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A publication for all the members of the Johns Hopkins Medicine family

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## What's News

### SOM Class of 2010

A professional opera singer. A writer for an all-female musical sketch comedy group. A U.S. Naval Academy midshipman. As disparate as they may seem, these three young men and women have one thing in common: They're all part of this year's incoming class of 2010.

Out of 4,150 candidates who submitted completed applications to the School of Medicine, 255 were accepted, and 120 accepted Hopkins. Of those, 51 are women and 69 are men. They hail from 39 states and Canada and dozens of undergraduate institutions. Eight are from Johns Hopkins, nine are from Harvard, and 12—a full 10 percent of the class—are from Yale, including a husband-and-wife team.



### United Way

This year's JHM campaign, chaired by Patricia Brown, president of Johns Hopkins HealthCare, and Barbara De Lateur, professor and former director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, runs in East Baltimore for two weeks beginning Monday, Oct. 9, and ending Friday, Oct. 20. The annual kick-off breakfast for campaign leaders, coordinators and team captains is set for Sept. 26 in Turner, beginning at 8 a.m.

Bayview's campaign takes place this month, from Sept. 25 to Sept. 29, with a round of activities, including a bake sale and silent auction.

Howard County General Hospital's campaign takes place at the end of October.

The total JHM goal is \$1.3 million. What really counts, though, is not how much you give, but simply that you give.

### Call for Mentors

Health System staff are invited to mentor a high school student as part of the Johns Hopkins Youth Mentoring B.O.N.D. to B.O.N.D. program. You can participate during a work day without having to use personal time off. Here's your chance to mentor a leader of tomorrow and give back to the Baltimore City community. Info: Andrea Norris, anorris@hcidi.com or 301-552-8803; Deborah Knight-Kerr, dkkerr@jhmi.edu or 410-955-1488.

# The Remarkable Journey of Doctor Q.

He grew up poor, south of the border. Now he's a neurosurgeon, bent on finding a cure for brain cancer.

**W**hen he arrived in the United States as an illegal migrant farm worker in 1987, Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa was 19 years old. He spoke not a word of English and had less than \$5 in his pocket. But he had something that many native-born Americans lack—a burning desire to make something of himself.

Today, Quiñones—or Dr. Q., as he is known to colleagues—is an assistant professor of neurosurgery and oncology and director of the Brain Tumor Surgery Program at Hopkins Bayview.

In just this one year, Quiñones, 38, has won more than a half-dozen prestigious awards, including a \$150,000 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Physician-Scientist Early Career Award that will help fund his studies on the role of stem cells in the origin of brain tumors. Another, the Nickens Faculty Fellowship from the Association of American Medical Colleges, recognizes Quiñones for leadership in addressing inequities minorities face in medical education and health care. His lab is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse on campus—a consequence of his belief that “as you go up in life, you should always look back and help the people behind you.”



Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, with Aztec calendars, reminders of his native Mexico, in the background.

Having achieved so much, Quiñones might be expected to lay back and bask in his accomplishments. Not a chance. Instead, he has set himself another daunting goal. “My new challenge,” he says, “is to find a

cure for brain cancer.”

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, as the saying goes, and for Quiñones, the step was actually a jump—up and over a chain-link fence separating the United States

from his childhood home in Mexicali, Mexico, on the Baja peninsula. “It was a little scary but thrilling at the same time,” he says now. “When you are 19, you think you are invincible.”

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## A New Pharmacy for Monument Street

**T**he Johns Hopkins Outpatient Pharmacy will open a pharmacy this month on the East Baltimore campus. It will be located at 1810 E. Monument St., next to Bank of America in space previously occupied by the CVS/Pharmcare Pharmacy.

The Johns Hopkins Outpatient Pharmacy at Monument Street will be a professional pharmacy, dispensing prescriptions and providing over-the-counter medications and home medical equipment. It will serve both patients and employees. The pharmacy will also provide specialty prescription dispensing for patients receiving organ transplants at Hopkins. It will expand early next year to include “employee-friendly” services, such as discounts, dedicat-



This pharmacy soon will be renovated and managed by the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Pharmacy. Nathan Thompson, director, with Tegí Joseph, Monument Street pharmacy manager.

ed waiting areas and prescription counseling.

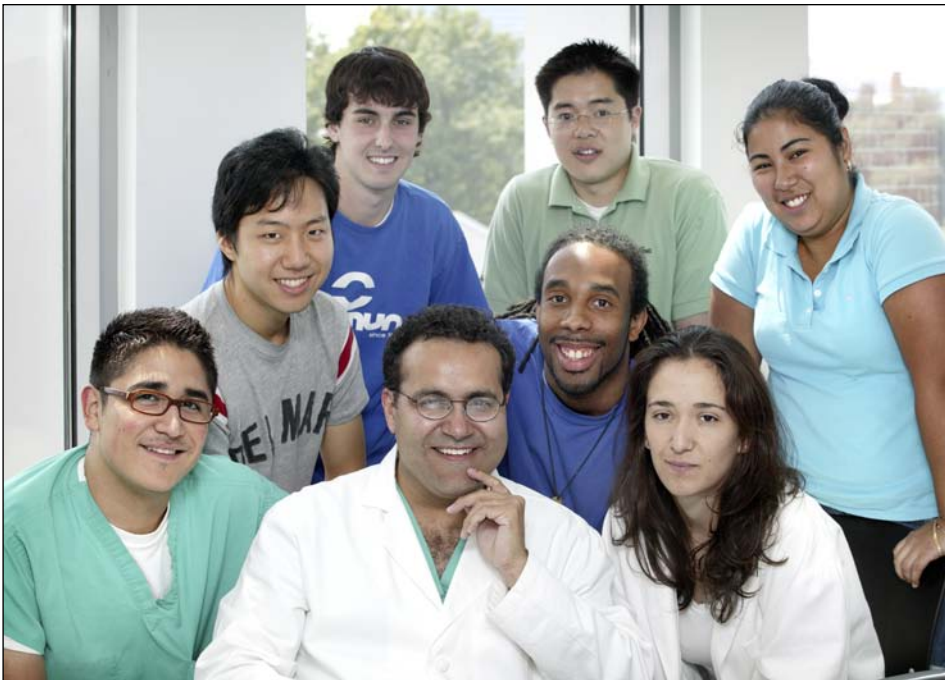
The pharmacy is the fifth in a group of outpatient pharmacies

managed by Pharmaquip, a division of the Johns Hopkins Home Care Group. The others are located in Weinberg, the Outpatient Center, Moore Clinic and Bayview Medical Center. Each specializes in prescriptions relevant to their particular patient population.

While the Outpatient Pharmacy at Monument Street is closed for renovations, patients can visit the other three pharmacies on the East Baltimore campus for prescription dispensing services.

—ABS

Details: JH Outpatient Pharmacy at Monument Street: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone: 410-502-5735; Fax: 410-502-5734.



Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa with his lab group.

**Dr. Q.** (continued from page 1)

His first job in America was pulling weeds in tomato and cotton fields in California's San Joaquin Valley. One day, as he was laboring in the hot sun with other migrant farm workers, the owner's son came by to inspect the work. "He passed us without saying hi to anyone, as if we didn't exist, as if we were inanimate objects," Quiñones marvels. "That made me realize how little we immigrants meant as people to those around us." But rather than discouraging him, the casual indifference of the owner's son, he says, ignited "a fire in my belly and started me on the long hard road that was ahead of me."

That journey took him first to the San Joaquin Delta Community College in

Stockton, Calif., where he attended classes and led literacy and statistics workshops for fellow immigrants, and then to the University of California at Berkeley, where he served as a lab assistant and a calculus and physics tutor for students from low-income backgrounds.

Inspired by the example of his grandmother, a *curandera*—village healer—back home in Mexico, and by his own desire to connect with people in a deep way, Quiñones decided while at Berkeley to pursue a career in medicine. He had set his sights on less competitive medical schools when his mentor, an administrator who ran a Hispanic Center of Excellence, intervened.

"When he saw my CV and my grades, the first thing that came out of his mouth, in a thick Mexican accent, was,

'Oh amigo, with these grades, you can easily get to Harvard.' I thought this guy was clearly living *la vida loca*."

It was a story he told in 1999 when he delivered the commencement address at Harvard Medical School, where he graduated cum laude and became an American citizen.

After Harvard, it was back to California for a residency in neurosurgery at the University of California at San Francisco, this time accompanied by his wife and 1-year-old daughter. In July 2005, he and his growing family arrived in Baltimore.

Quiñones got off to a fast start at Hopkins Bayview, setting up both a clinical practice and a stem cell research program that has been successful in today's competitive funding environment in winning NIH grants.

He recently discovered a potential source of neural stem cells in the sub-ventricular zone of the adult human brain. By comparing these cells to human fetal stem cells and cancer stem cells taken from intraoperative tissue, he hopes to tease out the connection between normal stem cells and cancer stem cells. He also hopes to learn how the molecular switches that turn normal cells into cancer cells can be reset.

In July, Quiñones delivered a talk at the University of Guadalajara. It was the first time he'd been back to Mexico. "I left a peasant; I came back a professor," he says.

Such a journey is open to others, Quiñones insists. His own ascent was the result of tremendous energy, ambition, determination and especially, he says, the influence of mentors. "People have given me so much. Now I am trying to give back as much as I can."

—Deborah Rudacille



From top, the gas station in Mexicali, Mexico, where Alfredo Quiñones worked for his father starting at age 5; the fence he jumped to cross the border from Mexicali to Calexico, Calif., as seen from the United States side; in the San Joaquin Valley, his first home in the United States.

**BRIEFCASE**



Bayview's Under the Sea gallery.

**On Exhibit at Bayview**

Jumping jellyfish! Leaping lizards! Check out the paintings at Hopkins Bayview, now on exhibit in the underground passageway between the Care Center and Medical Center. They were created by East Baltimore children as part of a partnership between Bayview and the Creative Alliance at the Patterson, a local arts organization.

The project, incorporated into summer programs at the Highlandtown, Canton and Patterson Park branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, produced almost 100 paintings. Twenty-five watercolors and collages were selected for Bayview's Under the Sea gallery.

"They've transformed a once dark and

dreary corridor into a gallery of magnificent art," said Robert Gair, director of environmental services and project coordinator. "It's important to keep a positive presence in the surrounding neighborhoods. Showcasing the spirit and art of our community's children is an appropriate way to do it."

**Energy Assistance: Hopkins Answers the Call**

Hot summer days, coupled with rising utility bills, led the Baltimore City Health Department to announce its Energy Assistance Initiative in July. Health care providers were urged to refer patients at risk for heat-related illness to the Health Department to see if they were eligible

for energy assistance. Fax forms were available in the emergency rooms, outpatient clinics, nursing units and online.

At press time, the Health Department had received 98 referrals, and 42 of them were from Johns Hopkins. "Hopkins has been wonderful. Referrals have come in from East Baltimore, mobile health units, community psychiatry clinics—all across the institution," said Marisa North, Health Department special projects assistant.

Those hot summer days may be gone, but winter won't be far behind. The energy assistance program will continue throughout the year.

**Stranded Lebanese Nurses**

Five graduate nursing students from the American University of Beirut, here for a seven-week clinical nursing residency, received an extended welcome from the Department of Nursing and School of Nursing in late July when they were unable to return to Lebanon due to the conflict there. The stranded students, Sara Abboud, Suha Ballout, Rida Gharzeddine, Grace Khatcherian and Rafika Zaatari, were hosted by the department and School, which offered clinical experiences, including hospital rotations and dissertation guidance. As *Dome* went to press, the nurses still had not returned to Lebanon.

**What We Did Last Summer**

Hopkins Medicine rallied around the Homefront Challenge Camp, a weeklong, overnight camp held by the Maryland Army National Guard at Aberdeen Proving Ground for children of active-duty military



Ed Cramer, of the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan, at the Homefront Challenge Camp.

parents. Employees of JH HealthCare, Community Physicians, and Marketing and Communications donated T-shirts, snacks and volunteer time.

Among the 60 kids, ages 8 to 18, were many who feared for parents stationed in war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan. "Our hands were full every minute," said Heather Molnar, M&C Web director, who took a week's vacation to volunteer 24/7 as a counselor. "Those wet, stressful, tiring five days entailed much more responsibility than I had imagined." But Molnar and her fellow volunteers have no regrets. In fact, they've already signed up for next year.