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## SPECIAL THANKS TO

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## Mentor Profile

## Judah Folkman, MD

JUDAH FOLKMAN, MD, RADIATES compassion. At 8:30 on a Wednesday night in December, the 74-year-old could be home like many others his age — he could be retired. But the world-renowned cancer researcher, director of the Vascular Biology Program, senior associate in surgery, and surgeon-in-chief Emeritus at Children's Hospital Boston and Julia Dyckman Andrus professor at Harvard Medical School (HMS) is at the office. And he could not be more charming or patient, squeezing yet one more obligation into his schedule.

Dr. Folkman will be honored by the BSCP at the 11th Annual Evening of Hope fundraising dinner in May for his strong support of education at all levels, diversity in the biomedical sciences and the BSCP. He was the keynote speaker at the 2006 New England Science Symposium.

It is apparent in conversation how deeply Dr. Folkman cares about his patients and their families, his students and the sixth- and seventh-graders who visit his research lab as part of the Explorations Program for Middle School Students. He estimates that 80 percent of these visiting students from Boston and Cambridge are minorities. "I ask the kids what they will do when they finish school; what they think will be the most important subject they could learn," he says. "And I emphasize the importance of English — writing and presenting. Those who can present the motivation of a group can lead the group. We've seen that over and over at the graduate level. The ones who have had the best English teachers do the best no matter how much science they've had."

At HMS, Dr. Folkman has seen a dramatic change in the makeup of the student body in the 40 years he has been teaching — first in the number of women, who now make up at least 50 percent of the medical students, and also in the increasing number of minorities.

He feels that this diversity of medical students, which will translate into a diverse group of physicians, is immeasurably valuable for patient care — particularly at a hospital like Children's, where "we deal with a diverse group of patients," Dr. Folkman says — because the staff bring so many different backgrounds and experiences to their interactions with patients.

Dr. Folkman says that many of his students have tremendous compassion that comes from overcoming certain obstacles in their lives. Others are bitter, but they use their anger to fuel their success.

When minority students come to Dr. Folkman feeling frustrated, he often points out that there are many among the student body that have their own struggles. "In the class, there are diabetics who have to inject twice a day or they may pass out; some students are here because they had a sibling or parent die of cancer when [the students] were young," he says. "I tell students, 'your struggles are different, but other people have things you're lucky you don't have.' And I tell them, 'we're so proud of you.' The adversity they've overcome makes them into such good people."

In his lab, Dr. Folkman explains to the Explorations Program students what cancer is, why certain treatments work, and why others don't. And he explains, based on personal experience, "Sometimes you face ridicule and have to prove what you're doing again and again. One day a little boy in the group said, 'Hey! That sounds just like me!'" ■



JUDAH FOLKMAN, MD

## NEW ENGLAND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL New England Science Symposium will take place on Sunday, April 6, 2008, at The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School. The symposium, which promotes careers in biomedical science, encourages postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; post-baccalaureates; and college and community college students (particularly under-represented minority individuals) to present their research projects through oral or poster presentations, exchange ideas that might further their career development, and expand their professional networks.

For more information about the program, contact Bessie DiDomenica at [bessie\\_didomenica@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:bessie_didomenica@hms.harvard.edu).

## SAVE THE DATE: EVENING OF HOPE

Thursday, May 1, 2008  
Boston Park Plaza Hotel

For information, contact Lise Kaye at (617) 432-0552 or [lise\\_kaye@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu).

## Where Are They Now?

### Jamil B. Scott, PhD

JAMIL B. SCOTT, PHD'S PERSONAL interest in preventable diseases and nutrition took her career in an interesting direction after she received her PhD in cell and developmental biology from Harvard Medical School (HMS) in October 2007. In pursuit of her passions, Scott is applying her graduate school training to studies at the Center for Community-Based Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She is involved in a project exploring the role of vitamin D in colon and prostate cancer prevention.

While finishing her graduate work investigating the requirements for gonad formation in chicken embryos, she started networking in preparation for this career transition. Making a significant career leap, she chose her current position because she was, "excited about the opportunity to work on a project that integrated the issues of disease prevention, nutrition, health disparities and work in the local community." Scott says she now benefits by experiencing aspects of biomedical research that were not a part of her graduate career, working in the field with study participants and gaining an appreciation for the integrative, collaborative nature of her current work. She says though the subject matter is different from what she studied in graduate school, her education prepared her well, because "some of the most important skills you learn are how to solve problems, ask questions, organize information and effectively communicate results."

Throughout graduate school, Scott was active helping others as co-chair of the Minority Biomedical Scientists of Harvard, as a volunteer mentor for young people interested in the sciences through programs such as the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURP) at HMS, and

as a member of the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers.

She also became involved with the BSCP in 2004, and has been active ever since. "I was completely blown away by the Conference and sense of community," she says. "I met a lot of mentors through the BSCP whom I wouldn't have met otherwise. The mentors were helpful in [my] having a realistic perspective on finishing my dissertation, introducing me to people I could speak to about career interests and as sideline cheerleaders during my final years of graduate study."

In 2006, Scott won a Hope scholarship. Last year she spoke at the BSCP fundraising event, Evening of Hope. This year she is on the New England Science Symposium planning committee and will moderate a session, "How to Write an Abstract and Present a Poster," at the 2008 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference on Friday evening, April 4.

Scott advises current students to "learn to talk to people about their current work and future interests, making it a priority to ask questions that will help you get where you want to be." Of course, it helps to know where you want to go. But Scott is living testimony to the fact that it is important to follow your passions and get the support you need along the way. ■



JAMIL B. SCOTT, PHD

## Internship and Job Opportunities Waters Corporation

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE students with a special interest in chemistry, engineering, computer science or information technology might want to look into the internship and employment opportunities at Waters Corporation in Milford, Massachusetts. The world's leading supplier of high-performance liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry, thermal analysis and rheology products and services, Waters sees college students and graduates as "our pipeline to the future," says Paul Warner, vice president of human resources. "We are also committed to diversity — globally."

Waters hires undergraduate and graduate students for co-op positions, part-time jobs and summer internships. Nina Rock, who handles recruitment for the company's research and development organization, says she looks for students with "strong academic standing, who are well rounded and exhibit lots of curiosity." Many of the co-op jobs lead to full-time positions, and others can, as well.

"People who come to Waters stay at Waters," adds Warner, citing the company's "healthy culture, lots of opportunity and great retention rates." Because 65 percent of Waters' business is overseas, employees have enormous opportunity to travel and/or work abroad over the course of their careers. Even entry-level employees find that they are interacting within a global network.

Waters products are used in a fascinating array of applications, from testing drug safety, food safety and water purity to drug testing at the Olympics. Whether they are involved in the internship or co-op program, students participate in the early stages of research and application of products. Individual job responsibilities depend on students' areas of interest and expertise, as well as the company's needs at any given time. But some things remain consistent. "We can afford students the opportunity to be mentored by professionals with considerable experience in their fields," notes Mark McAuliffe, global staffing manager. "And they are giving back to the greater good," adds Warner.

Waters has established relationships with faculty members at several Massachusetts universities, including Northeastern, Boston University, MIT, University of Massachusetts Lowell, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the company does a lot of on-campus advertising at those schools. But anybody interested in exploring opportunities at Waters should forward their resume to Maria Hanchett at [maria\\_hanchett@waters.com](mailto:maria_hanchett@waters.com).

It could be the start of an exciting future. ■

## 2008 BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE CAREERS CONFERENCE

THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE Careers Program (BSCP) will hold its ninth biennial New England-wide Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference for postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; college and community college students; post-baccalaureates; and high school seniors and juniors on Friday evening, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, 2008, at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

On Friday, the opening keynote address will be given by Henri A. Termeer, president, chief executive officer and chair of Genzyme Corporation and BSCP board member. Dinner will be followed by interactive workshops. On Saturday, the opening keynote address will be delivered by Danny O. Jacobs, MD, MPH, the David C. Sabiston Jr. Professor and Chair in the Department of Surgery at Duke University School of Medicine and surgeon-in-chief at Duke University Hospital. The luncheon keynote address will be given by Vivian W. Pinn, MD, associate director for research on women's health and director of the Office of Research on Women's Health

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## 2008 BSCP CONFERENCE

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at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Pinn will be awarded the H. Richard Nesson, MD, Award.

The primary objective of the conference is to provide approximately 700 African-American, Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native students with an opportunity to network with advisors and role models from the basic and clinical sciences, medicine, public health, academic administration and biotechnology. The second objective is to enable students to meet, inspire and network

with one another. In addition to the sessions with their advisors and the keynote addresses, the participants will attend various panel discussions and workshops designed for specific academic levels. Following the workshops, participants will visit the Resource Room, where representatives from various educational, government-based and business institutions will be available to provide information on career and educational opportunities.

To obtain an application and for more information, please contact Lise D. Kaye at [lise\\_kaye@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu) or (617) 432-0552.

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c/o Minority Faculty Development Program  
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## Cultural Exchange

### LANTERN

A BRAND NEW PROGRAM, THE LATIN American Network for Training and Exchange of Researchers in Neuroscience (LANTERN), aims to increase Latino representation in the mainland U.S. neuroscience community. LANTERN, a joint effort between the Harvard-affiliated Partners Psychiatry and Mental Health System and the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, will also facilitate career advancement for graduates of doctoral programs from Puerto Rico and elsewhere in Latin America.

Through the very selective program, qualified Latino undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from Puerto Rico and Latin America can come to Massachusetts to participate in a range of research training opportunities at Massachusetts General, Brigham and Women's and McLean Hospitals. Once here, the students will be matched with a mentor at one of the three institutions based on their interests. Qualified applicants in the United States may also participate in exchanges in Puerto Rico. The

exchange programs vary in duration from a week to a summer to a semester.

For more information, including program descriptions and application forms, visit [www.md.rcm.upr.edu/lantern](http://www.md.rcm.upr.edu/lantern). You can also e-mail specific questions to [lantern@rcm.upr.edu](mailto:lantern@rcm.upr.edu). Professor Mohammed R. Milad, PhD, in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and Professor Gregory J. Quirk, PhD, in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Puerto Rico — Medical Campus will respond to your queries. ■