Dear Colleague,

In this issue of New Faculty Faces, I am pleased to announce the latest physician additions to Albany Medical Center. Each doctor and his or her areas of expertise are profiled, and I encourage you to reach out to them regarding procedures or consultations if any of your patients are in need of specialized services. Areas of clinical specialty highlighted in this edition include cardiology, neurology, pediatric and general neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, gastroenterology, and pediatric critical care.

I would like to extend a special welcome to Richard J. Blinkhorn, Jr., MD, FACP, who has been appointed professor and chair of the department of medicine and Richard T. Beebe Chair of Medicine at Albany Medical College, and Chief of Service for Medicine at the Albany Medical Center Hospital. In this important role, Dr. Blinkhorn will oversee the clinical, education and research activities in the divisions of allergy and immunology, cardiology, clinical nutrition, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general internal medicine, HIV, hospital medicine, medicine-pediatrics, nephrology, pulmonary and critical care medicine, and rheumatology. Previously, he served as professor and Robert Craig Chairman of Internal Medicine, and chairperson and program director of the department of internal medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. We are delighted to have someone of Dr. Blinkhorn's caliber to lead the largest academic department at Albany Medical College.

In addition, we warmly welcome Dr. Sulagna Mookherjee, Dr. Colum Amory, Dr. Krupa Pandey, Dr. Matthew Adamo, Dr. Michael Mulligan, Dr. Amee Mapara-Shah and Dr. Zaheer Gill, whose expertise is of great importance to our institution. All of our surgeons and physicians perform inpatient procedures relevant to their clinical specialty at Albany Medical Center Hospital and are supported by a multidisciplinary team of other health care professionals. They also provide outpatient care as part of our physicians' group practice while serving as faculty members of the Albany Medical College.

Albany Medical Center is committed to excellence in health care. Please join me in welcoming these new physicians, who will reinforce our commitment to furthering innovative research and medical education, while improving health care for the people of Northeastern New York.

Sincerely,

Vincent P. Verdile, MD
Dean, Albany Medical College
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Albany Medical Center
Richard J. Blinkhorn, Jr., MD, FACP

Professor and Chair of Medicine
Albany Medical College

BOARD CERTIFICATION
American Board of Internal Medicine: Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease

FELLOWSHIP
Infectious Disease
Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital
Cleveland, Ohio

RESIDENCY
Medicine
Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital
Cleveland, Ohio

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Bowman Gray (Wake Forest University) School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Sulagna Mookherjee, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Albany Medical College

BOARD CERTIFICATION
American Board of Internal Medicine: Diplomate of Internal Medicine

BOARD ELIGIBILITY
American Board of Internal Medicine: Cardiovascular Disease

FELLOWSHIP
Cardiovascular Disease
Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

RESIDENCY
Internal Medicine & Pediatrics
Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

MEDICAL SCHOOL
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Syracuse, New York

Richard J. Blinkhorn, Jr., MD, FACP

Hospital Medicine
John Tietjen, MD
Associate Professor and Division Chief

Internal Medicine
John Rosenberger, MD
Associate Professor and Division Chief
Alwin Steinman, MD
Associate Professor and Internal Medicine Program Director

Medicine-Pediatrics
Kathleen Zabinski-Kramer, MD
Assistant Professor and Division Chief

Nephrology
George Eisele, MD
Professor and Division Chief

Pulmonary
Thomas Smith, MD
Associate Professor and Division Chief

Rheumatology
Ludovico F. Cavaliere, MD
Associate Professor and Division Chief

Division of Cardiology
47 New Scotland Avenue, MC 44
Albany, NY 12208

Edward F. Philbin, III, MD, FACC, FAHA
George E. Pataki, Chief of Cardiology
Heart failure, cardiac transplantation

William Alderisio, MD
Adult general cardiology

Mohammad El-Hajjar, MD
Adult general cardiology (invasive & non-invasive)

Steven Fein, MD
Adult general cardiology, heart failure, non-invasive diagnostics

Jan Houghton, MD
Adult general cardiology (invasive & non-invasive)

Robert Millar, MD
Adult general cardiology

Sulagna Mookherjee, MD
Adult general cardiology, cardiovascular disease in women, internal medicine

Anthony Nappi, MD
Adult general cardiology (invasive & non-invasive)

Joseph Sacco, MD
Adult general cardiology, valve disease

Henry T. Tan, MD
Adult general cardiology, cardiac electrophysiology, arrhythmia management

Mikhail Torosoff, MD
Adult general cardiology

Ferdinand Venditti, MD
Adult cardiovascular, electrophysiology studies, pacemaker & implantable defibrillator patients, supra-ventricular tachycardia ventricular arrhythmias, syncope, palpitations, Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome
Colum Amory, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Neurology
Albany Medical College

BOARD CERTIFICATION
American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology: Neurology and Vascular Neurology

FELLOWSHIP
Stroke
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, New York

RESIDENCY
Neurology
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, New York

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Albany Medical College
Albany, New York

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Boston University School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts

Krupa Pandey, MD

Assistant Professor of Neurology
Albany Medical College

BOARD CERTIFICATION
American Board of Neurology

FELLOWSHIP
Multiple Sclerosis
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, New York

RESIDENCY
Neurology
Georgetown University Medical Center
Washington, D.C.

INTERNSHIP
Internal Medicine
Atlantic City Medical Center
Atlantic City, New Jersey

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Ross University School of Medicine
Dominica, West Indies
Matthew A. Adamo, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Albany Medical College

BOARD ELIGIBLE
American Board of Neurological Surgery

FELLOWSHIP
Pediatric Neurosurgery
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

RESIDENCY
Neurosurgery
Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

MEDICAL SCHOOL
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Syracuse, New York

Yu-Hung Kuo, MD, PhD
Brain tumors, stereotactic radiosurgery, endoscopy, pituitary tumors, adult neurosurgery

David L. Semenoff, MD
Adult neurosurgery, spinal surgery (degenerative, minimally invasive, reconstructive), skull-based surgery (tumor & vascular), stereotactic brain & spinal surgery

John Waldman, MD
Pediatric neurosurgery, hydrocephalus, craniofacial disorders, occult spinal dysraphism, brain tumors

Junichi Yamamoto, MD, PhD
Endovascular & surgical treatment, cerebral aneurysm, arteriovenous malformation, carotid/vertebral artery disease, stroke, benign skull-base tumor

Division of Orthopaedic Surgery
1367 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
Phone: (518) 489-2666
Fax: (518) 489-5933

Richard L. Uhl, MD
Head, Division of Orthopaedic Surgery
Residency Program Director

Richard H. Alfred, MD
R. Maxwell Alley, MD
Kaushik Bagchi, MD
Allen L. Carl, MD
Robert A. Cheney, MD
John Czajka, MD
Shankar P. Das, MD
John A. DiPreta, MD
Andrew H. Dubin, MD
Marc D. Fuchs, MD
Robert Hedderman, MD
Paul P. Hospodar, MD
Anjum Iqbal, MD
James Schneider, MD
James E. Striker, MD
Jon Toussaint, MD
Richard R. Whipple, MD
George Zanaros, MD

Michael Mulligan, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Albany Medical College

BOARD ELIGIBLE
American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery

FELLOWSHIP
Hand & Microvascular Surgery
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

RESIDENCY
Orthopaedic Surgery
Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Albany Medical College
Albany, New York
Division of Gastroenterology
47 New Scotland Avenue, MC 48
Albany, NY 12208
Phone: (518) 262-5276
Fax: (518) 262-6470

Catherine Bartholomew, MD
The Albert M. Yunich Professorship;
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology
Women's issues in gastroenterology, general gastroenterology

Peter Ells, MD
Liver disease, chronic viral hepatitis, general gastroenterology

Jesse Green, MD
Director of Endoscopy
General gastroenterology, hepatology

Richard MacDermott Jr., MD
Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center
Ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease

Amee S. Mapara-Shah, MD
Women's issues in gastroenterology, general gastroenterology, hepatology, motility & Ph studies, capsule endoscopy

Seth Richter, MD
Gastrointestinal malignancies, colon cancer screening

John Rodgers, MD
Hepatology, general gastroenterology

Vinay Sood, MD
Endoscopic ultrasound & ERCP, pancreaticobiliary diseases, general gastroenterology, hepatology

Division of Pediatric Critical Care
47 New Scotland Avenue, MC 88
Albany, NY 12208
Phone: (518) 262-5127
Fax: (518) 262-2833

Walter E. Edge, MD
Head, Division of Pediatric Critical Care
Pediatric critical care medicine

Zaheer A. Gill, MD
Pediatric critical care medicine

Patricia Marie Hopkins-Braddock, MD
Pediatric hospitalist medicine

Javier L. Sanchez, MD
Pediatric critical care medicine

Raymond Francis Walsh, MD
Pediatric critical care medicine

Amee S. Mapara-Shah, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Albany Medical College

BOARD CERTIFICATION
American Board of Internal Medicine

FELLOWSHIPS
Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

RESIDENCY
Internal Medicine
Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Saint George’s University
School of Medicine
Grenada, West Indies

Zaheer A. Gill, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Albany Medical College

BOARD CERTIFICATION
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine - Board Eligible
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
American Board of Pediatrics

FELLOWSHIPS
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Children’s Medical Center Dallas
Dallas, Texas

RESIDENCY
Pediatrics
Metropolitan Hospital Center
New York Medical College
Valhalla, New York

MEDICAL SCHOOL
Allama Iqbal Medical College
Lahore, Pakistan

Punjab Medical College
Faisalabad, Pakistan
Albany Medical Center is committed to providing the highest quality care possible. Quality means we aim to deliver the right care to the right patient at the right time, every time. We’re measuring our quality performance every day. In fact, our quality initiatives have been nationally recognized, as in 2008, when Albany Medical Center ranked ninth out of 88 academic medical centers across the nation for high performance in quality and safety according to an annual study conducted by the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC).

Additionally, Albany Medical Center was presented with a “Rising Star” award from the UHC for significant overall improvement in quality and safety.

Authors of the Quality and Accountability Study say top performers such as Albany Medical Center have five key attributes in common: a shared sense of purpose, outstanding leadership, an accountability system, a focus on results and a culture of collaboration. They also said that based on the study’s findings, the difference in yearly outcomes between a top performer like Albany Med and a middle performer would include:

- 137 fewer deaths (after risk adjustment)
- 66 fewer preventable complications (after risk adjustment)
- 69 fewer related re-admissions

Overall, the study was designed to help academic medical centers identify structures and practices that are associated with high performance in quality and safety across a wide variety of patient populations. The scoring and ranking cover the domains of patient safety, effectiveness, mortality, patient-centeredness and equity. Albany Medical Center received a composite score of 71.0, as compared to the group median of 64.2.

Delivering quality care at Albany Medical Center is a day-to-day operational priority and requires a multidisciplinary team of professionals who are experts not only in the process of how care is delivered, but also in the clinical needs of individual patients. At Albany Med, quality is delivered through an organizational structure built around Quality Improvement Teams, or QITs, which are both reactive and proactive – in addition to responding to problems or regulatory violations, the teams constantly evaluate quality measures and identify initiatives, assuring that Albany Med meets the highest possible standards of care.

Ongoing quality initiatives include evaluating and reducing rates of infection within the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and implementing evidence-based guidelines from a national program – “Get With the Guidelines” – in order to provide consistent treatment to heart attack and stroke patients.

We are proud of our achievements in Quality and Safety and will continue to provide education on quality measures to our staff, so that they can provide the best care possible to our patients.