

# Almanac

## **Victoria Rich: Chief Nurse Executive for Penn Medical Center**

Penn Nursing Assistant Dean of Clinical Practice Dr. Victoria L. Rich was named the newly created Chief Nurse Executive for the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center Campus.

Dr. Rich will oversee the practice of nursing and the nursing care for patients at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania (CPUP), Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and all future activities under the HUP license. Her role as a member of the HUP and CPUP executive teams will be to support and facilitate an interdisciplinary team approach to care delivery.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition and acknowledgement," said Dr. Afaf I. Meleis, Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing. "This new appointment is a true testament to Dr. Rich's outstanding visionary leadership. It is also vital for advancing nursing practice."

Dr. Rich has been Chief Nursing Officer for HUP for five years (*Almanac* March 19, 2002). She will continue to serve as the Assistant Dean of Clinical Practice in the School of Nursing, a position she has held since 2004. Dr. Rich received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and her M.S.N. and Ph.D. in nursing administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

## **Remembering Barbaro: 'America's Horse' Who Touched the World**



*Barbaro with Dean Richardson*

"Barbaro was a true athlete, whose unwavering spirit and will to live touched the hearts of thousands of people throughout the country and the world. He became 'America's horse,' and despite his injuries and illness brought joy to the hearts of so many. We will miss him."

Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine has Barbaro featured on its homepage, [www.vet.upenn.edu/](http://www.vet.upenn.edu/) where it says in part:

"Barbaro's gallant fight to triumph over his injury and his laminitis has ended. The decision was made by considering what was best for him as a patient."

"The entire Penn Vet family is deeply grateful to all friends of Barbaro who sent flowers and gifts—along with their prayers and messages—to Barbaro and his caretakers at the New Bolton Center during his stay here."

"Our thoughts go out to his owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, as well as to everyone who followed his extraordinarily brave battle."

Before turning over the University Council meeting to the moderator last Wednesday, President Gutmann thanked the School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center for its heroic efforts to save Barbaro, "an athlete," who was cared for by Dr. Dean W. Richardson, Chief of Surgery and the Charles W. Raker Professor of Equine Surgery, and others at Penn's George D. Widener Hospital at New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA.

President Gutmann noted that it is unusual for a horse's death to be the subject of a *New York Times* editorial, but Barbaro was extraordinary. He was eulogized in the *Times* on January 30, in "One Horse Dies" one day after being euthanized. After President Gutmann said that Council should recognize the "extraordinary care" Barbaro received; applause erupted.



*Victoria Rich*

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## **Four SAS International Centers: Renewed Federal Funding**

Four international centers in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences will receive \$1.5 million in federal grants this year from the U.S. Department of Education to serve as National Resource Centers (NRC) for their regions.

The four-year grants are part of a program that recognizes academic institutions for their outstanding commitment to the world's key areas. While SAS has received these grants since 1959, this is only the second time that these four centers—African Studies, Middle East, South Asia and East Asian Studies—have held the designation simultaneously.

"We are especially pleased that our centers received this prestigious distinction," said Dr. Rebecca Bushnell, dean of SAS. "It shows our continued strength in area studies and reaffirms the primacy of the arts and sciences in tying Penn to the global community. By engaging key world regions, these centers answer the call of the Penn Compact at the highest level."

National Resource Centers are called on to foster international expertise for national security purposes and enhance citizens' knowledge and skills for the global workplace. To receive the designation, an applicant must:

- Teach at least one modern foreign language.
- Provide comprehensive instruction on an area where the language is commonly used.
- Employ scholars engaged in training and research relating to the region.
- Provide opportunities for graduate student research.
- Offer outreach and consultation on a local or national level.
- Maintain a specialized library collection.

In addition to the NRC grants, three of the centers (East Asia, Middle East and South Asia) received \$590,000 in Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for this academic year to support graduate training. Federal FLAS fellowships provide opportunities for intensive study of less-commonly taught languages and world areas during the academic year or the summer. They are also renewed annually until 2010.

To learn more about these international centers, visit their websites: African Studies Center, [www.africa.upenn.edu](http://www.africa.upenn.edu); Middle East Center, <http://mec.sas.upenn.edu>; South Asia Center, [www.southasiacenter.upenn.edu](http://www.southasiacenter.upenn.edu); and Center for East Asian Studies, <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ceas>.

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## Death

### Stuart Carroll, Secretary of Corporation; Development & Alumni Relations



Stuart Carroll

Stuart Carroll, C '43, a retired administrator who served Penn in many roles over the past several decades, died January 25 at the age of 85.

After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and again during the Korean Conflict, Mr. Carroll returned to the University in 1955

as director of the Campaign for the Law School. Following this initial position, he went on to what is now known as Development and Alumni Relations to serve in various positions including director of alumni annual giving (1958), director of development (1968), assistant vice president for development and public relations (1971), assistant vice president for alumni relations (1980). One year later he became executive vice president of the General Alumni Society.

Mr. Carroll also served as Secretary of the Corporation (now the title is Secretary of the University) from 1962-1968. He was coordinator of the record-breaking United Way/Donor Option Campaign in 1985. After serving the University for over three decades, he retired in 1987, but continued to serve in a part-time role until 1988. A Penn graduate, Mr. Carroll was very much involved in alumni activities. For the Class of 1943, he served as Class President, Class Officer, Gift Chair, and as a member of both the Gifts and Reunion Committees. Mr. Carroll was also a Penn Fund Phonathon Volunteer and was a member of the Friars Senior Society Graduate Board, the Penn Newman Center and the Organized Classes Board.

In 1986 he became 'Boss of the Day' on radio station WIP 610 AM, nominated by his secretary, Kristina Falcone Clark, who wrote that Mr. Carroll was a person "with a wonderful sense of humor and a charming personality." He was a recipient of the 1989 Alumni Award of Merit "in recognition of outstanding service to the University of Pennsylvania."

Mr. Carroll is survived by his wife, Lovina; two daughters, Lizanne Hanson, C '81 GED '81 and Margot Zelenz; two sons, Stuart H. Jr., and J. Douglas, C '74; six grandchildren including Charles, C '09; and a sister, Eleanor Teeven.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mr. Carroll's memory to: Class of '43 Memorial Scholarship Fund, University of Pennsylvania, Franklin Building, 3451 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

### Memorial for Carolyn Burdon

The Memorial Service for Carolyn "Penny" Burdon, the retired executive assistant in the Faculty Senate Office, will be held in the Amado Recital Hall, Irvine Auditorium, on Thursday, February 8, from 4 to 5 p.m., with a reception following the service. Ms. Burdon died on December 6 (Almanac January 9, 2007).

## Council Meeting Coverage: International Issues

As a follow-up comment to the Status Reports, UA chairman Brett Thalmann reported that the UA recently released a major report, dealing with some 40 projects, that is on the UA's website, <http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~ua/>.

Dr. Neville Strumpf, past Senate chair, noted the passing of Carolyn "Penny" Burdon, the former executive assistant to the Senate, who died in December. A memorial has been planned for her; it will be held on Thursday afternoon.

The majority of Council's first meeting of the semester was devoted to international issues, which is part of a pillar of the Penn Compact, "engaging locally and globally." President Gutmann began the discussion by noting that Penn's student body grows more international each year. Penn has the highest percentage of international undergraduates in the Ivy League: 12%, or 1,400 of Penn's undergraduates, are international students from 100 countries. Of Penn's 11,000 graduate and professional students, there are 2,800 international students who comprise 24% of that group. The Class of 2009 received a record number of international applicants, with 9.5% early decision. Dr. Gutmann also pointed out that after 9/11, many regulations have made it more difficult for international students to come to Penn. She cited an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, "Coalition of Exchange, Trade and Research Groups Calls for a More Open Visa Policy." She added, "We want to be and are cooperative with all measures that are legally in place targeted toward security." However, she stressed that Penn and other institutions want to decrease "unnecessary barriers," which is why she agreed

to serve on the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board in 2005. Dr. Gutmann said one of the challenges facing Penn is to find more resources to provide financial aid to more students from around the globe. Recently, 58 financially aided freshmen from around the globe were admitted, thanks in part to Penn World Scholars which she said is reaping rewards as international alumni give scholarship funds to make Penn accessible.

Provost Ron Daniels spoke about how Penn's student body has the 14th largest number of international students of all U.S. universities and is #2 in international scholars, with only Harvard having more. Penn also sends 1,744 students to study in other countries putting Penn as #7 in the national ranking for study abroad. The Provost also mentioned the Founder's Day Symposium that he had moderated on January 19, "Changing the World? Penn Confronts Global Challenges." He said that while no unanimous conclusion was reached by the eight panelists, it is clear that "there is an agenda for further research and work in this area that we have to address."

He also reported that the College's "Literatures in the World Series" has addressed international challenges and encourages students to think in more global terms with readings of international literature and instruction in the original languages. Faculty from various departments are involved, teaching courses in Hebrew, Arabic, Hindi and many other languages.

Penn's four international centers—African Studies, the Middle East, South Asia and East  
*(continued on page 3)*

## SENATE From the Senate Office

*Under the Faculty Senate Rules, formal notification to members may be accomplished by publication in Almanac. The following is published under that rule:*

**To: Members of the Standing Faculty**  
**From: Vincent Price, Chair**

### Nominations for Offices Requested

In accordance with the Rules of the Faculty Senate you are invited to suggest candidates for the posts and terms stated below, with supporting letters if desired. Candidates' names should be submitted promptly to Barry Cooperman, Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee by telephone at (215) 898-6330 or by e-mail to [cooprman@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:cooprman@pobox.upenn.edu).

The following posts are to be filled for 2007-2008:

*Chair-elect:*

(Incumbent: Larry Gladney)

*Secretary-elect:*

(Incumbent: Andrew Metrick)

*Four At-large Members of the Senate Executive Committee (3-year term):*

(Incumbents: Dennis Culhane, Lydie Moudileno, Barbara Riegel, and Rogers Smith)

*Two Assistant Professor Members of the Senate Executive Committee (2-year term):*

(Incumbents: Judith Long and Cathrine Veikos)

*Three Members of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (3-year term):*

(Incumbents: Sherri Adams, James Ross, and Anita Allen-Castellitto)

*Two Members of the Senate Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (3-year term):*

(Incumbents: Barbara Medoff-Cooper and Michael Katz)

### Nominating Committee Elected

The Senate Executive Committee's slate of nominees for the Senate Nominating Committee was circulated to the Senate Membership on January 9, 2007. No additional nominations by petition have been received within the prescribed time. Therefore, according to the Senate Rules, the Executive Committee's slate is declared elected.

Those elected are:

- Kevin Brownlee (Romance Languages)
- Barry Cooperman (Chemistry) chair
- Stuart Curran (English)
- Frank Goodman (Law)
- Sarah Kagan (Nursing)
- Randall Kamien (Physics & Astronomy)
- Martin Pring (Physiology)
- Sohrab Rabii (Electrical & Systems Engineering)
- Julie Sochalski (Nursing)

## Council Meeting Coverage: International Issues (continued from page 2)

Asian Studies—all received \$1.5 million grants from the U.S. government to continue their work.

Provost Daniels announced that a new Fund for International Education is being launched by his office which has circulated a memo to the Deans, asking them to generate proposals to expand our current international offerings for students. Proposals might include programs in major fields or parts of the world not commonly represented by study abroad; short-term overseas options, such as embedded or appended overseas components to on-campus cours-

es; rigorous active-learning programs involving service learning, professional internships, or field research overseas; new ideas for interdisciplinary offerings that focus on global issues; and new introductory courses for first and second year undergraduates. He said they expect to award up to \$100,000 total in grant support.

The next Council Meeting is February 28. To place an item on the agenda for the next Council Open Forum, submit it to Vincent Price, Steering Committee Chair, [senate@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:senate@pobox.upenn.edu), by February 7.

## Distinguished International Scholars

The Office of the Provost announces that applications are available for the Distinguished International Scholars, a program which aims to promote further global engagement in undergraduate education and deepen the University's ties to the world's leading universities and scholars. Any member of the Standing Faculty who is teaching an undergraduate course in an upcoming semester may apply to host an international scholar. The deadline for the Spring 2007 application cycle is *March 30, 2007*. Applications will be accepted for courses to be offered in any of the upcoming three terms: Fall 2007, Spring 2008, or Fall 2008.

The Distinguished International Scholars Program offers Penn faculty the opportunity to invite a scholar from another nation to contribute significantly to an undergraduate course while visiting Penn's campus. The scholar's time may be compressed into a two-week visit or spread out over the course of a semester but the total time spent on campus should be at least ten weekdays. In addition to the course, the scholar should participate in the intellectual and cultural life of campus through such activities as visiting other courses, offering public lectures, attending departmental seminars/workshops, and participating in programs through College Houses and Academic Services.

The faculty member will be responsible for hosting the scholar during the visit. This includes coordinating all travel and lodging arrangements, as well as planning all educational and social activities during the visit. The host department or school will receive up to \$20,000 to cover expenses related to the visit such as an honorarium, visa fees, and the costs of lodging, meals, and travel. Applications will be evaluated based on the scholar's reputation and teaching expertise, how well the planned visit integrates the scholar into the intellectual and cultural life of the campus, and the impact the scholar's visit will have on undergraduate education at Penn.

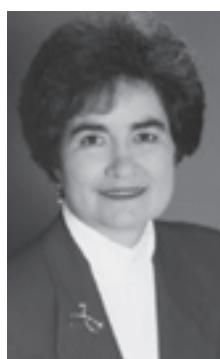
For copies of the application material or further information, please contact Rob Nelson, Office of the Provost, at [assocprv@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:assocprv@pobox.upenn.edu) or (215) 898-7225.

## Internationally-Renowned Visiting Professors at Penn Nursing

Throughout the academic year, the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing hosts visiting professors and scholars from across the United States and around the world to foster an exchange of ideas with faculty and students at colloquia and seminars. Visiting professors also provide consultations about critical issues in nursing around the world. During the spring 2007 semester, the School of Nursing will host Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw and Dr. Karlene Kerfoot.

Dr. Hinshaw, professor and dean emeritus at the University of Michigan School of Nursing and Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence at the Institute of Medicine, joins Penn Nursing as Visiting Professor in the Nursing Family and Community Health Division. Her research interests include quality of care, patient outcomes, measurement of such outcomes and building positive work environments for nurses because of the impact on patient safety. She was the first permanent Director of the National Center of Nursing Research and the first Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Hinshaw has received numerous awards for her work including 13 honorary doctorates, the Health Leader of the Year Award from the United States Public Health Service and the Walsh McDermott Award from the Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Kerfoot joins Penn Nursing as Visiting Professor in the Biobehavioral and Health Systems Division. Dr. Kerfoot is Principal of Kerfoot and Associates, Inc., an Indianapolis-based consulting firm that works in the areas of pa-



Ada Sue Hinshaw



Karlene Kerfoot

tient safety, strategic planning, Magnet education, recruitment and retention redesign, executive coaching and redesigning of patient care structures. She has published more than 250 articles and travels the U.S. and the world to speak on the topics of leadership, patient safety and nursing workforce issues. Dr. Kerfoot has held numerous leadership positions in hospitals, for corporate organizations and in academia. Most recently, she was senior vice president of nursing and patient care at Clarian Health Partners in Indianapolis and associate dean of clinical practice at the Indiana University School of Nursing. Dr. Kerfoot has received numerous awards for her work, including induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

## Ideas in Action: March 30

The Office of the Provost announces that applications are available for Ideas in Action, a program supporting courses that provide undergraduates with research opportunities grounded in real-world policy problems. The key element of an Ideas in Action course is that students conduct research and analysis under the supervision of a Penn faculty member on a project brought to the class by a leading public official or distinguished policymaker from outside the university. The idea is to link faculty, students and community through the research enterprise. The policymaker meets with the class at its outset to present the class with a real-world problem and returns at the end of the semester for an in-depth briefing on students' research findings. If circumstances allow, the policymaker may visit the class periodically over the course of the semester.

The Fels Institute provides support for each Ideas in Action course during its development, and throughout the semester. If requested, Fels can assist in identifying an appropriate policymaker to work with the class. Each Ideas in Action course is listed in the instructor's home school and cross-listed at Fels under a 400-level course number to provide one-stop course shopping. In addition, Fels can lend support to Ideas in Action courses throughout the semester with a project manager to work with the instructor, distinguished policymaker and students on the project. At the conclusion of the course, Fels makes the students' research and findings available to policymakers across the nation and around the world through the Institute's website and other means.

Ideas in Action funds undergraduate-level courses in any academic discipline in any of the four undergraduate schools. Existing courses that have been re-worked to take advantage of the Ideas in Action concept are eligible for funding, as are entirely new courses. The program is intended for standing faculty, although a limited number of grants may be awarded to non-standing faculty. A grant of up to \$5,000 is made available to each Ideas in Action course to cover the cost of bringing the distinguished policymaker to campus, for housing while here, and incidentals such as a meal with the class.

The deadline for the current application cycle is *March 30, 2007*. Applications will be accepted for courses to be offered in any of the upcoming three terms: Fall 2007, Spring 2008, or Fall 2008. Applications are available from the Associate Provost, Dr. Andy Binns. To request an application form, send an e-mail to [assocprv@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:assocprv@pobox.upenn.edu) with Ideas in Action in the subject line. Faculty members who wish to discuss a possible Ideas in Action course or would like assistance in preparing a proposal should contact Dr. Donald Kettl, director of the Fels Institute of Government at [dkettl@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:dkettl@sas.upenn.edu). Additional information is available at [www.fels.upenn.edu/ideas-in-action.htm](http://www.fels.upenn.edu/ideas-in-action.htm) or by contacting the Associate Provost's office at (215) 898-7225 or [assocprv@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:assocprv@pobox.upenn.edu).

## Call for Proposals: Penn Center for AIDS Research

The Penn Center for AIDS Research (Penn CFAR) seeks applications to the pilot program offered through its Developmental Core. Proposals regarding any aspect of HIV/AIDS clinical care, epidemiology, virology, immunology, structural biology, vaccine development, or prevention are considered relevant to the goals of the Developmental Core.

The CFAR is especially interested in proposals that bridge programmatic areas and, in particular, those that bridge clinical investigators with basic or behavioral scientists. Proposals that include an international component are also encouraged. For the current funding cycle, the CFAR will partner with the Penn Center for Molecular Studies in Digestive and Liver Diseases to encourage applications that focus on the role of the gut immune system in HIV/AIDS pathogenesis.

We are able to offer awards up to \$40,000 for each grant. Grants are for a one-year period and are not renewable. It is expected that funds will be available in July 2007.

Faculty members (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Assistant Research Professor, Associate Research Professor, Research Professor), holding appointments at the CFAR institutions, who meet one of the following requirements, are invited to apply:

- New investigators who never have held extramural support from the NIH
- Investigators who have not previously worked in HIV/AIDS
- Investigators who have worked in HIV/AIDS who wish to study an area that represents a significant departure from their currently funded work

### Application Process:

The application form and instructions are available at [www.uphs.upenn.edu/aids/WordDocs/Pilotcover-instrucsFY2008.doc](http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/aids/WordDocs/Pilotcover-instrucsFY2008.doc)

*Application Deadline: Friday, March 16, 2007*

Please e-mail a complete application to: [olivaj@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:olivaj@mail.med.upenn.edu) and deliver one complete application to Olivia Loskoski, Room 357 BRB II/III, 6160.

#### Application Requirements:

1. Abstract (up to 250 words)
2. Biosketches (PI and Co-PI)
3. Other support (PI and Co-PI)
4. Description of proposed project (3 pages)
5. Budget
6. Budget justification
7. Signature of PI's Departmental Chair

Pre-Submission Mentoring is available to junior investigators. For information, contact Evelyn Olivieri at [oliviere@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:oliviere@mail.med.upenn.edu).

*For additional information, please contact:*

Olivia Loskoski  
Administrative Coordinator  
Room 357 BRB II/III, 6160  
Phone: (215) 746-2754  
E-mail: [olivaj@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:olivaj@mail.med.upenn.edu)

—Dr. Pablo Tebas, Core Director, Associate Professor of Medicine

*The Office of the Vice Provost for Research has announced awards to the following members of the faculty for the projects listed below. These are from fall 2006, the most recent cycle of Penn's internally-funded University Research Foundation Awards and URF Conference Support Awards (noted with \*).*

## University Research Foundation Awards Fall 2006 & URF Conference Support Awards Fall 2006

Rita Barnard, Department of English, School of Arts and Sciences; *Verwoerd's Daughters: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Hope*

Tobias Baumgart, Department of Chemistry, School of Arts and Sciences; *Complex Biomaterial Surface Patterning for Scientific and Biomedical Applications*

Stephen M. Baylor, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine; *Calcium Flames in Mammalian Skeletal Muscle Fibers*

Aditya Behl, Department of South Asia Studies, School of Arts and Sciences; *Shadows of Paradise: An Indian Islamic Literary Tradition, 1379-1545*

Toni Bowers, Department of English, School of Arts and Sciences; *Bearing False Witness: Deceit, Disguise, and Religious Resistance in British Writing and Culture, 1661-1711*

Diego Contreras, Department of Neuroscience, School of Medicine; *State Dependent Integration of Sensory Inputs Studied In Vivo*

Mark Devlin, Department of Physics & Astronomy, School of Arts and Sciences; *The Penn Array Receiver*

Roderic G. Eckenhoff, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, School of Medicine; *The Effects of Anesthetics on the Triple Transgenic Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease*

Clark L. Erickson, Department of Anthropology, School of Arts and Sciences; *The Pre-Columbian Engineered Landscapes of the Bolivian Amazon*

Tulia Gabriela Falletti, Department of Political Science, School of Arts and Sciences; *The Federalist Paradox: The Rising Power of Municipalities in Third-World Federations*

Eduardo Fernandez-Duque, Department of Anthropology, School of Arts and Science; *Paternity Analyses and Genetic Structure of a Monogamous Primate Population*

Lori Flanagan-Cato, Department of Psy-

chology, School of Arts and Sciences; *The Ventromedial Hypothalamus: Crossroads for Reproduction and Metabolism*

Femida Handy, School of Social Policy & Practice; *Congregational Participation by Immigrants: A Stepping Stone to Social and Political Inclusion*

Tom Kadesch, Department of Genetics, School of Medicine; *Novel Aspects of Notch Signaling*

Daniel S. Kessler, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine; *Negative Regulation of TGF $\beta$  Signaling by a Fast1-Groucho Corepressor Complex*

Laurie Kilpatrick, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine; *Novel Protein Kinase C Targeted Therapy for Acute Lung Injury*

\*Susan Lindee, Department of History & Sociology of Science, School of Arts and Sciences; *Knowing Global Environments: New Historical Perspectives on the Field Sciences*

David Lynch, Department of Neurology, School of Medicine; *Anti-NMDA Receptor Antibodies in Paraneoplastic Limbic Encephalitis*

Christian Lee Novetzke, Department of South Asia Studies, School of Arts and Sciences; *Love at the End of Empire: A Cultural History of the Late Maratha Empire in India*

Cynthia M. Otto, Department of Clinical Studies, Philadelphia, School of Veterinary Medicine; *Intermittent Hypoxia, A Mechanism for Inflammation in Acute Lung Injury*

\*Hyunjoon Park, Department of Sociology, School of Arts and Sciences; *Innovation and Inequality in East Asian Education*

John Pehrson, Department of Animal Biology, School of Veterinary Medicine; *Function of MacroH2A Histones*

Scott Poethig, Department of Biology, School of Arts and Sciences; *Temporal Regulation of Gene Expression in Arabidopsis*

\*Nina Luning Prak, Department of Patholo-

gy & Laboratory Medicine, School of Medicine; *B Cell Targeted Therapy For Autoimmunity*

Prashant Purohit, Department of Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics, School of Engineering and Applied Science; *Computation of Membrane Shapes in Mitochondria*

Glenn Radice, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, School of Medicine; *N-cadherin Function in Pancreatic Cancer*

\*Julie Schneider, Department of Fine Arts, School of Design; *Clay@Penn 07: An Invitational Exhibition*

Dieter M. Schifferli, Department of Pathobiology, School of Veterinary Medicine; *Yersinia Pestis Autotransporters*

Samir Shah, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine; *Impact of Microbiological Diagnosis of Complicated Pneumonia on Clinical Outcomes Using a Broad-Range 16S rDNA PCR for Pathogen Detection*

\*Emily Steiner, Department of English, School of Arts and Sciences; *4th International Conference on "Piers Plowman"*

John C. Trueswell, Department of Psychology, School of Arts and Sciences; *The Role of Broca's Area and Conflict Resolution in Sentence Comprehension*

Barbra Mann Wall, School of Nursing; *A Comparative History of Twentieth Century Catholic Hospitals*

Noga Vardi, Department of Neuroscience, School of Medicine; *Role of Glutamate Signaling in Epithelial Cells*

Xiaowei Xu, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, School of Medicine; *Characterization of Oct4 Positive Adult Stem Cells*

Arjun Yodh, Department of Physics & Astronomy, School of Arts and Sciences; *Construction on Instrument for Bed-Side Measurement of Cerebral Oxygenation*

## **HERS Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration**

Once again, the Office of the Executive Vice President and the Office of the Provost will sponsor the nomination of two women (preferably one faculty member and one staff member) to the Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration sponsored by Bryn Mawr College and Higher Education Resources (HERS) Mid-Atlantic. If accepted, the University will fund their participation in the program.

The Institute offers women faculty and administrators intensive training in education administration pertinent to the management and governance of colleges and universities. Timely information and perspectives focus on teaching, research, and service.

The Institute will be held from Saturday, June 23 through Wednesday, July 18, 2007, on the campus of Bryn Mawr College. Application for admission is open to women faculty and administrators whose background, experience, and present responsibilities indicate a potential for professional advancement in higher education administration.

The Penn Professional Women's Network (PPWN), in conjunction with the Vice President for Human Resources, will review applications, interview the finalists and then pass applications on to the Provost and Executive Vice President for review. If you have applied in the past and were not selected, please apply again!

Applications for consideration of Penn funding are due *March 9, 2007*.

### *Information Sessions:*

Thursday, February 8, noon;

3701 Locust Walk (Caster Bldg.), rm. C-200

Monday, February 12, 4 p.m.;

Inn At Penn, Lenape Room

For more information as well as an application (available online), please visit the HERS website: [www.hersnet.org/HERSHigherEducationResourceServices.htm](http://www.hersnet.org/HERSHigherEducationResourceServices.htm)

Applications for Penn funding should be either hand-carried or sent to: Lina Hartcollis, School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania, 3701 Locust Walk (Caster Bldg., B-18), Philadelphia, PA 19104-6214.

For questions about the program, contact the Penn Professional Women's 2007 HERS Nominating Committee:

Lina Hartcollis (HERS 2005) at:

(215) 898-5503 or [hart@sp2.upenn.edu](mailto:hart@sp2.upenn.edu)

Julie Sochalski (HERS 2006) at:

(215) 898-3147 or [julieas@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:julieas@nursing.upenn.edu)

Donna Milici (HERS 1997) at:

(215) 573-0747 or [milici@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:milici@nursing.upenn.edu)

Laurie Cousart (HERS 1995) at:

(215) 573-2332 or [cousart@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:cousart@pobox.upenn.edu)

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## **W-2 Tax Forms Now Online**

The Payroll Office announced that all active staff, faculty and students have the ability to view and reprint year-end W-2 tax forms directly from the U@Penn portal. During the year-end cycle, additional tax forms pertinent to each employee will also be made available (example W-2c, 1042S, 1099R).

In order to view and/or print your W-2 go to the U@Penn website, [https://medley.isc-seo.upenn.edu/penn\\_portal/u@penn.php](https://medley.isc-seo.upenn.edu/penn_portal/u@penn.php).

Under the General tab, under the Payroll and Tax channel there is a link to My Tax Info.

My Tax Info allows University employees to view, print, and download electronic versions of their income tax statements, such as the Form W-2, on demand in Adobe PDF format. All employees will still receive copies of their 2006 statements via U.S. Mail (*Almanac* January 23, 2007).

*-Payroll Department*

## **National Women of Color Day Awards Luncheon: March 2**

The National Institute for Women of Color (NIWC) has designated the first day of Women's History Month as National Women of Color Day. For the 20th consecutive year, the University of Pennsylvania and its Health System (HUP, Presbyterian, and Pennslyvania Hospitals) seek to increase our awareness of the talents and achievements of women of color by hosting an Awards Luncheon. We hope you will join us for this uplifting and inspirational celebration.

The 2007 Awards Luncheon will take place Friday, March 2, noon-2 p.m., Bodek Lounge and Hall of Flags, Houston Hall. Tickets are \$30 per person. A limited number of scholarship tickets will be available. To order tickets, please contact Constance Gordon, [cagordon@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:cagordon@pobox.upenn.edu).

Other free activities are being held in Houston Hall in conjunction with the luncheon:

Craft Fair: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Silent Auction: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Health Information Table: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, call (215) 898-0104.

—Valerie Allen, 2007 Women of Color at Penn Planning Committee



## **Call for Proposals: Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities**

### **Alavi-Dabiri Postdoctoral Fellowship Award**

We wish to announce a call for proposals to provide supplemental support of postdoctoral fellows pursuing careers in fields related to mental retardation and developmental disabilities. The Alavi-Dabiri Fellowship Award was developed by Drs. Abass and Jane Alavi in 1997. The Alavis have provided an endowment, the income of which will provide for the award. This year the award will be approximately \$6,500. The grant period is from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Additional information regarding the center and this award can be accessed through <http://stokes.chop.edu/mrddrc1>.

*Interested candidates should submit:*

1. A one page application which includes an abstract (250 words) and specific aims of the project.
2. A statement of the project's relevance to mental retardation and developmental disabilities.
3. A letter of support from the applicant's preceptor that will speak to the qualifications of the candidate.
4. A NIH biographical sketch or CV.

This preliminary application (format attached, send 12 copies) is due *April 6, 2007* in the office of John Simpkins, 3615 Civic Center Boulevard, Abramson Research Building Room 502, Philadelphia, PA 19104-4318.

Decisions will be announced by May 3, 2007 for a start date of July 1, 2007.

Questions may be addressed to John Simpkins, (215) 590-3728 or [simpkinsj@email.chop.edu](mailto:simpkinsj@email.chop.edu).

### **New Investigator Award Program**

We wish to announce the availability of new investigator start-up funds for junior faculty members performing clinical or basic science research in the areas of brain development and function in childhood. The total pool of funds available for this program is up to \$120,000 per year (approximately \$60,000 in guaranteed funds and \$60,000 which may be renewed from the Philadelphia Foundation). This amount is divided among the awardees and in the past the program has supported either 2 or 3 individuals. These awards are generally renewable for a second year assuming there has been good progress. The next group of awardees will start July 1, 2007. Additional information regarding the center and this award can be accessed through <http://stokes.chop.edu/mrddrc1>.

*Eligibility requirements:*

1. New investigators must have a faculty appointment at the Assistant Professor level and must have been on the faculty for no longer than four years prior to the start of funding.
2. Applicants who hold R01 grants are ineligible, while those who hold Clinical Investigator Development Award (CIDA, K-Award) or other transitional awards are eligible.

*Interested candidates should submit:*

1. A preliminary one-page application which includes an abstract (250 words).
2. A statement of the project's relevance to mental retardation and developmental disabilities.
3. A statement of which core facilities within the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Center would be utilized.
4. A NIH biographical sketch or CV.
5. A letter of support from the applicant's division chief or department chairperson which describes the candidate's qualifications for this award and the institutional commitment to the candidate's development as a scientist.

This preliminary application (format attached, send 12 copies) is due *February 23, 2007* in the office of John Simpkins, 3615 Civic Center Boulevard, Abramson Research Bldg. Room 502, Philadelphia, PA 19104-4318.

Notification of the results of the preliminary application will be given by March 9, 2007. This formal application will be due by *April 6, 2007*.

Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria and whose work is judged to be relevant to the mission of the Center will be invited to submit a formal application (about 5 to 10 pages)

Questions may be addressed to John Simpkins, (215) 590-3728 or [simpkinsj@email.chop.edu](mailto:simpkinsj@email.chop.edu).

—Dr. Marc Yudkoff, Director of MRDDRC, Professor of Pediatrics

—Dr. Michael B. Robinson, Associate Director of MRDDRC, Professor of Pharmacology and Pediatrics

## **EHRS Live Training on Lab and Biological Safety: February 13**

The next live training program is: *Introduction to Laboratory and Biological Safety at Penn*; February 13, 9 a.m.–noon, BRB II/III Auditorium. (Please arrive early, sign-in 9 a.m.–9:15 a.m. No admittance to the course after 9:15 a.m. Penn ID is required for sign-in. A Certificate of Completion will be granted at the end of the training session. Only those individuals who sign-in and receive the Certificate will be given credit for the course.)

This combined training program provides a comprehensive overview of safe work practices in the biomedical laboratory and meets the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements for employees who work with hazardous substances including chemicals, human blood, blood products, fluids and human tissue specimens. All faculty, staff and students at the University who work in a laboratory and have not previously attended a live training presentation must attend this training.

The Office of Environmental Health & Radiation Safety (EHRS) develops and presents a variety of required training programs in live presentations or online formats. To determine which training programs you are required to take, review the section "Training Requirements" on the EHRS website [www.ehrs.upenn.edu/training/dates/](http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu/training/dates/).

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Dear Penn Community,

More than 400 of us along with our families volunteered for the University of Pennsylvania's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration sponsored by the African American Resource Center. We undertook a major book sorting project and transformed the entrance and hallways of West Philadelphia High School. We put books on tape for children, made packets for the homeless, made pillows for area hospitals and hosted a one-day mentoring program for local high school students. Additionally, on January 24, we hosted ninth grade students from University City High School for the city-wide Shadowing Day.

Departments are currently planning summer internships opportunities. Penn VIPS is available to provide you with assistance in developing internship programs. Please contact me for assistance.

Below is a list of current opportunities. I look forward to working with you as we strive to be good neighbors. Contact me at [sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu) if you would like to volunteer. Thank you for all you do.

—Isabel Mapp, Associate Director/Director, Penn Volunteers In Public Service

**Teach at Community School:** Have a special hobby? Share it with our surrounding neighborhood. University City High School Community Night at 36th and Filbert Street is where we offer free evening classes and workshops for residents of the West Philadelphia area. For the past three years, students have volunteered an hour or two each week to teach classes like yoga, belly dancing, hip hop, arts and crafts, kids cooking classes and a host of music lessons during the fall and spring semesters. We are looking for instructors to share their talents with the youths and adults of the West Philadelphia community. The classes will run from *February 12–April 18* on Mondays, and Wednesdays from 6–8 p.m. (no classes 1st week of March or April). If you are interested in volunteering 1–2 hours of your week with the program, we need you!

**Does your office have furniture you no longer need?** Do you want to donate it to some worthy causes? The Mayor's Office for the Reentry of Ex-Offenders is requesting the donation of any desks, chairs, book shelves and filing cabinets for their new One-Stop Center that are no longer needed by the University of Pennsylvania. We have similar requests from other agencies also. Your generosity is appreciated.

**Penn VIPS WorkPlace Mentoring Program!** Join us as we mentor students from Shaw Middle School once a month. Help a 7th grade student explore careers and gain exposure to a University setting. Program began in January.

### **March/April Preview: UC Green TreeVitalize Community Tree Plantings:**

Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.–noon, meet at 200 South 43rd Street between Locust and Walnut Sts.

Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at Comegy Elementary School, S. 50th & Greenway Ave.

Saturday, April 14, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at Malcolm X Park, on Larchwood Ave. between S. 51st & 52nd Sts.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at 4100 Market St. in Elwyn parking lot.

## **Relay For Life at Penn**

Relay For Life is a twelve-hour event held annually at Franklin Field during which we honor cancer survivors and remember those who have lost their battles. Teams of 8–15 individuals take turns walking around the track all night to symbolize that the fight against cancer does not sleep. The evening includes food, games, entertainment and celebrations. This year the event will run from 8 p.m. on March 30 to 8 a.m. on March 31.

Relay at Penn has grown tremendously since it began in 2003 with an impressive \$46,000 raised last year. This year, our goal is to fundraise \$100,000. In order to accomplish this feat, we need the participation of Penn faculty and staff. We also believe that faculty and staff involvement will greatly enhance the event, making it one of the few occasions on campus that includes the entire Penn community.

We ask that you assist us in achieving this objective by helping us to reach out to this population at Penn. In addition, we would like to extend the invitation to friends and family. We understand that many faculty members are reluctant to attend an all-night event; however, we would like to emphasize that they are not required to stay for the entire duration of the event. We would especially like to involve all members of the Penn community who have been touched by cancer and honor them during our Survivor's Lap and our Luminaria Ceremony, as well as provide further support for them by connecting them to the American Cancer Society.

For more information visit [www.acsevents.org/relay/pa/upenn](http://www.acsevents.org/relay/pa/upenn) or contact me by e-mail at [cshulse@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:cshulse@wharton.upenn.edu) with any questions.

—Corey Hulse, Chair of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life at Penn

## **One Step Ahead**

**Security & Privacy  
Made Simple**



Another tip in a series provided by the Offices of Information Systems & Computing and Audit, Compliance & Privacy.

### **Wipe Cell Phones and Other Wireless Devices Securely Before Disposal**

As we all know, cell phones today are not just for having telephone conversations. You can surf the Internet, send and receive e-mail and text messages, keep your calendar, manage contacts, shoot photos and videos and even listen to music. Along with all of those great features comes a potential risk that personal information could be available to strangers after your phone is sold or donated.

With the average life of a cell phone at about 1 1/2 years, most of us will go through several different phones a decade, so it is important to learn how to dispose of them properly, while protecting our personal privacy and avoiding other data breaches. The exact steps to securely wipe clean your old phone depend upon the model that you have. [Wirelessrecycling.com](http://Wirelessrecycling.com) offers instructions for many different phones, PDAs, and smart phones. Palm has a unique method for their products that will allow you to overwrite your data with 1's and 0's, ensuring your privacy. More information about Palm's "zero-out" method can be found on their web site [www.palm.com](http://www.palm.com). Contact your cell service provider for more information about your particular model and assistance.

Cell phones can have a productive second life after we're finished with them, but making sure they are clean should be a priority before sending them out the door.

For additional tips, see the One Step Ahead link on the Information Security website: [www.upenn.edu/computing/security/](http://www.upenn.edu/computing/security/).

### **More Back Issues Now on Web**

Pre-web Almanac issues in a searchable PDF format are now available from the academic years 1991–1992, 1992–1993, 1993–1994 and 1994–1995 at [www.upenn.edu/almanac/issues/archive.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/issues/archive.html). These are in addition to the collection of back issues—from 1995–1996 to the present—that have been on Almanac's website.

### **Subscribe to Express Almanac**

Sign up to receive e-mail notification when we post breaking news between issues. Send an e-mail to [listserv@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:listserv@lists.upenn.edu) with "subscribe e-almanac <your full-name>" in the body of the message. —Ed.



**Butabu: Adobe Architecture of West Africa**, the exhibit at the Penn Museum featuring the work of photographer James Morris, offers a stunning visual survey of complex adobe structures, like the *Cou-mound in Sirigu, Ghana* (above). Mr. Morris's work centers on the built environment and the cultural landscape and is a vivid reminder of the communal effort required to maintain these buildings. The traveling exhibition of 50 photographs will be on view at the Penn Museum through March 3, 2007.

### National Have-a-Heart Day

On Wednesday, February 14, celebrate 'Have-a-Heart Day' by being more conscious of your food choices. Along with regular exercise, healthy food choices are imperative for good cardiovascular health. Penn Cardiac Care offers a few tips: look for heart-healthy menus in the UPHS cafeterias next Wednesday, or take the initiative to try new food that tastes good to you and your heart.

Heart disease claims more lives than the next four most common causes of death combined. On average, one American dies of heart disease every 35 seconds.

To learn about the warning signs of heart disease and the programs provided by UPHS this month, call 1-800-789-PENN (7366) or logon to <http://pennhealth.com/cardiac>.

## Update February AT PENN

### CHANGE

The scheduled reading/signing on February 13 by Eric Klinenberg for his book *Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America's Media* will take place at the Penn Bookstore at 5 p.m.

### ON STAGE

**9 Seven Guitars**; 8 p.m.; Class of '49 Auditorium, Houston Hall; tickets: \$6-7 on Locust Walk, \$8-9 at the door; *also February 10, 2 & 8 p.m.* (Performing Arts Council).

**Time Steppin'**; tap dance show; 8 p.m.; Iron Gate Theatre; tickets: \$5 on Locust Walk, \$8 at the door; *also February 10, 4:30 p.m.* (Soundworks Top Factory).

### The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

**About the Crime Report:** Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for **January 22-28, 2007**. Also reported were 12 Crimes Against Property (including 9 thefts, 2 acts of fraud and 1 vandalism). Full reports are available at: [www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v53/n21/crrep07.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v53/n21/crrep07.html). Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Ed.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of **January 22-28, 2007**. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

01/24/07	3:24 PM	3731 Walnut St
01/24/07	11:52 PM	3901 Locust Walk
01/25/07	4:18 AM	4000 University Ave
01/26/07	12:49 AM	3400 Chestnut St
01/26/07	2:12 AM	100 Walnut St
01/26/07	1:04 PM	3601 Walnut St
01/26/07	9:34 PM	4001 Walnut St
01/27/07	12:05 AM	43rd & Walnut St
01/27/07	5:25 PM	40th & Ludlow St
01/28/07	2:29 AM	4000 Locust St

Male cited for disorderly conduct  
Complainant receiving harassing phone calls  
Driver operating vehicle while intoxicated  
Driver cited for driving under the influence  
Male cited for urinating in public  
Male wanted on warrant/Arrest  
Male wanted on warrant/issued new court date  
Male operating vehicle while intoxicated/Arrest  
Male in possession of narcotics/Arrest  
Male operating vehicle while intoxicated/Arrest

### 18th District Report

7 incidents with 3 arrests (including 4 robberies and 3 aggravated assaults) were reported between **January 22-28, 2007** by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th St. & Market St. to Woodland Ave.

01/23/07	10:00 PM	4500 Walnut St
01/23/07	10:07 PM	4600 Walnut St
01/24/07	3:02 PM	4600 Osage Ave
01/25/07	6:30 PM	4800 Springfield Ave
01/27/07	12:44 PM	4600 Walnut St
01/28/07	4:26 AM	5100 Larchwood Ave
01/28/07	8:56 PM	5141 Hazel Ave

Robbery  
Robbery  
Robbery/Arrest  
AggravatedAssault/Arrest  
AggravatedAssault  
Robbery  
AggravatedAssault/Arrest

## CLASSIFIEDS—UNIVERSITY

### RESEARCH

**Women over 70 years needed for appetite study.** The University of Pennsylvania Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism seeks both healthy women and women with unexplained weight loss for hormone study. Eligible volunteers will receive free medical exams, blood test results and bone density. Participants will be compensated. Please contact Andrew at (215) 573-3429 for more information.

Penn's Depression Research Unit is conducting research into **alternative, herbal treatments of anxiety**. Symptoms of anxiety may include: nervousness, tension, difficulty relaxing, excessive worrying and sleep problems. Those who qualify will receive an initial evaluation and may take part in a research study with Chamomile for up to 8 weeks. For more information call the DRU at (215) 662-3462.

Penn's Depression Research Unit is conducting research into **non-hormonal, herbal treatments for peri and post menopausal anxiety symptoms**. Symptoms of menopause may include: nervousness, tension, sleep difficulty, concentration problems, mood changes and hot flashes. Those who qualify will receive an initial evaluation and may take part in a research study with Black Cohosh for up to 3 months. For more information call the DRU at (215) 662-3462.

*Almanac* is not responsible for contents of classified ad material.

Submissions for classified ads are due every Thursday for the following Tuesday's issue.

For information call (215) 898-5274 or visit [www.upenn.edu/almanac/faqs.html#ad](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/faqs.html#ad).

**Deadlines:** The deadline for the weekly Update is every Monday, for the following Tuesday's issue. The deadline for the March AT PENN calendar is **Tuesday, February 13**. For information see [www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/caldead-real.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/calendar/caldead-real.html).



*Almanac*

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# RESEARCH ROUNDUP

## Penn E-lert Improvements Increase Efficiency

The University of Pennsylvania Health System's virtual intensive care unit, Penn E-lert, has upgraded by adding new alerts and alarms, equipment interfaces and converting to paperless recordkeeping. These enhancements will add another dimension to the system, increasing the speed, transparency and accuracy of treatment for the critically ill.

Penn E-lert eICU is a remote monitoring system that integrates interdisciplinary intensive-care teams with innovative technology to educate, improve practice, increase efficiency and save lives. Off-site doctors and nurses can track numerous patients through a computer, camera and audio system. The system is programmed to track trends and changes in critically sick patients. Bedside physicians can be made aware of these trends and changes to prevent patient deterioration and complications from arising.

"The biggest improvement is paperless recordkeeping. It's all right there on the computer," said Frank Sites, operations director for Penn E-lert. "Typically patient care is documented on a ten-page flow sheet. Sometimes the handwriting is unreadable or something can be lost in translation. Not on the new system. Everything is there on the patient's page. All medications, treatment, trends, alarms, vital sign changes are right there. It's all clearly legible. Everyone involved in the patient's care from nurses, to doctors, to social workers can sign in and check on a patient's treatment. No more looking for the doctor or looking for a patient's chart. This also prevents confusion when a new shift of doctors and nurses takes over. They just log on to the computer and it's all right there."

He adds that, "The proactive approach of virtual ICU's, like Penn E-lert, has resulted in lower mortality among the sickest of patients. That's the most important thing."

## Equity for Black College Students in the South?

Black students are more likely to get their college education in one of the 19 Southern or Southern-border states than in the rest of the country.

But how does their standing compare to white students in terms of enrollment and graduation?

A recent study from Penn GSE shows that, although some progress has been made, public higher education in the South remains highly inequitable for black students.

Details of the study are outlined in "The Status of Equity for Black Undergraduates in Public Higher Education in the South: Still Separate and Unequal," by Dr. Laura Perna, associate professor of education.

Prospects for black students vary, depending on the kind of institution attended, Dr. Perna found. Public four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and public two-year colleges offer greater opportunity, while flagship institutions provide substantially less opportunity. Public four-year HBCUs are the only sector in which black students consistently approach or achieve equity in enrollment and degree completion across the 19 states.

According to Dr. Perna, federal civil rights enforcement does not guarantee improvement. Eight of the states studied have been ruled in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, while 11 still remain under federal oversight, either through the courts or the Office for Civil Rights. Nonetheless, in states in all three categories, black students experience considerable inequity in first-time, full-time enrollments and bachelor's degree completion. Again, the greatest inequity occurs at the public flagship institutions.

Data from this study came from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, the postsecondary education data collection program for U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

States in the study are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

Nationwide, these 19 states account for 59 percent of all black students and 41 percent of all students.

## Thought-Controlled Artificial Limbs

Investigators at the School of Medicine describe the basis for developing a biological interface that could link a patient's nervous system to a thought-driven artificial limb. Their conceptual framework—which brings together years of spinal-cord injury research—is published in the January issue of *Neurosurgery*.

"We're at a junction now of developing a new approach for a brain-machine interface," said senior author Dr. Douglas H. Smith, professor of neurosurgery and director of the Center for Brain Injury and Repair at Penn. "The nervous system will certainly rebel if you place hard or sharp electrodes into it to record signals. However, the nervous system can be tricked to accept an interface letting it do what it likes—assimilating new nerve cells into its own network."

To develop the next generation of prosthetics, the idea is to use regions of undamaged nervous tissue to provide command signals to drive a device, such as an artificial limb. The challenge is for a prosthesis to perform naturally, relaying two-way communication with the patient's brain. For example, the patient's thoughts could convert nerve signals into movements of a prosthetic, while sensory stimuli, such as temperature or pressure, provides feedback to adapt the movements.

The central feature of the proposed interface is the ability to create transplantable living nervous tissue already coupled to electrodes. Like an extension cord of sorts, the non-electrode end of the lab-grown nervous tissue could integrate with a patient's nerve, relaying the signals to and from the electrode side, in turn connected to an electronic device.

This system may one day be able to return function to people who have been paralyzed by a spinal-cord injury, lost a limb, or injured in other ways. "Whether it is a prosthetic device or a disabled body function, the mind could regain control," said Dr. Smith.

Co-authors are Penn doctoral candidate Niranjan Kameswaran; Dr. Eric L. Zager, professor in Penn's department of neurosurgery; Dr. Bryan J. Pfister from New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Dr. Jason Huang from the University of Rochester.

## Ineffectiveness of Laser Treatment in Macular Degeneration

According to a study that appeared in the November 2006 issue of the *Journal of Ophthalmology*, researchers at Penn's School of Medicine and 21 other clinical centers have found that low-intensity laser treatment, which was thought to be beneficial in slowing or preventing the loss of vision from age-related macular degeneration (AMD), is ineffective in preventing complications of AMD or vision loss. This is the major conclusion of the Complications of Age-Related Macular Degeneration Prevention Trial (CAPT), a research study supported by grants from the National Eye Institute (NEI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

According to the NEI, AMD is a disease associated with aging that gradually destroys sharp, central vision. Central vision is needed for seeing objects clearly and for common daily tasks such as reading and driving. Drusen, yellow deposits under the retina, is the first sign of early AMD. The debate in recent years has been whether or not to treat these patients with preventive laser treatment. "We found that laser treatment had neither a clinically significant beneficial nor harmful effect for these patients. There is no evidence from this trial to suggest that people with large drusen should seek preventive laser treatment," said Dr. Stuart L. Fine, CAPT chairman and chair of Penn's department of ophthalmology and director of the Scheie Eye Institute. Currently, the only established way to decrease the risk of vision loss in people with large drusen is daily supplements of vitamins and minerals.

## New Therapy to Treat Severe Cholesterol Levels

Researchers at Penn's School of Medicine have demonstrated the potential of a new type of therapy for patients who suffer from high cholesterol levels. The findings are in the January 11 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In this study, patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (FH), a high-risk condition resistant to conventional therapy, had a 51% reduction in low-density lipoprotein (LDL) or "bad cholesterol" levels.

"Our study shows that targeted inhibition of the microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTP) is highly effective in reducing cholesterol levels in these very high risk patients," said Dr. Daniel J. Rader, director of Preventive Cardiology and the Clinical and Translational Research Center at Penn, and principal investigator of this study.

Genetic defects in MTP lead to profoundly low levels of LDL. Using this information, Bristol-Myers Squibb began to search for inhibitors of this protein and discovered the study drug, originally known as BMS-201038. Bristol-Myers Squibb then donated it to Penn for use in clinical trials in patients with severe cholesterol problems.

Patients who suffer from homozygous FH have a very high risk of premature cardiovascular disease, developing it in their twenties and generally do not live past the age of 30.

In this study, patients received the MTP inhibitor at four different doses, each for four weeks, and returned for a final visit after an additional four-week drug washout period. Analysis of lipid levels, safety laboratory analyses, and magnetic resonance imaging of the liver for hepatic fat content were performed throughout the study. All patients tolerated titration to the highest dose studied. In addition to the 51% reduction in LDL cholesterol, treatment at this dose also decreased total cholesterol levels by 58%, triglyceride levels by 65% and apolipoprotein B levels by 56% from baseline.