What makes us human?

page 14
Initially an Epidemic Intelligence Service fellow and then in the National Immunization Program at the CDC, Chen now heads the HIV vaccine team. “This, I hope, will be a challenging and, with luck, a successful endeavor in the upcoming years.”
—Robert T. Chen, AM ’80, MD ’82

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1940s
Blake S. Talbot, MD ’41, celebrated his 91st birthday in November and has “enjoyed good health here in Southern California.”

Harry A. Oberhelman Jr., SB/MD ’46, serves as medical director of the International Medical Services at Stanford Hospital and Clinics.

1960s
Marvin J. Stone, SM ’62, MD ’63, has been chief of oncology and director of the Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center at Baylor University Medical Center since 1976.

Donald Tusel, MD ’62, lives in California and writes, “Got my atrial fibrillation cured, so doing some part-time stuff.”

1970s
Richard L. Schilsky, MD ’75, considered an expert in gastrointestinal cancers, cancer pharmacology and drug development, was elected president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology for the 2008-’09 term. Schilsky is a professor of medicine and associate dean for clinical research at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Jeremy J. Hollerman, MD ’77, married wife Tina in 1975, and one of their two children (now ages 28 and 27) tied the knot in August. Hollerman practices breast radiology full time at the Jane Brattain Breast Center in St. Louis Park, Minn. Previously, he completed a residency in emergency medicine and was director of a level 2 trauma ER before he took a radiology residency, which he completed in 1987. Until ’05, he taught radiology at the level 1 trauma center, Hennepin County Medical Center, associated with the University of Minnesota. In 2002, his residents elected him Teacher of the Year.

Anne Mittelstaedt Koroshetz, MD ’79, practices radiology at Milton Hospital in Massachusetts and will move to Maryland

1980s
Robert T. Chen, AM ’80, MD ’82, has spent more than 20 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Initially an Epidemic Intelligence Service fellow and then in the National Immunization Program, Chen now heads the HIV vaccine team. “This, I hope, will be a challenging and, with luck, a successful endeavor in the upcoming years,” he writes. Chen married Ellen Wild, who works at the Public Health Informatics Institute, and anticipates “many fun years...with my spouse” as they raise daughters Megan, 3, and Marissa, 6.

1990s
Ithaar Derweesh, MD ’95, is chief of urology at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. He teaches at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and in July, became program director of the Department of Urology. Derweesh is a member of the American Urological Association and recently was asked to serve on the AUA Guidelines Committee for Management of the Incidentally Discovered Renal Mass.

Melissa Haglund Robledo, MD ’97, currently practices internal and aesthetic medicine in Skokie, Ill. She’s training to become a clinical lipidologist, as cardiovascular risk reduction is her primary interest. Additionally, Robledo serves as medical co-chair for Walgreens Health Initiatives in Deerfield, Ill., and raises two children, Zachary and Jake, with husband Adam.

Chester Meihua Wang Ho, MD ’97, when not home with his wife, Jane, and their three children, works in general pediatrics as department chairman for an eight-physician, two-nurse practitioner group in Indiana.

2000s
Jinger G. Hoop, MD ’00, studies the ethical issues involved with genetic technologies in psychiatry, and is now assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine and assistant director of the empirical ethics group at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Earlier this year, Hoop, as principal investigator, began surveying patients, families and clinicians to gather their perspectives on genetic testing for schizophrenia.

Pat Avueck Basu, MD/ MBA ’05, married Erika Anna Judy in New Year’s Eve 2006. Maid of honor Olivia Bailey, MD ’04, introduced the couple. Basu received the 2007 National Excellence in Medicine Award for Leadership from the American Medical Association and Pfizer Humanities Initiative.

Erwin Kruger, MD ’05, reports that he’s “happy to say that all’s well at UCLA in the combined general surgery/plastic surgery program,” the 2007 recipient of the Larry Sandler Award, which is given yearly by the Genetic Society of America to honor the most outstanding PhD dissertation in the field of Drosophila biology.
Former Faculty/ Housestaff

Miriam C. O’Malley, DMD, who completed a maxillofacial surgery residency at the University of Chicago, recently became president of Pennsylvania’s Scranton District Dental Society. In 1997, she went into private practice with Kenneth Miller.

In Memoriam

1940s

Roland E. Schmidt, MD ’45, spent more than 50 summers in South Dakota’s Black Hills restoring an old log cabin and teaching people to fly-fish and to enjoy the area’s natural beauty. During World War II, Schmidt served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He lived in nearly every corner of the United States, including New Orleans, San Francisco, West Virginia and North Carolina. He died this past February at the University of North Carolina Hospital, leaving behind a son and daughter-in-law, grandchildren, a brother and sister-in-law, cousins, nieces and nephews. His wife, Ellen Parker Schmidt, AB ’44, preceded him in death.

1950s

Anna-Marie Chirico, MD ’50, for years worked amid clones. Using existing plants’ leaves, twigs and roots, she produced new plants as a volunteer at the University of Pennsylvania’s Morris Arboretum. She was so dedicated to her work there, in fact, that a friend and former student, Andrea Baldeck, created an endowment at the arboretum in Chirico’s honor. Shortly after graduating from medical school, Chirico went into private practice and maintained an internal practice at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where she was known as the “doctor’s doctor.” She died this past February at the age of 82.

Edward Russell Alexander, PhD ’48, SB ’50, MD ’53, is best known for his work involving swine. In the 1970s, as an advisor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Alexander challenged the federal government when it began extensive use of a vaccine to combat a swine flu epidemic. The vaccine, Alexander warned, could lead to a polio-like disease marked by paralysis in humans. By 1976, the government heeded Alexander’s advice and discontinued vaccine use. He was one of the CDC’s leading scientists and a nationally renowned epidemiologist particularly interested in preventing sexually transmitted diseases. Alexander died in February at age 77 of pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Mary Jane Francis, an Episcopal priest; four daughters, Ann Alexander of Seattle, Kay Alexander of Lake Forest Park, Wash., Bess Carter of Fall City, Wash., and Eva Alexander Rice of Denver; a stepson, Bill Levitch of Renton, Wash.; and five grandchildren.

1960s

Edward I. Weinselbaum, AB ’55, SB ’56, MD ’60, died on a Sunday evening this past February while driving home after caring for his patients. He was 72 years old. Weinselbaum served as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Korea, worked in surgery at various veterans’ hospitals and taught at the University of Florida College of Medicine before going into private practice in ’78. His family and colleagues praised his work, and at the North Florida Regional Medical Center, colleagues placed a book in the chapel for people to write stories in remembrance of their time with Weinselbaum.

Former Faculty/ Housestaff

William H. Shlaes, SB ’41, MD, former professor of medicine and psychiatry at the University of Chicago, died in mid-April. His daughter, Nancy Shlaes Bruski, AM ’75, wrote, “Dad’s passion was medical education and the importance of conveying to medical students that patients must be treated as whole people, with emotional lives in addition to their organ systems.” Because of this passion, his family established the William H. Shlaes University of Chicago Medical Education Fund. Donations can be made to this fund in his memory. For more information, call the Medical Center Development Office at (773) 702-6565.

“Dad’s passion was medical education and the importance of conveying to medical students that patients must be treated as whole people, with emotional lives in addition to their organ systems.”

—Nancy Shlaes Bruski, AM ’75

Floyd S. Stancliffe, MD ’46, loved collecting things. Two of anything constituted a collection—of children he had eight, and during his retirement years, license plates became a central theme. He grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and went on to serve six years in the U.S. Naval Reserves, partly
FATE IN A LITTLE WHITE ENVELOPE

Four minutes. That’s all it takes for a computer to sort roughly 25,000 graduating medical students in the United States into residency programs. About 100 lives a second.

And that’s how many people waited—teeth clenched, heels tapping—for their fates to be handed to them in little white envelopes one Friday morning in March.

At the University of Chicago, 97 students—0.4 percent of the 25,000—gathered in the hospital’s Billings Auditorium at 9 a.m. on March 15 for the annual spring rite of passage. For four years they’d studied, worked, socialized and explored on these grounds, and for the past few months they’d searched for somewhere else to go.

They’d studied what programs such as Johns Hopkins, UCSF and Penn had to offer; tried to picture themselves working in clinics hundreds of miles away, not far from a beach, maybe, or a ski resort; scheduled interviews and flew to these places while simultaneously trying to manage Chicago class work; ranked the programs to which they’d applied.

And then they waited.

A month after the rank lists were due, the waiting was over. At Chicago, fourth years put on the requisite Pritzker Match Day shirts (front: Match Madness; back: Team Pritzker 07), and approached the front of P-117 for their envelopes, ready to find out where they’d take their next step.

The adventurer

Two days after Kiera von Besser completed her undergraduate degree at Princeton in 1998, she was sitting in an anatomy class at Chicago—the first of many courses that would lead to her MD/PhD. The road trip she took to get there, though, could have been her last.

As she pulled out of a Kentucky rest stop, a drunk driver slammed into von Besser’s car. Her dad witnessed the crash from another car, watching helpless as it spun around three times on the highway. Von Besser and her mom were rushed to a nearby hospital. Everyone was OK.

The very next day, when the professor took attendance in her anatomy class, von Besser raised her hand.

Eight years later, another road trip played a decisive role in her fate. Von Besser was on a break, driving through the open desert near Moab, Utah, and listening to her music when she found the clarity of mind to rank her top residency choices.

“I wanted a bigger city in the north,” she said, but she also wanted to be closer to her South Carolina home and her dad who had just turned 70. Von Besser ended up applying to 20 programs for obstetrics and gynecology, was offered interviews at 18, accepted 14 and ranked “five or six.”

When Match Day arrived, her best friend drove in from Michigan to share the anticipation. And when her name was called for her envelope…

Penn!

“It’s where I thought I was going to go,” she said. “It was my favorite program, the best fit.”

Before leaving Chicago to start her residency, though, she had a few more duties to attend to: She had to sell her place. She had to eat at a bunch of restaurants on a list she’d compiled. And then she had to leave for a five-week trek in Southeast Asia (the one continent she’d never been to) through the Himalayas to Katmandu.

The newlyweds

Fourth-year medical students Laura Han and Patrick Lang tied the knot three days before their rank lists were due; they’d been married just 30 days when Match Day hit.

“We didn’t want to wedding-plan after the match, so we moved it up,” Han said.

The wedding wasn’t the only thing they did early. After two years of saying “hi” to each other in passing, the two started
dating and, in just a few months, discussing marriage. Those talks included their “couples match,” in which couples rank programs together and the computer program factors in their relationship.

“It’s a very maturing process, constantly having to think of the other person,” Han said. When they were choosing their programs, they took their specialties into account, as well as their families: his in Connecticut, hers in California.

“There’s a lot of misconception about the couples match. Some people say they’re willing to make a short commute or an easy flight [to the other person]. Our priority was to stay together,” she said.

“That’s one thing we learned,” Lang added, “you have to think as a couple.”

After much strategizing with the dean (who’d survived a couples match herself), both Han and Lang ended up matching at UCSF. Han said her family, who lives in San Francisco, “is absolutely thrilled.”

The last envelope

$200…Johns Hopkins…$200…Johns Hopkins…

The last person to collect an envelope in P-117 on Match Day, Deepa Rangachari, had hoped to arrange a couples match, too. She’d met Rob Hallowell when they were undergrads at Dartmouth; they’d dated long-distance—halfway across the country—for four years.

Now that Rangachari had her envelope with Johns Hopkins clearly printed on the inside, she struggled for cell phone reception so she could call her fiancé. When she finally reached him, though, she was more excited to tell him about the $200 she’d won.

According to Pritzker tradition, as students collect their envelopes, they drop money in a pot. The next-to-last person to receive an envelope gets a candy bar as a consolation prize. The last gets the pot of cash. And in this case, it belonged to Rangachari.

“I didn’t do much for luck. I prayed,” she said of her pre-match morning. “Everyone was thinking and feeling the same thing. We all worked really hard to get here. I just wanted to know. I just wanted everyone to know.”

Rangachari’s parents, who live in Hinsdale, Ill., drove in for the ritual, and her dad was the first to reach Hallowell in New York. “If you matched at Hopkins,” he joked, “then why is Deepa going to Columbia?”

During medical school, Rangachari and her fiancé would meet every few months and attend each other’s classes during visits. “Long distance in med school doesn’t have to be a death wish,” she said. “You have to prioritize if your significant other is in the same city.”

Rangachari and Hallowell will begin their lives together, marrying in downtown Chicago and moving east to Maryland, where their little white envelopes put them. Does that intimidate Rangachari after four years of miles apart? “I’m not worried about living together,” she said, “not if we could survive this.” —Katie Scarlett Brandt

Medical centers with the most Chicago recruits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Center</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale-New Haven Hospital</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigham &amp; Women’s Hospital</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California at San Francisco</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnes-Jewish Hospital</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins Hospital</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern Hospital</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Chicago recruits will do:

- Anesthesiology: 6
- Dermatology: 2
- Emergency Medicine: 6
- Family Medicine: 1
- General Surgery: 6
- Internal Medicine: 22
- Medicine-Pediatrics: 3
- Medicine-Preliminary: 6
- Neurology: 1
- Obstetrics/Gynecology: 6
- Ophthalmology: 1
- Orthopaedic Surgery: 5
- Otolaryngology: 2
- Pathology: 4
- Pediatrics: 12
- Pediatric Neurology: 1
- Plastic Surgery: 2
- Psychiatry: 5
- Radiation Oncology: 3
- Diagnostic Radiology: 3
- Surgery-Preliminary: 4
- Transitional: 10
- Urology: 3
“I started medical school by parking, with all my stuff still in the car, and running across the Midway to orientation,” said Linas A. Sidrys, MD ’77, who’d been visiting family in the Soviet Union before starting school. Four years later, he returned to the USSR for a Moscow internship—the Eastern Block forming bookends around his medical education.

“I married a student from the class behind me in med school,” shared Jean Hirsch Priest, MD ’53. “We met when he was a pathology resident and I was a pediatric resident.” Her husband, Robert Priest, MD ’54, died six years ago. The couple had financed a pathology fellowship for University of Chicago students. Priest, who lives in Atlanta and taught at Emory University for 19 years, visited some of those students during reunion weekend and called that experience the highlight of her trip.

Every year, the Gold Key and the Distinguished Service awards are given out during reunion weekend. The Gold Key Award recognizes faculty who have shown outstanding and loyal service to the University of Chicago and to the Biological Sciences Division. This year's Gold Key award winners doubled last year's, with Vijay Dayal, MD; Alfred Heller, PhD ’56, MD ’60; R. Eric Lombard, PhD ’71; and Donald F. Steiner, SM ’56, MD ’56, awarded.

Distinguished Service Award winners are alumni who have garnered distinction and contributed significantly to the biological sciences and medicine. They’ve enhanced the university’s name through their research, clinical care, health service administration, public and professional service, and civic duties. This year’s recipients were: Patrick O. Brown, PhD ’80, MD ’82; Philip Lisagor, MD ’72; Allan L. Lorincz, SB ’45, MD ’47; and Mark Siegler, MD ’67.
Memories

“I would advise you gentlemen to pin your scrotums to the chairs,” an anatomy professor said in 1963 to newly arrived medical students, according to Saul Wasserman, MD ’67, who smiles at the memory now. The professor, Wasserman said, was warning about the hours students would spend, attentive and learning the basics of medicine, in his class. Wasserman has since un-pinned and moved to northern California, where he lives with his wife, Judy, and works in children's psychology.

“I thought I had married him and the University of Chicago,” said Caryl T. Moy, AM ’69, PhD, of her husband, Richard Moy, AB ’53, SB ’54, MD ’57. After Richard earned his bachelors’ and medical degrees at Chicago, he worked on campus for more than 10 years—and then surprised his wife when he took a job as dean of the newly formed Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 1969. The couple still lives in Springfield in the same house they bought when they first moved south.

“Each time I come, there are fewer people,” said Gene Lawrence, MD ’52, who was hoping to see more of his classmates at their 55th reunion. After graduation, he moved to New Orleans, worked as a hospital resident there, and met his wife, Evelyn, an emergency room nurse. The couple returned to Illinois, to River Forest, a few years later, where he practiced general and vascular surgery for about 40 years.”
Sanjay Gupta, MD, was in New York when the World Trade Center crumbled in 2001, Iraq when Americans invaded in 2003, Sri Lanka when the tsunami ravaged the island in 2004, and New Orleans when floodwaters inundated the city in 2005. He was also in Hyde Park, at the University of Chicago, when 131 MDs and PhDs were hooded during the BSD’s annual Divisional Academic Ceremony this past June.

Gupta spoke to the graduates on the morning of the university’s convocation not only as a physician, but also as a regular medical correspondent for CNN, a *Time* magazine columnist, an Emmy Award winner, and one of *People* magazine’s selection of the “sexiest men alive.”

He shared stage time with Nobel laureate Peter Agre, MD, who discovered key water channels in cells that led to a molecular understanding of many diseases of the kidneys, skeletal muscle and other organs.

Both men offered advice from their careers. “Science is really about people,” Agre told the crowd gathered under a tent on the Midway Plaisance. The Nobel laureate said he was particularly driven in his cellular research after one of his children had health problems. Research, he said, unites people from opposing backgrounds. “Science has the potential of bringing different cultures together in a very special way,” he said.

Gupta told of having to switch hats from reporter to doctor, such as when he operated on a wounded soldier in Iraq. The soldier, Jesus Vidana, had been shot in the head, and Gupta, a neurosurgeon, treated him. During his speech on the Midway, he laughed about “operating on Jesus in the middle of the desert.” He said that when he paid a visit to the soldier’s family in Los Angeles, Vidana’s father first wanted to know exactly why some journalist had operated on his son. “It reminded me of why it’s so important to be a doctor,” Gupta said.
“I love the city. I love the program. I love the people at this hospital.”
—Trang Nguyen, MD graduate

After listening to the advice from their chosen guests, graduates were “hooded” with looped sashes, placed around their necks by mentors, parents, spouses or friends. For PhD students, Nancy Schwartz, MD, read the titles of their theses. For graduating MDs, Medical Education Dean Holly Humphrey announced their chosen specialties and the locations of their residencies.

When the graduates marched out, with a brass ensemble accompanying their exit, their families hooted, hollered, clapped and cheered. The new alumni hugged parents, friends and children. Some carried babies; at least one tried to find his family in the crowd by using his cell phone. Wearing their maroon robes, the students celebrated their graduations and shared their plans for the future as they scatter around the country.

Despite how medical school might feel, Humphrey reminded graduating medical students that “life in medical school [is] a marathon, not a sprint.” The next phase of their career, she said, also will be a marathon, as graduates pursue post-doctoral work and residencies.

The graduating students will carry with them a “breadth of knowledge” and “profound respect for rational discourse” that they learned at the University of Chicago, said BSD Dean James L. Madara. Those tools will help them as they continue their journeys through life and in the fields of science and medicine, he said.

“I’m thinking this is a long day right now,” said neurobiology PhD graduate Anitra Guillory, who will do post-doc work at the University of California-San Francisco, as she ate a quick meal between the divisional ceremony and the university commencement ceremony.

Others reflected on their experiences at Chicago. Trang Nguyen, an MD graduate, will stay at the University of Chicago for her residency in plastic surgery. For her, the program here is a “natural match,” she said. “I love the city. I love the program. I love the people at this hospital.”

—Suzanne Wilder