

pirin daily, but the Japanese doctors Lee met protested that clogged arteries were much less common in their patients than were hemorrhagic strokes caused by ruptured blood vessels—a condition that aspirin makes more likely.

During a summer internship with HMI last year, HMS student Eric Twerdahl researched the impact of HMI projects in

Dubai and India on healthcare in their respective regions. Twerdahl met a vascular surgeon in Bangalore who has revised operating room practice—for example, sterilizing and reusing equipment, instead of using disposable items—to cut the cost per procedure. He met a cardiac surgeon in Mumbai who has pioneered open-heart surgery without general anaesthe-

sia, using instead an epidural administered above the level of the heart. These innovations sharply increase access to care, but were unlikely to develop in the United States, where the healthcare system is much less responsive to cost. In this sense, says Twerdahl, “the days of U.S. medicine thinking that it’s at the top of the pile are numbered.”

Open Access

IN AN HISTORIC VOTE, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) moved to make the articles that its members publish in scholarly journals freely available to anyone, “disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible.” The action acknowledged that the intellectual wealth of the world increasingly lies at our fingertips.

The Internet has made this possible, but there is a disturbing countertrend: even as some kinds of information become more readily available (public-domain books in Harvard’s libraries, for instance, through collaborations with such projects as Google Books), other kinds of information are becoming more difficult to obtain. In particular, scholarly articles conveying the latest breakthroughs in technology, science, and medicine—the kind of information those afflicted with a rare disease might wish to access, and, as taxpayers, might even have funded—are locked up in expensive journals (an institutional subscription to *Brain Research*, to cite an extreme example, is more than \$22,000 a year), or are otherwise not easily accessible.

The motion considered at the FAS meeting on February 12 at first seemed a minor sortie into copyright law. A “yes” vote would grant the University a non-exclusive, nonprofit license to faculty members’ scholarly articles, and require them to deposit a copy in an “open access” repository. But the motion, which passed unanimously, was, in fact, an important milestone in a much larger “open access” movement that aims to make all scientific and scholarly material, particularly articles published in peer-reviewed journals, freely available over the Internet. “The goal of university research is the creation, dissemination, and preservation of knowl-

edge,” said University provost Steven E. Hyman in a public statement. “At Harvard, where so much of our research is of global significance, we have an essential responsibility to distribute the fruits of our scholarship as widely as possible.”

Open access (OA) is generally achieved in two ways, through OA archives or OA publishing. The latter, in which articles are peer-reviewed and vetted as usual but distributed freely over the Internet, has had some success: of the roughly 20,000 scholarly journals published today, about 3,000 are OA.

Harvard’s new policy takes the archiving approach, by creating a searchable online repository. “Faculty members still retain copyright to scholarly articles they write, but any transfer of copyright they make to a publisher will be subject to the nonexclusive license to Harvard, which will retain its right to distribute the article freely and openly,” explains Welch professor of computer science Stuart Shieber, chair of the provost’s committee on scholarly publishing that drafted and presented

the new policy. Professors can make the articles available to students in class, and readers worldwide can download copies.

Peter Suber, principal drafter of the first major international statement on OA, the Budapest Open Access Initiative of 2001, has described Harvard’s new policy as the first university mandate for open access by default in the United States, and the first to be adopted by a faculty, rather than implemented by administrative fiat. Harvard’s policy is a “default,” rather than a true mandate, because it includes an opt-out provision, or waiver—for instance, if the paper of a junior faculty member is accepted at a major journal that doesn’t allow OA archiving. Either way, compliance is expected to be much higher at Harvard than at institutions where OA archiving is optional, and where participation rates rarely exceed 15 percent, Suber says. His research also indicates that articles available through OA enjoy increased visibility, retrievability, usage, and citation impact—and aren’t incompatible with for-profit publishing.



Photograph by Stu Rosner

University People

College Dean Designated

Rosenkrantz professor of the history of science and of African and African American studies Evelyn M. Hammonds, Ph.D. '03, will become dean of Harvard College on June 1, succeeding Ford professor of human evolution David Pilbeam, who has served on an interim basis. Since 2005, Hammonds has been senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity, gaining a University-wide perspective on faculty recruiting and support for faculty, graduate students, and postdocs struggling to balance work and family obligations. "Those issues will always be a focus for me," she says. "I just won't be doing them for central administration." Her new job has two major projects teed up: renewing the undergraduate Houses (see Brevia, page 69) and launching a new general-education curriculum to replace the Core. She also wants to enrich the College's arts offerings—curricular and otherwise—and undergraduates' science education and research opportunities.

Engineering Deanship Ends

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) dean Venkatesh Narayanamurti announced on February 15 that he would relinquish the post in September, concluding a decade of service. He had intended to step down in 2006, but stayed on during transitions in University and Faculty of Arts and Sciences leadership to oversee the elevation of his unit's status from a division to a school (see "First Day of School" for Engineering," November-December 2007, page 74). SEAS faculty ranks increased by 50 percent during his tenure; graduate-student enrollment surged. Narayanamurti will return to teaching after a

STEPHANIE MITCHELL/HARVARD NEWS OFFICE



Venkatesh Narayanamurti

sabbatical; an advisory committee is being formed to assist in the decanal search.

Overseer Leaders

Roger W. Ferguson Jr. '73, J.D. '79, Ph.D. '81, former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, will preside over the Board of Overseers for the 2008-2009 academic year. He succeeds former Vassar president Frances D. Fergusson, Ph.D. '73. Pauline Yu '71, president of the American Council of Learned Societies, becomes vice chair of the Overseers' executive committee, succeeding attorney William F. Lee '72.



Evelynn M. Hammonds

ROSE LINCOLN/HARVARD NEWS OFFICE

Development(s)

Paul Keenan '85 has been appointed senior associate dean and director of development for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). He succeeds Scott Abell '72, dean for FAS development, who is retiring at the end of the academic year. Linda Fates becomes associate dean for resource development for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. And a quartet of senior development officers has been formed into a new high-level University Principal Gifts Team: Roger Cheever '67, M.L.A. '77, associate vice president; Charles Collier, M.T.S. '73, senior philanthropic adviser; Joe Donovan '72, director; and Shirley Peppers, director.

Currier Captains

An expert on primate behavior and human evolution, Richard Wrangham, Moore professor of anthropology, and Elizabeth Ross have been appointed master and co-master, respectively, of Currier House, effective July 1. The couple, who have three children, have worked extensively in Uganda, where Wrangham founded the Kibale Chimpanzee Project and Ross is executive director of the Kasiisi Project, which supports primary schooling.



Elizabeth Ross and Richard Wrangham

COURTESY OF RICHARD WRANGHAM

Just a month before FAS acted, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that it would become the first major research *funder* with an OA mandate. Its previous voluntary policy led to participation rates that hovered "between 4 and 7 percent," explains Alexa McCray, deputy director of Harvard Medical School's Countway Library. (Because the NIH doesn't make grants to individuals except through their institutions, the institutions will be responsible for tracking authors' compliance with the new policy.) That policy requires that publicly funded papers be placed in PubMed Central, an OA repository of full-text articles, says McCray. She adds that pending legislation would require all federal funding agencies with grant budgets in excess of \$100 million to adopt a policy similar to NIH's—making the Harvard move seem prescient indeed.

The director of MIT's library, Anne Wolpert, calls the FAS open-access policy "bold and visionary"—a collective action that "allows Harvard to support its faculty." Under the current system of scholarly publishing, she says, faculty members' intellectual content is "freely donated to private ownership."

Race in a Genetic World

"I AM AN African American," says Duana Fullwiley, "but in Africa, I am white." To do fieldwork as a medical anthropologist in Senegal, she says, "I take a plane to France, a seven- to eight-hour ride. My race changes as I cross the Atlantic. There, I say, '*Je suis noire*,' and they say, 'Oh, okay—*métisse*—you are mixed.' Then I fly another six to seven hours to Senegal, and I am white. In the space of a day, I can change from African American, to *métisse*, to *tubaab* [Wolof for "white/European"]. This is not a joke, or something to laugh at, or to take lightly. It is the kind of social recognition that even two-year-olds who can barely speak understand. '*Tubaab*,' they say when they greet me."

Is race, then, purely a social construct? The fact that racial categories change from one society to another might suggest it is.