Message from the President

As my 12-year tenure as President and CEO of National Jewish draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on what an incredible journey it has been. I want to begin by sharing with you the good news that we have appointed Michael Salem, M.D., as the next President and CEO of National Jewish. Dr. Salem is a surgeon, researcher, and business leader whose strong leadership will help ensure National Jewish’s future growth and achievement. I am proud to be passing the torch to such an outstanding, qualified candidate who is both professionally and personally committed to the mission and work of National Jewish.

It’s been an exciting few months for National Jewish. In July, we were ranked the number one respiratory hospital in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for the eighth consecutive year. We broke ground on a new six-story building that will expand clinical and research space and we are bringing aboard more than a dozen new faculty this year. Our scientists continue to be at the forefront of cutting-edge medical research; our physicians and staff continue to deliver state-of-the-art patient care and our alumni are impacting respiratory, allergy and immunology research and care throughout the world.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share in such an extraordinary legacy and to have met many of you along the way. As I look forward to a relaxing retirement, I also look forward to seeing what great things lie ahead for National Jewish.

Lynn M. Taussig, M.D.
President and CEO
The Carol and Albert Angel Family Presidential Chair

Michael Salem, M.D., Named Incoming President and CEO at National Jewish

Michael Salem, M.D., an academic researcher, surgeon, and healthcare entrepreneur, has been named the incoming President and CEO of National Jewish Medical and Research Center. Dr. Salem will succeed Lynn Taussig, M.D., who is retiring after more than 12 years in the position. Dr. Salem’s appointment is effective January 7, 2008. During a transition period, Dr. Salem will be orienting himself at National Jewish while Dr. Taussig continues to serve as the operating President and CEO.

“Dr. Salem is a strong and innovative leader with expertise in many different aspects of healthcare,” said David H. Engleberg, Chairman of the National Jewish Board of Directors. “His entrepreneurial experience, combined with a professional and personal commitment to academic medicine and research, make him an ideal leader to help shape the institution’s exciting future.”

Dr. Salem, 44, has nearly two decades of experience in clinical care, research, and the healthcare industry. Since 1999, he has worked at GMP Companies Inc., a Florida-based company that develops and commercializes scientific and technological discoveries made primarily by academic researchers. As Executive Vice President, he led the research and development operations of GMP Companies, and helped raise capital for the company. Among the products he helped develop was EntePass®, a microsurgical implant device for glaucoma, and LifeSync® Wireless Medicine System, a wireless electrocardiogram monitoring system.

Before that, he spent five years on the faculty at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and as a surgeon at George Washington University Hospital. During his five years there, he practiced and taught general surgery, and oversaw surgical research. He rose to become the Director of Trauma and Critical Care, Co-Director of the Intensive Care Unit, and Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Salem received his undergraduate degree at Washington University in St. Louis and his medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C. He completed surgical residencies at Boston University Hospital and George Washington University. He also completed research and clinical fellowships in Critical Care Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Recently, Dr. Salem has been involved in international medical missions to Vietnam and Israel where he delivers surgical care and worked with the local medical staff. He enjoys sports, including running, skiing and golf.

“I am honored to be selected by this great institution with its rich history of achievement in patient care, research, and education,” said Dr. Salem. “I hope to build on the excellence created by Dr. Taussig and the entire National Jewish team.”

#1 Respiratory Hospital in the U.S. Since 1998.
U.S. News & World Report
Class Notes Highlight:

Former National Jewish Fellow Advances Allergy and Immunology Care, Research and Education in Asia

When Pakit Vichyanond, M.D., was a fellow at National Jewish in the late 1980s, he was known affectionately as “Vic” by his colleagues, mentors and friends. Today, Dr. Vichyanond is a driving force behind an effort to improve the field of allergy and immunology in Thailand and other parts of Asia.

After completing undergraduate and medical school training in his native country of Thailand, Dr. Vichyanond came to the United States where he did a pediatric residency at Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital and The Charity Hospital at New Orleans (Tulane University). He then completed a fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at The Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. He was a pediatrician in private practice in Kansas for four years before coming to National Jewish in 1986 for fellowship training in pediatric allergy.

Throughout his training, Dr. Vichyanond knew that he would one day return to Thailand to share what he had learned. He absorbed as much as he could from his mentors, learned cutting-edge procedures, collected research papers and tips from colleagues—knowledge that has helped him become the accomplished clinician, researcher, mentor and advocate he is today.

When Dr. Vichyanond returned to Thailand in 1987, the medical field of allergy and immunology was in its infancy. There was little active research and less than 20 board certified allergists to serve a population of 60 million. Throughout Asia there was room for growth in all aspects of care, research and training.

Since his return to Thailand in 1988, Dr. Vichyanond has served as a pediatric allergist at Samitivej and Siriraj Hospitals in Bangkok and is currently Professor of Pediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine at Siriraj Hospital and Mahidol University. But in addition to his clinical and academic roles, Dr. Vichyanond has played another role.

For two decades, he has been a leader and an advocate working to raise awareness about the allergy and immunology field and influencing improvements wherever he could.

“I knew that in order to advance the field of allergy in Thailand and other countries in Asia, we needed to train new generations of physicians and scientists, publish research, develop board certifications and best practice guidelines and become educators and advocates,” says Dr. Vichyanond.

Dr. Vichyanond has authored nearly 100 papers and book chapters and has presented all over the world. He helped establish a pediatric allergy fellowship program that has trained more than 37 pediatric allergy fellows and partnered with National Jewish to bring several physicians here for training, including, Dr. Oratthi Jitsapongnanuruk (1996-1999), Dr. Akaluck Thatayandhom (1997-2000) and Dr. Tispong Thongthorpising (2000-2002).

Dr. Vichyanond currently serves on more than a dozen committees that influence pediatric and allergy care. One of Dr. Vichyanond’s most significant contributions was in 1999-2000 when he was asked to write the first-ever Pediatric Allergy Board Certification for Thailand.

Recently, Dr. Vichyanond helped Thailand take another major step to advance the allergy field. His persuasive presentation, application, and advocacy were instrumental in securing Bangkok, Thailand as the host of the 2007 World Allergy Organization Congress for the first time in conference history.

“We hope that hosting the WAO Congress to Thailand will continue to heighten the awareness of allergic diseases in this part of the world,” said Dr. Vichyanond. “It is also an opportunity to for young physicians to realize the impact they can have on the field regardless of what country they are from.”

Though there is still much work to be done, Dr. Vichyanond has helped Thailand and other countries in Asia make significant improvements in the field of allergy and immunology. Today, there are more than 70 allergists, with another 30 to be board certified next year.

He says this of his alma mater, “National Jewish is an extraordinary place where fellows are both challenged and nurtured. I am just one of a long legacy of physicians who love the institution and have utilized what they learned at National Jewish to impact patients and colleagues all over the world.”
National Jewish Launches New, Improved Web Site

A new National Jewish Web site launched on June 30 with an updated look and improved navigation. Following a successful asthma pilot site, the new www.nationaljewish.org has been under development for more than a year. Goals for the redesign included bringing the site more in line with the current branding of the institution and making the site easier to use for medical professionals and the public.

For physicians, new features include on-line referral and consultation forms, a searchable physician database and a special calendar of events highlighting upcoming CME activities and programs. Visit the new site at www.nationaljewish.org.

National Jewish Faculty Win Major Awards

National Jewish faculty won several prestigious awards this year at the American Thoracic Society’s International Conference, which was held in May in San Diego, California. Drs. Michael Iscman, Peter Henson, and Sally Weiszel were all honored for their medical and scientific contributions.

Dr. Michael Iscman, former Chief of the Clinical Mycobacteriology Service, received the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal, the society’s highest honor. The award, created in 1926 by the American Lung Association in honor of its founder and first president, is presented each year to an individual who has made “lifelong major contributions to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of lung disease through leadership in research, education or clinical care.”

Dr. Iscman was honored for his work in tuberculosis treatment and research.

Dr. Peter Henson, a Senior Faculty Member in the Department of Pediatrics, delivered the Amberson Lecture, another of the society’s top awards. Dr. Henson has devoted his life to the research of inflammatory molecules and pathways. Throughout his career, Dr. Henson has made important discoveries in the fields of neutrophil and macrophage biology, adhesion molecules, the circulatory behavior of inflammatory cells, and the biology of lipid mediators.

Dr. Sally Weiszel, recently named to the Drs. Harold and Mary Zirin Endowed Chair in Pulmonary Biology, received the Elizabeth A. Rich, M.D., Award, which honors “an outstanding woman who has demonstrated leadership in her field, who has served as a role model and mentor to other women, and who has made significant contributions in pulmonary medicine.” The award is presented in honor of Elizabeth A. Rich, M.D., who was known around the world for her research on AIDS and tuberculosis.
National Jewish Continuing Medical Education Programs

Save the date for the 28th Annual Keystone Update

Join your colleagues at the Annual Keystone Update, February 1-5, 2006. The four-day meeting will be held at Keystone Conference Center and Resort, 75 miles west of Denver. This CME meeting provides the latest information on allergy(clinical) immunology, asthma and pulmonary medicines. We will mail more information to you in the Fall with a complete list of topics and speakers. If you have questions, call the Office of Professional Education at 303-398-1000.

**Coming to a city near you: Effective Management of Difficult to Control Asthma**

*A CME dinner series designed for Allergists and Pulmonologists*

**JACKSON, MS**
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
OMAHA, NE
Rohit Karial, M.D.
APPLETON, WI
Rohit Karial, M.D.
SYRACUSE, NY
Ron Balkisson, M.D.
ANN ARBOR, MI
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
TULSA, OK
Randy Sutherland, M.D.
AUGUSTA, GA
Rohit Karial, M.D.
LOUISVILLE, KY
Ron Balkisson, M.D.
SHORT HILLS/HACKENSACK, NJ
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
WHITE PLAINS, NY
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
VENTURA, CA
Ron Balkisson, M.D.
FAVETTEVILLE, AR
Ron Balkisson, M.D.
NORFOLK, VA
Ron Balkisson, M.D.
BIRMINGHAM, AL
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
PROVIDENCE, RI
Ron Balkisson, M.D.
MADISON, WI
Rohit Karial, M.D.
TUCSON, AZ
Richard Martin, M.D.
SPOKANE, WA
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
BATON ROUGE, LA
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
HONOLULU, HI
Ron Balkisson, M.D.
FT. MYERS, FL
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
SAN ANTONIO, TX
Richard Martin, M.D.
WILMINGTON, DE
Sheldon Spector, M.D.
WICHITA, KS
Randy Sutherland, M.D.
GREENSBORO, NC
Sally Wexner, M.D.
QUEENS, NY
SALESBURY/DOVER, DE

For event dates or more information, contact the Office of Professional Education at 303.398.1000.

The Office of Professional Education also has a variety of new CME newsletters and monographs on topics including COPD, difficult to control asthma, allergic rhinitis, among others. For information about any of the CME programs, contact the Office of Professional Education at 303-398-1197 or visit www.nationaljewish.org.

**Endowment for Allergy Fellowships Campaign Update**

Many former National Jewish fellows have donated to the Harold S. Nelson, M.D. Endowment for the Allergy Fellowships Campaign since it was launched in 2003. This year, the fund received a boost when one fellow donated $10,000 while also directing a matching gift from his employer for an additional $10,000 to the fund.

The value of the endowed fund is currently just over $177,000. For more information about how to support the endowment campaign, call Allison Jernigan at 303-398-1077 or 1-800-423-8891, ext. 1077, or email her at jernigana@njc.org.