

Dean's Newsletter

March 22 2004

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Match Day 2004

Thursday, March 18th was Intern Match Day 2004. Although the National Match has been cast in some controversy during the past couple of years because of the Jung et al lawsuit, this event still represents a high point in the career planning for graduating medical students. As in past years, medical students across the country found out at the same time (obviously corrected for time-zones) where they will spend their Internship Year beginning this June/July. That moment was 10:00 a.m. PST on March 18th. As you might imagine, just prior to the traditional passing out of the envelopes containing the announcement of where the student "matched" there were a lot of butterflies and anxiety. But that soon transitioned to squeals of joy as the students received their match.

The Match has a long history, having been created more than 50 years ago at the urging of medical students to help organize what had been a chaotic and sometimes unfair process. Coordinated by the National Resident Matching Program, the Match today is a fair and efficient process for both students and institutions. Nationally, 85% of US medical students are accepted by one of their top three choices and more than 60% by their first choice. These percentages are higher at Stanford – with generally well over 90% matching at one of their top three choices.

The results for this year's Match for Stanford medical students can be found here: [**2004 Residency Match Results**](#) (will appear in a new browser window). Of the 81 students who were in this year's match, 44% of the students will go on to three programs: 20 will be spending their PGY1 year at Stanford, 9 at Harvard teaching hospitals, 7 at UCSF. In addition, other excellent programs were included in the remainder of our students match results. This year the specialty choices attracting the greatest number of students were: Internal Medicine (12 students), General Surgery and Surgical Specialties

(11 students), Family Medicine (9 students), Psychiatry (8 students), Anesthesia (7 students), Dermatology (6 students) and Emergency Medicine, Radiation Oncology and Radiology (each with 5 students)

Equally impressive are the Match results for students who will be joining our clinical departments at Stanford Hospital & Clinics and the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital from medical schools across the nation.

Thanks to the Stanford Medical Alumni Association, we had the pleasure of having a wonderful celebratory dinner (following what I am confident was a very joyous day) with our medical students along with their families and friends.

Congratulations to all.

Paul Michael Glaser (the original Starsky) Will be This Year's Commencement Speaker

With Match results now available, the next big event is Commencement – which will be on Saturday June 12th!

The recent release of the movie “Starsky and Hutch” has rekindled interest in a once well-known TV series by the same name. In the original version, Starsky was played by Paul Michael Glaser – whom we have invited to be the School of Medicine Commencement Speaker on Saturday, June 12th. But this is not the reason that Paul Glaser will address our graduating students and their families. He has a more important message to convey.

In real life, Paul Glaser has experienced quite personally the impact of illness on his family. His wife, Elizabeth, was infected with HIV when she was transfused in the early 1980's for hemorrhaging related to a placenta previa during the birth of their first child, Ariel. This was prior to the time when HIV had been identified as the cause of AIDS and before the blood supply was screened and safe. Their daughter, Ariel, contracted HIV from Elizabeth due to breast-feeding and within several years had rapidly advancing AIDS, from which she died at the age of seven. A second child, Jake, was also infected due to maternal/child transmission before it was recognized that Elizabeth and Ariel were infected with HIV. Thanks to biomedical research, Jake is still living with HIV nineteen years after his birth.

With the knowledge that both her children were infected with HIV, Elizabeth Glaser, Paul's wife, became one of the most effective advocates for research and clinical care this country has ever known. She founded a non-profit organization now named in her honor (the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation), which literally changed the landscape of pediatric research first in the US and now around the world. Although Elizabeth died of AIDS in December 1994, the work she began has continued to grow in its impact and importance. Paul Glaser has played an instrumental role in championing the work of the Foundation and has been an eloquent spokesperson for the importance of

research as well as humanism and care for those afflicted with serious disease. He will share his very unique personal story and perspective at this year's Commencement Ceremony.

Children of Uganda Performance at Stanford Lively Arts Reminds Us of the Global Tragedy of AIDS

Thanks to the widespread availability of prenatal testing and utilization of antiretroviral agents to block maternal/child transmission, the number of children in the USA who become infected with HIV has fallen dramatically during the past decade. Despite these remarkable advances, more than 2000 children are infected with HIV around the world, virtually all of them in developing countries, particularly Africa and Asia. Of the 42 million people infected with HIV worldwide, 3.2 million are children. Moreover, 50% of the global infections with HIV occur among young people between 15-24 years of age – at the rate of nearly 6000 every day, most being young women. The impact of this global infection, now the leading cause of death in developing nations, is devastating.

On Friday evening, March 19th, the Stanford Lively Arts featured a unique performance by the Children of Uganda. Each of the children and teenagers who performed has been orphaned because of the death of their parents to either AIDS or national violence. With the onset of HIV/AIDS, the life expectancy in Uganda has fallen to 42 years. In some parts of Africa the prevalence of AIDS has grown dramatically with most infected women not being aware that the disease can be transmitted to her child – through breast feeding or during gestation and delivery. Uganda has been a recent pacesetter in Africa with the government taking an active role in education and intervention. The so-called ABC (Abstinence/Be Faithful/Use Condoms) program has contributed to a reduction in HIV prevalence in Uganda to 6.2% at the end of 2002 from over 30% in 1986. This program demonstrates that active intervention can make a difference.

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (see above) is working closely with the Ministry of Health and other partners in Uganda to further prevent mother-to-child transmission as well as to provide counseling, testing and drugs for opportunistic infections as well as antiretroviral agents. Importantly the Foundation is supporting prevention and treatment programs in 19 of the 56 health districts in Uganda. The Foundation's Call To Action Project is collaborating with physicians and countries in 17 countries throughout Africa, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Central America and the Caribbean. As a consequence of these efforts, over 900,000 women have received antenatal care worldwide and of these nearly 690,000 have had voluntary HIV testing. Such efforts can help to change the impact of this disease around the world – although the challenges remain daunting.

In addition to its work in AIDS, the Foundation also supports the Glaser Pediatric Research Network, which has linked five major pediatric centers in the USA (one being Stanford) to work collaboratively by conducting clinical research in children. Dr. Charles

Prober, Professor of Pediatrics, currently serves as the Scientific Director of the Glaser Pediatric Research Network. I have had the privilege of working with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation since it was founded in 1988 and currently serve as the Vice Chair of its Board of Directors.

External Review of Plans for Our Comprehensive Cancer Center

On Friday March 19th, the External Advisory Board (EAB) appointed to review the progress on our planned application to the National Cancer Institute to become an NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Center visited Stanford. This distinguished Advisory Board includes Martin D. Abeloff, M.D., Director, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University; Edward Benz, M.D., President, Dana Farber Cancer Institute; Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics, UCSF; John H. Glick, M.D., Director, Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania; Edward E. Harlow, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Biological Chemistry, Harvard Medical School; John E. Niederhuber, M.D., Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Wisconsin; Joyce C. Niland, Ph.D., Chair, Division of Information Sciences, Director, Department of Biostatistics, City of Hope National Medical Center; Louise Strong, M.D., Department of Experimental Pediatrics/Genetics, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center; and Marcy Waldinger, M.H.S.A., Director of Administration, UMC Cancer Center. Drs. Hartwell, Niederhuber and Strong were unable to make the March 19th meeting.

During an eight-hour marathon session, the EAB heard presentations about the five basic science proposals, seven clinical/translational research projects, the population science study, and 13 cores (shared services). The goal of this review is to obtain critical feedback on the current proposals and to help guide which ones will be part of the grant that we hope to submit in October 2004. The preliminary feedback we received from the External Advisory Board was quite gratifying. Although they quite appropriately identified areas where we need to bring greater clarity to proposals, consolidate others and even drop some, the EAB was quite impressed with our progress to date. Indeed, several members commented that they were skeptical about whether Stanford would have the resolve to truly engage the faculty and school leaders to apply for the NCI designation. Thankfully, the EAB was enormously impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and commitment they observed during their visit – and left quite convinced that things had changed at Stanford and that we would indeed not only submit the grant application – but that we would be successful.

I attribute a significant reason for our success to date in the support that has come from faculty and school leaders. Equally importantly, Dr. Karl Blume, Associate Director of the Cancer/Stem Cell Biology and Medicine Institute, has played a critically important role in bringing the faculty together to develop the proposals to date. Thanks to his efforts I have great confidence that we will meet our deadline in submitting this grant to the NCI – an absolutely massive undertaking.

Official Opening of the Clinical Cancer Center

On Monday March 1st, the doors of the new Center for Ambulatory Care at Stanford Hospital & Clinics opened officially to the Clinical Cancer Center. This new advanced care facility will provide state-of-art-care to patients and families (see <http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/medical/2004/march10/leibel.html>). Obviously the diagnosis and treatment of cancer pose enormous challenges to patients and families – but the new Clinical Cancer Center has gone a long way toward alleviating the fear, anxiety and discomfort associated with cancer care facilities. Indeed this new facility serves as a model for Stanford and for our community.

Mark Your Calendars for the Beckman Symposium on April 30th

On Friday, April 30th, the 14th Annual Beckman Symposium will present a stellar program on cancer. It will be held in the Fairchild Auditorium from 8 am to 5 pm, and will feature multiple breakout sessions throughout the day designed to give students and other symposium attendees the opportunity to interact directly with guest speakers. The first breakout session begins at 7:00 a.m. with the program's first speaker, Brian Druker from Oregon Health & Sciences University. Medical students will be allowed to attend the symposium in lieu of classes that day and I would encourage you to get to as much of this important program as your time permits. A reception will follow in Fairchild lobby.

The program will include presentations by an outstanding faculty including Brian Druker, Patrick Brown, Napoleon Ferrara, Elaine Fuchs, Stanton Glantz, Lee Hartwell, Vicki Lundblad, and Nikola Pavletich.

Neuroscience for the Community

On Monday evening, March 15th, more than 200 members of the community participated in the Stanford Neurosciences Mini Course in Medicine. This is part of a series of lectures and mini-courses that we have held during the past years to better inform and engage our community about important topics in medicine and science and how Stanford is addressing them. This program featured a wonderful keynote address by **Dr. Bill Mobley**, John E. Cahill Family Professor in the School of Medicine and Director of the Neurosciences Institute at Stanford entitled “Keeping the Promise of Neuroscience: Creating a Culture for Discovery and Care.”

As with other mini-courses, small group sessions were lead by members of our remarkable faculty on topics of considerable interest and importance. Included in this program were classes on:

- Brain Function and Decision Making - **Bill Newsome**, Professor of Neurobiology and of Psychology
- Chronic Pain - **David Yeomans**, Associate Professor of Anesthesia, and **Sean Mackey**, Assistant Professor of Anesthesia
- Depression - **Alan Schatzberg**, Kenneth T. Norris, Jr. Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

- Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders - **Helen Bronte-Stewart**, Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences and of Neurosurgery
- Sleep Disorders - **Emmanuel Mignot**, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- Applied Stem Cell Therapies - **Theo Palmer**, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery
- Brain Tumors - **Lawrence Recht**, Professor of Neurology, and Griffith Harsh, Professor of Neurosurgery
- The Genetics of Aging - **Stuart Kim**, Professor of Developmental Biology and of Genetics
- Multiple Sclerosis - **Ben Barres**, Professor of Neurobiology and Developmental Biology and of Neurology and Neurological Sciences
- Stroke - **Gary Steinberg**, Professor of Neurosurgery and of Neurology & Neurological Sciences, and **Greg Albers**, Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences and of Neurosurgery

I want to thank our faculty for taking the time to participate in this excellent session on “Breakthroughs in Neurological Diseases”. I also want to thank our Office of Medical Development for all the work they did in helping this to be an outstanding experience for our community.

Getting Your Input on the Value of the Dean’s Newsletter

It is amazing to me that this Newsletter represents the final edition of the third year that I have been sending them to you – since my very first communication on the day of my official arrival on April 2, 2001. I have (as you probably all too well realize) sent them faithfully biweekly except during summer. My hope has been to use the media as a way of communicating with the faculty, students and staff of the Medical School, Medical Center – and even members of the University community. Because I compose (and indeed type) the Dean’s Newsletters myself, they represent a real commitment of time and effort on my part. I have been happy to do this if they are fulfilling the intended purpose of enhancing communication and making you feel better informed and engaged in our various activities – past, present and future. In the immediate future we will be sending out a survey that I hope you will complete. It is designed to get feedback on how useful you find the Dean’s Newsletter – and obviously, your responses will guide how (and indeed whether) I continue this communication vehicle in the future. I hope you will spend a few minutes to complete the survey when it arrives next week.

Honors and Awards

- The Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer announced the recipients of its 2004 grants and **Dr. Jonathan Pollack**, Assistant Professor of Pathology, Stanford University School of Medicine, is among the grantees. His proposal to locate the novel pancreatic cancer genes with DNA microarrays was chosen by the Lustgarten Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, which is comprised of leading experts in pancreatic and other cancers. They reviewed more than 80

proposals and awarded grants to only fifteen researchers. Congratulations to Dr. Pollack.

- **Dr. David Stevenson**, Harold K. Faber Professor of Pediatrics and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, by courtesy, of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has received the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development's MENTOR Award for Excellence in Research Training. This prestigious award acknowledges the ability of Dr. Stevenson and his colleagues to mentor and guide the research trainees who have entered his program. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Stevenson.

Announcements

Louis and Dorothy Kovitz Visiting Professorship Lecture: On Friday, April 9th, Paul Farmer, M.D., Ph.D., Maude and Lillian Presley Professor of Medical Anthropology, Harvard Medical School, will deliver the 30th Louis and Dorothy Kovitz Visiting Professorship Lectureship. Dr. Farmer's lecture entitled "Global Health Equity and the Future of Public Health" will be held in the Fairchild Auditorium from 4:00pm - 5:00pm (reception at 3:30pm).

The Stanford Division of Cardiovascular Medicine Meeting: "The Evolving Paradigm of Coronary Artery Disease: the pleiotropic effects of statins" to be held in Fairchild Auditorium, Saturday April 3, 8-12noon. The meeting will feature internationally recognized experts in Cardiovascular Medicine: Peter Libby, Harvard (The Central Role of Vascular Inflammation in CAD); Valentin Fuster, Mt. Sinai (Visualizing and Managing Atherothrombosis), Christie Ballantyne, Baylor (What have we learned from the Statin Trials?); and John Cooke, Stanford (Targeting the Endothelium: An emerging therapeutic approach). For More Information, visit their website at: <http://cvmed.stanford.edu/vascularmedicine/statinconference.html>.

Appointments and Promotions.

- **Nikolas Blevins** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 3/1/2004.
- **Judith Ford** has been promoted to Professor (Research) of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, effective 3/1/2004.
- **Geoffrey Lighthall** has been reappointed to Assistant Professor of Anesthesia at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care System, effective 8/1/2004.
- **Steven Lindley** has been appointed to Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Palo Alto Veteran's Affairs Health Care System effective 3/1/2004.
- **Krisa Van Meurs** has been promoted to Professor of Pediatrics (Neonatology) at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 3/1/2004.
- **William Rhine** has been promoted to Professor of Pediatrics (Neonatology) at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, effective 3/1/2004.

- **Paul Wang** has been appointed to Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 3/1/2004.
- **William Weis** has been promoted to Professor of Structural Biology and of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, effective 3/1/2004.
- **Alan Yeung** has been promoted to Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular) at the Stanford University Medical Center, effective 3/1/2004.