammannagari, M.D., a medical resident in her second year of training at Bassett Medical Center, was presented with the E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award for 2013. Her research project and poster were among 12 recently presented as part of the E. Donnell Thomas Research Day.

Ammannagari’s research study project was titled “Impact of obesity on the efficacy of colon cancer treatment.” “As diet-induced obesity is a major health problem worldwide, I chose to conduct a study to see if there was a relationship between obesity and the response to chemotherapy in colon cancer,” said Ammannagari. “Interestingly, it was found that obesity does affect the treatment response, as it seems to block the intended action of chemotherapy. I plan to study the cell signaling pathways that get activated in the setting of obesity, with an intention to look for new focused therapeutic agents in cancer patients with obesity and metabolic syndrome.”

Ammannagari worked on the study project with Erin Gillaspie, M.D., Michael Greene, Ph.D., Christine Burrington and Melissa Horsman from the research lab at Bassett Medical Center; and Anush Patel, M.D., attending physician in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, who provided guidance and support. Ammannagari earned her medical degree from SVS Medical College, India, and plans to pursue a career in medical oncology.

“Dr. Ammannagari’s scholarly work represents her well,” says Patel. “Her recent poster at American College of Physicians and the E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Award supports her ongoing efforts in becoming a researcher and a caring physician. Her dedication, enthusiasm and insight are inspiring.”

The E. Donnell Thomas Award is given annually to a Bassett trainee who has conducted exceptional research while at Bassett Medical Center during residency. The award is named in honor of E. Donnell Thomas, who served as Bassett’s physician-in-chief from



Nischala Ammannagari, M.D., is the 2013 winner of the E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award.

1955 to 1963. He was awarded the 1990 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his pioneering work in bone marrow transplantation, which he began at Bassett. Dr. Thomas performed the world’s first human bone marrow transplant at Bassett in 1956. ■