



## DOCTORS OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE GRADUATE TO A NEW BEGINNING AND PARADIGM SHIFT

The 291 members of the Class of 2012 graduated to become osteopathic medical doctors at the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine's (NYCOM) 31st Hooding Ceremony on May 21.

"As you become osteopathic physicians, you'll come to know that it's not a job or even a career; it's a calling," said Thomas Scandalis (D.O. '87), former NYCOM dean and chair of the newly established NYIT Center for Sports Medicine and Performance Science.

After reciting the osteopathic oath, the new D.O.s introduced themselves on stage. The traditional doctoral hooding was performed by NYCOM faculty members Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM); Bennett Futterman,

M.D., assistant professor of anatomy; Sheldon Yao (D.O. '02), assistant professor of OMM; and Robert Hill, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Anatomy. Physician family members of the graduates also performed the hooding. Keynote speaker Jordan Cohen, M.D., professor of medicine and public health at George Washington University, told the new physicians they are entering the medical profession during an "age of enlightenment," when the health care system faces challenges. Fixing it, he said, "will require nothing short of fundamental, system-wide transformations in the way health care is organized, how it's paid for, who delivers it, how it's delivered, and who is to be held accountable for achieving its goals."

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# MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS



Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

We are proud to include the 291 graduates of the class of 2012 among the 5,900 worldwide alumni of NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine. We applaud your achievements and are confident that you will be compassionate, successful physicians

who practice with diligence, integrity, and respect in a continuously changing health care environment. We wish you every success in your personal and professional lives and encourage you to stay connected to your alma mater. Remember, we are always here as a resource and invite your comments, input, and suggestions.

Several upcoming events are planned for alumni, including:

- Sept. 8, Saturday - Classes of 1982 and 1987 Reunion, Tribeca Grill NYC 7:00 pm
- Oct. 9 - American Osteopathic Association Convention NYCOM/ NYIT reception, San Diego. Stingaree Tuesday, Oct. 9, 7:00 pm

- Oct. 24 - CME Program, Breast Cancer Risk Management. 6:00 pm
- Nov. 10 - Sat 7:00 pm Class 2002 Reunion Antonette's East Hills
- Dec. 12- Wed Alumni Holiday Party, Garden City Hotel, Garden City, N.Y. 7:00 pm

I look forward to seeing you at these events and more (see a full list of events on page back cover). Keep in touch by visiting us at [facebook.com/NYCOMAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/NYCOMAlumni). Again, much success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Felicia Bruno  
Assistant Dean  
Student Services and Alumni Affairs

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## ART RASTINEHAD (D.O. '04) INITIATES PROSTATE CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS USING NEW TECHNOLOGY

Ardeshir (Art) Rastinehad (D.O. '04) is blazing a number of career firsts as an interventional urologic oncologist with expertise in interventional radiological and surgical techniques, including image-guided procedures and laparoscopic and robotic surgery. His research has been published in more than 30 papers in leading national and international medical journals, such as *The Journal of Urology*, *Journal of Radiology*, *Urology*, and *The British Journal of Urology*. He is the author of several book chapters and has presented work at numerous national and international conferences.

Rastinehad became the first D.O. to be a plenary speaker at the 2011 national meeting of the American Urologic Association (AUA) in Washington D.C. As an AUA faculty member, he has taught courses on oncology, endourology, and laparoscopy.

After completing his medical degree at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine, Rastinehad was the first D.O. to be accepted into the North Shore-Long

Island Jewish (LIJ) urology residency program, where he trained under expert Drs. Arthur Smith in endourology and Louis Kavoussi in laparoscopic/robotics. He also completed an accelerated interventional radiology fellowship under the supervision of Dr. David Siegel during a research year at LIJ.

After completing his residency, Rastinehad became the first D.O. fellow at the National Institutes of Health/ National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI) in the urologic oncology branch under the mentorship of Drs. Peter Pinto and Bradford Wood, pioneers in the research and development of minimally invasive techniques to diagnose and treat prostate cancer. During this period, he conducted pre-clinical and clinical research including the development of novel drug and device combination therapies, heat-deployed nanoparticle vectors, GPS-smart medical devices, image fusion navigation, minimally invasive and image-guided tumor ablations, and high-intensity focused ultrasound for "drug dose painting."

In 2011, Rastinehad joined the Smith Institute for Urology as a faculty member and the Department of Radiology of the North Shore-LIJ Health System as director of interventional urologic oncology. He is also an assistant professor of radiology and urology at Hofstra School of Medicine and the director of interventional urologic oncology.

Rastinehad has authored and implemented clinical trials of new techniques in the diagnosis and treatment of localized prostate cancer. Most recently, he is the principal investigator for a new clinical trial using MRI/ultrasound fusion technology to improve the way prostate biopsies are taken. With this technique, urologists will no longer perform random biopsies of the prostate but instead use MRI scans to guide biopsy needles to specific areas within the prostate. Currently, there are only three centers in the world evaluating this technology, and North Shore-LIJ is the only center in the United States outside of the NIH that offers patients this new technology.



## NYIT KIDNEY RESEARCH: FROM THE LABORATORY OF KURT AMSLER, PH.D.

Research underway in the laboratory of Kurt Amsler, Ph.D., professor and associate dean, is defining the molecular mechanisms that mediate renal ischemia/reperfusion (I/R) injury using cell culture and animal model systems. I/R injury is a major cause of acute kidney injury (AKI, formerly called acute renal failure) in clinical scenarios, such as renal transplantation, cardiopulmonary surgery, and aortic bypass surgery. Epidemiological studies show that AKI significantly increases patient morbidity and mortality with outcomes correlating to the severity of a kidney injury.

Multiple factors lead to AKI, including loss of the renal epithelial paracellular permeability barrier and increased levels of reactive oxygen species such as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Minimizing or blocking breakdown of the barrier is likely to reduce AKI severity, thereby improving patient outcomes. Previous studies have also

shown that hydrogen peroxide can reduce breakdown, but the cellular mechanism mediating this action is still incompletely understood in renal epithelia.

Building on this knowledge, Amsler's team has characterized the effect of treatment with hydrogen peroxide on the paracellular permeability of renal epithelia in cell culture. Data shows that treatment with hydrogen peroxide increases the paracellular permeability of renal epithelial cells, consistent with the observed effect of renal I/R injury in vivo. The increased permeability is associated with a change in localization but not content of selected tight junction proteins, such as occludin.

The increase in paracellular permeability can be blocked by inhibiting one signaling pathway that is activated by hydrogen peroxide treatment: the ERK 1/2 pathway. Amsler's lab uses advanced imaging

techniques with the NYCOM confocal microscope to define the molecular events leading to increased paracellular permeability and how the inhibition of the ERK 1/2 signaling pathway affects these events.

To supplement this work, Amsler's lab will begin a collaborative study with a group at the Indiana University School of Medicine to assess the ability of inhibitors of the ERK 1/2 signaling pathway to decrease renal I/R injury in a mouse model system: the renal artery clamp model. These studies are employing a novel imaging technique to enable real-time imaging of the damage and repair processes in the kidney of a live mouse.

Future study results may lead to Amsler's lab determining whether a similar approach can be used to maintain human kidney viability during the run-up to a transplant and potentially during cardiopulmonary surgery.

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## DOCTORS OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE GRADUATE TO A NEW BEGINNING AND PARADIGM SHIFT *(Continued from front page)*

He asked graduates: "Are you ready for the coming paradigm shifts?"

Cohen received the Riland Medal for Public Service named for W. Kenneth Riland, D.O., a co-founder of NYCOM and the School of Health Professions. Several students and student groups were also recognized for academic excellence and service.

In his address to graduates, NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., noted that more than 5,700 students have earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the college. "As you leave here today, you will increasingly be called upon in your residency programs and ultimately in your practice lives to use human connectivity skills to generate creative ideas, to innovate and enhance

health care, to collaborate effectively with other professions, and to engage with the health of the global community," said President Guiliano.

During the ceremony, Scandalis honored four members of the NYCOM community who passed away this year: Philip Marcus, M.D., a faculty member since 1977 who was serving as associate dean for curriculum;

Roy DeBeer, D.O., also a faculty member since 1977 who was an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Medicine; Shibu Abraham, a member of the Class of 2012 who passed away during his first year at NYCOM; and James Walker, a member of the Class of 2012 who passed away in his final year at NYCOM.



# THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

After successfully completing their classroom training and pre-clinical studies, 282 osteopathic medical students (159 women and 123 men) were honored at NYIT's white coat ceremony on July 18 at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, N.Y. These students will now embark on their clinical medical education.

During the ceremony, alumni of the College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) served as "coaters," presenting students with their official medical doctor white coats. At the conclusion, candidates recited the Student Pledge of Commitment.

"This ceremony is a significant milestone recognizing the next phase in the medical education continuum that requires physicians-in-training to apply acquired knowledge and skills to patients in varying clinical settings," said Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., acting dean and vice president for health sciences and medical affairs.

NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., echoed comments made by attendees, describing the ceremony as a "touchstone moment" in the personal and professional lives of students.

Prior to the keynote address, a special induction ceremony honored 43 students (the top 15 percent of the class) in the Psi Sigma Alpha Honor Society. Brian Hallas, Ph.D.,

faculty advisor to the honor society, administered an oath to the group.

Keynote speaker Thomas Scandalis (D.O. '87), chair of the newly established NYIT Center for Sports Medicine and Performance Science, received the 2012 NYCOM Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. Scandalis, a specialist in family and sports medicine, served as a combat medic in the U.S. Army prior to medical school. Since joining NYIT's faculty, he has served as chair of the Department of Family Medicine, director of the Academic Health Clinics, associate dean for academic affairs, and most recently as dean of NYCOM. He has led research projects on Parkinson's disease and helped to develop an innovative model of Parkinson's treatment using sports medicine principles.

"Few alumni achieve such prominence; fewer still do so at their alma maters" said Ross-Lee.

Scandalis has also excelled outside of NYCOM, serving as a team physician for the U.S. National Boxing Team as well as past president of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. He currently serves as a peer reviewer and editor of the *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine* and *The Physician and Sports Medicine*.

"The College of Osteopathic Medicine has transformed into a 21st century, mature medical school, with leading-edge curricula, research, clinical services, and community outreach—and the community is a global one," said Scandalis. "These changes have taken place because of talented, dedicated faculty members, an experienced and forward-thinking leadership team, a tireless support staff, and a truly remarkable student body."

He told students that the next phase of their medical education—performing clinical rotations at hospitals—would be centered around the lives of patients. Though their roles may vary from small (such as starting an I.V.) or big (such as running a code), their responsibility is always to "be compassionate, be humble, and become an expert at everything you do."

He added, "You'll come to realize that as a physician you make an impact just by walking into a patient's room with your white coat on. You represent far more than the person giving the patient test results ... walking into that room you represent healing. You represent hope."



# THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO  
THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI  
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS  
SIGNIFICANT EVENT:

Bigu Abraham, D.O. 2003  
Salma Afroze, D.O. 2002  
Vikram Agnish, D.O. 2010  
Isaac Alamuri, D.O. 2003  
Sumeet Arora, D.O. 2012  
Barry Balot, D.O. 1985  
Angela Baumann, D.O. 1985  
Danie Cyran, D.O. 1987  
Vivian De Nise, D.O. 1984  
Jeffrey De Sarbo, D.O. 2001  
Michael DiTillo, D.O. 2002  
Kenneth Eng, D.O. 1996  
Behrouz Farampandour, D.O. 2002  
Joseph Fussella, D.O. 1987  
Joseph Germano, D.O. 1999  
Inna Geyler, D.O. 1997  
Jeffrey Goldberg, D.O. 1981  
Elizabeth Haines, D.O. 2005  
Patricia Happel, D.O. 2008  
Mark Herskovitz, D.O. 1996  
John Ho, D.O. 2002  
Abdus Khan, D.O. 2000  
Sharon Koehler, D.O. 1998  
Patricia Kooyman, D.O. 2003  
Michael Langis, D.O. 2011  
Lali Levi, D.O. 2002  
Donna McMahon, D.O. 1987  
Monzur Morshed, D.O. 2012  
Evan Nadel, D.O. 1981  
Ardeshir Rastinehad, D.O. 2004  
Sonia Rivera-Martinez, D.O. 2002  
Otto Sabando, D.O. 1998  
Gregory Saggio, D.O. 1994  
Evan Schwarzwald, D.O. 1987  
David Tegay, D.O. 1997  
Michael Terzella, D.O. 1999  
Andrea Watson, D.O. 2000  
Martin Whiteman, D.O. 1989  
Sheldon Yao, D.O. 2002  
Marina Zelener, D.O. 2003  
Thomas Zimmerman, D.O. 2000

THANK YOU!





# ALUMNI HOLIDAY PARTY 2011 GARDEN CITY HOTEL



On Thursday, December 15, 2011 alumni gathered at the Garden City Hotel for their seventh annual holiday party. More than eighty guests gathered for this spectacular evening filled with food, music and holiday spirit.

# NYCOM CLASS OF 2012 DINNER DANCE THE CARLETON





# NYCOMEC ANNUAL TRAINEE RESEARCH

The New York Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Educational Consortium (NYCOMEC) held its 11th annual Trainee Research Poster Competition on June 1 at NYIT's Old Westbury campus. There were 56 entries submitted by residents from Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Long Beach Medical Center, Lutheran Medical Center, Plainview Hospital, Southampton Hospital, St. Barnabas Hospital, and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center Hospital. Two competitions were held—one for experimental research and one for case studies.

The event marked National Hospital and Career Day at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM), and the exceptional research presented by the winners was on display for attendees to view. NYCOM judges for this year's competition included:

- Linda Friedman, Ph.D., associate professor of neuroscience and histology
- Martin Gerdes, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences
- Min Jung, Ph.D., assistant professor of math
- Bhuma Krishnamachari, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine
- Donna-Marie McMahan, D.O., director of educational development and assessment
- Maria Plummer, M.D., assistant professor of biomedical sciences
- Gregory Saggio, D.O., assistant professor of biomedical sciences
- David Tegay, D.O., associate professor of medicine.



Pictured are the 2012 NYCOMEC Trainee Research Poster Competition winners (left to right): Daniel J. Cavallo III (D.O. '09), Michael P. Betler, D.O., Sharon Beth Larson, D.O., Research Director David Yens, Ph.D., Competition Chairman Gerard Baltazar, D.O., Joshua Bozek, D.O., and Andrei Zaslavsky (D.O. '09).

Other judges included Bernadette Riley, D.O., attending physician at Long Beach Medical Center; Paula Ryo, D.O., associate director of medical education at Long Beach Medical Center; and Kenneth Steier, D.O., M.P.H., clinical dean at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine.

### **Congratulations to the 2012 poster competition winners:**

#### **Experimental Research:**

**First Place** (\$500 prize): Michael P. Betler, D.O., and Gerard Baltazar, D.O., surgery residents at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, "Osteopathic Manipulation Therapy Reduces Postoperative Ileus and Hospital Length of Stay in General Surgical Patients."

**Second Place** (\$250 prize): Gerard Baltazar, D.O., surgery resident at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, "Oxygen Debt Correlates with SIRS Criteria Temperature."

**Third Place** (\$125 prize): Sharon Beth Larson, D.O., surgery resident at Lutheran Medical Center, "Mapping Pedestrian Struck Trauma Occurrences of a Brooklyn-Based Community Hospital Patient Population."

#### **Case Presentation:**

**First Place** (\$350 prize): Andrei Zaslavsky (D.O. '09), internal medicine resident at Southampton Hospital, "Hantavirus-Cardiopulmonary Syndrome."

**Second Place** (\$200 prize): Joshua Bozek, D.O., emergency medicine resident at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, "From One Rarity to Another: A Case of a Supernumerary Ovary in a 13 Year Old Girl."

**Third Place** (\$100 prize): Daniel J. Cavallo III (D.O. '09), emergency medicine resident at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, "Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment for Basilar Invagination."

## IMPORTANT DATE INFO ABOUT DECEMBER ERAS/MSPE

For all alumni planning to go through the December Application Cycle for ERAS® Fellowships Documents Office (EFDO) for positions starting July 2014, please note that the Office of Student Administrative Services will be closed

from Monday, Dec. 24, 2012 through Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013. If you are planning to go through this match, please contact us prior to Friday, Dec. 21 or your request will have to wait until we resume normal operations.

To request a Medical Student Performance Evaluation, previously known as a Dean's Letter, go to: [nyit.edu/nycom/alumni/deansletter](http://nyit.edu/nycom/alumni/deansletter).

To request a NYCOM transcript, go to: [nyit.edu/nycom/alumni/transcript](http://nyit.edu/nycom/alumni/transcript).



# NYIT CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RETURNS FROM GHANA

Old Westbury, N.Y. (July 12, 2012) — A broader perspective on the state of international healthcare systems accompanied an interdisciplinary delegation from the NYIT Center for Global Health on its return from the center's annual mission to Ghana.

"We saw differences in the healthcare worker-patient relationship, and we got to see some things that we won't have a chance to see here in the U.S. from disease standpoint— diseases like schistosomiasis and malaria," said academic medical scholar Jonathan Giordano. "You could see with your own two eyes and reinforce those ideas that we learned in the global health course we took last spring—how a lack of infrastructure affects them on a daily basis, and not just from a medical standpoint."

Students from the university's College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Health Professions accompanied medical residents, physicians, faculty, and celebrity

chef Jeff Henderson to villages surrounding Oworobong, Ghana on the center's three-week mission. While this year's group built on the bed net promotion initiatives of previous delegations, their primary focus lay in better understanding national nutrition standards in Ghana.

"Food intake was more diverse than we expected— for example there is a lot more snacking, and they snack on fruits," said professor Deborah Lardner, D.O., explaining that students conducted 412 dietary surveys on children aged 5-12 across three villages with varying access to food markets. "However, we still project that the outcomes of the study may demonstrate vitamin deficiencies among the population, which could influence the government's approach to addressing malnutrition."

Dedicated to giving back to the community of Oworobong, the team provided medical care at a clinic established by Center partner the Rohde Foundation and shadowed healthcare workers at Hawa Saviour Memorial Hospital.

"We saw a lot of malaria and some cases of suspected typhoid, upper respiratory infections, and complications from HIV," added professor Michael Passafaro, D.O., who also found time to catch up with a toddler he had delivered on a mission three years ago.

Jasmine Beria, another academic medical scholar, reflected on the impact of the group's performance of a puppet show developed by last year's students to promote the use of bed nets, and this year's distribution of picture booklets based on the puppet show.

"The books- you'd see kids coming down the street dressed in their uniforms on their way to school with their eyes down, carrying our books in their hands, smiling and reading as they go," she said.



# GLOBAL TEAM STUDIES TROPICAL DISEASE IN EL SALVADOR

A team from the NYIT Center for Global Health visited El Salvador from July 8 to 28 to evaluate the use of electrocardiogram (EKG) analysis as a potential screening tool for Chagas disease, a neglected tropical disease that is prevalent in many parts of the world.

Physicians and students from NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Health Professions also worked with local health providers in El Salvador to provide clinical services, conduct health fairs, and teach oral health, health promotion and disease prevention to students at the El Volcan School in Morazán.

View their blog and photos from the trip at [nyit.edu/global\\_health/el\\_salvador\\_2012](http://nyit.edu/global_health/el_salvador_2012).



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## FACULTY BRIEFS

Faculty members representing NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine were part of the New York delegation at the 2012 annual meeting of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) House of Delegates, July 20-22 in Chicago, including:

- David Broder, D.O., associate dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and chairman of the New York delegation
- Lynn Mark, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine
- Sonia Rivera-Martinez, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine

In addition, Broder was reappointed to serve another three-year term on the AOA's Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions (COPTI) and named vice chair of the council. COPTI oversees the accreditation of all osteopathic graduate medical education consortia.

Gabe Bever, Ph.D., assistant professor of anatomy, is a member of a research team that published "Birds Have Paedomorphic

Dinosaur Skulls," a study about the bird-dinosaur connection, in *Nature*. Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., professor and chair of osteopathic manipulative medicine, was named the 2012 Educator of the Year by the American Osteopathic Foundation for his commitment to excellence in teaching. Leonard B. Goldstein, D.D.S., Ph.D., director of clerkship education at the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Ashley E. Papapetrou, a fourth-year medical student, published the article, "Management of Prenatal Low Back Pain," in the July 2012 issue of *Practical Pain Management*.

In addition, Goldstein published a review of *Textbook Fundamentals of Fixed Prosthodontics: Fourth Edition* in the June/July 2012 Issue of *The New York State Dental Journal*.

Brian Hallas, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Neuroscience and Histology, and German Torres, Ph.D., associate professor of neuroscience and histology, co-authored "Focus on Autism" in the May 2012 issue of *Kopf Carrier*.

Charles Pavia, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical sciences, and Maria Plummer, M.D., assistant professor of biomedical sciences, published a letter to the editor, "Ecthyma Gangrenosum Caused by *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa*," in the July issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

David Tegay, D.O., associate professor and acting chair of the Department of Medicine at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine, co-authored "'Tetrasomy 15q26: A Distinct Syndrome or Shprintzen-Goldberg Syndrome Phenocopy?'" The research paper was published in *Genetics in Medicine*, the flagship journal of the American College of Medical Genetics.



# ALUMNI BRIEFS

## FALL 2012 ALUMNI BRIEFS

**Robert Corona (D.O. '86)**, founder of SUNY Upstate Medical University's telemedicine program, is chair of the university's Department of Pathology and the John B. Henry Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. He is a neuropathologist and leader in bioinformatics and the application of technology in medicine. Previous appointments have included serving as chief medical officer and vice president of medical and scientific affairs at Welch Allyn Inc., in Skaneateles, N.Y. At Upstate, he has received Best Teacher of the Year honors and the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 2011, he addressed medical students as a guest speaker at the College of Osteopathic Medicine's White Coat Ceremony.

**Preston Hupart (D.O. '87)** is an interventional cardiologist at the new state-of-the-art cardiovascular interventional lab at Chilton Hospital in Pompton Plains, N.J.

**Wayne Fleischhacker (D.O. '90)** was named one of "150 Pain Management Physicians to Know" in Becker's ASC Review, a leading health care publication. For more than 15 years, he has served as the director of Union (N.J.) Spine and Pain Management. He is board certified in anesthesiology and is a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology, American Board of Pain Medicine, American Academy of Pain Management, and National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. His experience in anesthesiology and pain management includes innovative laser and endoscopic surgery for the spine.

**Jacqueline Watson (D.O. '91)**, M.B.A., is a family practice physician and the executive director of the District of Columbia Health Regulation and Licensing Administration Board of Medicine, the public protection regulatory body that oversees the licensing, disciplining, and monitoring of the district's 11,000 physicians and other licensees. She is a member of the board of directors of the National Rehabilitation Hospital and an advisory council board member of the Georgetown University Lombardi/Capital Breast Care Center, a community-based breast health organization for underserved women in Southeast Washington. Her nonprofit organization Jamaican Women of Washington, Inc. (JWoW) is dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of underserved women and children in the Caribbean. Read more about JWoW at [jwow.org](http://jwow.org).

**Michael J. Benanti (D.O. '92)** is chairman of the Department of Imaging Services at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, N.Y., where he has served as section chief of neuroradiology since 2000, and is the chairman of radiology for the eastern division of Catholic Health Services of Long Island. As a board-certified physician in diagnostic radiology and neuroradiology, he has more than 20 years of experience in imaging. He is a member of the Radiological Society of North America, American Society of Neuroradiology, and American Osteopathic College of Radiology. Jenny Lynn Cook (D.O. '95) practices family medicine in the new office of Cape Regional Physicians Associates in Seaville, N.J.

**Eric D. Freeman (D.O. '96)** was named one of "150 Pain Management Physicians to Know" in Becker's ASC Review, a leading health care publication. He is the founder and medical director of Freeman Pain Institute with offices in Newark, Edison, and Union, N.J., and a specialist in interventional pain management and minimally-invasive spine techniques. He is also board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and pain medicine, as well as certified as an independent medical examiner.

**Christopher M. Prior (D.O. '98)** was named Physician of the Year by the Doctors Express urgent care franchise. A resident of Castle Rock, Colo., he served in the U.S. Army after graduating from NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine and earned a Bronze Star for service in multiple overseas tours of duty in the Pacific and Middle East regions. Accomplishments include completing a residency in family medicine at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a fellowship in primary care sports medicine at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. He is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and the Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation, holds a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Sports Medicine, and is a designated civil surgeon.

**Robert Lukenda (D.O. '08)** has opened New Jersey Family Medical in Cranford. A lifelong New Jersey resident, he completed a family medicine residency at Overlook Hospital in Summit and is affiliated with the Atlantic Health System and Overlook Hospital. He is committed to providing patients with personalized medical care.

**Navy Lt. Robert Sklar (D.O. '09)** is a surgeon for the U.S. 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment in Afghanistan.



NEW YORK COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
OF NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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## 2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Saturday, September 8**

Classes of 1982 and 1987  
25th and 30th Anniversary Reunion  
Tribeca Grill  
375 Greenwich Street  
New York, New York  
7:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, October 7 – October 11**

2012 American Osteopathic  
Association Convention  
NYCOM/NYIT Alumni Reception  
Stingaree (rooftop)  
454 6th Avenue  
San Diego, CA  
7:00 p.m.

### **Wednesday, October 24**

CME  
Breast Cancer Risk Management  
Sharon Koehler, D.O. (98)  
Seventh Street Café  
126 Seventh Street  
Garden City, NY  
6:00 p.m.

### **Saturday, November 10**

Class of 2002  
10 Year Reunion  
Antonette's of East Hills  
East Hills, NY

### **Wednesday, December 12**

Alumni Holiday Party  
Garden City Hotel  
45 Seventh Street  
Garden City, NY  
7:00 p.m.