



A D V I S O R

A NEWSLETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Medical Students Lobby in Harrisburg for the "One Handgun per Month" Bill



Top Row: Jackie Chu (Penn), Paul Phelps (Drexel), Rebecca Jennings (Penn), Emily Williams (Penn), Rachael Bonawitz (Penn), and Eric Coie (Penn). Bottom Row: Rachael Truchil (Penn)

On September 26, 2006, two thousand antiviolence activists descended onto the capitol steps in Harrisburg to let lawmakers know they are sick of the violence in their communities. Among this group of politicians, victims, and concerned citizens, was a group of twenty-five medical and premedical students from Drexel University College of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine, and Bryn Mawr College. The students, members of Physicians for Social Responsibility, were there to show their concern for the growing epidemic of violence around the state and to call for stricter handgun laws. They stood in solidarity with the communities that they serve as they

listened to the stories and inspirational words of those who spoke during the rally. Dr. James Jones, a pediatrician, and Rachael Truchil, student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, were the voice of PSR. They spoke passionately about how violence has affected their communities and their work as healthcare providers. In addition, the students also went to the lawmakers to lobby for HB 871, legislation that limits handguns to one per month. Dropping off petitions, going to representatives' offices, and paging them off the floor, the students wanted to make sure their voices were heard. As rising physicians in Pennsylvania, their message was simple: By reducing access to handguns, death due to firearms can be prevented.

_____ Amy Iwamaye (Penn)

Medical Students as Engines for Social Change

On September 5th, David Masur, Penn Environment Director and Board Member of PSR, enlisted the aid of several medical students and organized a press conference about the Smoke-Free Workplaces bill. PSR medical students spread petitions and raised awareness at their respective schools. E-mails flooded the in-boxes of doctors and medical students throughout the Philadelphia area, urging them to sign the

petition to show support for the bill. We were able to present over 200 signatures at the press conference. Students personally contacted Mayor Street's office and pressed him to sign the legislation that had been languishing on his desk.

Beneath the gaze of George Washington in Conversation Hall, doctors from PSR addressed _____ (Continued on page 3...)

From the Director's Desk

PSR invites you to join us in *creating a safer, sustainable future.*

The goal is to integrate this message through innovative educational activities and to build on the current infrastructure in the public schools, PSR medical student chapters and expand our base of concerned citizens. PSR proposes to build and expand on our violence prevention work in K - 8 public schools and their attendant communities. Our Bullying Prevention & Peaceful Posse programs are designed to develop social and emotional skills so that children will be able to use words and strategies, rather than weapons to solve problems. The work includes infusing the current curricula with a continuum from interpersonal violence prevention, to community and environmental violence prevention and finally making the connection to global violence prevention. The issue of violence would be reframed to emphasis respect for self, respect for others, respect for the environment and respect for the planet. Age appropriate materials are being developed to deliver the message.

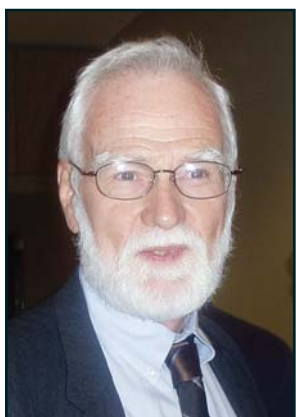
In addition to the curriculum, PSR is training staff and community members to lead new Peaceful Posse groups for boys and one for girls at the Parkway NW High School for Peace and Social Justice. We are working collaboratively to develop peace clubs in select high schools and recreating our "*Legs Against Arms*" 5K race/walk to focus on changing the social norm in the belief that violence is unacceptable in our schools, families and communities. This race/walk is a collaborative with other organizations who are working with us on the *Pathway to Peace* to promote peace making and conflict resolution skills.

Please contribute to this campaign. The budget is \$300,000 over a 5 year period. To date we have received \$70,000. With your generous support, we will insure the continuation of the work that is in demand and has proven effective. Help PSR to move to the next level of program integration and *create a safer, sustainable future.* Thank you.

_____ Pat Harner

Michael McCally Named to Head PSR in Washington, DC

After an extensive search, Michael McCally, MD, PhD was the unanimous choice to become Executive Director of the national office in Washington, effective November 1, 2006. On behalf of the PSR Executive Committee, Kent Bransford enthusiastically wrote that "Mike has the credentials, knowledge, credibility, network, skills and character that will move PSR forward."



A long-time PSR member, Michael was past president of the Board of Directors in Washington and recently was a member of the team that crafted the strategic plan for the organization. In addition to being an invaluable resource on

environmental and nuclear issues, Michael has been a strong proponent of the One PSR concept that systemically considers the national and regional offices to be one unit, each office benefiting from the expertise and resources of the other. We in Philadelphia have had the pleasure to have him on our board and look forward to supporting him in his One PSR vision.

Michael and his wife Christine Cassel, Executive Director of the American Board of Internal Medicine, will maintain their home in Philadelphia. Michael plans to spend 4 days a week in Washington, DC.

Pat Harner

John Rich, MD Awarded MacArthur for Work on Urban Violence

In September, The MacArthur Foundation awarded 25 Fellows \$500,000 each to spend as they wish. John Rich, recently wooed from Boston to Chair the Department of Health Management and Policy at Drexel's School of Public Health, was one of the winners. When I contacted John to congratulate him, he said ". . . the grant is for me, not me."



John's career has been devoted to understanding urban violence as a function of poverty, lack of health care, cultural disparities and low societal expectations. He founded a clinic in Boston to provide primary care to men, particularly men of color, in their teens through

their 20's, and then engaged them to educate their peers on critical health care issues.

Currently, he is part of a team to establish a Center of Excellence for Youth Violence, a collaborative between Drexel, Children's Hospital, Penn, and Temple. Rich, totally surprised by the award is quoted, "It allows you to think about [your work] in different ways without the pressure of thinking 'Would a funder fund this or a journal publish it?'"

One does not apply for a MacArthur, one is awarded a MacArthur on the basis of the quality of one's thinking and the body of accomplishments. Congratulations John!

Pat Harner

Pathway to Peace

Pathway to Peace, a long-term initiative to change social norms, seeks to have all recognize that violence and violent behavior are unacceptable. In this time of increasing interpersonal conflict, Philadelphia PSR and our partners* are determined to decrease the appeal of violence and provide alternative tools to resolve conflict. Together we will mobilize our young people to help their communities develop non-violent strategies, first at home, and then around the world.

The Pathway to Peace includes a series of events which began on September 9th with the Stand Up for Peace Rally, and will culminate in the spring with our:

Legs Against Arms 5k Race/Walk On April 15, 2007 At the Mann Music Center

This event will include a 5K race/walk, a Pathway to Peace Festival, and a Celebration of Youth. As a build to this event, we will be organizing the following:

- ~Poster and poetry contests - to have youth create and promote anti-violence messages.
- ~Peacemakers Pledge - signing up Philadelphians to work against violence and join a local group to learn mediation or conflict resolution.
- ~Praise for Peace - ongoing documentation of Philadelphians performing acts of peacemaking online and through media partners.

We will be working on this event and bringing you more details as soon as they are available. Please mark your calendars for April 15th 2007!

*Partners: School District of Philadelphia; Philadelphia Anti-Drug Anti-Violence Network; Project for Nuclear Awareness; Metropolitan Council of Churches; Philadelphia Citizens for Children & Youth; CHOICE; House of Umoja; Mothers in Charge; Woodrock Inc.; Spectrum Health Services. List in progress.

PSR Medical Student Open House Inspires Activism

What is your passion? What inspires you?

On August 31, 2007, PSR hosted an Open House for medical students from all area medical schools. With a turnout of over 60 students from UPenn, Drexel, Temple, PCOM, and Jefferson, it was an event that provided the opportunity for casual discussion of past project successes and a forum for exchanging ideas for future projects. Representing the student chapter from the University of Pennsylvania, Rachel Truchil described the events of last's spring Harrisburg Lobby day for the "One Handgun per Month" bill and

outlined the organization's plans for a second lobbying event this fall. Zoe Maher, the student leader from Temple University, described the amazing work that Temple students did in New Orleans last fall and invited ideas for the future emergency-preparedness program that is currently evolving through the efforts of Temple student PSR members. In addition, the group heard inspiring words of wisdom, support, and motivation from board members including Dr. Bill King, Dr. Ted Corbin, Dr. Walter Tsou, Dr. Jack Downes, Dr. Joel Chintz, David Masur, and Dr. James Plumb.

At one point in the evening, we were asked to contemplate the issues that inspire us as student activists and future physicians. After hearing the words of different board members and student leaders, one could not help but be motivated towards local and national activism on issues of violence, war, the environment, health disparities, and access to healthcare. The open house was an informal and wonderful introduction for interested students and a good reminder for current members that PSR provides a unique and valuable community of mentorship, support, and activism.

Ellen Plumb (Jefferson)

7th Annual Soul of Medicine Brunch

"This event exists to serve as a reminder to medical students throughout the city of why we went into medicine." Dr. Ken Ginsburg's introduction set the tone for the 7th annual Soul of Medicine Brunch, held on Sunday Sept 17, 2006 at the College of Physicians. This year the program included the first annual Ken Ginsburg Soul of Medicine Awards, which are given to fourth-year medical students who not only bring passion, understanding, and respect, but especially, sensitivity, to their practice of medicine. The 2007 award recipients were: Jennifer Nansteel (Jefferson), Monica Dhand (Temple), Scarlet Soriano (Penn), Stephanie White (PCOM), and Jeanna Labik (Drexel). James Plumb, MD, who served as master of ceremonies, was quick to remind the attendees that Dr. Ginsburg is alive and well and that it is his continued dedication to being a soulful physician, teacher, and role-model that inspired the award. Dr. Ginsburg himself explained the need for the brunch as a "Shoreline that we return to, the Soul of Medicine Meeting cannot help you navigate the waves, you have to do that yourself," but this event allows us to return to our idealistic ways, and "to think hard about why we became healer(s)." He cited the presence of many bad role models in medicine, but that "here there are 20-30 that we can talk to," learn from, and emulate.

Dr. Emily Hyle spoke from her experience as an intern at Massachusetts General Hospital. She shared stories of patients she had treated, failed, and learned from. Her realistic view gave the

medical students a glimpse of the personalities they will encounter. "You will have narcissists and manipulators, stoics and fighters, those who are surrounded by the warmth of their families and those who are completely alone, those who use every resource and those who have no resources at their disposal at all; some will speak directly to your heart, and others will be angry and difficult," and then she reminded the students that "if you aren't overwhelmed, then you probably aren't listening well enough." Her passion for her patients and her job as physician provide her with motivation, she explained. Listening and being a part of her patients' lives is an incredible privilege that she cherishes every day. She can't imagine spending her professional life working toward anything better than this rich and complicated role.

Dr. Hyle's speech was followed by the key note speaker, Amy Goldberg, MD, who shared soulful and soulless moments in her training and career as a trauma surgeon at Temple University. Dr. Goldberg recounted several stories of soulless
 —(Continued on page 4...)



Ken Ginsburg Soul of Medicine Award Recipients: Jeanna Labik (Drexel), Monica Dhand (Temple), and Jennifer Nansteel (Jefferson), along with Ken Ginsburg, MD (right). Award recipients not pictured: Scarlet Soriano (Penn), and Stephanie White (PCOM).



Emily Hyle, MD (left) and Amy Goldberg, MD share "Tales from the Trenches"

Medical Students as Engines for Social Change *(continued)*

the media and called for the immediate passage of the bill. A score of medical students from across the city donned their white coats and gathered with the doctors to amplify the harmful effects that second-hand smoke has on public health and the city's economy. Cameras from FOX, CBS, NBC, ABC, as well as reporters from the Daily News, the Inquirer, and Metro were all in attendance.

Less than 24 hours later, we received the good news: Mayor Street had signed the bill despite whisperings that he planned to veto it. In a surprising move, September 25, was quickly scheduled as the effective date to ban smoking in eating establishments and the workplace.

For many students, the involvement was an invigorating and heartening experience. On short notice, we were able to rally and organize our fellow students to affect real change in the city. This event notably achieved two things. First, it was a great public health victory for Philadelphia.

Second, it demonstrated to medical students that we are in an incredible position to act as engines for social change.

It is on this energizing note that we have to remember the fight is far from over. As this article was being written, questions have already emerged about the implementation and enforcement of the new law. As we move

forward and inevitably come to face difficult times, whether in this struggle or others, be they local or global, we can take heart that the passage of this bill serves as testament to the strength of idealism and a passion to do good in the world; ultimately, we can win.

Keep fighting the good fight.

— Michael Russo (Penn)

PSR is very grateful for the support from the following sources:

All PSR Programs: PSR National - \$3,500

Bullying Prevention Support:

PA Department of Education - \$196,000 to expand program in School District

Safer Sustainable Future Programming:

John C. & Chara C. Haas Charitable Trust - \$35,000

Soros Physician Advocacy Fellowship Support:

Columbia University - \$2,500

Peaceful Posse Support:

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church - \$3,000

Claniel Foundation - \$10,000

The Douty Foundation - \$2,000

John C. & Chara C. Haas Charitable Trust - \$5,000

Samuel P. Mandell Foundation - \$500

Wachovia Foundation - \$2,500



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"One of the essential qualities of the clinician is interest in humanity, for the secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient."
 -Frances Weld Peabody

"The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease."
 -William Osler

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7th Annual Soul of Medicine Brunch (Continued)

moments that often happen when we are very tired and no one is taking care of us, so we have difficulty taking care of others." Dr. Goldberg maintains her humanity by realizing that training and learning continue every day. She described how she learned from her 'non-medical' friends, that sometimes they just want her to be a friend, not a doctor. Despite her anecdotes of soullessness, she encouraged the medical students to behave soul-fully, to "look our patients in the eye, reach for them, touch them, don't be afraid of them...don't rush them, they are there at their weakest and lowest moments, so we should treat them as we want to be treated." Her challenge to the future doctors is to "master the art of medicine in the same manner you use to master the science and technology of medicine. Medical School is frequently answer-focused, the art of medicine, though, is question-focused." She ended her speech with a quote by Lawrence Gage, MD about a young doctor who lost a patient. The tragedy, the doctor felt, was that "the patient died without knowing that I cared."

When Dr. Goldberg finished speaking, Dr. Plumb introduced the medical school chapter and student leaders of PSR, giving the medical students an opportunity to share ideas for social and political responsible activities in the city and state. At that point, each table was encouraged to discuss and share anecdotes along the theme of "Tales from the Trenches". After the group discussions, raffle prizes were awarded. dansko, who sponsored the event, also provided five gift certificates for pairs of shoes. Thank you to dansko, for their support, the five medical schools of Philadelphia, and to the planning committee and volunteers who provided this opportunity to reconnect with the Soul of Medicine.

— Sarah Baker (PCOM)