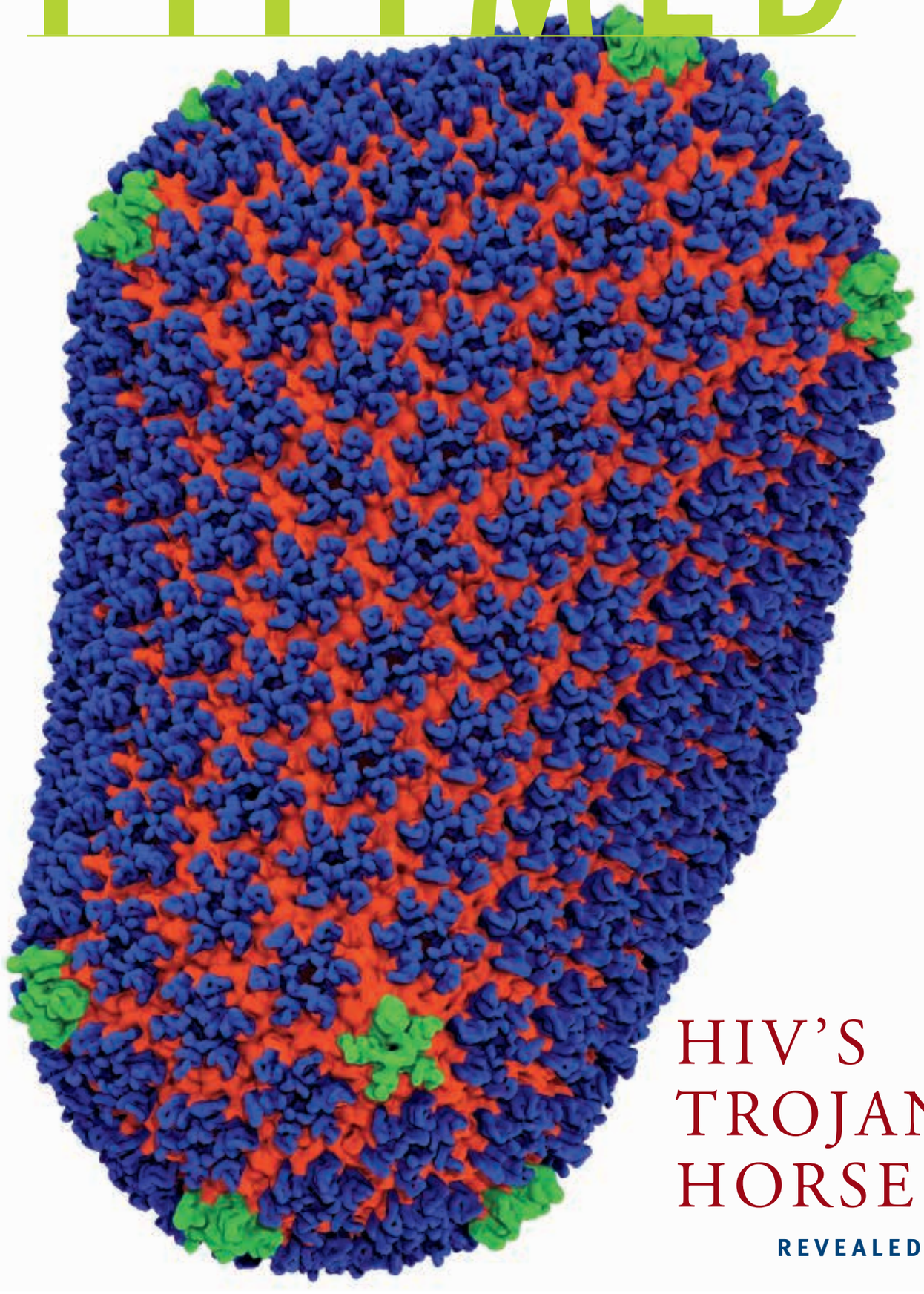
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | WINTER 2013/14

PITTMED



HIV'S TROJAN HORSE REVEALED

RECENT MAGAZINE HONORS

IABC Pittsburgh Golden Triangle Award of Excellence, Publication Design—Magazines (E. Cerri)

IABC Pittsburgh Golden Triangle Award of Excellence, Interactive Media Design (E. Vitone, "Tinnitus: A Pitt Medcast")

IABC Pittsburgh Golden Triangle Award of Honor, Magazines

2013 Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, Golden Quill Award, Health/Science/Environment Article or Series—Magazines (J. Miksch, "The Meaning of Life, Told with 13 Polypeptides")

CORRESPONDENCE

We gladly receive letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

Pitt Med
400 Craig Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: 412-624-4152
Fax: 412-624-1021
E-mail: medmag@pitt.edu
pittmed.health.pitt.edu

For address corrections, or to change your print/online subscription preferences:

***Pitt Med* Address Correction**
ATTN: Andre Burton
M-200K Scaife Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
Phone: 412-648-9090
E-mail: medalum@medschool.pitt.edu



MORE WOW!

For many years, the *Pitt Med* Web site has been utilitarian. Our comrades on Pitt's Web team just made it a heck of a lot better. More interactive! Shape-shifting depending on your device! Prettier! A nice new home for our Pitt Medcasts! It's now live. Check us out at pittmed.health.pitt.edu.

And, between issues, look to our Twitter feed for the scoop from the School of Medicine and the world of science at large.

@PittMedMag

CALENDAR

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

ALUMNI RECEPTION
FEBRUARY 19
Palm Beach, Fla.

WINTER ACADEMY
FEBRUARY 21
Naples, Fla.
www.winteracademy.pitt.edu

MEDICAL ALUMNI WEEKEND 2014
MAY 16–20
Reunion Classes:
2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, 1984,
1979, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954

SENIOR CLASS LUNCHEON (ALUMNI WELCOME)
MAY 16, 11 a.m.
Campus View Club, Peterson Events Center

OPENING RECEPTION
MAY 16, 6 p.m.
Heinz History Center

SCOPE AND SCALPEL PRODUCTION
MAY 16, 7:30 p.m.
MAY 18, 2 p.m.
Venue TBA
For information:
www.scopeandscalpel.org

CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST WITH THE DEAN AND PHILIP S. HENCH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD PRESENTATION
MAY 17, 9 a.m.
11th Floor Conference Center, Scaife Hall

WISER 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
MAY 17, 12 p.m.
WISER, 230 McKee Place

REUNION DINNER GALA
MAY 17, 6 p.m.
Fox Chapel Golf Club, 426 Fox Chapel Road

CLASS OF 2014 COMMENCEMENT
MAY 19, 4 p.m.
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum

Unless otherwise noted, for more information: Pat Carver 412-648-9059, cpat@pitt.edu. To find out what else is happening at the medical school, go to health.pitt.edu and maa.pitt.edu.

KIDS' STUFF!



CORBIS



FOR REAL! TWEEN SCIENCE.

Kids and dogs have a lot in common: they're cute, like to play, and have better hearing than adult humans. Teens and younger kids can hear frequencies up to about 20 kHz. But by the time we are 30 or so, most humans can't hear frequencies much above 14 kHz. In fact, some crafty kids have found a way to stealth-text by using high-frequency ring tones that adults can't hear! Why the difference? We actually start to lose our ability to hear higher frequencies during adolescence. Inside our ears are tiny sound sensors called hair cells (so named because they are long and thin, like hairs). Sound waves cause air pressure to change inside our ears, bending the hair cells, which transmit the sensation to the brain. If the sound is too loud, the drastic change in air pressure can bend the hair cells too far and kill them. Different hair cells are sensitive to different frequencies. Once hair cells die, you lose the ability to hear that frequency forever—mammal hair cells cannot regenerate. For some reason, hair cells that detect higher frequencies seem to die young. It's not clear why this is, but perhaps they are more fragile than hair cells that detect lower frequencies. Hearing loss may be inevitable, but to prolong your high-frequency advantage over the geezers, consider keeping the volume below a dull roar.

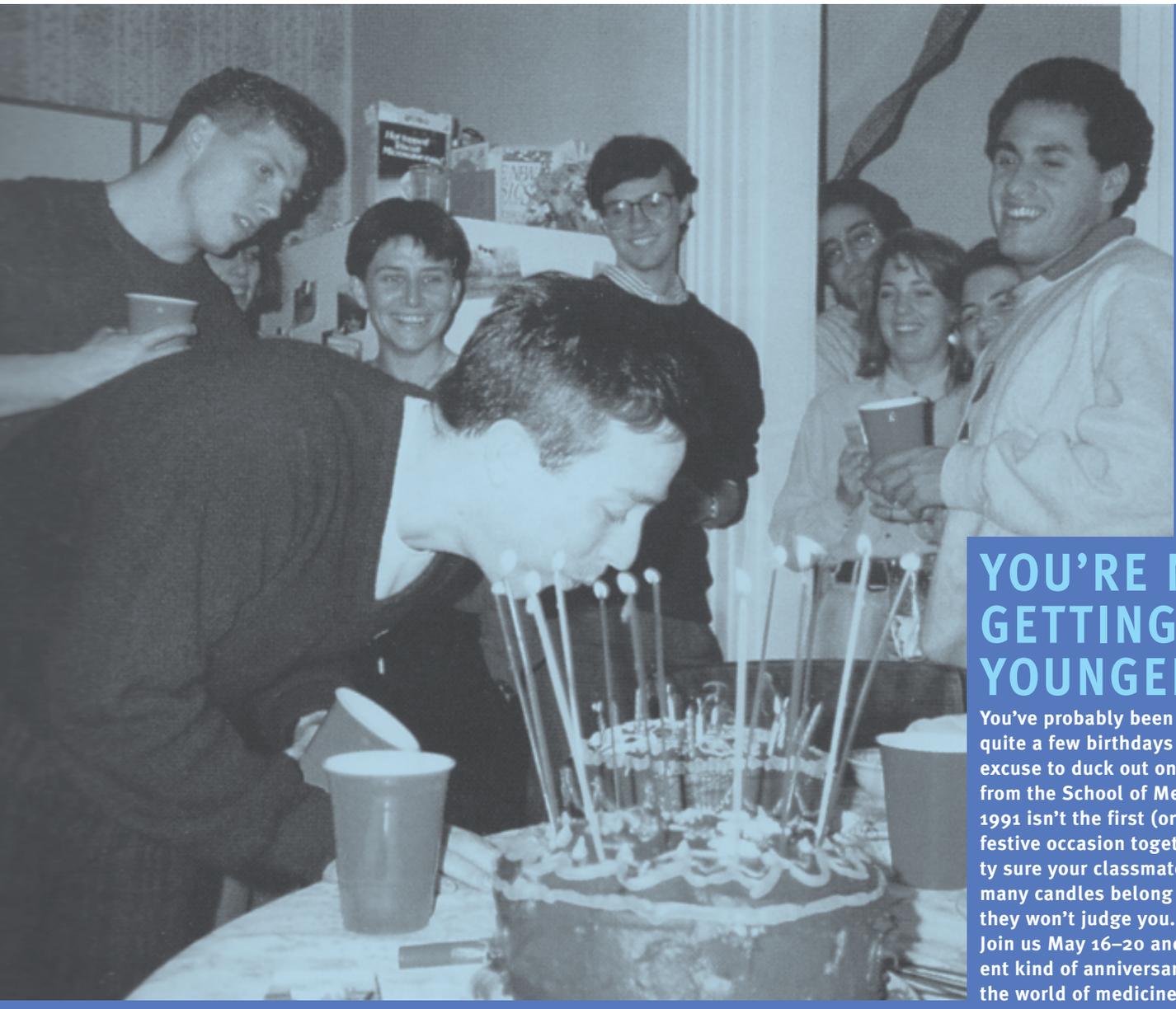
—Jenifer Lienau Thompson

Kudos to Pitt med prof Karl Kandler (tuned in to all things auditory) for bending our ears about hair cells. For more kid-friendly science, visit How Science Works at **www.howscienceworks.pitt.edu**

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SUITE 401 SCAIFE HALL
PITTSBURGH, PA 15261

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 511



1991 *HIPPOCRATEAN*

YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER

You've probably been "turning 30" for quite a few birthdays now, but that's no excuse to duck out on reunion. This group from the School of Medicine's Class of 1991 isn't the first (or last) to mark a festive occasion together. And we're pretty sure your classmates know just how many candles belong on your cake. But they won't judge you. So don't blow it! Join us May 16–20 and celebrate a different kind of anniversary—your entry into the world of medicine.

2004 10th Reunion
1999 15th Reunion
1994 20th Reunion
1989 25th Reunion
1984 30th Reunion
1979 35th Reunion
1974 40th Reunion
1969 45th Reunion
1964 50th Reunion
1959 55th Reunion
1954 60th Reunion

For information, contact Pat Carver at 412-648-9059, cpat@pitt.edu.