



A Message from the Dean

Welcome to the College of Medicine's online *Alumni Magazine*! As physicians and educators, we are continually called upon to address long-standing challenges and solve life-threatening problems. In the trenches, it can seem that once one difficulty is vanquished, others quickly appear in its place. It is important, therefore, to pause and note where a job is well done, where someone's life has been improved by our care, research, and sheer refusal to surrender. This issue highlights individuals, offices, and teams that are incredibly nimble and forward thinking when it comes to solving systemic and life-changing problems. These people can not only see around the curve in the road, they know how to navigate it.



*Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.
Interim Dean and Senior Vice President of
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The Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice, the HIV clinical program of the Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine at the College, is an example of an inspired, mission-driven organization. Patients – some of whom are the most ostracized and isolated members of our community – are medically and emotionally supported, regardless of their ability to pay. The Partnership is attempting to solve a great problem through its patient care and clinical research.

Many medical schools are also being confronted by the challenge of a homogeneous applicant pool. The College of Medicine, however, has been nationally recognized for its ability to attract and retain a wide range of medical school candidates. Interestingly, this forward-thinking process draws directly on our educational legacy and mission. The “new face of diversity” in medical school has historic precedent at Drexel.

Similarly, an article about the Office of Professional Studies in the Health Sciences offers a surprising look into a diverse and ever-evolving department. The office is highly responsive to changing educational demands in the expansive field of health sciences. It also attracts and supports potential physicians who might not otherwise have the resources to enter medical school.

Several individuals who exemplify inspired problem solving are also profiled. Developmental pediatrician Catherine Nicolaidis, M.D., HU '84, has been nationally recognized for her work with the PANDAS disorder, giving real hope to desperate families. Likewise, William Schleyer, DU '73, Hon. '06, has identified a systematic healthcare problem and, through his acumen and generosity, is endeavoring to amend it. The student profiles also reveal what tenacity and talent can achieve.

I also would like to thank Richard V. Homan, M.D., who served as dean and senior vice president of health affairs for the College of Medicine since 2005. His leadership and dedication have been great assets to the College. He will be missed by his colleagues.

As always, we want to hear from you! Please let us know what aspects of Drexel University College of Medicine you would like to see us cover in future issues. What topics interest you? Whom and what would you like us to feature? In addition, we invite you to share your professional and personal stories with us. Graduates of the College of Medicine are spread throughout the globe and have touched many lives as physicians, researchers, and professionals in the health sciences. When you read the online *Alumni Magazine*, we want it to instill pride in our achievements and in the more than 160-year history underlying Drexel University College of Medicine. We look forward to the future with excitement and the greatest of expectations.

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