

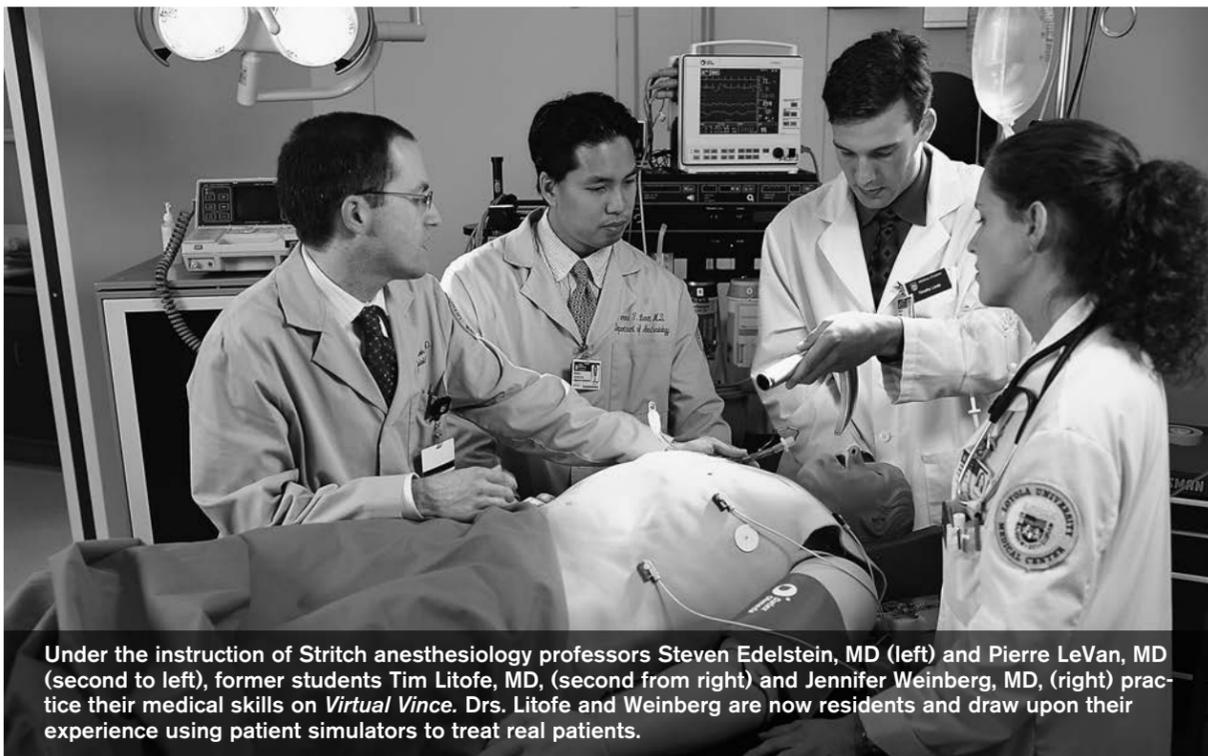
Vision

Newsletter of Philanthropy

Volume 2 Summer 2006

Loyola University Medical Center ~ Part of Loyola University Health System

Patient Simulator Provides Realistic Instruction for Physicians in Training



Under the instruction of Stritch anesthesiology professors Steven Edelstein, MD (left) and Pierre LeVan, MD (second to left), former students Tim Litofe, MD, (second from right) and Jennifer Weinberg, MD, (right) practice their medical skills on *Virtual Vince*. Drs. Litofe and Weinberg are now residents and draw upon their experience using patient simulators to treat real patients.

Vince, a 50-year-old truck driver, was in full cardiac arrest when medical students at Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) revived him using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation.

Later, *Vince* suffered major trauma in an automobile accident and underwent surgery. While he was under general anesthesia, residents noted that he showed signs of malignant hyperthermia – an adverse reaction to anesthesia. The residents skillfully and quickly treated his rare but potentially fatal condition.

Vince is not an extremely unhealthy patient, he is a computer-linked mannequin used in the Human Patient Simulation Program at Stritch.

A Virtual Teaching Tool

In the past two decades medical education has changed significantly, with technology playing a major role. The use of simulation technology has begun to gain acceptance in medicine. Clinical simulators are devices that replicate a variety of clinical conditions and situations, placing trainees in life-like situations. The simulators provide students with immediate feedback about their decisions and actions. If simulators enhance the clinician's diagnostic skills, then these devices have the potential to improve the overall quality of patient care.

One of the goals of Loyola's Human Patient Simulation Program is to prepare future physicians for examining real patients. There is a strongly supported belief that a well-performed physical examination remains the most cost effective tool for evaluating patients.

Stritch primarily uses the human patient simulator (HPS) – nicknamed *Virtual Vince* – as a teaching aid for medical students and residents. "The nice thing about *Vince* is he really teaches students and residents total patient management," said Pierre LeVan, MD, associate professor of anesthesiology and associate director of the Human Patient Simulation Program. "For instance if *Vince* is programmed to be a trauma patient, they learn to prioritize their treatment to take care of the most critical conditions first."

Students and residents can use *Vince* to practice performing CPR, using a defibrillator, conducting an emergency tracheotomy or inserting a chest tube. But if their treatment fails, the HPS will simulate death. "Human patient simulation allows students to go a lot further than they would with an actual patient," Dr. LeVan said. "Working with *Vince* really makes the students and residents think and reflect on their actions when they get a negative outcome."

Tim Litofe, MD, a former Stritch medical student who is currently an anesthesiology resident at the University of Florida in Gainesville, recalled his experience intubating *Virtual Vince*. "It was as realistic as being in a room with a real patient," he said. "But you could go through more scenarios and fix each condition. If you did something wrong, you could pause the program to talk about it."

Protecting Patients

A main benefit of human patient simulation is it allows medical students and residents to train for rare medical events and conditions in a controlled environment. "Human patient simulation is a lot like the training pilots undergo," explained Steven Edelstein, MD, director of the Human Patient

Simulation Program and vice chair of medical education in the Department of Anesthesiology. "Pilots plan for crises all the time. Likewise, simulation training for medical purposes allows students to deal with crises that don't occur very often. This protects patients because their health specialists won't see these rare events for the first time in the Emergency Department or intensive care unit."

Dr. Litofe said working on *Vince* helped prepare him for his residency by providing scenarios that he would not routinely see in patients as well as more common situations. "In anesthesiology many things you train for you may never see. Just in case it does come up, having practiced on a mannequin is beneficial," he said.

The Future of Human Patient Simulation

Instructors like the simulator as much as the students do because it provides added value to their classroom with hands-on self-learning. *Vince* also is proving to be a valuable tool for student evaluations. "We use it to test our students to see how much they've learned on a clinical rotation," said Dr. LeVan.

"Human patient simulation is going to continue to evolve and grow at Loyola," added Dr. Edelstein. "We are dedicated to the technology. More departments are incorporating human patient simulation into their training, increasing its exposure to students and residents."

Vince may someday have a friend – a cardiopulmonary simulated life-size mannequin that links to a multimedia computer system that provides heart sounds and simulates a variety of clinical findings in health and disease states. Stritch is considering a proposal to make the simulator part of its Human Patient Simulation Program.

Loyola's Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology recently obtained a computer-linked life-size mannequin that simulates childbirth. Students use the simulator to practice deliveries, residents use it to practice treating obstetric emergencies and department nurses and physicians will use it for crisis drills.

A Thank-you Gift from a Former Student

Virtual Vince and the Human Patient Simulation Program were funded in part by Stuart Marshall, MD, a 1970 Stritch graduate who has an orthopaedics practice in La Jolla, Calif.

See *Simulator*, page 2

Work of Pioneering Ophthalmologist Continues through the Richard A. Perritt Charitable Foundation

In life, the late Richard A. Perritt, MD, exhibited a colorful personality. “He was a world-famous ophthalmologist and entrepreneur, an exquisite dresser with a very flamboyant personality,” recalled Ron Tyrpin, his close friend and financial advisor.

Fifteen years after his death, Mr. Perritt’s presence still is felt through the gifts of a charitable foundation he established.

The Richard A. Perritt Charitable Foundation provides funding to several beneficiaries within Loyola University Health System (Loyola) including the Department of Ophthalmology, the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center and the Marcella Neihoff School of Nursing. In 1999, the foundation began offering scholarships to Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) students.

“We feel the scholarship is a memorial to Dr. Perritt, who was an alumnus of Stritch,” said Mr. Tyrpin, who manages the foundation along with his family. “It seems fitting that his foundation will promote future doctors. Whether they go into research or patient care, they may someday carry on Dr. Perritt’s tradition of medical innovations.”

Investing in The Future

The Perritt Foundation’s Stritch scholarship provides tuition to students in their second through fourth year of medical school. The scholarships are awarded to students who show a documented financial need along with an excellent record of scholarship, leadership and service. Four medical students have been recipients of the scholarship. Currently two, third-year students are in the program. Once they graduate, two more recipients will be chosen.

Recipient Adam Nicholson is considering specializing in pediatrics. “I’m very thankful for the Perritt Foundation and grateful for its generosity,” Mr. Nicholson said. “The foundation will be a large part of what I think about when I reflect back on my experiences at Stritch.”

Joshua Aaron is considering specializing in surgery. “It’s both an honor and a privilege to have this scholarship,” Mr. Aaron said. “It has, no doubt, changed the course of my future and made my dream of starting my own practice more tangible.”

Both recipients said the scholarship has inspired them to strive harder to reach their career goals so they can “pay back” their funding by providing excellent health care to those in need.

“Anytime you are personally touched by generosity it motivates you to do the same one day,” Mr. Nicholson said.

“I hope someday I can give back to society and be the best physician I can,” Mr. Aaron said.

A Memorable Donor

It is fitting that the scholarship recipients have an ideal role model for their donor. Dr. Perritt had his own ophthalmology practice and worked well into his 90s. “He was active right up to the end. He told everyone he was in his 70s. He looked great,” Mr. Tyrpin recalled.

Although his practice was based in Chicago, Dr. Perritt traveled around the world spreading his knowledge through ophthalmology seminars. He performed eye surgeries on two popes and various other dignitaries across the globe. He was actively involved in research and was responsible for several breakthroughs in ophthalmology including the first corneal transplant. “Up to his dying day he was doing research,” Mr. Tyrpin recalled.

Dr. Perritt was adamant that his work continue, so, before his death, he and Mr. Tyrpin discussed establishing the foundation.

A Hard-working Family

Managing the Richard A. Perritt Charitable Foundation is a family affair. Mr. Tyrpin, a stock and bond trader, is the president while his wife, Diane Tyrpin, a 1963 graduate of Loyola University Chicago and retired school teacher, is the secretary-treasurer. Sons, Mark Tyrpin, a banker, and John Tyrpin, a financial investor, are board members.

The family visits all the organizations that receive foundation donations. “We keep a hands-on approach in monitoring the foundation and inspecting all the beneficiaries to make sure they are following guidelines,” Mr. Tyrpin said.

Mr. Tyrpin said the part he enjoys most about running the foundation is preserving the memory



Receiving scholarships from the Perritt Foundation has motivated recipients (left to right) Joshua Aaron and Adam Nicholson to strive harder to reach their career goals.

of his friend while benefiting society.

What he finds most demanding is working with the uncertainties of medical research. “Getting involved in the research part of medicine is very challenging, whether it is deciding to put funds to work on a short-term basis or making the decision to fund a long-term project,” Mr. Tyrpin explained. “The key is to keep the plan in perspective, and follow up on the progress of the research. You have to keep in mind there are no time tables on certain areas of research.”

The Tyrpin family strongly encourages other families, groups or individuals to consider starting charitable foundations of their own to fund medical care and research. “This is a way for the average person to be involved in medicine,” Mr. Tyrpin explained. “It is very satisfying to be a part of new discoveries in research and patient care.”

Mr. Tyrpin views the Perritt Foundation’s funding of medical education as a vital contribution to society. “I believe society has an obligation to help keep physicians and researchers up-to-date on the latest innovations and technology available in the medical field,” he said. “I believe providing the funding to educate new physicians is especially important. Who knows, you may fund a medical student who one day discovers a new cure or treatment for diseases.”

For more information on making foundation grants to Loyola or Stritch contact Heather Snyder, PhD, director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, at hsnyder@lumc.edu or (708) 216-4607. 

Simulator, from page 1

“I give back to Stritch because I take great pride in the education I received. The spiritual side of medicine is as important as the science, and Stritch graduates learn that,” Dr. Marshall said. “As I was making my contribution, I had four children in school, but I found the financial means to contribute and not let my circumstances cloud my judgment. It was – and is – just that important to give back.”

If you would like to support the Human Patient Simulation Program, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean, development, Stritch School of Medicine, at svogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642. 

Who is Vince?

Vince is a life-size medical mannequin and the first patient many Stritch medical students treat. He is surprisingly lifelike with pulses in his wrist, neck and feet; a heart beat; urinary output; removable teeth; and eyes that blink and pupils that respond to light. *Vince* is equipped to be an adult female or male and can be programmed to assume the profile of a wide variety of patients.

Instructors also can program *Vince* to show symptoms of 70 different medical conditions. He is wired to mimic actual human responses, and he reacts to medical treatments and procedures.

Stritch medical students treat *Vince* in the Human Simulation Center, which is set up like an operating room. *Vince* is lying flat under a sheet on a gurney, surrounded by anesthesia equipment, operating room monitors and tanks of nitrogen, oxygen, air and nitrous oxide.

First- and second-year medical students practice on *Vince* as part of their introduction to clinical practice and physiology lectures, while third- and fourth-year students work with the mannequin to learn about hemodynamic (blood circulation) monitoring and hypotension (low blood pressure) management as well as techniques for setting up an operating room for anesthesia and caring for patients before, during and after surgery. 

Dr. Leischner's Spirit Lives on through Student Scholarships

The late Ralph P. Leischner, MD, former senior associate dean of the Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch), dedicated his career to the education of medical students.

"If their training at Loyola has hit the mark, they will have a mind for treating the body and a heart for treating the spirit," he said of his educational philosophy during his tenure at Stritch.

Dr. Leischner's daughter, Jennifer Leischner Litowitz, believes the best way she can keep her father's philosophy alive is through donations to a scholarship endowment created in his name that is awarded to medical students.

Dr. Leischner, who was an associate professor of pathology, played a major role in revising the medical education curriculum in 1991 and designing the Stritch School of Medicine building, which opened in 1997 and was named the John & Herta Cuneo Center in 2001. The best interests of the medical students were always at the forefront of his work.

Shortly after his death in 2000, at the age of 57, of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, his family created the Ralph P. Leischner, MD, Memorial Scholarship. Mrs. Litowitz and her husband, Alec Litowitz, provided \$100,000 in seed money and supplemented the scholarship with gifts from other family members, Stritch faculty and colleagues and friends from around the country.

It turns out the scholarship was just what Dr. Leischner would have wanted. Soon after starting the fund, his family recovered his will, written 20 years before, stating his wish that a scholarship fund be started upon his death.

A Growing Fund

Since its creation, the Leischner Memorial Scholarship has grown through the careful nurturance and major contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Litowitz, along with Leischner siblings Matthew, Julie and Mark, who graduated from Stritch in 1998, 1999 and 2001, respectively. "Although I was the only child in the family who didn't

go into medicine, my father and I were close. Contributing to the scholarship fund is a fitting way to honor his legacy," said Mrs. Litowitz, who graduated from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1994. "The scholarship makes everyone feel as if we are in touch with his spirit."

Mr. and Mrs. Litowitz have donated \$491,900 toward the Leischner Memorial Scholarship endowment, which currently is worth more than \$875,000. The Glencoe, Ill., couple, who have four children ranging in age from 8 years to 9 months, feel fortunate that they have the financial resources to have an impact on the lives of future physicians.

Dr. Leischner's wife, Gloria, also is involved with the scholarship. She works part-time at Stritch to complete projects her husband was unable to see through completion before his death. Mrs. Leischner makes the scholarship fund a priority, carefully thanking donors with personalized messages. She is especially grateful that her children donate to the fund. "It is heart-warming to see my children have such reverence for their father and that they recognize the importance of giving to this noble cause," she said.

To date, \$94,500 in scholarship money has been awarded to Stritch students, in large part through annual donations by the Litowitz family. In the past, the scholarship has helped defray a portion of the students'

fourth-year tuition costs. However, for the 2005 – 2006 academic year Mr. and Mrs. Litowitz increased their contribution so that the scholarship covered the recipient's entire fourth-year tuition.

"Medicine remains an honorable profession, but for young people embarking on this career it has enormous costs," said Mr. Litowitz, who works in the financial field. "It's appropriate to help share that burden with this scholarship, while honoring my father-in-law's lifelong pursuit of helping others."

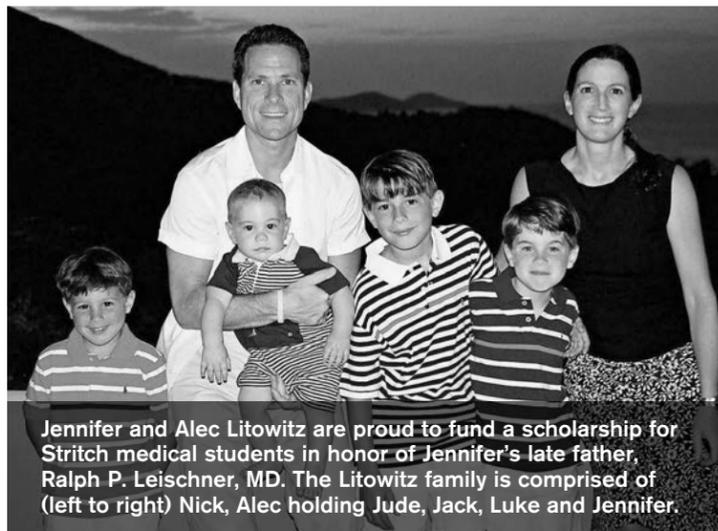
Rewarding Community Service

The scholarship is awarded annually to a fourth-year medical student who personifies the physician-educator's values: compassion, integrity, enthusiasm and a commitment to lifelong learning. While academic performance is a factor, these values, as well as the student's commitment to service and mentoring, are the most important criteria in choosing a scholarship recipient.

"My initial reactions were shock, disbelief and eventually incredible excitement," said fourth-year medical student Michael Ryan upon learning he was named the Leischner Memorial Scholarship recipient earlier this year. "I received the news one week before my wedding, and I remember telling my fiancé that we had just received the best wedding gift possible."

Mr. Ryan is very grateful that the scholarship is helping to reduce his financial debt by covering the cost of tuition for his last year of medical school. He also is moved by the example set by the scholarship's namesake. "I was humbled as I learned of Dr. Leischner's accomplishments," he said. "The scholarship and his passion have inspired me to continue to strive for excellence in teaching and service."

For more information about the Leischner Memorial Scholarship, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean, development, Stritch School of Medicine, at svogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642. 



Jennifer and Alec Litowitz are proud to fund a scholarship for Stritch medical students in honor of Jennifer's late father, Ralph P. Leischner, MD. The Litowitz family is comprised of (left to right) Nick, Alec holding Jude, Jack, Luke and Jennifer.

Neurological Surgery Residency Program Celebrates 30-year Anniversary

When the first resident graduated from Loyola University Medical Center's Neurological Surgery Residency Program in 1976, the specialty was just a division within Loyola's Department of Surgery. "At the time William Hanigan, MD, graduated, there wasn't a single textbook dedicated solely to the neurological surgery specialty, and the computed tomography (CT) scan had just come on board," said Thomas Origitano, MD, PhD, chair, Department of Neurological Surgery at Stritch.

What a difference 30 years makes. In June as Farbod Asgarzadie-Gadim, MD, became the 33rd resident to graduate from the program, neurological surgery has its own department in Loyola. The department's residency program is becoming more established, with the 2005 – 2006 program attracting students from across the country and as far away as Poland.

"We come from humble beginnings, but we're growing up," Dr. Origitano said. "Our residency program has evolved from a small, local program to a nationally known one."

To commemorate these accomplishments, and those of the 33 neurological surgery resident

graduates, the department celebrated the 30-year milestone with a three-day event built around Dr. Asgarzadie-Gadim's graduation.

"The department doesn't graduate very many residents because it only accepts one or two residents a year, so we celebrate each new surgeon," Dr. Origitano said.

The celebration also honored the transitions of other department members. John Shea, MD, a professor in the department, retired from surgery to dedicate his career to seeing patients and teaching. Robert Wurster, MD, PhD, another department professor and the director of research and education, also retired.

Neurological surgery is a relatively small field compared to other specialties, yet what it lacks in size it makes up for in complexity. Neurological surgery residents are in the program for seven years, the longest training period of any residency program. "An average residency program is about five years," Dr. Origitano remarked. "Loyola's Neurological Surgery Residency Program lasts longer than a tour of duty in the U.S. military."

The specialty has grown due to computer technical advancements, and neurological surgeons are

among the most technologically savvy specialists. For example, our surgeons use minimally invasive beam-shaped radiosurgery technology to treat tumors. The beams are shaped to fit the contours of a tumor, helping to minimize the damage to surrounding healthy tissue. Loyola was the first health system within a 150-mile radius to use this technology.

Although having the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art equipment is a huge benefit for residents, Dr. Origitano is quick to point out that the residency program focuses on more than just the latest technology. "Our graduates learn to be neurological surgeons and community activists, which is part of Loyola's Jesuit tradition. They have a responsibility to make important contributions in their communities such as caring for patients who don't have access to treatment," he said. "Our graduates are blessed to be able to do what they do, but there is a responsibility that goes along with that good fortune."

If you would like to support neurosciences programs or research, contact Barbara Luce-Turner, senior director, major gifts, at bluce@lumc.edu or (708) 216-1051. 

What a Difference a Gift Makes

Charitable Gift Annuity

Occasionally we hear from a donor who would like to support the future of medicine at Loyola University Health System (Loyola) or Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch), but is concerned about financial security. A planned gift is a unique opportunity to give a significant gift to Loyola or Stritch while also reducing your taxable burden of income, capital gains or estate taxes. Indeed, many donors find that through a planned gift, they can make a larger contribution than they thought possible.

An ideal gift vehicle for someone who wishes to increase income during retirement years and provide for a gift to their favorite charity is a charitable gift annuity. How does it work? A donor and the issuing charity enter into a contract whereby

the donor transfers property (usually cash or appreciated securities) to a charity in exchange for a fixed dollar payment to the donor or loved one for life. When the annuity term ends (a defined period or death), the charity receives the remaining balance.

Annuity payments are determined actuarially by age: the older the beneficiary, the higher the payout. Many times, this payout may provide the donor with a current income greater than the assets now produce. In addition, an annuity provides valuable tax benefits including an immediate, and sometimes sizeable, income tax deduction.

For more information about gift annuity options, e-mail development@lumc.edu or call the Office of Development at (708) 216- 3201. 

For More Information

Loyola University Medical Center is committed to disciplined research and planning concerning both the purposes for which a gift will be used and the impact a gift makes on your personal and financial goals. The Office of Development will be happy to formulate a plan with you and/or your financial advisor that takes full advantage of the available tax benefits, while at the same time fulfills your desire to benefit Loyola University Medical Center and/or Stritch School of Medicine.

We understand that your charitable gift intentions are a personal matter. We encourage you to contact us for help with answering or researching any questions about clinical or academic activities or for more information on making your gift to our institution. All discussions will be treated confidentially.

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Upcoming Events

E-mail the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu for more information about these events.

Swim Across America – July 22, Ohio Street Beach/Olive Park, Chicago

Leadership Society Dinner – Sept. 11, Four Seasons, Chicago

Stritch Reunion – Sept. 29 and 30, Oct. 1, Stritch School of Medicine

Stritch Dinner – Nov.10, Chicago Hilton and Towers



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Vision is a publication of the Office of Development, Loyola University Health System.

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