



Clinical Update

May 2008

Hospitals Unite to Recruit Urology Chair

Firouz Daneshgari MD, a national leader in urology, has been appointed professor and chair of the Department of Urology at SUNY Upstate Medical University. His recruitment and appointment represent a community effort by SUNY Upstate, Crouse Hospital and the Syracuse Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

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Annual Rite of Spring: Match Day 2008

One hundred percent of SUNY Upstate's College of Medicine graduates were matched with residency programs this year, with close to half to train in New York State.

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As Heard On HealthLink On Air

SUNY Upstate's Sunday radio hour offers new medical insights every week – as well as hundreds of archived interviews with SUNY Upstate experts.

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THE ACADEMIC DIFFERENCE

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Firouz Daneshgari M.D. Named Urology Chair at University Hospital

SUNY Upstate, Crouse and Syracuse VA To Build Joint Urology Programs

A national leader in urology – and a pioneering surgeon/scientist in the field of female pelvic surgery – has joined SUNY Upstate Medical University as professor and chair of the Department of Urology.

At SUNY Upstate, Firouz Daneshgari MD will develop a nationally recognized department with three flagship programs: urological cancer, female pelvic disorders and pediatric urology.

To foster and fuel these visionary programs, SUNY Upstate will join forces with its University Hill neighbors, Crouse Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center. “Our joint initiatives will have clinical, educational and research dimensions, with patients as the primary focus of everything we do,” promises Dr. Daneshgari, who also holds appointments at Crouse and the VA hospitals.

“Dynamic Young Leader”

“Dr. Daneshgari has a rare combination of talents: he is much sought-after as a surgeon and physician. He is the nation’s highest-funded researcher in the field of female urology. And he has a strong track record in program development,” reports Steven Scheinman MD, senior vice president and dean of medicine at SUNY Upstate. “He is a remarkable, dynamic young leader in urology.”

From Cleveland Clinic

Before joining SUNY Upstate in April, Dr. Daneshgari was professor of surgery and molecular medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Since 2001, he served as director of the Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Center at the Cleveland Clinic’s Glickman Urological Institute. He also established and directed its pioneering fellowship program and has secured more than \$10 million in funding to establish one of the nation’s most productive translational research endeavors.



Firouz Daneshgari M.D.

One of his many distinctions is the 2007 Zimskind Award from the Society for Urodynamics and Female Urology, which recognizes the nation’s most significant contribution to female urology.

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Pelvic Floor Disorders

Skyrocketing Demand

In the next 20 years, nearly 50 percent of women will suffer from pelvic floor disorders, and one out of every 10 will require surgery to correct this condition, according to Dr. Daneshgari. “As they age, more women will suffer from a pelvic floor disorder than from asthma, heart disease and hypertension. It is that pervasive.”

Pelvic floor disorders can be caused by pregnancy and vaginal delivery, which weaken or stretch supporting muscles in the pelvis. Obesity, diabetes and aging also contribute to these conditions.

“I expect the need for services in female pelvic medicine will skyrocket,” predicts Dr. Daneshgari. “More than 60 million outpatient consultations are expected by 2030.

We do not have enough local specialists to meet the anticipated market demand. Our collaboration with Crouse Hospital will go a long way toward addressing this growing need.

“This medical program will make Syracuse a destination for the treatment of female pelvic disorders,” adds Dr. Daneshgari, noting that some Central New York patients have turned to the Cleveland Clinic for these services.

Training Center

To help meet local, and national, demand for this specialty, Dr. Daneshgari will establish a fellowship program at SUNY Upstate. He created and directed the Cleveland Clinic’s nationally ranked fellowship program in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery. Specialists trained by Dr. Daneshgari now hold key positions in such medical institutions as the University of Pennsylvania, University of Memphis, Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University.

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SUNY UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY & University Hospital Syracuse, New York



CNY Physicians: Valued Partners

Dr. Daneshgari says that one of his primary goals in CNY is building collaborative relationships with CNY physicians. “We have lots of room to grow – and much to offer – in terms of reaching out to community physicians with educational programs and clinical study opportunities. Patients receive the best care when the entire medical community works together.”

Urology Chair, continued from A2

“Dr. Daneshgari’s not just a nationally renowned specialist, he’s renowned for training the leading specialists in his field.”

–Steven Scheinman M.D., Senior Vice President and Dean, SUNY Upstate College of Medicine

One of Dr. Daneshgari’s immediate goals is the recruitment of two pediatric urologists to support the 2009 opening of the Golisano Children’s Hospital.

Crouse Collaboration

With Crouse Hospital, Dr. Daneshgari is developing a program which encompasses female urology, female pelvic surgery and urogynecology. A key focus will be treating women diagnosed with urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, fecal incontinence, pelvic pain and sexual dysfunction. It will be the region’s first collaborative program to address female pelvic disorders – a group of medical conditions expected to surge with the aging population.

VA Collaboration

Dr. Daneshgari will also address another major medical challenge – urological cancers – by developing a urological oncology program between SUNY Upstate and the Syracuse VA. Prostate, bladder and kidney

cancer are increasing with our aging population. The SUNY Upstate-VA venture will recruit laparoscopic and robotic surgeons as well as top-level researchers in these cancers.

\$10 Million for Research

The leading researcher in his field, Dr. Daneshgari has secured more than \$10 million in federal grants, primarily from the National Institutes of Health, to find new treatments for female pelvic floor disorders as well as diabetes-related female incontinence. He has published numerous book chapters and more than 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Urology*, *Urology* and *Obstetric Gynecology*.

One of his major goals is to recruit fellow scientists with well-funded research – and to make SUNY Upstate a national player in this research arena. “Providing the best care and treatment is only one aspect of the program,” Dr. Daneshgari explains. “We need a robust research focus, pursuing newer and better treatments.”

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SUNY Upstate medical student Cynthia Lien will be a resident at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, Conn. Alok Bhatt, center, will begin his radiology residency at Wilson Memorial Regional/UHS in Johnson City and complete it at University of Rochester/Strong Memorial. Dhaval Patel, right, will be an internal medicine resident at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ.

Match Day 2008

Early this spring, 143 fourth-year students from SUNY Upstate Medical University's College of Medicine joined graduating medical students from across the country to learn where they will spend their first year of training (or residency) in their chosen specialties.

This annual rite of passage, known as Match Day, was established in 1952 by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

This year, at SUNY Upstate:

- 38 percent of the fourth-year medical students will enter the primary care specialties comprised of internal medicine (15 percent), pediatrics (12 percent), family practice (6 percent), and obstetrics and gynecology (5 percent);
- 68 students will remain in New York State;
- 21 first-year residents will remain in Syracuse: 13 at University Hospital and eight at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center. Four students will complete their first year of residency at Wilson Hospital in Binghamton, at SUNY Upstate's clinical campus.

In addition to matching its students to programs throughout the country, SUNY Upstate also filled its own residency positions.



Jacqueline Busingye, top, and Anne Marie Aden, above, begin their residencies with a transitional year at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center and will complete their residencies at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. Busingye is specializing in ophthalmology, Aden in radiology.

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SUNY UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY & University Hospital Syracuse, New York



As Heard On HealthLink On Air

A sampling of sound bytes from recent interviews.

RMED: Guiding Light

“ I was thrilled when I opened the envelope with my placement for Upstate’s Rural Medical Education Program – and realized that I would be working at Chenango Memorial Hospital with Dr. Scott Cohen. He was my hero – the doctor I most wanted to be like, and the doctor who saved my life when I when I had bacterial meningitis. In 2001, I was home in Norwich, on break from college, when I ended up in the Emergency Department at Chenango Memorial. Dr. Cohen recognized my symptoms and ultimately saved my life.

On my first night in RMED, I helped Dr. Cohen resuscitate a baby born with the umbilical wrapped around his neck. But every day in RMED was amazing – I was first-assist on 60 surgeries. It was my best experience in medical school.

Now I am headed for a family medicine residency at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester. It was my first-choice for residency, because it’s very rural, like Upstate’s RMED. After three years, I’ll be done with my training and ready to practice – hopefully right back at home in Norwich. ”

–Jennifer O’Reilly M.D.
Class of 2008
SUNY Upstate
College of Medicine



Different Ages, Different Symptoms

“ In older patients, chest pain can manifest in different ways. Women especially tend to have more subtle indications of chest pain.

In older patients, fatigue may be their only symptom. Patients with Alzheimer’s may present with simply a change in behavior.

When I see changes, I explore them further – we don’t want to attribute these subtle changes to dementia, or to just getting older. ”

–Sharon Brangman M.D.
Professor and Chief
Division of Geriatrics,
Department of Medicine



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SUNY UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY & University Hospital

Syracuse, New York



SUNY Upstate's weekly radio broadcast, HealthLink on Air, has developed an extraordinary community resource: hundreds of archived interviews with Upstate's leading medical specialists, research scientists, students, health educators, health advocates and more. If you can't tune in at 9 a.m. Sundays on 570 AM WSYR, you can access the entire archive of individual interviews at: healthlinkonair.org



The Pediatric Hospitalist

“ It used to be that pediatricians would come right to the hospital when their patients were admitted. Today, fewer children are hospitalized. When children are admitted, their illness tends to be more serious – yet their length of stay tends to be shorter. These factors are driving the increasing demand for pediatric hospitalists, who are here around the clock and specialize in the acute care of hospitalized children.

One of my most important roles as a pediatric hospitalist is checking in with the child's pediatrician, who knows what's been going on with the patient. After discharge, I call the pediatrician again. With this communication at both ends, the process works very smoothly.

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–Thomas Welch M.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Pediatrics

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