Remembering Dr. Pardi

Assistant professor of medicine Desiree Pardi, MD, PhD, director of the Palliative Care Consult Service at NYPH/WCMC, died in September after a battle with breast cancer. A 2002 graduate of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Pardi did her residency in internal medicine at NYPH/WCMC and a fellowship in pain management at Sloan-Kettering. She was board certified in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine.

Mark Lachs, MD, co-chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, notes that Pardi was one of the founders of the consult service at NYPH/WCMC and a “tireless advocate” for the cause of palliative care. “She was generous of her time and expertise to teach the art and science of palliative care to all levels of learners,” Lachs says. “She had a profound impact not only on the thousands of patients whose lives she touched, but played a significant role in transforming the culture of the institution around the issue of palliative care.”

The Desiree Pardi, MD, Memorial Fund for Palliative Care has been established; according to Lachs, plans are also in the works to name a family room at the hospital in her honor.

“Dr. Pardi was an inspiration to all of us, enriching our lives and making us all better for having had the privilege and joy of working with her,” said three colleagues in a statement announcing her death. “She was beloved by the medical students whose lives she touched in her many teaching activities.”

WCVMC Garners Federal Stimulus Funds

As of mid-October, Weill Cornell researchers had received more than five dozen NIH grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The stimulus funding includes work in such fields as AIDS, kidney disease, cancer, Parkinson’s disease, and more. The single largest grant—$1.9 million from the National Institute on Drug Abuse—went to Ronald Crystal, MD, the Bruce Webster Professor of Internal Medicine, to develop an adenovirus-based anti-cocaine vaccine.

Correction

Due to an editorial oversight, the name of Margaret Bearn, wife of fifty-six years to Dr. Alexander Bearn, was omitted from his obituary in the Summer 2009 issue. In addition to his wife, Dr. Bearn is survived by his two children, five grandchildren, and brother. We sincerely regret the error.

TIP OF THE CAP TO...

J. Emilio Carrillo, MD, associate professor of clinical public health, winner of the National Medical Fellowships Distinguished Alumni Award.

Joseph Fins, MD ’86, chief of the Division of Medical Ethics, elected to the American Osler Society, which comprises members of the medical profession and allied fields who follow the example of William Osler, MD, a father of modern medicine.

Heather Taffet Gold, PhD, assistant professor of public health, who won the award for best paper by a young investigator from the Society of Medical Decision Making for “Correlates and Effect of Suboptimal Radiotherapy in Women with Ductal Carcinoma in Situ or Early Invasive Breast Cancer.”

Tobias Hohl, PhD ‘00, MD ‘01, an assistant professor in the Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the University of Washington, Seattle, winner of the Young Investigator Award from the American Society for Microbiology.

Yoon-Seong Kim, MD, PhD ‘03, assistant professor of neuroscience, one of ten winners of grants from the Michael J. Fox Foundation to study Parkinson’s disease.

David Lyden, MD, PhD, the Stavros S. Niarchos Associate Professor in Pediatric Cardiology, named head of the Champalimaud Metastasis Programme at Weill Cornell.

Michael Posner, PhD, adjunct professor of psychology in psychiatry, awarded the National Medal of Science by President Barack Obama.

Marcus Reidenberg, MD, professor of pharmacology, elected chair of the WHO’s Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines.

Cornell President David Skorton, MD, named by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to a four-year term on the advisory council of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.