

Bioethics and Humanities

Director: Kathy Faber-Langendoen, MD

- Catherine Caldicott, MD, assistant professor of bioethics and humanities, was the first place winner for poetry in the 20th annual Bruce Dearing Writing Awards, for her poem, "Autopsy."

Ophthalmology

Chair: John A. Hoepner, MD

- The Department of Ophthalmology has increased its residency program to have a seventh resident every three years starting in July 2006.
- The ForeSIGHT Golf Classic to support the Center for Vision Research at SUNY Upstate Medical University will be held September 11, 2006.
- SUNY Upstate's Department of Ophthalmology and the Office of Continuing Medical Education will sponsor the 57th Annual Post-Graduate Review Course for Ophthalmology, December 1 and 2 at the Oncenter Convention Center. To see the agenda for last year's course, visit: <http://www.upstate.edu/eye/course/agenda.shtml> Details for this year's course will be available online in the fall.
- Recent research conducted through the Department of Ophthalmology includes: how changes in glucose have both temporary and permanent effects on the retina using sophisticated electrical (mERG) and psychophysical techniques; use of genetically modified mice to study the short and long term deleterious metabolic effects on the retina; use of gene therapy to restore cone vision in transgenic mice (multiple collaborators); design and testing of a new high-resolution system for live imaging of mouse retina (collaborative); and reprogramming both mammalian and frog embryonic cells into cells that can be transplanted and produced adult eyes and isolated eye structures.

Urology

Chair: Gabriel P Haas, MD

- In 2003, the residency program expanded from one resident per year to two residents per year. We now have the largest and most diverse group of residents in the program's history. There are currently 10 residents, representing medical schools from across the United States, as well as Europe and India.

Our former residents have also continued on to a wide array of fields within urology. J.C. Trussell, MD, HS '02, is currently an assistant professor at the Hershey Medical Center. Randy Fagin, MD, HS '03, Boris Havkin, MD, HS '04, and John Bak, MD, HS '05, have joined private groups and are doing well. Dr. Fagin performed a live telecast of a robotic prostatectomy at the American Urological Association 2005 meeting. Our current chief resident, Amar Singh, MD '00, HS '06, will be moving on to a urologic oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (NIH).

The Department has remained on the cutting edge of urology by performing the first robotic-assisted prostatectomy in Central New York. Over 60 cases have been performed to date and residents are learning this and other state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgeries.

Graduate Health Studies Section

Microbiology and Immunology

Chair: Richard Cross, PhD

- Richard Cross, PhD, has been named chair of Upstate's Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Ed Shillitoe, BDS, PhD, stepped down as chair in January after leading the department for 11 years. In his new post, Dr. Cross will oversee one of the College's key departments, where faculty are engaged in research projects aimed at advancing our understanding of molecular mechanisms of viral diseases and their treatment, and how immune systems cause and prevent disease pathogenesis. Cross will continue to serve as chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a post he has held since 1982. Cross, who joined the Upstate faculty in 1973, is an internationally known researcher in the field of cellular bioenergetics and has received continuous funding for his work from the National Institutes of Health since the mid-1970s.
- The department welcomes two new assistant professors: Sandra Hayes, PhD, and Michael Princiotta, PhD. Both join Upstate from NIH postdoc fellowships. Dr. Princiotta from the Cell Biology/Viral Immunology section at NIAID, and Dr. Hayes from the Laboratory of Mammalian Genes and Development at NICHD.

Neuroscience and Physiology

Chair: Michael W. Miller, PhD

- Michael W. Miller, PhD, professor and chair of Upstate's Department of Neuroscience and Physiology, just published a book titled *Brain Development: Normal Processes and the Effects of Alcohol and Nicotine*.
- Sandra Mooney, PhD, assistant professor of neuroscience and physiology at Upstate, received funding for a NIH R21 grant titled, "Ethanol, neurotrophins, and thalamocortical matching".
- Steven Youngentob, PhD, professor of neuroscience and physiology at Upstate, received funding for a new RO1 grant titled, "In utero ethanol experience and olfactory plasticity." This is part of a larger venture involving 15 faculty at Upstate and SUNY Binghamton called the Development Exposure Alcohol Research Center.



Richard Cross, PhD



Michael Princiotta, PhD