

# Einstein/Montefiore Orthopaedic Alumni Newsletter

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MONTEFIORE



## Hello Again: "The Voice from the Trenches"

Welcome back to the Montefiore Orthopaedics Alumni Newsletter. Wishing you a happy holiday season and a great new year, Montefiore attendings and residents hope that this newsletter brings about better communication between the program and our distinguished alumni. There are plenty of changes at Montefiore, as we constantly continue to improve residency and faculty education as well as providing high-quality orthopaedic healthcare in the Bronx.

We are extremely excited about the new website created specifically for Montefiore Orthopaedics. The website address is [www.einsteinortho.com](http://www.einsteinortho.com) and it includes links to every attending on staff, current residents, a listing of events and important dates. We thank, webmaster, **Sam Moghtaderi, M.D.**, Class of 2007, for spearheading the project and creating such an excellent webpage. A link from the main Montefiore Hospital website will soon be created. Please, contact Dr Moghtaderi at [sam@aya.yale.edu](mailto:sam@aya.yale.edu) regarding any announcement you would like to make through the website. Check out the website and tell us what you think.

Proving that orthopaedic surgeons work hard AND play hard, attendings and residents got together in August 2004 for a fantastic day out in the hot New York sun playing softball. The event, organized by **Martin Levy, M.D.** and his wife, included a fully catered breakfast and lunch set. It was great to socialize and interact with fellow residents and attendings in an environment outside the hospital. We hope to make this an annual event, along with having an annual touch football game. In addition, residents have been getting together about once a week to play basketball at the Einstein medical school gym. We intend on fielding this 10-man team in the NY Urban Basketball league in the winter, a league that has over 300 teams from all over NYC. We hope that balancing the rigors of residency with keeping physically fit will help us in all facets of our lives.

The generous donations we receive from alumni go towards providing updated study materials, in addition to, the opportunity for residents to attend educational conferences, board review courses, and essential reference textbooks at each campus. Residents also have been presenting weekly self-teaching lectures before Grand Rounds going over basic science, anatomy, surgical approaches, tumor flash cards, and old OITE questions, all done in efforts to improve education and OITE and board scores. The invaluable resources we receive all help in advancing our knowledge and performance levels and we genuinely appreciate those contributions.

Any alumni seeking to make donations and/or announcements can do so through this newsletter, by contacting Tanya Riedl at 718-920-2966 or by email, [riedl@montefiore.org](mailto:riedl@montefiore.org).

## The View From The President's Perch

### Letter from the Alumni President, David Hirsh, M.D.

In 1955, the Einstein Department of Orthopaedic Surgery was born on the second floor of Jacobi Hospital--one part-time chairman, one resident, one ward (2 South), and one office sandwiched between the chapel and the elevator bank. The program grew slowly in the 1960s and 70s, and by 1979 consisted of 24 residents in a four-year program, working in Jacobi and Einstein Hospitals and several outside rotations. In 1979, Einstein and Montefiore Hospitals merged into the Montefiore Medical Center, with a merging of the two programs into the Einstein-Montefiore Department of Orthopaedic Surgery: 24 residents in a four year rotation from Einstein, and 12 residents in a three year rotation from Montefiore, to 36 residents in a new combined four year program.

Today, the Einstein-Montefiore Department of Orthopaedic Surgery stands proud amongst its peers of orthopaedic training programs with a roster of 30 residents, spread over four hospitals, three offices, and over twenty orthopaedic surgeons, representing all areas of subspecialization. **Neil Cobelli**, present Chairman, and **Neil Macy**, Pediatric Director at Jacobi Hospital were first year residents in the first merged Einstein-Montefiore class. **Marty Levy** was in the first merged third year class.

Basically a clinical department during the 1980s and 90s, the service covered the spectrum of orthopaedic trauma, adult reconstruction, pediatrics, and a growing tumor service centered around our internationally recognized bone pathologist, **Howard Dorfman**. The laboratories of **Larry Rosenberg** were involved in cartilage research producing some of the landmark work of articular cartilage histochemistry and molecular morphology. With the retirement of Larry Rosenberg, there was a hiatus in basic research, which has been filled this past year with the formal opening of a combined orthopaedic and rheumatology laboratory at the Einstein medical school. The laboratory's interests include cellular study in the areas of rheumatoid arthritis and total joint replacement. Though the initial funding of the laboratory is being supported by existing grants and a generous private donation from a single benefactor, the Alumni Association is presently exploring possible plans for involvement in ongoing fundraising for this important effort.

Our program has not only been a source of excellence in clinical practice and research but was also in the forefront of social innovation—it was the first Orthopaedic training program in this country to welcome qualified women on a regular basis into its incoming classes, averaging approximately one quarter of each resident class. One of our alumni, **Deborah Zilner**, has had the honor of serving as President of the Ruth Jackson Society. Many of our women alumnae were amongst the first, if not *the* first, female orthopaedic surgeons to practice in their communities. Amongst one of those “firsts” was **Jo Hannafin**, who was the first female Sports Fellow to be accepted at the Hospital for Special Surgery, and has remained there as an important part of their clinical and research staff. She has achieved national recognition for her research efforts on tendons and ligaments and for clinical achievements in women's sport.

In 1980, the Einstein Orthopaedic Alumni Association merged with the Montefiore Alumni Association to form the present day Einstein-Montefiore Alumni Association.

The Einstein-Montefiore Alumni Association will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the coming year 2005, and has just shy of 300 alumni. All of them have served their communities with excellence in orthopaedic care and have distinguished themselves as leaders in the orthopaedic world, some with national and international reputations.

The long list of achievements of our alumni, including publications in the orthopaedic literature, authoring or contribution to orthopaedic textbooks, and leadership positions in orthopaedic departments and associations would be far too numerous to measure. I feel compelled to mention only a few who I am sure most of you know. **Stephanus Dutoit** served as President of the South African Orthopaedic Association; **Stanley Hoppenfeld**, author of some of the most widely published and best selling orthopaedic textbooks; **Lilla Rangaswamy** who spent many years at the Massachusetts General, was involved in resident education, and served for many years on the editorial board of *JBJS*; **David Mendes** chaired a very prestigious orthopaedic program in Israel and who himself trained several of the present orthopaedic chairmen in Israel; **Richard Laskin**, Director of Knee Services at the Hospital for Special Surgery; and of course, our present Chairman and our Director of Residency Training, **Neil Cobelli** and **Marty Levy**.

So much for history... now for the present... To celebrate the achievements of the first 25 years and the auspicious beginning of the second 25 years, we would like to see as many of us as possible, under one roof, in attendance at this year's Annual Selznick Alumni Day Symposium. The day consists of presentations by the senior residents of their research projects, a visiting alumnus lecture, and a luncheon followed by a tour of the facilities at the Einstein and Montefiore campuses. In the evening, there is a dinner and dancing in honor of the graduating residents, where they are formally presented to the Alumni Association.

We are presently in the planning phase of organizing a fundraising committee for the orthopaedic laboratory which I mentioned earlier in this letter. This is a singularly important addition in the next stage of growth in our Department. With this effort we hope to add to the strength and importance of our training program, as well as to join the ranks of our peers in contributing to research. I look forward to your help, your support financially, and your suggestions.

Please make every effort to set aside the date in June for both the Symposium and dinner dance. It isn't often that we have the opportunity to celebrate a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (and in actual fact a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programs), and I truly feel it will be a “most excellent” and pleasurable event.

With my sincerest good wishes for the forthcoming holiday season, and for a very happy and healthy New Year to all of you,

With warmest regards,  
David M. Hirsh, M.D.

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## The Chairman's Corner

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### Letter from the Chairman, Neil Cobelli, M.D.

As we approach the Holidays, I want to wish all of you and your families a joyous season and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Since our last newsletter we have had some faculty changes. **Terry Amaral** who graduated in 2003 has rejoined us as a faculty member having completed his Pediatric Orthopaedic fellowship at Special Surgery. We have added a shoulder service headed up by **Edward Lee**, who just completed his fellowship with Evan Flatow. **Albert Panazzo** will be joining us from down under. Albert finished his orthopaedic training in Australia and then did two fellowships at NYU, in hand and microvascular surgery. Each of these young people has brought new energy and intensity to the program.

We have wished **David Shein** well in his decision to enter private practice. David has developed a significant tumor and bone loss practice but has decided to see if he can slow the pace a little in his life. He will be missed. We are therefore currently recruiting a tumor surgeon and another joint replacement surgeon, so if anyone has any good candidates please ask them to call.

We have been fortunate to welcome back **Paul Levin** to the faculty this past summer. Paul, as many of you remember, graduated in 1986 and did his Trauma Fellowship in Houston with Bruce Browner. He spent his early career at Stony Brook and more recently in private practice on Long Island. Paul is now the Director of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Moses Campus and the head of our Trauma Service.

Our lab continues to make some progress in exploration of the relationship of the immune system (peripheral dendritic cells in particular) and wear debris. We should see some publications in the first part of 2005. **John Hardin** who heads the lab has taken a position with the NIH and will be splitting his time between the lab here and Washington, DC. While this certainly will present new hurdles to continuing to grow our lab it also bring new opportunities. We hope that we will be able to send interested residents to the NIH for one-year research fellowships. Some of the projects under discussion are extremely exciting. The first one under discussion is hand transplantation in a primate model.

**Marty Levy** has helped to get us through a recent residency review and did a great job. We are entering another season of resident interviews and selection. The pool of applicants continues to get better each year. The current residents are an outstanding group of young people and have been the driving force behind this newsletter.

They are interested in knowing the roots of the program and putting faces to the names involved in many of the stories of past "giants." I once again want to encourage each of you to "come back." Please join us at the Academy and if possible at the end of the year for the resident research project day.

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## Welcome New Montefiore Attendings

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We're all excited to work with a few new junior attendings, who are working their way into the program. First, alumnus **Terry Amaral, M.D.** (Montefiore Class of 2003) joins the Montefiore group after completing his fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Pediatric Orthopaedics. He went to medical school and finished his residency all at Einstein/Montefiore. He brings a strong knowledge of the pediatric literature, unwavering enthusiasm, and infectious energy to the Peds Ortho department. Our next newest attending is **Edward Lee, M.D.**, who completed his orthopaedic residency at George Washington University. Now, a shoulder specialist, trained by Evan Flatow at Mt Sinai, Ed Lee hopes to establish himself as a prominent figure in shoulder surgery in the Bronx. We all wish both of them luck in launching their successful practices.

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## Senior Statesman's Statement: Dr. Leonard Seimon

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I would like to say hello to all those orthopaedic surgeons out there in United States who have ties to Montefiore. I hope you are doing well in your practices. If you have not already heard, a new Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) was opened in 2000. A fantastic facility, CHAM has enabled the Pediatric Orthopaedic Dept to flourish as we continue to care for the majority of the Bronx pediatric population. Conveniently located across the street from our orthopaedic offices and connected directly to the main hospital, CHAM is fully equipped for all medical and surgical specialties. The

emergency room is efficient and the excellent ICU unit takes much of the strain off the surgeon postoperatively. Each unit has a strong social services department and the facilities for a parent to stay with the patient are extremely beneficial. Undoubtedly, the pediatric staff has the expertise to manage the most challenging medical problems. I hope to continue to work with the physical therapy department to keep them up to speed with the complicated rehabilitation of the pediatric orthopaedic population. And I hope to create a strong multidisciplinary relationship with other pediatrics and specialty clinics through lectures and teaching rounds, in order to educate pediatricians about the unique orthopaedic care and needs of our children.

**Leonard Seimon, M.D.**

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## Chief Resident Fellowship plans

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*Exitus acta probat*  
(The end proves the deed)  
- Ovid

With the end of the 2004-2005 academic year, this year's chiefs are preparing for their post-residency careers. As has been the trend with recent graduating classes, all of this year's chiefs have elected to pursue graduate fellowships in subspecialized areas of orthopaedic surgery. **David Geller, MD** will be the new Musculoskeletal Oncology Fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University program in Boston, Massachusetts. There, he will be working with Dr. Francis Hornicek and Dr. Kevin Raskin, who is a former resident at Montefiore. Joining David in Harvard's orthopaedic department will be **Shahan Yacoubian**, who will be pursuing a Joint Arthroplasty fellowship with Dr. Richard Scott and Dr. Tom Thornhill, where his training will include minimally-invasive arthroplasty as well as biological treatments for arthritic disorders. Three of this year's chiefs will be attending Sports Medicine fellowships in the fall. **Eric Manoff**, who was recently married, will be changing boroughs to attend a fellowship in Sports Medicine at the Staten Island Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center with Dr. Mark Sherman. **Jay Borick** will also be participating in a Sports Medicine fellowship at the Southern California Center for Sports Medicine in Long Beach, California, under Dr. Peter Kurzweil and Doug Jackson. **Michael Hossack** will also be studying Sports Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Thomas Jefferson University Program with Dr. Michael Ciccotti,

where he will pursue his interest in multi-ligament reconstruction. Finally, **Milan Patel** will be starting a fellowship in Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital with Dr. Steven Glickel. Congratulations to this year's graduating class on completing their residency training, and we look forward to hearing about their successes in the future.

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## Selznick Memorial Alumni Day Presentations

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The Annual Selznick Memorial Alumni Day Presentations will be on **June 16, 2004.**

Location: **Cherkasky Auditorium Montefiore Medical Center.**

Time: **8:00 am**

Guest Lecturer: **TBA**

### **PGY-4 Residents:**

**John Kuri, M.D.**

**Jennifer Lord, M.D.**

**Jason Simon, M.D.**

**Adam Wollowick, M.D.**

**Hector Vargas, M.D.**

**All alumni are welcome! We all hope to see you there!**

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Resident Editor:

**Trong Nguyen, M.D.**, Resident, Class of 2007

**Sam Moghtaderi, M.D.**, Resident, Class of 2007

Contributors:

**Leonard Seimon, M.D.**, Professor of Pediatric Orthopaedics, Montefiore Medical Center.

**Neil Cobelli, M.D.**, Chairman, Orthopaedic Surgery, Montefiore Medical Center.

**Craig Lomita, M.D.** Resident, Class of 2008

Faculty Editor:

**David M. Hirsh, M.D.**, Alumni President