

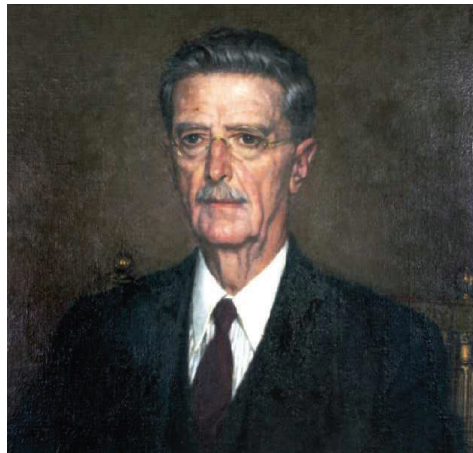
## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Rodger J. Elble

### Emmet Pearson and Gordon Holmes

Dr Emmet Pearson was still practicing medicine when I joined SIUSM 30 years ago. I quickly discovered that he had a keen interest in neurology although he freely admitted that neurology was not one of his professional strengths. He always wanted to learn more neurology, and to this end, he frequently paged me, wanting a more extensive explanation of my diagnoses and treatment plans for his neurologic patients.

During a conversation over lunch one day, Dr Pearson told me that he went to Queen Square Hospital in London to improve his neurological skills, following his medical training at Washington University. I asked if he had a designated mentor there, and he replied "Gordon Holmes". I immediately became green with envy.



Sir Gordon Holmes  
(1876-1965)  
(Left)



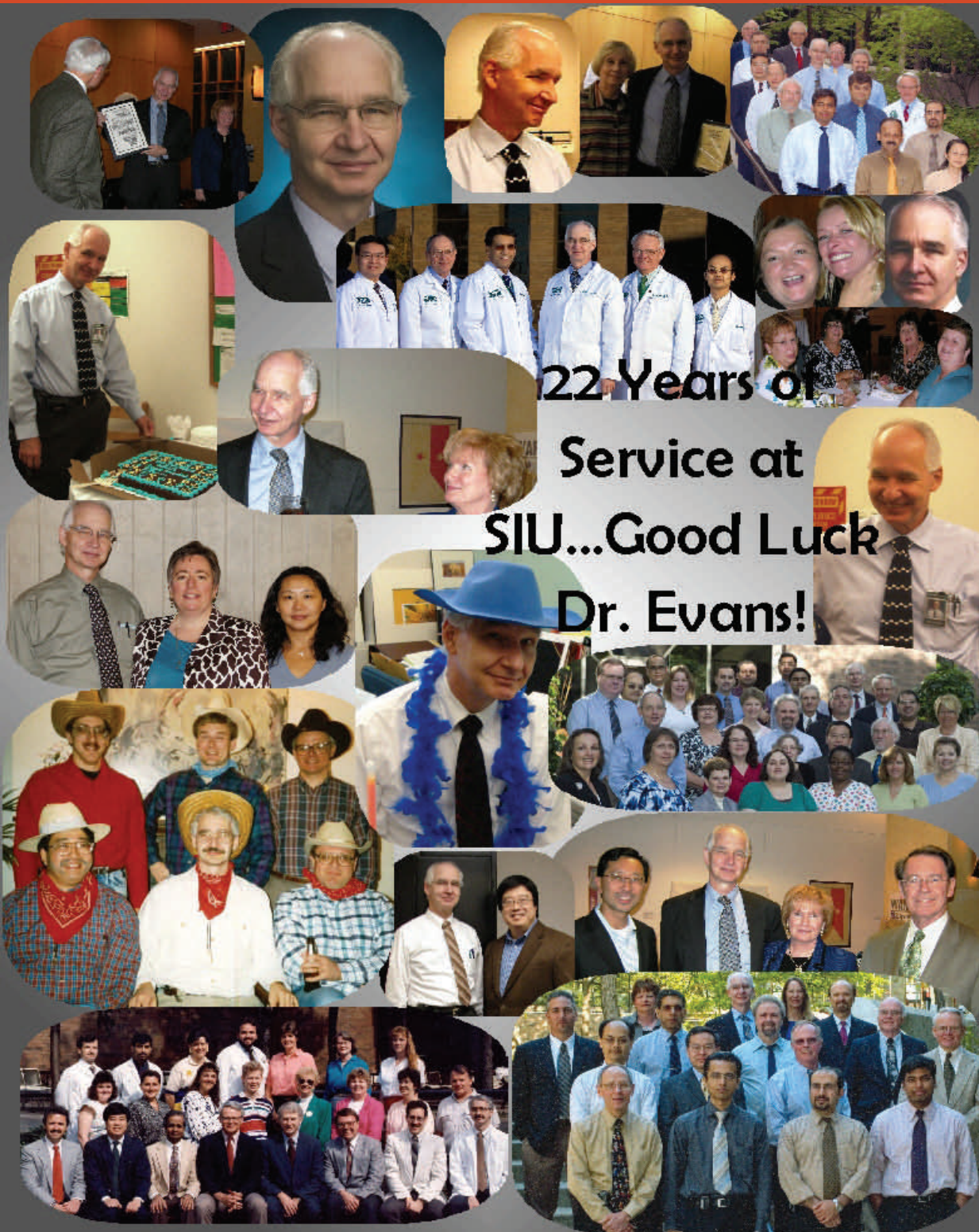
Dr. Emmet Pearson  
(1906-1996)  
(Right)

Gordon Holmes was arguably the top neurologist in Great Britain at the time of World War I. He was largely responsible for establishing the rigorous approach to clinical observation and documentation that is now a trademark of neurology. During the war, he worked with Percy Sargent and others in the care of soldiers with head wounds. Despite a backbreaking clinical load (900 critically ill patients under the care of only 10-16 physicians), he spent his nights meticulously documenting the neurologic deficits caused by many hundreds of wounds to the head and spinal cord. In the process, he described the classic signs of cerebellar ataxia, elucidated the retinal map of the visual cortex, and described a variety of signs and symptoms caused by spinal cord injury. Some of his superiors thought this clinical investigation (research) was a wasteful distraction from his routine clinical duties, but he persevered and published 18 papers during the war!

Holmes was a large man who had little time for medical politics and committee work. He had a reputation for being a short-tempered disciplinarian and was by all accounts a hard-working perfectionist. Dr. Pearson did not have an "easy" mentor.

Dr Pearson's brief time at Queen Square was piggybacked on an extended honeymoon in 1937 that included his second tour of Europe, visits to other famous hospitals and encounters with Nazi rallies. He had insufficient time to become an accomplished neurologist, but you have to admire his professional moxie. In many respects, Dr Pearson was a medical romanticist, and his early career was a medical odyssey. I am reminded of his training with Gordon Holmes each time I enter the Pearson Museum. Like Gordon Holmes, Dr Pearson loved his profession and had an unquenchable desire to learn from every patient encounter.





**22 Years of  
Service at  
SIU... Good Luck  
Dr. Evans!**

## MEDICAL HONOREE

Dr. Michael Pranzatelli was distinguished as “Medical Honoree” by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois at its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on November 4, 2011. It was the first time RMH had named a medical honoree. A movie, made from parent interviews and children with OMS for the occasion, was played for an audience of about 500 attendees at the evening ceremony. Dr. Pranzatelli was presented with an award bearing the inscription: “Thank you for your dedication to the families and children with OMS who stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield while in your medical care—*You are making a difference!*” Elizabeth Tate also was honored onstage with a bouquet of red roses for her pivotal role in improving the lives of children and families with OMS. Others in attendance from the National Pediatric Myoclonus Center were Dr. Steven Verhulst, Nathan (and Jennifer) McGee, and Tammy Boyd. We also thank collaborators Dr. Jerry Colliver, Anna Travelstead, and Lorenda Hellman, who were unable to attend, for contributing to the success of our international center of excellence.



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## Growing Pains

SIU Neurology will open a 2<sup>nd</sup> clinic on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The new clinic will be at the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Childrens Center in Suite 2W94. The clinic is actually located on the main floor just left of the elevators (near the Jamba Juice).

The phone number will remain the same for both clinics, 217-545-8417. The caller will be given an option to select the clinic at 751 N Rutledge or 415 N 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

The new reception desk will be supported by Karen Downs and Renata Rimkus. Laura Teer will provide secretarial support. Nursing staff at CJV includes Tammy Maxwell and Jessica Goff.

Physicians moving into the new clinic are Dr Rodger Elble, Dr Brajesh Agrawal, Dr Sushant Kale, Dr Ayman Omar, Dr Rita Tranquilli, and NP Charlene Young. Some of the providers will see patients at both clinic locations.

The new clinic will allow us to have more clinics so we can better serve our fast growing patient population. We will have several sub-specialty clinics; Botox, Movement Disorders, Epilepsy, MS, Stroke, and EMG/NCS testing.

Neurology  
415 N 9<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 2W94  
PO Box 19635  
Springfield, IL 62794-9635  
Phone 217-545-8417  
Clinic Fax 217-545-8115  
Admin Fax 217-545-8122

## Center for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (CADRD) Education Event News

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Memory Loss Conference

On November 7 & 8, 2011 CADRD, along the Alzheimer's Association, the Illinois Department on Aging and St. John's Hospital, sponsored a two-day conference on memory loss. Held at the Springfield Crowne Plaza, the event attracted approximately 650 people.

Day one, November 7<sup>th</sup>, was designed for family caregivers and provided information on dementing disorders and care-giving. Representing CADRD was Tom Ala, MD, who presented on diagnosing and treating dementing illnesses, and Carolyn Hahn-Swanson, NP-C, MN, MPH, who led a family caregiver panel in a discussion of adaptations in the home setting for persons with dementia. Other presentations addressed effective care-giving and communication techniques throughout the stages of the disease and protecting elders from abuse and neglect.

November 8<sup>th</sup> was designed for professionals working in the fields of dementia, health care, aging or care-giving. The day featured plenary and breakout sessions and included presentations on the medical, care-giving and treatment aspects of Alzheimer's disease. Participants from CADRD included Tom Ala, MD, presenting "Understanding the Different Causes of Dementia," Ron Zec, PhD, presenting "What Happens to the Brain with Alzheimer's Disease," and Ann Popovich, MA and Charlene Young, FNP-BC, MSN who served as panelists for an open question and answer session on Alzheimer's disease.

The evaluation data for each day are very positive. Session handouts are available at our website [www.siumed.edu](http://www.siumed.edu). Planning committee members from CADRD include Greg Kyrouac, MS Ed., Leslie Randolph and Maggie Schaver, MPA.

### Research in Aging and Cognitive Connections

On September 27, 2011 CADRD and the Center for Integrated Research in Cognitive and Neural Sciences (SIU Carbon-dale) co-presented this one-day research symposium for clinicians, researchers and interested others. Over 50 people attended. SIU faculty presented on current research in brain- and age-related disease, emphasizing research on metabolic activity and cognitive function. Presenters included Tom Ala, MD, Greg Brewer, PhD, Andrzej Bartke, PhD, Peter Patrylo, PhD, Ron Zec, PhD, and Greg Rose, PhD.

Visiting Professor, Michael Greicius, MD, Director of the Center for Memory Disorders at Stanford University School of Medicine presented the keynote and a workshop on potential clinical applications for imaging human brain networks with resting-state fMRI.

#### **Mark Your Calendars** for these upcoming education events:

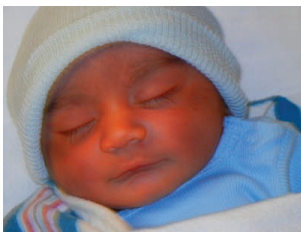
- April 10-11, 2012: Annual CADRD Memory and Aging Network Retreat
- April 14, 2012: Parkinson Disease Awareness - a Saturday morning program for patients, families, and the general public.
- May 22, 2012: Alzheimer Disease: Risk and Protective Factors and Early Interventions - a conference offering practical, evidence-based information regarding lifestyle risk and protective factors and strategies for early intervention.

For more information about CADRD educational opportunities: [www.siumed.edu/alz](http://www.siumed.edu/alz).

## New Arrival

Dr. and Mrs. Sajjad Mueed welcome home their son, M AbdulRahman Mueed, born November 3, 2011 at 10:31am, weighing 7lbs14oz and 20" long.

**Congratulations!**



These two are twin daughters born to Dr. and Mrs. Valeriy Sabodash during his 4th Year Neurology Residency. This photo was taken in September, 2011 when the girls were 5 months old.



This is former Resident/Fellow Lidia Brown with her husband, Anthony and children Alisa (4) and Brian (20 months).



## Grandkids!

Dr. Ala and wife Kitty welcome a granddaughter Sophia, born November 4, 2011 weighing 7lbs 2oz. Time to Spoil!



**The Alzheimer Walk 2011 was held September 24, 2011. Several employees and their family attended the event- Pets too.**

## The Votes Are In!!

Congratulations to Dr. Tom Ala for winning the People's Choice Award in the On My Own Time Art Exhibit for his photography piece titled "Takeoff at Minus 6 Degrees F."



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**Dr. Ayman Omar** attended the **Society for NeuroOncology** meeting in Los Angeles, CA in November presenting the following:

We have developed a novel treatment approach for a spinal cord tumor that could not be removed surgically. This tumor, known as hemangioblastoma when involving the cervical cord can result in paralysis, failure to breathe and ultimately death. It is also a highly vascular tumor. We therefore targeted a patient's tumor with a molecular targeted agent that blocks blood vessel formation. The patient's tumor shrunk significantly and the patient was able to walk after being wheelchair-bound. This approach was never tried in this setting before.

## The Center for Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders is Looking for Research Participants.



SIU School of Medicine is looking for participants for a clinical trial that will investigate if the drug **bapineuzumab** is effective in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

To Be Eligible You Must:

- Be diagnosed with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.
- Be between 50 and 89 years old.
- Be willing to take cognitive tests.
- Live at home with a caregiver capable of accompanying you on clinic visits.
- Not have a history of clinically evident stroke.

*This study is administered at no cost to you or your family if you choose to participate.*

 SIU School of Medicine

For more information please contact Barbara at [blokaitis@siumed.edu](mailto:blokaitis@siumed.edu) or call 217.545.9737.

## The Neurology/Alzheimer Department Won a cake in a Cool 101.9 contest called Just Desserts



Is that Dr. Ala holding a brain?



## New Employees

### Carrie Broida, LPN

I have been a LPN for 4.5 years. I started working in SIU Neurology on 5/26/11. I came from SIU Ob/GYN, where I worked for 2.5 years. Prior to that I worked at SOGA (now Springfield Clinic Ob/Gyn) for approximately 14 months. I am married. My husband Aaron also works for SIU. We have 2 beautiful daughters, Jasmine age 13 and Ashley age 8.5. They are the light of my life! I also have a dog, a black and caramel colored Cocker Spaniel named Princess " Fiona". I am so glad that I that I joined the Neurology team! Everyone has been wonderful!



### Laura Teer

Laura joined the SIU staff in July. Laura retired from her 32-year career with the Illinois State Lottery/Department of Revenue, where she served as Records Manager; manager of the Office of Electronic Filing, Business Registration and Licensing, and Deposit Control, as well as lead accountant. She has two daughters and one granddaughter.



### Jessica Goff, MA



I started in the department of Neurology in August, 2011 as a Certified Medical Assistant. My favorite thing to do is spend time with my daughter.

### Tori Lornitis, ACA II



I started with SIU in November 2003. I am married to Bernie Lornitis (he also works at SIU in General Surgery). I completed my MA degree in Human Services at UIS in 2010.

### Renata Rimkus, ACA

I was employed by SIU for 10 years left for awhile and decided to come back. I'm married with two grown kids. My husband and I are the caretakers of the Springfield Muni and live out there year round.



**Contributors:**  
Rodger Elble, Tom Ala, Maggie Schaver.

**Designer/Photographer:** Carolyn Higgason and Nysha Drennan