

Class Notes

40s

Stefan S. Fajans (M.D. 1942, Residency 1949, Fellowship 1951),



renowned endocrinologist and diabetes specialist, was honored with a lectureship in his name in the U-M Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology & Diabetes. The inaugural lecture was held in March. Fajans is an active professor emeritus in the division.

50s

Ralph F. Knopf (M.D. 1954, Residency 1958, Fellowship 1962) retired



from the U-M Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology & Diabetes after 47 years. He joined the faculty in 1962, and since 1996 has served

as an active professor emeritus of medicine. Knopf helped establish the High Risk Pregnancy Clinic at the U-M.

60s

Hossein Gharib (M.D. 1966) received the Endocrine Society's

Distinguished Physician Award in June. The award recognizes contributions to and leadership in clinical endocrinology. Gharib is professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

Richard Alan Lewis (M.D. 1969, Residency 1974) has co-authored with Daniel H.

Gold, M.D., the second edition of *Clinical Eye Atlas*, which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2011. Lewis is a professor of ophthalmology, medicine, pediatrics and molecular and human genetics at the Baylor College of Medicine Cullen Eye Institute in Houston, Texas.



David E. Schteingart, M.D. (Residency 1960, Fellowship 1962), has retired as professor of internal medicine in the U-M Division of

Metabolism, Endocrinology & Diabetes. He became a professor in 1974, and in 1993 founded the Millie Schembechler Adrenal Cancer Program, which he directed until four years ago. He will remain an active professor emeritus.

70s

Lawrence Corey (M.D. 1971, Residency 1973) has been named



president and director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, effective January 1, 2011. He has headed the center's

infectious disease program since 1996, is principal investigator of the Hutchinson Center-based HIV Vaccine Trials Network, and is a member of the Epidemiology Program in the Public Health Sciences Division. Corey also holds a number of positions at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

00s

Tammy Chang (M.D. 2007), **Kelly Doran** (M.D. 2007) and **Anita**



Chang



Doran



Vashi

Vashi (M.D. 2006) are among 27 medical and surgical residents nationally who have been named 2011 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars. In July 2011 the scholars will begin a two-year fellowship examining the delivery, impact and organization of health care. Chang will complete her fellowship at the U-M, where she is a chief resident in the Department of Family Medicine. Doran and Vashi,

emergency medicine residents at New York University/Bellevue Hospital and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, respectively, will train at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Lee Liou (M.D. 2003) will join the Swedish Neuroscience Institute in Seattle, Washington, as an outpatient clinician and hospitalist. Liou, who specializes in general neurology and neuromuscular disease, recently completed a fellowship in clinical neuromuscular/EMG and translational research at the University of Washington. —MF

Alumni Profile] A Century-and-a-Half of Breakey M.D.s

“MY DAD TRIED TO TALK ME OUT OF GOING into medicine,” says Barry Breakey (M.D. 1953). “He was sure there was going to be socialized medicine and the government would tell me what to do. But I was always going to be a doctor.”

It’s a family affair. Breakey’s great-grandfather, William F. Breakey, earned his M.D. from the U-M in 1859, only nine years after the Medical School was established. Then came his son, James F. Breakey (M.D. 1894); James’s son and Barry’s father, Robert S. Breakey (M.D. 1924); Barry; and Barry’s son, Robert A. Breakey (M.D. 1981).

That’s five consecutive generations of Breakeys who have earned their medical degrees at the U-M.

William F. Breakey was an Army surgeon in the Civil War, the school’s first lecturer in dermatology and syphilology, and advocated isolating the sick and disinfecting bedding to curb the spread of smallpox when an epidemic broke out in Ann Arbor in 1888 while he was chairman of the city’s Board of Health.

James F. Breakey served in the Spanish-American War four years after earning his degree, returning to action in France in World War I with his son, who went to medical school after his return. Robert S. was a urologist, as is Barry, while Robert A. is a family physician in Ann Arbor.

Like his dad, Robert A. Breakey decided on a medical career early in life. “I enjoyed my studies in science and biology and think of myself as a ‘people person,’ so back in seventh grade I decided to become a doctor,” he says. “I also saw my dad enjoying his career.”

He says he chose family medicine because “I wanted to focus on helping people maintain their health, and I have always enjoyed the breadth of all that medicine has to offer.” Enthusiasm for a wide range of pursuits is a quality shared by both living Breakeys. Barry is an artist whose paintings have been exhibited in a number of one-man shows, and a life master bridge player. Robert was enrolled in the former U-M Inteflex program, whose students could earn their bachelor’s and medical degrees in six years, but he took an extra year “to give me a chance to study more of the offerings available in my undergrad



Barry and Robert A. Breakey

years, like art, French and philosophy, and to take a spring-summer term off to bicycle around Europe.”

The Inteflex program was a far cry from the course of study completed by Robert’s great-great-grandfather: two years of lectures on medical subjects, with the second year a repeat of the first. Each successive generation of Breakeys faced a higher learning bar: James had to complete a four-year curriculum, Robert S. had to do a residency as well, and Barry did an internship in addition to a residency. When *LIFE* magazine came to the Medical School to document the study of medicine in 1950, Barry was part of the story.

Collectively, the Breakey physicians not only span more than 150 years of what doctors are taught, but also what they treat. William Breakey offered combined instruction in dermatology and syphilology because a skin rash was often one of the first symptoms of syphilis. But, says his great-great-grandson, “I haven’t seen a case of syphilis in 25 years of practice.” —JEFF MORTIMER

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