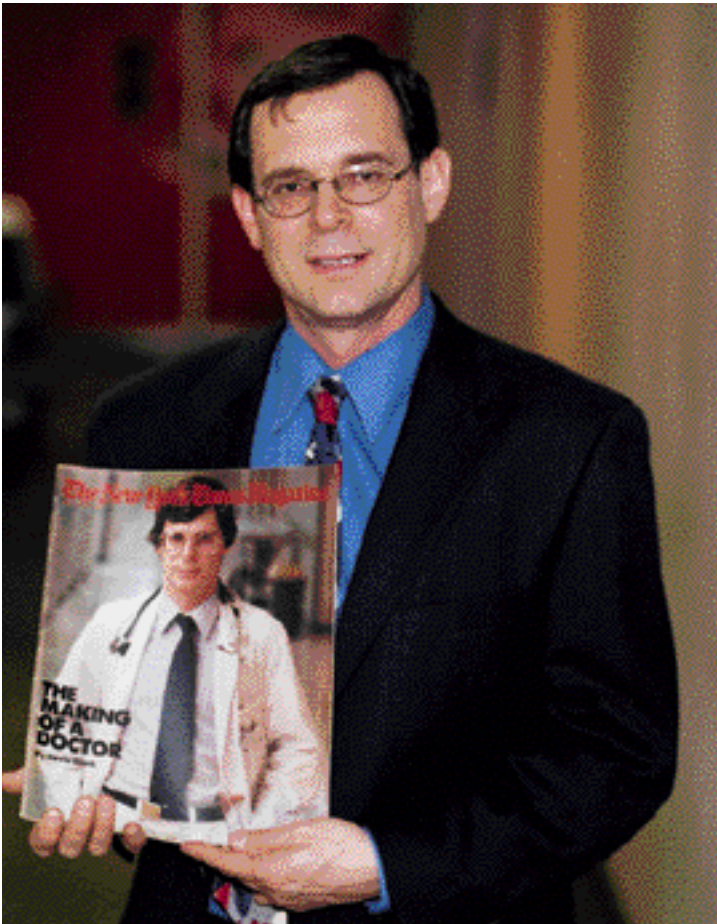


Alumni Profile



Aaron Kenigsberg, M.D.—then and now

Like Father, Like Son—and Grandson

Aaron Kenigsberg, M.D. ('83)

Nearly 25 years ago *The New York Times Magazine* ran its own cover story entitled “The Making of a Doctor.” It profiled a 24-year-old NYU medical student named Aaron Kenigsberg. By telling his “ordinary” story with extraordinary detail—in a sprawling 21,500-word slice-of-life account published in two consecutive issues—the *Times* rendered a vivid portrait of the contemporary state of medicine in America.

Today Aaron Kenigsberg, M.D. ('83)—whose father, Samuel ('41), was also an alumnus of the School—is an interventional cardiologist living in Potomac, Md. His specialty is repairing blood

vessels with balloons and stents. “Doctors today can do something that they could not do in Dr. Samuel Kenigsberg’s student days,” the *Times* article declared, noting developments

in medical care as of 1982. “Today, doctors can cure people.”

Now, a quarter of a century later, that is truer than ever. In 1983, when Aaron Kenigsberg planned to become an internist, the field of interventional cardiology—which uses minimally invasive techniques to treat coronary artery disease—was in its infancy. Today it is responsible for everyday wonders, often preventing the need for riskier, more invasive coronary bypass surgery and saving lives.

Despite his life-saving skills, Dr. Kenigsberg says that he sees himself as an ordinary doctor, especially compared to those classmates who have gone on to advance medicine through their high-level research. “But that is the beauty of medicine,” he said during rounds at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md., where he was formerly Chief of Cardiology. “Even the average doctor can help many people.”

In truth, Aaron Kenigsberg, now 47, is not quite as average as he claims. One of the first cardiologists in the country to become certified in the interventional subspecialty, he leads a thriving practice, serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor at The George Washington University School of Medicine, and has been named one of the region’s top doctors by *Washingtonian* magazine. In 1994 he was among the physicians invited to the White House by then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for a conference on healthcare reform.

The *Times* profile of Dr. Kenigsberg chronicled his life in rich detail—from the way he slightly recoiled and tucked his chin while swabbing a patient for a gonococcus culture, to how (on one of his rare nights off) an emergency at the hospital caused him to stand up his girlfriend, Lisa Braun. It brought the young medical student short-lived celebrity, and he remains so proud of it

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that a framed version of the magazine's cover still graces his office.

He went on to do an internship and residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami and a Cardiology Fellowship at the New England Deaconess Hospital/Harvard Medical School. In 1984 the girl he stood up became his wife. The eldest of their three children, Ben, is currently a freshman at Stanford University, where he is a pre-med student.

"It's gratifying," Dr. Kenigsberg says of his son's decision to enter medicine. "It's such a compliment that your child wants to follow in your footsteps." Ben's training will include all the basics that his father and grandfather learned, but it will also incorporate many advances they could never have imagined, including scientific breakthroughs that may one day lead to the end of coronary artery disease.

On a recent Saturday Dr. Kenigsberg admitted that he would rather have been out biking amid the blooming cherry blossoms, yet he conducted rounds with good cheer. Over the course of two hours, he met with four patients. Despite the pressures of managed care, Dr. Kenigsberg took his time with each one. It's a practice he credits to Frank C. Spencer, M.D., (Hon. '99) former Chairman of the Department of Surgery. "Even if you're in a hurry," he taught us, "always sit and look eye-to-eye with the patient."

As for the ultimate meaning of his life's work, Dr. Kenigsberg is fond of a particular story. One day while his son Ben was signing up at a local gym, the attendant recognized "Kenigsberg" as the name of the doctor who had once rescued him from a heart attack with an emergency angioplasty. Looking up, the man said simply: "Your dad saved my life. You can come in free anytime." ■

NYU alumni and faculty were recognized for their achievements on Alumni Day, held on April 12, 2005. The awards were presented by Dean Robert M. Glickman, M.D, who greeted more than 350 alumni and guests.

SOLOMON A. BERSON MEDICAL ALUMNI AWARDS FOR 2005

AWARD IN BASIC SCIENCE—Arturo Casadevall, Ph.D. ('85), Professor of Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology, the Selma and Dr. Jacques Mitrani Professor in Biomedical Research, and Chief of Infectious Diseases at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Casadevall is one of the world's leading experts on mycology and the pathogenesis of fungal infections.

AWARD IN CLINICAL SCIENCE—Daniel F. Roses, M.D. ('69), the Jules Leonard Whitehill Professor of Surgery and Oncology at NYU. He pioneered techniques for significantly modifying traditional radical operations with more conservative approaches.

AWARD IN CLINICAL SCIENCE—Bruce K. Young, M.D. ('63), the Herbert R. Silverman Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at NYU. Dr. Young pioneered endoscopic techniques for obstetrical problems, groundbreaking fetal laparoscopic surgery, and the use of fetal scalp pH electrode monitoring.

AWARD IN HEALTH SCIENCE—Richard D. Krugman, M.D. ('68), Professor of Pediatrics and Dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He is internationally renowned for his work in child abuse and neglect. He is also active in health policy for primary care education for health professionals.

YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

Ivan Oransky, M.D. ('98), was the recipient of the Julia Zelmanovich YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD for general excellence.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Raymond J. Brienza (Hon. '05), Adjunct Professor of Medical School Administration and former Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid at NYU School of Medicine for 31 years. Dean Brienza introduced and developed financial aid programs, and was instrumental in promoting diversity. When he retired, several faculty and alumni established the Raymond J. Brienza Scholarship Fund.

Eugenie F. Doyle, M.D. (Hon. '05), Professor Emerita of Pediatrics. She served as Director of Pediatric Cardiology at NYU from 1962 to 1993. Dr. Doyle co-authored a number of papers on the comparative effect of corticosteroid versus salicylate therapy on acute rheumatic fever.

Charles S. Hirsch, M.D. (Hon. '05), Professor and Chairman of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Professor of Pathology at the School. As Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York, he directs the largest office of its kind in the U.S.

Robert F. Porges, M.D. (Hon. '05), Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the School. Dr. Porges served as Acting Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1986 to 1995. He is the founder and Director of the Fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, and he established the Prenatal Diagnostic Unit at Tisch Hospital.