

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, March 19, 2003

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**Victor Hatini, PhD, Appointed Assistant Professor of
Cell & Developmental Biology at the University of
Pennsylvania School of Medicine**

(Philadelphia, PA) – **Victor Hatini, PhD**, has joined the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Hatini's research addresses the underlying mechanisms responsible for excessive growth of cellular tissues covering various parts of the body, including lymph and blood vessels, as well as the interior of the heart. To solve this, he is using molecular genetic approaches in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* to define molecular pathways that simultaneously affect epithelial architecture and cell proliferation. Dr. Hatini has been published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Developmental Biology*, *Development*, *Molecular Cell*, *Developmental Dynamics* and *Progress in Clinical and Biological Research*.

He earned his Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Biology (cum laude) from Hebrew University in Israel and his Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Molecular Genetics and Virology from the Weizmann Institute of Science, also in Israel. Dr. Hatini earned his PhD in Molecular Biology from Cornell University Medical College in New York City. He performed fellowships at the Weizman Institute of Science, Cornell University Medical College (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Division), Rockefeller University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hatini is a member of The Genetic Society of America and was last invited to lecture at The Joseph Stokes Jr. Research Institute at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, on the topic, 'Transcriptional control of epidermal patterning and epithelial morphogenesis.'

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**Phong T. Tran, PhD, Named Assistant Professor of
Cell & Developmental Biology at the University of
Pennsylvania School of Medicine**

(Philadelphia, PA) – **Phong T. Tran, PhD**, has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Dr. Tran obtained his BA in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, and earned his PhD in Cell Biology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He completed postdoctoral fellowships at Columbia University in New York City, and at the Institut Curie in Paris, France. Dr. Tran was also a Visiting Scientist at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, during the summer months of 1994 to 2001.

His current research focuses on the architectural dynamics of the cytoskeleton and cellular pattern formation. He has been published in numerous journals including the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the *Journal of Cell Science* and the *Journal of Cell Biology*. Dr. Tran is a member of the American Society of Cell Biologists and most recently received the 2003 Optical Imaging Association Award for Achievement in Optical Microscopy by a Young Investigator presented by the Microscopy Society of America.

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**For Immediate Release
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Penn Health System Kicks-Off Black History Month with the Host of BET Tonight

(Philadelphia, PA)—The **University of Pennsylvania Health System** (UPHS) will begin Black History Month with lecturer, commentator, author and host of *BET Tonight*, **Tavis Smiley**, on **Friday, February 2nd**. He will be welcomed at Penn Tower Hotel, (Salons A & B—Bridge Level) 34th & Civic Center Blvd., Philadelphia, from noon – 1:00 p.m.

A book signing will immediately follow the kick-off event.

Smiley is one of the fastest moving and most listened to African-Americans on television. A graduate of Indiana University, he previously worked as an aide to Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley. He has also provided political analysis on *C-SPAN*, *Politically Incorrect* and *World News Tonight* with Peter Jennings.

His lectures and books attract attention across the country. His new book, "*How to Make Black America Better*," includes essays of widely known figures such as attorney Johnny Cochran, athlete Shaquille O'Neal and poet Sonia Sanchez, who address the challenges, opportunities and issues of African-Americans.

UPHS's celebration of Black History Month will continue through the month of February with the following events:

- **Thursday, Feb. 8**—11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.—HUP Cafeteria
Soul Food Lunch, Black Trivia Contest and Raffle

more...

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- **Friday, Feb. 16**—10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.—Mezzanine Level, Ravdin/Silverstein Buildings
Healthy Living: Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health
Free Health Screenings
- **Friday, Feb. 23**—5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.—Medical Alumni Hall, One Maloney Building
Gospelrama, “Be Encouraged”

Penn Health System or University identification is required for admission.

Editor's Notes: Press identification is necessary for admission!

Please call Kellye Fox at 215.615.3353 if you plan to attend any of these functions.

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