Researchers receive $11 million to study diabetic heart disease

By GWEN ERICSON

School of Medicine researchers, led by heart specialist Richard Gross, M.D., Ph.D., have received a five-year, $11 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue their studies of how altered fat metabolism causes heart failure in diabetic patients.

"The diabetic heart is energy inefficient and in danger of failing. It's as if you had a car that doesn't function very well, and you give it a challenge such as a long, steep slope — it's likely the engine won't function very well, and you give it more and more gas, and it just sits there," Gross said. "So heart cells ingest and digest fat as if you had a car that doesn't function very well, and you give it more and more gas, and it just sits there."

"By controlling the synthesis, discrete transduction, and activity of molecular events that affects energy producing cell structures and biochemical reactions. That makes the cells very inefficient, which weakens them and may even cause some to die. Also, extra fat that collects inside heart cells as the result of abnormal fat uptake and metabolism interferes with cellular signaling mechanisms. That, in turn, can affect the signals the heart uses to coordinate its contractile function and relaxation cycles."

Central to this damaging process are enzymes called phospholipases, which break down cell membranes and cause heart disease. In work funded by the new grant, Gross and his collaborators will study how activation of phospholipases by the abnormal fat metabolism of diabetic heart cells causes the cells to function so poorly.

"In a diabetic heart, because of the activation of these phospholipases, the machinery becomes uncoupled so that not every energy conversion event takes in becomes useful energy for the cell," Gross said. "So the diabetic heart is energy inefficient and in danger of failing. It's as if you had a car that doesn't function very well, and you give it more and more gas, and it just sits there."

"Two-thirds of people with diabetes die of cardiovascular disease," said Gross, professor of medicine, of developmental biology and of chemistry in Arts & Sciences.

"It used to be thought that those people who died of cardiovascular disease, who were diabetic, didn't have heart attacks, but we know now that many people with diabetes develop heart failure even without having coronary artery disease. And, increasingly, research is showing the detrimental role of fats in diabetic heart disease." Gross said excess fat uptake into heart cells initiates a cascade of molecular events that affects energy producing cell structures and biochemical reactions.
First McDonnell Center poster session Barbara Shrauner, Ph.D., senior professor of electrical and systems engineering and Mark G. Allford, Ph.D., associate professor of physics in Arts & Sciences, review an exhibit from the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences Poster Session in the Earth & Planetary Sciences Building, WUSTL students, faculty and staff browsed among 55 posters at an opening reception Jan. 16. The posters discuss the breadth and vitality of the McDonnell Center's research and academic interests, ranging from exobiology to astrobiology. "Space sciences has entered into everyone's life through television, remote sensing of the Earth's resources and GPS navigation," said Ramanath Cowsik, Ph.D., professor of physics and director of the McDonnell Center. "Defining life and origins of the universe is one of the main themes of research at the center." The posters will remain on display on the first floor of the Earth & Planetary Sciences Building through Feb. 6.

Nominations sought for Gloria White award

Do you have a colleague on staff that goes above and beyond to help students, faculty or staff members? Help WUSTL recognize employees efforts by nominating him or her for the Gloria W White Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a staff member for exceptional effort and contributions that result in the enhancement of the University. Barbara Shrauner, Ph.D., senior professor of electrical and systems engineering and Mark G. Allford, Ph.D., associate professor of physics in Arts & Sciences, review an exhibit from the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences Poster Session in the Earth & Planetary Sciences Building, WUSTL students, faculty and staff browsed among 55 posters at an opening reception Jan. 16. The posters discuss the breadth and vitality of the McDonnell Center's research and academic interests, ranging from exobiology to astrobiology. "Space sciences has entered into everyone's life through television, remote sensing of the Earth's resources and GPS navigation," said Ramanath Cowsik, Ph.D., professor of physics and director of the McDonnell Center. "Defining life and origins of the universe is one of the main themes of research at the center." The posters will remain on display on the first floor of the Earth & Planetary Sciences Building through Feb. 6.

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Lodge named associate dean for research

By Beth Miller

Jennifer K. Lodge, Ph.D., has been named associate dean for research at the School of Medicine effective Feb. 1.

In the newly created position, Lodge will coordinate efforts to advance research at the school, focusing particularly on projects involving multiple departments and core facilities that can serve a wide variety of researchers. She will also assist faculty in identifying potential opportunities and maximizing the benefits of school-wide investments in research.

In addition, Lodge will join the School of Medicine’s faculty as professor of molecular microbiology and immunology and continue her research into the role of the genetic fungus Cryptococcus in lung diseases.

Lodge has mentored innumerable accomplished individuals. Her laboratory is well known because of the innovative process essential for fungal survival that could be targeted to yield antifungal therapies.

The lab has two major interests that have potential as targets for antifungal treatments.

"Lodge is an accomplished scientist with experience in administration within a university and medical school environment," said Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. "She has successfully faced the challenges of maximizing funding opportunities and managing internal processes. We are excited that she will bring her exceptional talent to the School of Medicine."
Exhibit examines Arch and riverfront change from blight to bright

T"he Jefferson National Expansion Memorial — popularly known as the St. Louis Gateway Arch — is the tallest monument in the United States and a prime example of modern architecture, its great stainless steel arc embodying strength, elegance and simplicity.

Yet creation of the Arch was anything but simple. Indeed, it represents a story of frequent uncertainty and sometimes uncertainly, including planning, design and construction stretched across more than three decades.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, in Schramm Hall, the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts will explore that history with an exhibition and symposium titled "On the Riverfront: St. Louis and the Gateway Arch." Curated by Peter MacKeith, associate dean of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts and professor and associate director of architecture, and by Eric Mumford, Ph.D., associate professor of architecture, "On the Riverfront" will profile the people, events and conditions that culminated in the 1947-48 competition from which Eero Saarinen’s design was chosen as well as the monument’s subsequent construction and place in American architecture.

"The significance of the Gateway Arch, as well as its development in the St. Louis community, is unquestionable," said MacKeith, who also is the Sam Fox School’s director of exhibitions and the curator for the exhibit "Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future." That exhibition, which also opens Friday, Jan. 30, and will be on view at the Mildred Lane Kempner Art Museum through April 27.

"There is a degree of attention given to the Arch within the retrospective," MacKeith said. "But the Arch is such an icon of St. Louis, condensing histories of place and time and civic pride, that we felt this would be a good opportunity to explore the broad choices that ultimately brought the Arch into being. It is not a story of which people are really aware.

"On the Riverfront" begins with a condensed history of the St. Louis region from the time of the Cahokia Indians through Spanish settlement, the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition to statehood and industrialization. Yet, by the early 20th century, much of the riverfront had fallen into disrepair, and local leaders were beginning to explore strategies for revitalization.

Chief among these was Luther Ely Smith, a lawyer instrumental in bringing the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to the St. Louis region. Smith first conceived the idea of constructing a memorial on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1933, and, the following year, with the help of Mayor Bernard Dickmann, he founded the nonprofit Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM) Association to enlist federal support.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated the proposed 90-acre site as a national park, and, in 1936, a bond proposal and armed with the support of eminent domain, began leveling 40 blocks in preparation for a national architecture competition. The site was cleared by 1942, but the JNEM Competition was delayed by the onset of World War II. When the competition was reactivated in 1947, it proved a massive success, drawing 176 entries — many of which will be on view.

Important St. Louis figures such as Harris Armstrong, Charles Eames and Gyo Obata submitted entries, as did international modernists such as Louis Kahn, Isamu Noguchi and Eliel and Eero Saarinen. (Famously, when jurors announced the five finalists, a "dramatic scene ensued," and, for a few hours, the family quite mistakenly assumed that Eero had advanced.)

"These are all visions of what the riverfront could have looked like if any other entry had been chosen," MacKeith said.

"In many ways, they provide a snapshot of postwar architectural concerns. The issue of the day was how we could call the "new monumentals" gracefully changed and, for a moment, the family quite mistakenly assumed that Eero had advanced.

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Monday, Feb. 2


4 p.m. CAN Research Seminar Series. "Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer. Dr. Owonikoko, associate professor of pathology and medical oncology, Washington University School of Medicine, Steinberg Aud. 935-9300.

Tuesday, Feb. 3


Wednesday, Feb. 4


4 p.m. Institute for Public Health Faculty Seminar Series. Kottayam Rajagopal, assistant professor of occupational health, Washington University School of Medicine, Steinberg Aud. 935-1400.

Thursday, Feb. 5

3:30 p.m. Sam Fox School Public Lecture Series. Core C. Lohntick, L lofty, founder, c'mon, e.g. c'4 a reason.) Steinberg Aud. 935-6500.

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The Tokyo Trial • Immigration • Irish Poetry

Materials for Information and Energy Storage. Mr. Apte, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, Bryan Hall, Rm. 305, 362-3315.

Exhibits


Lectures

Thursday, Jan. 26


4 p.m. Chemistry Seminar. "Magnetic Anisotropy and Chiral Optical Properties of Ferromagnetic Nanostructures." Novel Tuesday, Jan. 31


Wednesday, Feb. 4


4 p.m. Institute for Public Health Faculty Seminar Series. Kottayam Rajagopal, assistant professor of occupational health, Washington University School of Medicine, Steinberg Aud. 935-1400.
Build-A-Bear founder to speak on entrepreneurship for Assembly Series

By Kurt Mueller

Marie Claire, chair, CEO and founder of Build-A-Bear Workshop, will respond to questions about entrepreneurship today for the Assembly Series at 5 p.m. Feb. 3. at Graham Chapel.

The event is co-sponsored by the Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and the Olin Business School as well as several organizations outside WUSTL.

Following the discussion, Claire and Harrington, director of the Skandalaris Center, will present the Olin Cup to the winners of a student competition.

The goal of the center and the Olin Cup competition is to harness WUSTL's entrepreneurial potential and that of the St. Louis region by using three tools: collaboration, learning and funding.

Claire will answer questions from colleagues on stage as well as from the audience. Questions may be submitted in advance to entrepreneurship@wustl.edu.

Claire's entrepreneurial enterprise was founded in 1998 in St. Louis and is the only company, with more than 400 locations worldwide, to offer an interactive "make your own stuffed animal" retail entertainment experience. Build-A-Bear also operates "make your own Major League Baseball mascot" in select stadium locations as well as Build-A-Dinos stores.

The company's most recent honor, announced Jan. 22, includes a rating on Fortune magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For.

Claire's extensive career in retail has included president and chief merchandising officer of Payless ShoeSource and key management and merchandising positions throughout May Department Stores in areas including merchandise development, planning and research and in marketing.

Claire serves on the boards of a number of organizations, including the L.C. Penney Co., Sara Lee Corp., Teach for America St. Louis Chapter and BJC Healthcare.

Claire is a member of the WUSTL Board of Trustees and a native of St. Louis County.

In recognition of her achievement in sports other than professional baseball, Men's basketball coach Mark Edwards, men's tennis coach Roger Warren and volleyball coach Rick Laumann were honored at the 21st Annual WUSTL's Athletics Association of America Assembly Series in downtown St. Louis.

The winter event annually honors the St. Louis Cardinale and other accomplished major league players but gives an opportunity for achievement in sports other than professional baseball.

Edwards, Pollard and Laumann were each given the John W. Hay Award by the base- ball writers for leading their teams to postseason National Collegiate Athletic Association championships in basketball, tennis and volleyball, respectively.

Men's basketball dominates on the road

The No. 3 men's basketball team outscored its opponents by 25.5 points per game in two road games over the weekend.

Junior Aaron Thompson scored a game-high 16 points, hitting four three pointers, to lead the Bears to a 75-42 win at University of Rochester Jan. 23. The Bears won their 75th consecutive game when holding an opponent under 60 points, a streak that dates back to the 1998 season.

Two days later, Thompson poured in a game-high 30 points, and senior Sean Walls recorded his third double-double of the year.

As the Bears won at No. 18 Carnegie Mellon and No. 17 Bates (2-5-10-4-18) in the University Athletic Association (UAA) Championships in Rochester, Jan. 30, at Brandeis University and the New York University, the Bears are now in a four-way tie for first place in the UAA.

The women's basketball team lost a tough one to Rochester, but it was not enough for them to overcome 19 turnovers or a free-throw differential of 26-6 in favor of Rochester.

WUSTL overcame a slow shooting start to pull into the ninth-point win at Carnegie Mellon. The Bears trailed 10-10 before senior Kylee Hanley Ward hit two three pointers to pull them within four points. Carnegie gradually extended its lead, going up 92-55 in the first half before the Bears began to work what would become into a 38-35 scoring run that began in the first half and lasted until the 1:35 mark of the second half.

Senior Janicie McFlinor scored 12 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, her team leading fourth double-double of the year. NCAA Senior 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Hollander-Blumoff, named Treiman Fellows in law

Becca Hollander-Blumoff, Assistant Prof., and Adam Rosenzweig, J.D., both associate professors of law, have been named School of Law Treiman Fellows for 2008-09.

The fellowship, which supports faculty scholarship, is named in memory of Israel Treiman, an alumnus, faculty member and longstanding supporter of the law school.

Hollander-Blumoff focuses her research and teaching on the intersection of law and psychology in the context of dispute resolution. She is working on two articles, "The Objective Antecedents of Political Justice in Bilateral Negotiation" and "Just Negotiation." In the first article, Hollander-Blumoff presents the results of two empirical studies on how people form subjective judgments of fairness in negotiation. The second relies upon her empirical research to argue that fairness of process in negotiation is critically important in legal negotiation.

Hollander-Blumoff also is the co-organizer of an on-going series of workshops for junior faculty at Midwestern law schools to present their work-in-progress.

Rosenzweig specializes in tax law and corporate transactions.

He is working on a paper on the relationship of private equity to private investment funds, titles "All Carry Interests Are Created Equal," which will be published in a symposium issue of the California International Law Review. He is writing an article analyzing why tax havens have arisen and persist in the face of significant and continued criticism.


Director of admissions and recruitment named at social work

By Jessica Martin

Elaine Dempsey has been named the new director of recruitment and admissions for the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

"I am extremely excited about the dedication and leadership Elaine will bring to our Office of Admissions and Recruitment," Lawlor said.

Dempsey joins the Brown School and James E. H. Howard, Jr. School of Medicine, where she was director of marketing, admissions, and professional relations.

Elaine Dempsey has served in her previous position for 13 years, and has been consistently lauded as a marketing and recruitment professional, cultivating an outstanding record of success.

During her time in this role, she helped transform a hospital-based nursing school to a stand-alone college of nursing.

Prior to her time at George Washington University, Dempsey spent 16 years as the director of recruitment for Saint Louis University School of Nursing, establishing marketing, recruitment and retention strategies for both graduate and professional students.

Dempsey started her career at Washington University's public affairs department, earning a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in creative writing from the University of Missouri.

...
Center for Humanities seeks postdoctoral, graduate fellowship applications

W ashington University invites students from all fields in the humanities and related disciplines to apply for a postdoctoral fellowship. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program and have completed all requirements, except the dissertation, for the degree. Fellows may be in any field, including music, dance, theatre, art history, or film studies. The fellowship carries a stipend of $20,000, plus benefits, and a $4,000 travel allowance. Applicants should submit a CV, a statement of purpose, and three letters of recommendation to the Center for Humanities by March 1. For more information, contact the center at 314-935-8628.

Obituaries

Professor of Clinical Neurology, 80

By Beth Miller

N ellow Grant, M.D., professor of clinical neurology for nearly 40 years, died Jan. 20, 2009, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., due to complications from recent surgery. He was 80.

Grant, professor emeritus of clinical neurology at Washington University School of Medicine and practiced medicine at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., Central West End with his brother, Dr. Jack Grant, M.D., at the Grant Medical Clinic, founded by their father, the late Samuel Grant, in 1940. Over the years, he served as a representative of part-time faculty member to the Executive Faculty of the School of Medicine. He retired in 1993. Grant was a mentor and role model to many area physicians, including Garry Tobin, M.D., associate professor of medicine, who worked with Grant at the Grant Medical Clinic for 10 years.

"Neville was the consummate physician and gentleman," Tobin said. He epitomized the role of a clinical physician-scientist and teacher. Neville loved seeing and interacting with patients, and many patients considered him a part of their extended families, and he theirs. The Grant Clinic was a special place to work and practice medicine, in a large to the standards that Neville and his brother, Jack, set." A St. Louis native, Grant earned a bachelor’s degree in 1950 at Yale University and a medical degree from Columbia University in 1954. He completed an internship at Yale-New Haven Hospital and then became the first medical student to assist Nobel Prize winner John E. Schwyzer, M.D., at his hospital in Labrador, French Equatorial Africa, now Gabon. Grant served in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps from 1955-57 before completing a residency at Yale Medical School and a fellowship at Standard University. In honor of his retirement, Barnes-Jewish Hospital created the Neville Grant Medal for Clinical Excellence.

For more information, contact the Gephart Institute at 935-8628 or gephartinstitute@wustl.edu.

Kilgen, led redevelopment around Central Medical, 71

By Beth Miller

E ugene R. Kilgen Jr., former President and CEO of Washington University Medical Center Redevelopment Corp. (WUMC-RC), died Jan. 19, 2009, at Conway Manor in Creve Coeur. He was 71.

During his more than 20-year tenure, Kilgen spearheaded the redevelopment around the Central West End neighborhood surrounding the Medical School. Between 1975-1989, developers won approval to redevelop the 26-acre site and invested millions of dollars in residential, commercial and institutional development in the Central West End. That effort resulted in an asset valued at more than $6 billion.

" Eugene was the longest-serving executive director for the Medical Center Redevelopment Corporation," said Bill Pohlad, current executive director who worked with Kilgen for several years. "He was the hub of the universe, a constant hub of activity. He was the go-to person for anything and everything. Eugene worked tirelessly to make sure his dream became a reality." Kilgen was born Jan. 24, 1938, in St. Croix, Maine. His father, Eugene R. Kilgen Sr., was a United States Army veteran and the brother ofק

For the Record

Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, 72

H imadri Biswas, Ph.D., the George Washington University Professor of Chemistry, has received the 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99 National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Award. This award, known as the "CAREER" award, is the most prestigious award given by the NSF that backs his claim. In his introduction, Kilgen directed. "I wrote the book to help students who are interested in pursuing a career in aeronautics, and the book also shows that backs his claim. In his introduction, Kilgen directed. "I wrote the book to help students who are interested in pursuing a career in aeronautics, and the book also shows that God is a beautiful work of art."

For more information, contact Michelle L.E. Powers, Ph.D., the McDonnell Douglas Professor of Engineering, the Many Faces of Biblical Humor (2006). The book is available in the Library of Congress and will be announced April 1.

For more information, contact the Many Faces of Biblical Humor at 935-8628 or ManyFacesofBibHum@wustl.edu.
The Kane family on vacation last summer: (from left) wife, Phyllis; Alex; and children Geli, Hava, Zev and Mose.  

A
tes A. Kane's office is filled with models of softball-sized skulls with various deformities. The skulls are molds representing the kinds of problems he treats as one of the region's premier pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgeons, and he is passionate about them.

Kane, M.D., describes a model of hemifacial microsomia, a birth defect in which one half of the lower face is undeveloped. Then he reaches for an acrylic, magenta skull model of one of his patients with hemifacial microsomia whose jaw developed incorrectly after a prior surgery. The model was created by combining technology advanced scans and images sterilized for use in the operating room to guide the surgeon in the difficult repair, allowing the surgeon to visualize the anatomic problem on the model and thus keep the incisions to a minimum and reduce scarring.

Kane's accomplishments in the field have led to his recent appointment to a named professorship: the Dr. Joseph B. Kibumbugh Chair for Pediatric Dentistry in the Washington University Department of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery for Use in the Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Deformities. "We are a leader in teaching and healing. It is a nod to his extraordinary reputation as a researcher in craniofacial imaging and as a skilled surgeon.

In good hands
Kane's specialty is the surgical repair of cleft lip and palate, which affects one in about 600 births and leads to a variety of problems, including those related to facial appearance, speech, poor hearing and inadequate dental health.

As section chief of the Division of Pediatric Plastic Surgery and director of the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Institute at St. Louis Children's Hospital, Kane coordinates treatment that is dedicated to ensuring that the patient will have both excellent function and appearance after surgery.

"If we can't repair cleft palate, speech will be nearly impossible to improve," Kane says. "And it is through cleft palate surgery that we offer our patients and their parents the chance to achieve a normal lifestyle.

"Alex is an excellent surgeon with the ability to handle tissues delicately," Noordhoff says. "He has a very sensitive touch for the patient, particularly for children. The patient comes first, and he'll do everything possible for that patient to get the best possible care.

Kane has also taken his expertise to Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam and India, where he traveled in December on a teaching and surgical mission.

The Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Institute takes the team approach, working with two other School of Medicine pediatric plastic surgeons, Gregory Boruchowitz, M.D., and Albert Woo, M.D., both assistant professors of surgery, as well as physicians and staff from otolaryngology, neurosurgery, audiology, speech/language pathology, psychology, dentistry and orthodontics.

Kane designs one stereotype of surgeons, who are often thought to be attracted to the field by hands-on, immediate feedback rather than long-term relationships with patients.

"We lack the feedback in which I have the privilege of following kids and discovering important connections with patients from the time they are infants to maturity," Kane says. "The position allows me to have intimate relationships with families over time, doing work that is not only immediate but has a long-range impact."

Susan Mackinnon, M.D., the Shoenberg Professor and chief of pediatric plastic and reconstructive surgery, says Kane has the admiration of his patients and their parents. "Alex is the quintessential surgeon-scientist," Mackinnon says. "His patients benefit from his all-encompassing knowledge of the field of pediatric plastic surgery and his technical excellence. He is the unique combination of a critical thinker, expert technical surgeon and a gentleman."

"Alex's dedicated focus on the assessment and treatment of patients with cleft lip and palate and craniofacial malformations has altered the management of these devastating problems," she says. "He has combined expert surgical skills with critical research thinking, and working with an outstanding team that he has assembled over the last decade, he has positively changed his patients' lives."

Career change
While earning a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in chemistry and science, Kane worked during the summers on Wall Street and took a job there after graduation, but after several years, he grew disenchanted with the finance industry.

After spending a summer driving a cab in New York City, Kane became attracted to medicine but lacked the premedical undergraduate background. So, together, Kane and his then-girlfriend, now wife, Phyllis, decided to make career changes. Phyllis earned a master's degree in public policy from Columbia University in New York and then completed a second master's in social work at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. Kane completed his premed courses in the early 1980s at Washington University College of Arts and Sciences, and later entered medical school.

Kane returned to Dartmouth College for medical school with an eye on surgery. He began a general surgery residency program at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the School of Medicine. About halfway through the program, he became attracted to craniofacial imaging and found his calling.

"I was really turned on by what was then novel and is now quite common—3-D imaging of kids and taking radiology data and showing it in a new way," he says. "Previously what was flat and two-dimensional became three-dimensional with many new possibilities."

Research focus
After his fellowship in Taiwan, Kane spent a year at the National Institutes of Health studying the use of MRI to research soft palate function. But imaging techniques have changed tremendously in the past decade, he says.

"We now have on our desktop computer software that nearly instantly allows us to see a 3-D image of a complete skull made from a CT scan, which, when I started, took us about a day of work to prepare," Kane said.

For a couple of years in the lab, Kane studied under Michael Vannier, M.D., and Jeffrey Marsh, M.D., former School of Medicine faculty who together published the first three-dimensional reconstruction of single CT slices of the human head.

What we developed in this archive of scans from kids of the mid-1980s to the present that we still maintain," he says. "We can take old CT, MRI and surface-imaging data and reinterpret it using new imaging techniques, which are ever-evolving.

Kane also uses stereophotogrammetry, which uses multiple images to generate a 3-D image of a patient's whole head without using any radiation, so images can be taken repeatedly to evaluate patients over a long period. Kane and his students are using the technique to study facial asymmetry in patients at area pediatric offices.

Kane's passion is repairing skull, facial deformities in kids

Hobbies:
Spend time with family, building furniture, running and surfing.

Other:
Kane holds a U.S. patent on a device that allows lengthening of a toe by cutting it and slowly rotating the piece against, which spurs new bone growth. The device is still in development.

Alex A. Kane

Hometown: Port Jefferson, N.Y.


Alex and children Geli, Hava, Zev and Mose.

BY BETH MILLER