



Joseph W. Sanger, PhD

Anesthesiology

Chair: Nancy A. Nussmeier, MD

- **Wenshi Gao, MD**, has joined the department as an assistant professor specializing in regional and thoracic anesthesiology. Prior to joining Upstate, Dr. Gao served as an attending physician in anesthesia service at community hospitals.
- **Sheldon A. Isaacson, MD '85**, joins the department as associate professor and director of Regional Anesthesia. He joins Upstate from Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, where he also served as an associate professor of anesthesiology.

Cell and Developmental Biology

Chair: Joseph W. Sanger, PhD

- **Joseph W. Sanger, PhD**, has been named a fellow of the American Association of Anatomists (AAA). Sanger was one of four individuals elected to the first class of fellows ever selected by the AAA in its 119-year history. The honor recognizes Sanger's excellence in science and his overall contributions to the anatomical sciences.

Medicine

Chair: David B. Duggan, MD '79

- **Arnold M. Moses, MD '54**, professor of medicine, was named a Distinguished Service Professor by the State University of New York Board of Trustees. Dr. Moses enjoys an international reputation of excellence in the treatment and research of diabetes, osteoporosis, and many other forms of clinical research. The Distinguished Service Professorship honors and recognizes extraordinary service and appointment can be conferred solely by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Chair: Shawky Badawy, MD, HS '73

- **Brian B. Hearn, MD '03, HS '07**, is stationed at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, VA.
- **Serdar H. Ural, MD, HS '97**, is currently the director of the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, the medical director of the Labor and Delivery Unit, and associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Penn State University College of Medicine. He and his wife, Songul, have a one-year-old daughter, Seda Ozen.

Pediatrics

Chair: Thomas R. Welch, MD

- **Myla V. De Jesus, MD, HS '07**, is living in Waltham, Massachusetts. "My three years at Upstate were great. It will always be my first home in the U.S.," she writes.

Radiation Oncology

- **Jeffrey A. Bogart, MD '89, HS '93**, was named chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology. He has been on the Upstate faculty since 1993 and is professor of Radiation Oncology. He has been the residency program director for the past decade and has served as vice-chair of the department for the last three years. Dr. Bogart has authored 38 peer-reviewed publications and a range of book chapters and other publications. He is currently chair or co-chair of eight CALGB-funded multi-center clinical trials and one NIH study and serves on several oversight and advisory committees for the NIH. Bogart is an active leader in the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) and currently serves on its Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and as chair of its Radiation Oncology committee. He is also active in a range of other national organizations in therapeutic radiology and oncology. He is a member of the editorial board of *The Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Surgery

Chair: Paul Cunningham, MD

- Pediatric surgeon **Cynthia Ann Corpron, MD**, joined the department as an assistant professor of pediatric surgery on August 1. Dr. Corpron earned her medical degree

from the University of Michigan, completed a residency in general surgery and fellowship in pediatric surgical oncology at the University of Texas. She joins Upstate from Albany Medical College, where she was assistant professor of pediatric surgery.

Urology

Interim Chair: Leslie J. Kohman, MD, HS '85

- **Leslie J. Kohman, MD, HS '85**, has been named interim chair of the Department of Urology, replacing Gabriel Haas, MD, who had been chair since 1995. Dr. Kohman is professor of surgery, vice-chair of the Department of Surgery and chief of the section of general thoracic surgery at Upstate. She is also assistant dean for faculty development in the College of Medicine, and was recently named SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, the highest academic honor in the SUNY system. Dr. Kohman has been on the faculty at Upstate for more than 20 years. She is a nationally recognized leader in the field of lung cancer and thoracic oncology.
- The 12th annual Upstate New York Urological Association's Resident Day Competition was held on April 21, 2007, in Skaneateles, NY. This is an important annual event where residents from five urology programs, SUNY Upstate, SUNY Buffalo, University of Rochester, Albany Medical Center, and Queen's College in Kingston, Ontario, convene to present their basic and clinical research accomplishments.

This year, **Oleg Shapiro, MD '02 (PGY5)** and **Suresh Potluri, MD (PGY4)**

won distinguished prizes for their excellent presentations. Dr. Shapiro won first prize in the basic science competition for his project, Instillation of mitomycin C post TURBT to decrease tumor reimplantation: Animal data suggest impaired wound healing.

Dr. Potluri won honorable mention for his research on Identification of Mitochondrial DNA mutations in prostate specimens to evaluate the role of BPH and prostatitis in the development of prostate cancer. Both projects were carried out in the Urology Basic Research Laboratories under the direction of Dr. Ching Wang, Director of Research, and sponsored by Gabriel Haas, MD.

New radiotherapy approach shows promise as early stage lung cancer treatment

A novel radiotherapy approach has shown promise as a treatment option and may possibly increase the cure rate for people with early stage lung cancer who are unable to tolerate surgery, according to findings from a five-year study led by SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Upstate was among 10 institutions nationwide participating in this first prospective radiotherapy study specific to high-risk patients with early stage lung cancer. The findings were presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting June 4 in Chicago.

"Although the majority of patients with stage 1 non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) may be cured following surgery to remove a whole section of the lung, a substantial portion of these patients have poor lung function or other medical problems, making them unsuitable for major surgery," says the study's principal investigator, **Jeffrey A. Bogart, MD '89, HS '93**, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology. "We need to find a safe and effective way to treat this patient population."

Bogart says that an earlier study tested an approach of limited surgery on these patients, removing the tumor with only a small portion of the diseased lung. However, while findings from this study indicated that limited surgery may be effective in certain patients, the role of limited surgical resection in the high-risk population remained unclear. This led investigators to test a new theory that would involve treating the tumor solely with dose-intensive accelerated three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy.

"Our primary objectives were to determine the maximally accelerated course of conformal radiotherapy for high-risk stage 1 NSCLC and to describe the short- and long-term toxic effects of conformal radio-

therapy in this population," says Bogart. "We also wanted to assess the efficacy of such a technique."

Conformal radiotherapy uses advanced technology to precisely target the tumor and the surrounding normal structures in 3 dimensions using CT or MRI scans, and then sculpt the radiation dose to the shape of the tumor. "We are better able to conform the radiation dose to the exact location of the tumor, avoiding critical structures and providing more intense therapy directly to the tumor," says Bogart. This reduces radiation exposure to the surrounding normal tissue, thus reducing the risk of radiation toxicity to the patient.

To conduct the study, 40 male and female stage 1 NSCLC patients, ranging in age from 48 to 87 years, were recruited between 2001 and 2005. "The radiotherapy schedule was reduced from 28 treatments in 5.5 weeks to 17 treatments in 3.5 weeks while maintaining a nominal dose of radiation of 7000 cGy. Bogart notes that just about one-half of the patients survived at least three years, a very promising result in this population. In addition, only three of the patients had a recurrence of the tumor in the same location in the lung. Importantly, only one of the patients experienced a severe adverse effect of the radiation therapy, such as difficulty breathing.

"Our outcomes demonstrated that accelerated 3-D conformal radiotherapy is feasible in high-risk early stage NSCLC and therapy can safely be completed in less than half the time of traditional regimens," says Bogart. "Our outcomes were comparable to alternate therapies, such as limited resections, with less apparent severe radiation toxicity."

More studies are planned to test new, non-surgical ways to treat this patient



Jeffrey A. Bogart, MD '89, HS '93

population. Particularly exciting are recent advances at University Hospital that help account for the fact that many lung tumors move when a patient breathes. Technology such as four-dimensional CT scans (4DCT), respiratory gating and Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT) work together to first identify how a lung tumor moves (by monitoring the patients unique breathing pattern) and then permits delivery of radiation only when the tumor is in the proper position.

The study, titled "Accelerated Conformal Radiotherapy for Stage 1 Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) in Patients with Pulmonary Dysfunction," or "CALGB 39904 was funded through the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB), a national clinical research group sponsored by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

— Doretta Royer