American Academy of Dermatology recognizes Weinstock with its ‘highest scientific honor’ at 75th annual meeting

PROVIDENCE – On March 3, MARTIN A. WEINSTOCK, MD, PhD, an epidemiologist and chief of dermatology at the Providence VAMC, received the Lila and Murray Gruber Cancer Research Award, which is the highest scientific honor that the American Academy of Dermatology confers.

It has been conferred annually by the Academy since 1972; five of the recipients have been awarded Nobel prizes. Dr. Weinstock is the first epidemiologist to receive this award. A professor at Brown in both the Department of Dermatology and in the Department of Community Health, he delivered a plenary lecture, “Public Health Science will cut Melanoma Deaths in Half,” at the Academy’ 75th annual meeting held March 1–5 in Miami Beach, Fl.

“We need evidence beyond what we have to be convincing to the broadest possible community, including the community that will be putting lots of big dollars behind these early detection efforts,” Dr. Weinstock said in discussing support for melanoma screenings. “We are talking about how, under the Affordable Care Act, if you have a certain level of evidence supporting interventions in health care, they get a huge amount of institutional support to make them happen.”

He examined the history of melanoma prevention efforts and the steps needed to prove the value of screenings.

New medications for treating metastatic melanoma have been developed, but many patients who receive these new treatments still die from their melanoma within one or two years after diagnosis, he said, adding, “So, early detection is what we are left with.”

“I think we can cut in half the number of melanoma deaths through screening early detection over the next decade. But we have to be able to do it with scientific evidence.”

In the United States, researchers have been accumulating more data at a faster pace over the past five years using case control studies and natural experiments, he said. Still, building the case for melanoma screenings will take time.

“This does not happen with one person having an idea, doing an experiment, and kaboom — we have the breakthrough,” Dr. Weinstock said. “It’s usually teams and people building on each other. That is the way science tends to work.”

And in the end, the best way to reduce melanoma deaths over the next decade may depend on old-fashioned observation. “Reducing deaths from melanoma boils down to two words: look and see. People need to look at the skin and see that certain spots on the skin could be potentially dangerous,” Dr. Weinstock said. “It’s getting the science around those two words that has the potential, after all these years of rising melanoma deaths, to finally reduce melanoma deaths, to cut them in half, or more. But we need to upgrade the science to convince the relevant people and institutions to do what needs to be done to reduce this death toll.”

Medical women to honor Rompf, Buckley

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Medical Women’s Association (RIMWA) will honor PATRICIA A. ROMPF, MD, and LUCY P. BUCKLEY, MD, as the 2013 Woman Physician of the Year at the organization’s annual meeting. They are being honored in a dual presentation in celebration of RIMWA’s 32nd anniversary.

Dr. Rompf, a clinical associate professor in pediatrics at Brown University, is a pediatric cardiologist affiliated with Hasbro, Bradley and Rhode Island Hospitals.

Dr. Buckley is an assistant clinical professor in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, and over the years she has worked as a cardiologist at the Children’s Hospital in Boston and as the director of the Children’s Hospital Satellite Clinics in New Bedford and Fall River. She also served as the pediatric cardiac consultant for the Rhode Island Department of Health and is affiliated with Hasbro Children’s Hospital.

The event will be held at 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 13, at the Providence Marriott Hotel, One Orms Street.
Tech Collective names first bioscience award winners

PROVIDENCE – DR. ANNE S. DE GROOT, director of the Institute for Immunology and Informatics (iCubed) at the University of Rhode Island, is one of six recipients of Tech Collective, Rhode Island’s bioscience and IT industry association, inaugural Rhode Island bioscience awards. DENICE SPERO, PhD, co-director of iCubed, was also a winner. She recently served as guest editor for the Rhode Island Medical Journal’s bioscience edition in February.

The other winners are: EDWARD BOZZI, associate clinical professor and coordinator of the bio-manufacturing program at the University of Rhode Island; LESLIE COUSENS, scientific director of protein therapeutics at EpiVax Inc.; ANDREW P. MALLON, CEO and director of research at Calista Therapeutics Inc., and MICHELLE WU, director of quality services for Ximedica.

The awards ceremony will take place May 2 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

Brown names associate dean for medical education

PROVIDENCE – ALLAN R. TUNKEL, MD, PhD, has been appointed associate dean for medical education at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University reporting to the dean of medicine and biological sciences. He will begin his duties on July 15, succeeding Associate Dean Philip Gruppuso, MD.

Currently, Dr. Tunkel is chair of medicine at Monmouth Medical Center and professor of medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine. He was the senior associate dean for academic campuses supervising Drexel’s relationship with its 25 clinical academic campuses throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. While in that role he developed new affiliate relationships with hospitals in medical education and residency training. From 2002 to 2005, Dr. Tunkel was the associate dean of admissions managing all activities to recruit a class of 250 students including transfer students and special programs. During his tenure in the Department of Medicine he has served as vice chair, vice chair for education, and residency program director. He has received numerous teaching awards and honors and is passionate about physician training.

An undergraduate of Seton Hall University, Dr. Tunkel later pursued a PhD in experimental pathology followed by a medical degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Jersey Medical School. He completed his residency and chief residency in medicine at the Hospital of the Medical College of Pennsylvania followed by a fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Virginia. He is also widely acknowledged as an expert in bacterial meningitis.

As associate dean, Dr. Tunkel will have primary responsibility for the undergraduate medical education programs at Alpert Medical School. He will supervise curriculum planning, evaluation and management for the four-year medical program and Brown’s eight-year BA/MD continuum program, the Program in Liberal Medical Education; oversee medical school admissions, financial aid, registrar activities and the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs on student recruitment; and have primary responsibility for medical school accreditation requirements and processes.
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Dudley appointed Chief of the Division of Cardiology at Brown

His research interests include cardiac cell replacement therapy, sudden cardiac death

PROVIDENCE – Samuel C. Dudley, MD, PhD, has been appointed chief of the division of cardiology at the Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) at Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals and chief of the division of cardiology in the Department of Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. In this role, Dr. Dudley will oversee all cardiology services on the two campuses including patient care and clinical research. He is also responsible for the research and educational programs at all the Brown teaching hospitals to further strengthen the program’s position as a regional and national leader in cardiac care. His appointment was effective March 1, 2013.

“We look forward to the important contributions that Dr. Dudley will make to education and research in cardiology. His clinical skills and research interests strongly complement clinicians and researchers at the medical school, in the basic science departments and public health,” said Edward J. Wing, MD, dean of medicine and biological sciences at Alpert Medical School.

Dr. Dudley comes here from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he served as chief of cardiology and co-director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research. He previously served as chief of cardiology at the Atlanta (Ga.) VA Medical Center and associate professor of medicine and physiology at Emory University in Atlanta.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia in Charlotteville, and his medical degrees from the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. He completed his residency, postdoctoral fellowship and cardiology fellowship at the University of Chicago.

He serves on several editorial boards for publications including the Frontiers in Cardiac Electrophysiology, Journal of The American College of Cardiology, Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics; and The Open Biochemistry Journal. He is fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association and is a member of the Association of University Cardiologists, the American Society of Clinical Investigation, Heart Rhythm Society, Cardiac Electrophysiology Society, and the Cardiac Muscle Society, among others.

His research interests include cardiac cell replacement therapy, diastolic heart failure and sudden cardiac death. He has published more than 90 manuscripts and book chapters and is the inventor of more than 20 patents including a blood test to predict sudden death risk, a blood test for diastolic heart failure, a possible treatment for diabetes and obesity and eight novel therapeutics for diastolic heart failure and sudden death prevention. He is chief science officer of ROS Technologies, a company he founded to commercialize the blood test for sudden death risk.

The Cardiovascular Institute [CVI] at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital is a collaboration of cardiovascular services at the two campuses, along with cardiology programs in the community.

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Landmark names Fort medical director

WOONSOCKET – GLENN FORT, MD, has been named medical director of Landmark Medical Center. Dr. Fort, who has been a member of Landmark’s staff since 1989, is now responsible for coordinating and overseeing medical care, and serving as the liaison between medical staff and senior management. He specializes in infectious disease and holds a medical degree from the University of Valencia and a master’s in public health from Boston University.

Whelan joins Westerly staff

WESTERLY – TARA WHELAN, DO, a dermatologist, has joined The Westerly Hospital medical staff. Dr. Whelan attended medical school at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine. She completed her internship, a residency in family medicine as well as her dermatology residency at St. John’s Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, NY.

Urology, Inc. joins Southcoast group

FALL RIVER, MASS. – Urology Inc. announced recently it has joined Southcoast™ Physicians Group, a network of primary and specialty care physicians and part of Southcoast Health System. The urology practice includes DAVID BAE, MD; JOHN CARROLL, MD; JOHN KAI- SER, MD; PATRICK KELTY, MD, and DENNIS LA ROCK, MD. It will now be recognized as Southcoast Urology.
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**Clyne named director of arrhythmia services**

FALL RIVER, MASS. – Southcoast™ Health System has named Barrington resident **CHRISTOPHER CLYNE, MD, FACC**, as medical director of Southcoast Cardiac Arrhythmia Services.

Dr. Clyne is board certified in electrophysiology, cardiology and internal medicine. He brings to Southcoast extensive experience in arrhythmia ablation and pacemaker lead extraction.

**Sklar named director of Charlton cath lab**

FALL RIVER, MASS. – Southcoast™ Health System has appointed **MITCHEL SKLAR, MD, FACC**, as director of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Charlton Memorial Hospital.

He is a cardiologist with Southcoast Physicians Group. In his new role, Dr. Sklar will provide leadership to the cardiac catheterization laboratory and interventional radiology suite (peripheral vascular) at Charlton while continuing to maintain his clinical duties.

A Providence resident, he is a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University.

**Gerogiannis to bring robotic-assisted cardiothoracic surgery to Charlton**

FALL RIVER, MASS. – Southcoast™ Health System announced in March that **IRAK-LIS S. GEROGIANNIS, MD, FACS**, has joined Southcoast Cardiothoracic Surgery, part of Southcoast Physicians Group. Prior to joining Southcoast, he was a cardiothoracic surgeon and medical director at Gulfport Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, Miss.

He was also an assistant professor of surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and specializes in robotic cardiothoracic surgery, which he will introduce at Charlton Memorial Hospital this year.
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Obituaries

BARRINGTON — RICHARD EUGENE KUHN, MD, 90, passed away on February 19, 2013. Dr. Kuhn was a graduate of Seton Hall College and Hahnemann University School of Medicine [now Allegheny College]. He served in both the U.S. Army and the Air Force, retiring with the rank of Captain.

His career as a surgeon spanned more than four decades, during which time he earned numerous awards and accolades. He practiced most recently at Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence.

An avid boater, Dr. Kuhn enjoyed time on the water with family and friends throughout his life and spent countless hours on the waters near his home in Barrington and around Cape Cod, MA.

Dr. Kuhn was the husband of the late Elaine Burgess Annable Kuhn, the father of the late Richard Eugene Kuhn, Jr. and the father-in-law of the late Albert K. Antonio. He is survived by three daughters, Karen Elaine Kuhn Antonio, Denise Anne Kuhn Rochlin and her husband Robert Rochlin and Carol Anne Kuhn Ryan and her husband J. Ryan; a grandson, Richard Eugene Kuhn, III, Esq. 12 grandchildren and their spouses and his four great-grandchildren. Private funeral services have been held.

WARWICK — DR. RAYMOND B. MAXIM, 53, passed away March 12, 2013. He was the husband of Deborah J. [Hardy] Maxim. Dr. Maxim practiced internal medicine at the Pontiac Medical Group in Cranston.

He was a medic in the Army Reserve in his early career and an EMT in the emergency room at Roger Williams Hospital. He also helped establish the ambulance program at the University of Rhode Island in the early 1980s.

Dr. Maxim was a graduate of Ross University School of Medicine, and completed his medical residency at Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, and director of the Rhode Island State Medicaid Program, while also a teacher and clinical instructor of medical students and residents of the Boston University Training Program affiliated with the Roger Williams Medical Center.

Born in Middleboro, MA, he was the son of Ronald Maxim and the late Carol [Hopkins] Maxim. Besides his wife and father he is survived by two children, Colin M. and Victoria J. Maxim; siblings Walter Maxim, Donna MacDonald, Holly Madonna, Richard Allen and Susan Chicoine.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 931 Jefferson Blvd., Suite 304, Warwick RI 02886.

PROVIDENCE — MICHAEL J. RYVICKER, MD, 70, died Friday, March 1, 2013 at The Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Bonnie [Engel] Ryvicker of Providence. They were married for 48 years. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he had lived in Rhode Island for 38 years.

Dr. Ryvicker, a clinical associate professor of medicine at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University in the Dept. of Diagnostic Imaging, was a diagnostic radiologist at Miriam Hospital and its offices until his retirement in 2012.

A veteran of the Public Health Service, he served at the Staten Island Public Health Service Hospital. He was a graduate of Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn and interned at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital and was a resident at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx.

He was the father of Kenneth Ryvicker and his wife, Bonnie, of Needham, MA; Sari Mansheim and her husband, Ben, of Yad Binyamin, Israel, and Miriam Ryvicker of Brooklyn. He was the brother of Alan Ryvicker and his wife, Marcia, of Nesconset, NY. He is also survived by nine grandchildren.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence RI 02904.