Selected Coverage August 2013

New York Times (August 22)

Welcome to the Age of Denial

The triumph of Western science led most of my professors to believe that progress was inevitable. While the bargain between science and political culture was at times challenged — the nuclear power debate of the 1970s, for example — the battles were fought using scientific evidence. Manufacturing doubt remained firmly off-limits. Today, however, it is politically effective, and socially acceptable, to deny scientific fact.

Adam Frank, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Rochester, is the author of “About Time: Cosmology and Culture at the Twilight of the Big Bang” and a founder of NPR’s 13.7 Cosmos and Culture blog.

LA Times (August 30)

Copper linked with Alzheimer’s Disease

New research finds that copper in amounts readily found in our drinking water, the foods we eat and the vitamin supplements we take likely plays a key role in initiating and fueling the abnormal protein build-up and brain inflammation that are hallmarks of Alzheimer’s disease. While the mineral is important to healthy nerve conduction, hormone secretion and the growth of bones and connective tissue, a team of researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center suggested that too much of it may be a bad thing, and they set about to explore copper’s dark side. (Also reported by BBC, CBS News)

Times of London (August 15)

Twitter alert system that tells diners where to avoid

People about to tuck into a meal at a dodgy restaurant could soon be warned off by a new system that collects data from the tweets of millions of diners. The technology picks up on Twitter messages about unhappy meals and where they took place, generating a map of establishments that give customers food poisoning rather than fine food. The researchers behind the system, from the University of Rochester, in the United States, said they hoped that it would have wider uses in the future. (Also reported by England Telegraph, Pittsburgh Post Gazette, WHEC-TV, New Scientist, Business Standard India, UPI, Popular Science, MSN.co.in, Science Daily, GigaOM, India Times of India, Zee News, Infection Control Today, Red Orbit, Phys.Org, Argentina Star, Cambodian Times, Malaysia Sun, MedIndia, New Kerala, Fast Company, Motherboard, Food Logistics, E! Science News, Daily Mail)
**Fox News (August 15)**

Physicists levitate tiny diamonds in wild experiment

In quite an eerie feat, physicists have floated microscopic diamonds in midair using laser beams. In the new study, the physicists from the University of Rochester relied on the fact that a laser beam, which is made up of photons, creates a tiny force that usually can’t be felt. “If we turn on a light or open a door and feel the sun, we don’t feel this push or pull,” study researcher Nick Vamivakas said in a video released by the university. “But it turns out that if you focus a laser down with a lens to a very small region of space, it can actually pull on microscopic, nanoscopic particles.” (Also reported by Discovery Channel, NBCNews.com, Yahoo! News, Live Science, Space Daily, Mashable, Gizmag)

**US News and World Report (July 23)**

Study: No link between mercury and autism

Children exposed to low levels of mercury in the womb because their mothers ate large amounts of fish during pregnancy don’t appear to be at increased risk for autism, a new study suggests. “This study shows no evidence of a correlation between low level mercury exposure and autism spectrum-like behaviors among children whose mothers ate, on average, up to 12 meals of fish each week during pregnancy,” study lead author Edwin van Wijngaarden, associate professor in the public health sciences department at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, said in a medical center news release. (Also reported by Huffington Post)

**The Washington Post (August 16)**

Are atheists smarter than believers? Not exactly.

A new study of almost a century’s worth of data shows that the smarter you are, the less likely you are to believe in God. The study, conducted by Miron Zuckerman, a psychologist at the University of Rochester, examined the findings of 63 earlier studies — one dating back to the 1920s — that measured intelligence and religiosity. The majority of those studies found that more intelligent people were more likely to lack religious beliefs. (Also reported by Christianity Today, Ghana Web)

**The Globe and Mail (August 16)**

Book offers in-depth look at religious life in maximum-security prison

Joshua Dubler, assistant professor of religion at the University of Rochester, focuses his book, “Down in the Chapel” on one tumultuous week in the life of Pennsylvania Graterford Penitentiary’s religious inmates, at a moment when cutbacks and amalgamation have made it harder to accommodate their needs. Dubler argues that the multifaith chapel at Graterford may well be one of the most religiously diverse places in the world, since it hosts 40 services a week from 13 different religious groups. (Also reported by The Daily Beast, Christian Science Monitor, Booktv, WNYC)

**New York Times (August 28)**

Poetic Virtues

James Longenbach is one of the finest scholar-critics working today, and his method for dealing with poetry’s fractious readership is simple: He just tells all parties they’re wrong. Longenbach’s latest book, THE VIRTUES OF POETRY (Graywolf, paper, $14), examines “the virtues to which the next poem might aspire,” which will obviously get the attention of poets but should also appeal to general readers. Each chapter is organized around one or two concepts — compression, doubt, otherness and so on — that Longenbach uses as a fulcrum to lift some impressively complex argumentative machinery. James Longenbach is the Joseph Henry Gilmore Professor of English at the University of Rochester.

**Chicago Tribune (August 30)**

Yoga Helps Cancer Patients Sleep

Practicing yoga may help people who have had cancer sleep better and reduce their use of sleep aids, according to a new study. Researchers found study participants, mostly women with a history of breast cancer, reported significant improvements in sleep quality and sleep duration when they attended yoga sessions twice per week. “One of the biggest messages from the trial is yoga worked,” Karen Mustian, from the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, said.
**New York Times (August 7)**

**Suicide Rates are High Among the Elderly**

For most people, psychological well-being increases later in life, following a well-known U-shaped curve: people report less satisfaction in midlife and more at either end of the age spectrum. Paradoxically, though, suicide rates also rise sharply. Older white men, like Joseph Goeke, are particularly at risk. Why are suicide rates so high among seniors? We know that while older people make fewer suicide attempts than the young, they are far more likely to die from them, in part because they rely primarily on guns. “Younger people have more physical resilience and use less lethal means,” said *Dr. Yeates Conwell*, a psychiatrist at the University of Rochester Medical Center who has studied late-life suicide.

**WHAM TV ABC 13 Rochester (August 6)**

**Pianos for peace**

Marissa Balonon-Rosen, a dual degree student at the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester organized the project. She said this follows the idea that by actively involving people in music you can make for a more peaceful community. The idea is to bring music and see people's interpretations of peace,” said Balonon-Rosen. “Each piano is going to have a little jar for people to place suggestions for making Rochester a more peaceful place.” (Also reported by Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, WXXI)

**Reuters (August 12)**

**Inducing, augmenting labor associated with autism**

Children of women who had labor induced or sped up with drugs were more likely to go on to develop an autism spectrum disorder, in a new study. The study’s lead researcher, however, said the findings don’t prove inducing or speeding up - also known as augmenting - labor causes autism, and they shouldn’t affect decisions to use the techniques. Dr. Susan Hyman, an autism specialist at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, said whatever the cause, the study supports the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation that children be screened for autism at 18 and 24 months followed by ongoing surveillance. Hyman, who was not involved with the new research, also echoed the researchers’ conclusions that more studies are needed and these findings should not change the current standard of care. “Induction is extraordinarily common,” she told Reuters Health. “Discuss that with your healthcare provider if you’re worried about your child. Although the statistics identify an association the vast majority of children are fine and many of their lives might have been saved (by induction).” (Also reported by MedPage Today)

**Oregon Public Broadcasting (August 6)**

**How To Fall Forever Into The Night Sky**

By Adam Frank. It’s your neck that’s the problem. Your neck is lying to you. All your life you’ve had to look up at the stars. You walk along on a summer’s evening and they’re always there, those stars, those bright mysterious points of light, waiting for you to notice, waiting for you to understand what they are saying about time and space and your own place in it all.
Rochester City Newspaper (July 31)
UR study reveals concerns about new Common Core curriculum
New York is among 45 states that signed on to teaching a new, more rigorous curriculum called the Common Core. The general idea is two-fold: raise the standard of information that students must know, and create consistency across the public education landscape to help the US remain competitive in a global economy. But many educators have concerns about whether the Common Core is being implemented properly, and if it is being implemented too soon. A recent study by the University of Rochester, Western Michigan University, Michigan State University, and Washington State University Tri-Cities indicates that some of those concerns are warranted.

Arthritis Today (August 7)
Many Psoriatic Arthritis Patients are Under-treated
About half of all patients with psoriasis and psoriatic arthitis (PsA) are dissatisfied with the treatment they are getting, according to a new study published online in August in JAMA Dermatology. Moreover, the study found a large percentage of study participants are either undertreated or not getting any treatment at all. Christopher T. Ritchlin, MD, professor and chief of the division of allergy, immunology and rheumatology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, is one of three co-founders of the hospital’s Psoriasis Center. He says in his clinical practice, discontinuation of biologics is rarely a result of ineffectiveness because most PsA patients respond to them at a rate that's greater than what is typically seen with RA patients.

Gizmag (August 2)
Quick Trainer to help toilet train intellectually disabled kids
According to the Rochester University researchers who developed the Quick Trainer, children who’ve been wearing disposable underwear for years were toilet trained in 45 days or less using the device. That’s good news for parents of children with intellectual disabilities, autism and Down Syndrome for whom the toilet training process can be a nightmare. “One study suggests that it takes about a year-and-a-half to train children with autism, and many do not use the toilet independently even through their school age years and beyond,” Daniel Mruzek, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, told Gizmag.

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 2)
Uncertainty over Kodak environmental fund stalling economic council work
“The clock is ticking,” council co-chair and University of Rochester president Joel Seligman said. “The Eastman Park issue has not been resolved.” Seligman said the council likely would hear an update on the issue at its August meeting. The council has not taken a position on the environmental issues related to the park. The primary concern for the regional business community has been to lift the uncertainty over the park so growth plans can go forward.

Wall Street Journal (August 7)
Many Drugs Found Safe for Breast-Feeding Mothers
Breast-feeding mothers can take most prescription drugs without risking their babies’ health, though they should try to avoid certain painkillers, psychiatric drugs and herbal treatments, the American Academy of Pediatrics said in a report. “This is a long-awaited statement,” said Ruth Lawrence, a breast-feeding expert at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y., who wasn’t involved in the report. “The tendency among practitioners is to say, ‘I don’t know the answer, therefore why don’t you stop breast-feeding,’ she said. “There are very few drugs that are contraindicated while breast-feeding.” (Also reported by Huffington Post, MedPageToday, Salon)

BusinessWeek (August 7)
A New Approach to the MBA Job Hunt at Rochester
In 2010, students coming out of the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business were not doing well. At graduation, fewer than half of that year’s MBA class had received a job offer. Employers simply weren’t coming to campus, and students were not happy. “Ultimately, we succeed based on how well our graduates do,” says Simon Dean Mark Zupan. So Robert Park, assistant dean of career management and professional development, decided to flip the recruitment process by prescreening students and then taking the ones who were the best fits directly to the potential employers.
“You don’t have to come to campus to interview 10 students, so you can hire the four who are the right fit,” he now tells companies interested in hiring Simon MBAs. “I’ll bring the four to you.”

*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* (August 11)

**Neighborhoods feel growing pains as UR expands**

UR’s growing presence on the river’s west bank hasn’t made the splash of *College Town*, its $100 million development on UR’s east boundary along Mt. Hope Avenue. But the changes in parts of the 19th Ward and along South Plymouth are noticeable, and have long-term implications. And Brooks Landing -- a business center, a hotel and what will be a 12-story dorm, restaurant and boating house now under construction -- is the epicenter of development, at the intersection of South Plymouth, Genesee Street and Brooks Avenue. That development and others attracted by UR -- about $65 million on the west side of the river so far -- have sent property values at Brooks Landing dramatically higher, growing the tax base in a city scrambling for new revenue.

*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* (August 11)

**Get ahead of problems that threaten 19th Ward transformation**

Seeing the added diversity of UR students walking the streets of the 19th Ward is a far cry from more than 30 years ago, when UR leaders resisted efforts to install a pedestrian bridge linking the campus to neighborhoods across the Genesee River. So-called town-gown relations involving universities and nearby community residents can be prickly. But they don’t have to be if leaders move quickly to head off potential problems.

*Prevention* (August 4)

**Study: Curcumin protects skin during radiation treatment**

Red, peeling, blistered, skin has long been accepted as a nearly unavoidable side effect of radiation therapy—about 95% of breast cancer patients who get the treatment deal with radiation dermatitis on their chest, underarms, or neck. But now a new antioxidant could be changing that. “We did other studies first to make sure curcumin wasn’t going to protect the tumor from radiation,” says study author *Julie Ryan, PhD, MPH*, assistant professor of dermatology and radiation oncology at the *University of Rochester Medical Center*. She notes that curcumin did not reduce other skin symptoms, like redness.

*The Chronicle of Higher Education (Vitae)* (August 12)

**Getting Ready for Teaching Your First Class**

“Students quickly sniff out and appreciate if you have taken the time to prepare for your presentations,” says *Mark Zupan*, dean of the *University of Rochester’s Simon School of Business*. The faculty should make the effort to get to know their students personally, according to Zupan, who recommends that professors memorize their students’ names from Facebook if the class is small enough. “Don’t try to BS when you don’t know an answer to their question,” Zupan adds. “When you don’t know an answer right away, just admit it, and say that you will look it up and get back to them.”

*WXXI* (August 6)

**1370 Connection: Lynda Powell, professor of political science**

*Lynda Powell*, professor of political science, discussed the effects of campaign contributions on the political process.

*WXXI* (August 5)

**1370 Connection: James McGrath, associate professor of biomedical engineering, and Gregory Gdowski, executive director of the Center for Medical Technology Innovation**

*James McGrath*, associate professor of biomedical engineering, and *Gregory Gdowski*, executive director of the Center for Medical Technology Innovation, discuss the process of converting biomedical research into commercially viable devices.

*WXXI* (August 5)

**1370 Connection: Benjamin Hayden, assistant professor of brain and cognitive sciences, UR**

*Benjamin Hayden*, assistant professor of brain and cognitive sciences, UR talked about neuroeconomics—the intersection of neuroscience and financial matters (e.g. gambling, investing in the stock market).

*ABC News* (August 4)

**12 Ways to Fight Stress and Help Your Heart**

The evidence is piling up that the answer is—yes, stress is bad for your ticker. “There are studies that...”
to show that stress is comparable to other risk factors that we traditionally think of as major, like hypertension, poor diet, and lack of exercise,” says Kathi Heffner, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Rochester Center for Mind-Body Research at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. Here are 12 steps you can take to fight stress and protect your heart.

WHEC-TV (August 12)
UR recognizes China scholarship recipients
Matthew Chin is one of three UR graduates who accepted a scholarship by the Chinese government to continue studying in Beijing. China is taking this so seriously that they sent their ambassador to Rochester to personally congratulate these students. The ambassador and U of R’s president say this program benefits both countries. Joel Seligman, UR President, said, “Business decisions are going to be made by committees which will include individuals from many different countries, speaking different languages so this can only help.” (Also reported by YNN)

The Wall Street Journal (August 21)
The Morning Ledger: SEC Officials Come and Go
An SEC official says some longtime officials left after the “wear and tear” of internal reorganizations and criticism from lawmakers, especially over the agency’s financial-crisis track record. Joel Seligman, president of the University of Rochester and author of an SEC history, tells Eaglesham that the “painful relationship at the moment” between the agency and Congress puts even more pressure on the agency’s officials. (Related story reported by The Wall Street Journal)

Time Magazine (August 21)
Judge Approves Kodak Plan to Exit Bankruptcy
Kodak doesn’t look a whole lot like it did when it filed for bankruptcy protection last year, but its executives and investors are hoping for a picture-perfect future. Kodak said it hopes to emerge from bankruptcy protection as early as Sept. 3. “They still have people with immense skill and who know how to win,” said Mark Zupan, dean of the business school at the University of Rochester, near Kodak’s headquarters. “But it’s also a team that has gone through hell for the last 10 to 20 years. It has been like constant water torture.” (Also reported by ABC News, Bloomberg Businessweek, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, Yahoo! Finance, Anchorage Daily News, Albany Times Union, Albuquerque Journal, Seattle Times, WHAS 11 Kentucky, Bartlesville Examiner Enterprise, Belleville News-Democrat, Bellingham Herald, Christian Science Monitor, Japan Daily Yomiuri, La Voz Rochester, Vacaville Reporter)

Huffington Post (August 4)
Antioxidants Don’t Boost Women’s Fertility, Major Review Finds
Despite showing promise in boosting male fertility, there is no evidence that antioxidant supplements improve women’s chances of having a baby, according to a review of 28 studies. I don’t think the results were surprising in the sense that there are no national organizations or guidelines that recommend routine use of antioxidant supplements for fertility,” said Dr. Wendy Vitek, head of the fertility preservation program at the University of Rochester’s Strong Fertility Center, who did not work on the new review.

ExtremeTech (August 16)
Human-scale invisibility cloak created by father and son team for $150
Two physicists at the University of Rochester in New York have created an invisibility cloak capable of hiding large objects, such as humans, buses, or satellites, from visible light. Surprisingly, rather than relying on exotic and hard-to-manufacture materials, this invisibility cloak is fashioned out of conventional mirrors. This isn’t theoretical, like some of the other invisibility cloaks we’ve covered — you could build this cloak today from off-the-shelf parts and hide yourself from view.

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 22)
Economic council moves forward with work
The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council breathed a sigh of relief Wednesday as it moved closer to identifying scores of projects that, using state dollars, could create thousands of local jobs and advance growth in everything from clean energy to tourism and advanced manufacturing. The sigh of relief was in reaction to Tuesday’s bankruptcy hearing for Eastman Kodak Co., which cleared the way for the company to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in early September. “The vision we have
for the park is now achievable,” council co-chair and University of Rochester president Joel Seligman said.

Men’s Health (August 23)
Nicotine dependence and post-smoking weight gain
A PSA for puffers: The more cigarettes you smoke per day, the more weight you’re likely to gain when you try to quit, says a new Japanese study. When you stop smoking, your heart rate slows down and the craving for a cigarette can be confused with a hunger pang, says Scott McIntosh, Ph.D., associate director of the Smoking Research Program at the University of Rochester Medical Center. To stay slim after you quit, try sipping ice-cold water through a straw when hunger strikes, McIntosh suggests. It’ll release a small amount of dopamine in your brain, which could curb your craving. Plus, sipping on a straw can also help imitate the form of a cigarette, and drinking water could satisfy the urge to put something in your mouth.

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 28)
Joel Seligman: Congress should close ‘innovation deficit’
By Joel Seligman. The innovation deficit — the widening gap between needed and actual U.S. federal investments in research and higher education — is jeopardizing our nation’s role as a global innovation leader and our scientific progress at a time of extraordinary opportunity. The University of Rochester has been one of the most productive research institutions in the nation with almost $2 billion in total research funding over the past five years, the majority of which comes from federally sponsored research agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense. Federal funding has made possible the university’s pioneering work in optics, cardiac arrhythmias, medical imaging, LASIK surgery, and vaccine development, including the world’s first cancer vaccine that now protects tens of millions of girls and boys from the human papillomavirus. Congress should reject unsound budget cuts and recommit to strong and sustained investments that are the drivers of innovation and future economic growth.

Laser Focus World (August 7)
MRF shows that innovation is the norm in optics
Although not a major announcement in terms of funding, the new Center for Freeform Optics is major news indeed. Using $4 million from federal, industry, and academic sources, the Center brings together the University of Rochester, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, several government labs, and six optics companies. Freeform optics are not limited to spherical—or even rotationally symmetric aspherical—shapes and have the potential to transform the field of optics if the cost of design and fabrication can be reduced.

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 8)
New tests send scores in Rochester area down sharply
David Hursh, a professor at the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester, said standardized tests have been the norm for 20 years, with little to show for it. “One, this is out of hand. And secondly, it is not working and you just produced the proof by saying we have 5 percent college and career ready,” he said. (Related stories reported by TakePart, Yahoo! News, Education Week)

Interlakes/Wilmot collaboration announcement
Patients would continue to receive care in familiar places and from familiar faces under an expanded collaboration agreement between Interlakes Oncology and Hematology and the University of Rochester Medical Center. They also could have more opportunity to participate in clinical trials through URMC’s Wilmot Cancer Center. (Also reported by Rochester Business Journal, MPN Now)

The Atlantic Magazine (August 27)
‘What Is Special About My Town’: Harrisburg, New Bedford, Rochester
Rochester is a great example of a city reinventing itself with the decline of once all-providing companies like Kodak and Xerox. Over the past 15-20 years Rochester has been making a successful transition from the manufacturing economy to one now dominated by healthcare and higher education, led by the University of Rochester (and its world-class medical center) and the Rochester Institute of Technology.
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 23)
Park Ave. lunch crowd gets a presidential surprise
Evalyn Gleason had a fairly unremarkable Thursday lined up: a panel discussion on education around lunchtime, then some babysitting in the afternoon. Wednesday morning, her plans changed. The panel discussion was a ruse - instead, the recent University of Rochester graduate learned she’d be dining with the president of the United States. Obama arrived at Magnolia’s Deli and Cafe at about 1:30 p.m. and ate with four University of Rochester students and recent graduates, along with some of their parents and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.
(Related stories reported by Buffalo News, Elmira Star-Gazette, two stories: Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, WHEC-TV, WHEC-TV, WROC-TV, YNN, 13WHAM-TV, WSTM NBC 3 Syracuse, WETM NBC 18 Elmira)

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 4)
This year’s Skaneateles Festival opens with a free performance
One such concert on Aug. 9 combines vocal music by Donizetti, Barber and Bernstein with string quartets by opera composers Verdi and Puccini. The festival’s co-artistic director and cellist David Ying seems to see a special vitality in this programmatic juxtaposition. “We all know Verdi wrote amazing and beloved operas, but hardly anyone knows he wrote a string quartet,” says Ying, a member of the Ying Quartet, based at Eastman School of Music. “And then hearing it in the context of other Italian opera music and singing ... will hopefully make people realize the operatic aspects of a string quartet that he wrote.”

Sky and Telescope (August 5)
Subaru Sees New “Planet” Directly
Looming Uncertainties. Currently, the only way to determine the planet’s mass is by comparing its luminosity and age with models that predict how a giant planet cools after its formation. As it ages, a planet or brown dwarf should cool down and become dimmer in the near-infrared wavelengths Subaru observes. Less massive objects will generally cool faster. Eric Mamajek (University of Rochester) predicts that GJ 504 is a “Kraft break” star, with a mass between the slow-spinning G stars and the more massive, fast-rotating F stars. “The combination of metallicity, fast rotation, and bright absolute magnitude argues to me that it is probably a metal-rich F-type wolf in G-type sheep’s clothing,” he says.

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 27)
URMC Eyeing India Partnership
The University of Rochester Medical Center will bring its expertise to India with an agreement to help with training and other programs with one of that nation’s largest private hospital networks. A team of UR officials that includes Peter Robinson, chief operating officer for the medical center, is in the India southern city of Hyderabad to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Apollo Hospitals Group. (Also reported by Rochester Business Journal)

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 11)
Latino fraternity organizing medical mission trips
The call to give back can sometimes be a long-distance one. That call has been answered by the alumni of the Latino fraternity Lambda Upsilon Lambda (La Unidad Latina). The Lambdas organized a medical mission to the Dominican Republic from June 21 to 30 and have begun collecting donations for next year’s missions. “It’s hard to estimate the total because people would just show up when they heard there was a doctor, and entire families would come in at once,” says Dr. Claudia Ramirez of the University of Rochester. “We saw everything from babies to a 112-year-old woman.”

Rochester Democrat & Chronicle (August 15)
UR students creating new medical devices
The University of Rochester has started a program to bring together students and medical clinicians to develop new tools to improve medical care. “The University of Rochester Medical Center is a treasure trove of ideas,” said Greg Gdowski, executive director of the CMTI, a collaboration between the School of Medicine and Dentistry and the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. “There are 1,400 clinicians, all of whom likely have novel ideas based on what they do in their practices.”

WROC-TV (August 12)
City and U of R Extend Career Fair Because of High Demand
The City of Rochester and the University of Rochester are holding the Career Fair August 22 and 23. Because of popular demand, the event is
now open on August 21 as well. The goal is to boost employment among minority city residents, a group the city says faces higher unemployment rates than non-minorities in the suburbs.

*Reason Magazine* (August 14)
How Government Violates the Fourth Amendment Rights of Renters
In Rochester, New York, renting rather than buying a home is enough cause for a search warrant. “My clients are stunned that they have to fight for their right to privacy,” says Michael Burger, who represents the Nelson family, Jill Cermak, and another renter. “The government has made it so that a whole class of people have no way to prevent a search of their home.” Dan Wang studies economics and philosophy at the University of Rochester.

*WXXI* (August 14)
ITT Exelis and UR Team up on Optics
Rochester company ITT Exelis cut the ribbon on a new, cutting edge piece of equipment Wednesday. The company has been given a $2 million optics polishing machine that generates industrial lenses with virtually no imperfections. The MRF machine was purchased for Exelis by the University of Rochester, and many of the lenses it makes will be going back to the school’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics. (Also reported by Brighton Pittsford Post)

*Rochester Business Journal* (August 27)
UR/RIT/NTID Jointly Train Deaf Scientists
The University of Rochester Medical Center will bring its expertise to India with an agreement to help with training and other programs with one of that nation’s largest private hospital networks. A team of UR officials that includes Peter Robinson, chief operating officer for the medical center, is in the India southern city of Hyderabad to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Apollo Hospitals Group.

*Science Careers* (August 22)
Postdoc Advancement: Marketing Your Value
“Everything we do as faculty requires communication skills,” stresses Wendi Heinzelman, dean of graduate studies and professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Rochester. “You can have the greatest idea but if you don’t know how to explain it, it will fall flat on its face.” The ability to convince others of the importance of your work and why they should engage you, either as an employer, research partner, funder, or mentor, is paramount. You should seek as many opportunities as possible to practice these skills.

*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* (August 23)
Obama’s college proposal received warmly by local educators
Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid at the University of Rochester, said Obama is right to demand more accountability. Much of what Obama wants to stress in rating colleges is what UR already does, said Burdick, who noted that last school year UR provided $104 million in need-based undergraduate scholarships. Burdick said the hardest part of Obama’s package might be measuring what is a successful outcome of a college education. “To say that outcome equals income ignores other things, such as good citizenship, being a healthy participant in your community, service to your community,” Burdick said. (Related stories reported by WROC-TV, Messenger Post Newspapers)

*WHEC TV-10* (August 29)
UR freshmen take part in 25th annual Wilson Day
They’re still new to the area, but hundreds of students from the University of Rochester’s freshman class spend the day making the Rochester area a better place. Students took part in the annual Wilson Day. They spread out across the city to work on different community service projects. (Also reported by YNN, WHAM 1180, Brighton-Pittsford Post)

*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* (August 11)
Gateways Music Festival celebrates African-American classical musicians
A multimedia presentation outlining the history of Africans and African-Americans in the classical world will be led at 2 p.m. Saturday at Hochstein Performance Hall, 50 N. Plymouth St., by Paul Burgett, vice president and assistant to the president and dean of students at the University of Rochester. Burgett, a trained musician, also teaches at UR and once headed the Hochstein school.

*Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* (August 28)
For young moms, a helping hand
More than three years have passed since Jackson, then 16 years old, was approached by a social worker
in Strong Memorial Hospital. She had just given birth to a baby boy, and almost immediately, she was encouraged to enroll in the Building Healthy Children program. The program, headquartered at the University of Rochester’s Mt. Hope Family Center, addresses the needs of low-income, high-risk young families and is aimed at decreasing the number of children involved in Child Protective Services while preventing more serious health and social issues from arising.

*Laser Focus World (August 9)*

INERTIAL-CONFINEMENT FUSION: 2014 laser fusion budgets: Rochester going up, Livermore down

Markups of the fiscal 2014 energy budget by the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees provided only a small amount of good news for laser-fusion labs. The panels boosted funding for the Omega laser at the University of Rochester (Rochester, NY) from the Obama Administration’s proposed level-funding of $60 million to either $66 million or $67 million (an uncertainty that must be resolved later). But they let stand a $50 million cut in the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) budget for the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Livermore, CA) to $329 million in 2014. The 2013 budget had been $379 million before sequesters. Office of Science funding for high-energy-density laboratory plasma experiments was also slashed.