DEPARTMENTS

OF NOTE
Introducing the new Pitt med curriculum.
A year wasted with Mark Perlmutter.
Sound medicine for singers.

INVESTIGATIONS
Preserving male fertility in cancer patients.
Hoping to up the number of African American cancer researchers, a Pitt prof gives college students a taste of UPCI lab life.
Stem cells on demand?

ATTENDING
Lili Penkower showed students that their problems had solutions.

98.6
A shoe shiner demonstrates that you needn’t have a lot to give a lot.

ALUMNI NEWS
“What does it mean to be a doctor?”
Randall Kolb asks.
Remembering Robert Kisner, who refused to give in to a climate of fear.

LAST CALL
Medieval medicine.

FEATURES

When Proteins Can’t Get It Right
Our bodies need good chaperones (at the molecular level, that is). Their effectiveness comes into play in diseases as wide-ranging as Huntington’s, stroke, breast cancer, and cystic fibrosis.
BY DOTTIE HORN

What It Takes to Be a Top Teacher
Award-winning profs fess up.

At the Boundaries of Hope
What treatment strategies lie ahead for premature infants?
BY CHUCK STARESINIC

What Keeps MD/PhDs Humming Through Eight Years Of Grad and Med School?
Found, in translation.
BY MEGHAN HOLOHAN

CONTRIBUTORS

MICHAEL LOTENERO (Cover and “What It Takes to Be a Top Teacher”) sold his first illustration in third grade. He used colored pencils to draw the Star Wars characters R2-D2 and C-3PO on a classmate’s notebook. The fee? “Lunch money,” says Lotenero. “Probably a buck.” About nine years ago, he began illustrating onscreen with a computer mouse, and he now does all of his commercial illustration this way. His fine art paintings have been exhibited from California to New York.

In August, photographer FRANK WALSH (“What Keeps MD/PhDs Humming Through Eight Years of Grad and Med School?”) went to the farm show in Butler County and set up a backdrop in a barn so that he could photograph people at the fair, including children and teens with the sheep, cows, pigs, and chickens they were showing at the event. He was attracted to his subjects’ timelessness; the youth didn’t wear the latest fashions or shirts with slogans or commercial emblems. Instead, one wore a simple white T-shirt that was dirty from working; another had forgotten his belt and had tied a rope around his waist. A western Pennsylvania native, Walsh studied at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. His pictures have been described as having “luscious, otherworldly lighting.”

COVER
We surveyed top teachers among our faculty and alumni and found that there’s a method to their magic. (Cover illustration: © Michael Lotenero. Oath: Hippocrates.)