



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012

Vol. 1, No. 2

Global Health – Give and Learn

Following a doctor into rural Cameroon, setting up a makeshift clinic from scratch every weekend, helping people correct their vision by choosing a pair that “seems to work” from a pile of donated eyeglasses. What U.S. medical student wants to spend a summer like that? At Drexel there have been a couple of dozen so far, and they inspire the next group with the stories they bring back.

Drexel medical students began making the trip to Cameroon in the summer of 2009, when several rising second-year students spent a month working there. Dr. John Swaney, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, had inspired some students in his nutrition class when he talked about his own experience in Cameroon, and later put them in touch with Dr. Georges Bwelle, a miracle-worker of sorts, or at least a local hero.

Bwelle, a surgeon at the Central Hospital of Yaounde in Cameroon, leads the weekly trips into the bush under the auspices of Ascovime, an agency he founded to facilitate access to healthcare and education. The engines of Ascovime are mainly people and ideas; financially it runs on a shoestring. Bwelle works with a core group of about 10 Cameroonians who donate their time, supplemented by volunteers like the Drexel students. He offers a place to stay for about \$130 a month. The students bring medical supplies and contribute to the cost of renting a van to drive to the villages (see *Bush Medicine Partnership*, page 15).

Natalie Beaty, a third-year medical student who has spent two summers in

Cameroon, says it has been a life-changing experience. She was busy making different plans for the summer after first year – plans that involved learning Spanish – when she overheard some students talking about Cameroon. She did not want to go to a French-speaking country, but something piqued her interest. Then she heard about Dr. Bwelle.

“I wanted to meet him,” Beaty says. “Here he works full-time in the hospital, he’s a teacher, he also does surgeries, and he makes these trips every weekend. I wanted to know what drove him, where he got his energy.” On the ground in Cameroon, she found the reality, especially the frenetic clinic weekends, even more amazing.

Thursday night, the team packs the medicines. Friday they travel. When they arrive in a village, often by night, they first meet all the chiefs. The people have been waiting a long time. Sometimes the women of the village have made a feast. Sometimes there is a band or drummers. The next morning, when the volunteers arise at 6 or 7, people are in line to be seen. They will wait all day if necessary.

The clinic offers medical consultations and dentistry. If a lab assistant is available, there is a rudimentary laboratory. Sometimes an ophthalmologist is along on the trip. At night, Bwelle performs from 10 to 30 surgeries, removing small tumors and repairing hernias, some of which have waited 5 to 10 years for attention.



10 New medical students get white coats



12 Student wins pre-doctoral fellowship



18 Alumni are going places



Drexel medical students and friends in Cameroon.

Contents

Global Health — Give and Learn 1
Destination Excellence 3
Compliance & Privacy 10
White Coat Ceremony 11
Bush Medicine Partnership 15
Medical Assistant Pipeline Program 16
Golfing for Good 17

NEWS & EVENTS

Simulation, Woman One, Best of Philly . . 6-9

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Accomplishments 12-15

ALUMNI NOTES

Class notes, nominations 18-22

Calendar 13

In Memoriam 21

pulse

Pulse, a publication for students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Drexel University College of Medicine, is published six times a year by the Marketing & Communications Department
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Helping to Enhance Drexel's Global Impact

It is exciting to be part of a university with a strong commitment to global health. It is a value we hold dear. Many of our physicians – including Drs. Montgomery (OB/GYN), Reynolds (Medicine), and Weingarten (Surgery) to name just a few – have made a personal commitment to global outreach, donating their skills in the Dominican Republic, Nepal, and Haiti, time and again.



Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.

Our medical students, like others all over the country, are increasingly interested in and motivated to have opportunities in global health and international medicine.

Many of our students choose to pursue global health either during the summer or through the Educational Development and Growth Experience (EDGE), which allows a tuition-free year to pursue research, clinical or service projects. Two EDGE students have taken the opportunity to engage in international service work this year, one in East Timor and one in India.

To date, the student global health experience here has

been largely based on the students' own initiatives. They have really led the way with their enthusiasm and interest. I believe we ought to create a structural framework around that, with clear goals and evaluation criteria, similar to a study abroad program.

We need a mission that's clearly defined, one that stems from the wants of the community. We need to be doing something sustainable for the good of that society. At the same time, the experience should be truly transformative for the individual.

Our role is to help the students engage in these experiences in an organized and meaningful manner. They need to be prepared for what they will encounter – the language and culture. And we need to give them opportunities to gain that type of knowledge.

Above all, global health should be collaborative. These need ultimately to be Drexel experiences. I envision having interdisciplinary teams that would include faculty and students from several different schools and colleges. In the spirit of one University, I look forward to our working together on that.

“Students have really led the way with their enthusiasm and interest”

Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D.
Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs
Dean's Office: 215-762-3500

Destination Excellence: The Importance of Mentorship

For many underrepresented minorities, the path to a professional career is obscured by socioeconomic factors. Race, environment, and education are among the well-known elements that influence an individual's potential to enter a profession and earn a good living. There are other forces, however, that can play just as significant a role – one of them is mentorship. Imagine being stranded on a deserted road late at night. There is a police station only a mile away, but within that mile is a dense, dark forest filled with creeks, boulders, insects, and a variety of wild animals. Although it is only a mile to the station, this is undoubtedly a terrifying trip to make. Now, imagine finding yourself on a well-lit, gated path. The trip is no longer as frightening. This, in essence, is mentoring. Mentoring provides an established path through an otherwise chaotic and scary aspect of life.

When people from impoverished neighborhoods achieve a certain level of success, it is uncommon for them to remain in those same neighborhoods as residents. This “deserted road” that many of our minority youth face results in part from the lack of easy access to professionals who can serve as mentors. Many of our youth feel they have to create their own path, which can be a difficult and terrifying process, if not doomed to failure. An appropriate mentor eliminates the need to reinvent the wheel and helps to facilitate transitions.

The Student National Medical Association at Drexel University College of Medicine recognizes the need for mentors. We have established the DUCOM Mentoring and Pipeline Program at New Media Technology Charter School, which is a predominately African American high school in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia. The purpose of the program is to foster the development of future leaders through academic excellence, professionalism, and integrity. We offer free tutoring and partnered mentor-mentee groups with our members. The students will be given the opportunity to tour the medical campus and participate in monthly professional development workshops that include topics such as personal essay writing and interviewing etiquette. The ultimate goal is to expose the high school students to careers in health and medicine, while assisting them in developing the critical skills they need for the professional world. We are all excited to begin building relationships with the students, parents and staff at New Media. As the saying goes, “It takes a team to educate a child.”

— Maurice D. Hinson

Maurice D. Hinson, a second-year medical student, is the executive director of the DUCOM Mentoring and Pipeline Program (adviser: Sherita Glenn) and the political advocacy liaison of the Student National Medical Association Region 8.



The SNMA executive board (l-r): Katrina Castille, Angelica Johnson, Danielle Williams, Maurice D. Hinson, Ruby Oluronbi, Funsho Adekunle, Stephany Gabaud, Amber Peterson.

The EDGE

Lauren Choi, a third-year medical student, is in Dili, the capital of East Timor, where she divides her time between clinic and missionary work. She learned about the opportunity through her church, which has about 50 resident missionaries in East Timor from the United States, Korea, and Central Asia. Joyce Varkey, a fourth-year medical student, is working in India under the auspices of Cross Cultural Solutions and Child Family Health International. She lives with housemates in an apartment provided by CCS. Both students are taking a year out from school for a year in service, through the College of Medicine's Educational Development and Growth Experience (EDGE).



Lauren Choi

"I am working at the Bairo Pite clinic for about 4 hours every weekday. I start each morning by going on rounds with Dr. Daniel Murphy, an American physician who started the clinic in 1999. Rounds go to all the wards, starting in maternity, then to the tuberculosis ward, then to the general inpatient ward, and then to the malnutrition ward.

"After rounds, Dr. Dan sees the outpatients. Sometimes I shadow him; other times, I do administrative work, research patients' conditions, or find nurses to assist. On any given day, there are around 50 inpatients and anywhere from 50 to 200 outpatients. Since it is a free clinic, the budget is very tight. I find myself searching for instruments that would be ubiquitous in the United States. Things like EKG machines, sphygmomanometers, otoscopes are hard to track down. If I am lucky enough to find these instruments, they often need repair. Last week we ran out of aspirin and clindamycin, but luckily I was able to get both donated from another hospital.

"I did not anticipate being involved in missionary work, but by the time I was finishing my second year, I really felt the need to take a break from school, so when the opportunity to come to Timor Leste presented itself, I took it and I'm so grateful that I did. I want to come back to do medical missions after graduating."

Global Health

• *continued from the cover*

Much of what the medical students do is very practical. They help set up and run the clinic, which is usually outside. Everyone helps with the pharmacy, counting and bagging pills. They assist wherever they are needed. And while they contribute, the students learn.

"Working in this low-resource setting, you look at how people make do," Beaty says. "There might be one stethoscope between four doctors. You think, 'Oh, it's terrible that they don't have these resources,' but it's not really that way. In Cameroon, doctors sit down and interview the patient. Often, they can just look at the patient and make a diagnosis. It's a whole different skill set."

Now, as a third-year student, she reflects that those skills can also be the cornerstone of good medicine at home. On a pediatrics rotation here this year, the attending (who did not know what the young patient had) led students in observing the toddler and talking with his parents. The team correctly diagnosed pneumonia without ever touching the patient.

Before her first trip to Cameroon, Beaty had read a lot about tropical diseases and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. She was intellectually prepared for the poor health of the population. She planned and led a study during the trip that tested for anemia as a measure of health status in three communities (see bushmedicinepartnership.org/research). Still, it was shocking to find that the children in one village had such severe anemia that they would have been given transfusions if they were in a U.S. hospital.

"Life can be difficult anywhere," Beaty says. "There are a lot of impoverished areas right here in Philadel-





Justin Lingel (standing left) is president of the Cameroon Club at the College of Medicine.

phia. But a critical difference between here and there is the lack of basic resources like energy, water, and medical care. Going to Cameroon is life-changing because you know about poverty and lack of infrastructure, but when you are there, you see there is no electricity at night. The people have to go get their water. The children go for the water, and it's a treacherous walk downhill. And then the water isn't clean. Water – this life-sustaining thing!"

Early on, Beaty, who was interested in diarrheal diseases, thought the students could ask people to boil water and wash their hands. "But how?" she says. "If I ask someone to boil water for 15 minutes, am I keeping a child from school? Would they have to burn wood they need for something else?" Then she heard about the tippy tap project – a simple set-up for washing hands with very little

water [www.drexelmed.edu/tippytap]. "The people have to invest some time, they have to get a little more water, but it's something communities can build together. The best part is, it's completely free knowledge."

This year, Beaty brought a GPS to Cameroon so that the students could mark waypoints where they introduced the tippy tap. She and those before her have laid the groundwork for other students to continue their initiatives. Beaty herself will return in the next couple of years to provide more education for teachers on the tippy tap project. She is currently developing a manual for schoolteachers with basic sanitation and hygiene information specific to the areas in Cameroon where the students work. She will also pass her knowledge, and passion, on to the next group.

For more information, visit www.ducombushmedicine.com.



Joyce Varkey

"I wanted to take this year off to experience life on my own – away from school, the hospital life, etc. I had always wanted to study abroad during undergraduate school, but due to the rigorous nature of my accelerated B.S./M.D. program, I was not able to do so. This was my last chance to spend a sizable chunk of time away from home, in a new environment. I also wanted to go back to my 'family home' – my parents were born in India and lived there until their mid-20s, and I've visited my extended family in South India every other year for a month at a time. This was my way to get closer to my heritage, and learn the language (I am fluent in Malayalam, my mother tongue, but not Hindi).

"I started planning my year off by searching through the American Medical Student Association catalog of international health opportunities. I also happened to know of Cross Cultural Solutions and Child Family Health International by word of mouth.

"I am doing basic medical checkups for the pediatric population. Every day I go to different schools that are run by the Indian NGO Vidya, and see the children who attend. I am also working at the Mother Teresa Home for the Destitute and Dying, spending time with the residents and helping the nuns with the tasks of running the institution."

Simulation Faculty Take Premiere Facilitation Training

Healthcare simulation faculty at Drexel spent four days last summer immersed in the Harvard Simulation Course, learning how to facilitate simulation. Described as “one of the premiere courses in the country” by Dr. Kathleen Ryan, director of medical simulation at the College of Medicine, the program was brought to campus as an interdisciplinary event co-sponsored by the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing & Health Professions. A total of 20 Drexel educators from the two colleges participated, including members of the medical school’s Departments of Emergency Medicine, Medicine, and Obstetrics & Gynecology. “Now we probably have more faculty trained in simulation facilitation than any other place in the city,” Ryan said.

Class members and others who filled the stairs for a photo included Adi Babalola, Michael Conti, John Cornele, Walter Eppich (instructor), John Erbayri, Dana Farabaugh, Eric Farabaugh, Sandra Friedman, Janet Fitzpatrick, Sharon Griswold, Daniel Guilfoil, Kim Montgomery, Owen Montgomery, Kate Morse, Nina Multak, Grace Ng, Jessica Parsons, Mike Pasirstein,



Michael Podolsky, Srikala Ponnuru, Dan Raemer, Kathy Ryan, Hans Schlect, Dario Torre, and (missing) Aruni Jayatilleke.

For information about the College of Medicine’s simulation center, visit www.drexelmed.edu/SimCenter.

Research Gets the Governor’s Ear

The life science industry has a significant economic impact in Pennsylvania. Currently, it employs more than 79,000 Pennsylvanians directly and generates \$7.2 billion in annual wages. The Pennsylvania Life Science Leadership Advisory Council, with representatives from every segment of the life science community, was convened last year to create a plan for advancing the life sciences in the Commonwealth over the next decade.

Kenny Simansky, Ph.D., vice dean for research, is a member of the council, which spent six months collaborating on an economic development strategy and recommendations for the governor (the council included representatives from Governor Corbett’s administration). Their report, *Life Science Leadership for the Next Decade*, envisions “a decade of opportunity ... during which entrepreneurship is fostered, ... overall wages and jobs grow by 30 to 50 percent [and] medical innovation accelerates.” The report is available at www.pabio.org/advocacy.



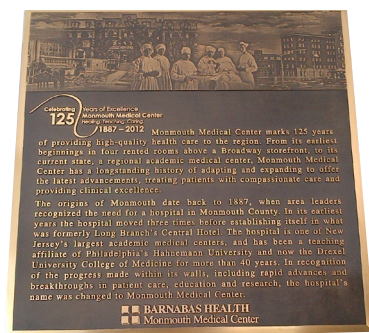
Dr. Kenny Simansky (back right) attended a legislative meeting with State Senate President Pro Tempore Joseph Scarnatti (standing) when the Life Science Leadership report was released.

St. Christopher's Receives Award for Excellence in Life Support

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children has received the Award for Excellence in Life Support from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization, an international consortium dedicated to the development of novel therapies for support of failing organ systems. The primary mission of the organization is to maintain a registry of the use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) in its centers. ECMO – the use of a cardiopulmonary bypass circuit for temporary life support for patients with potentially reversible cardiac or respiratory failure – provides a mechanism for gas exchange, as well as cardiac support, thereby allowing for recovery from existing lung or cardiac disease. There are 156 active ECMO centers internationally, and St. Christopher's is one of only 48 to have received this award. Drs. Daniel H. Conway, assistant professor of pediatrics, and Matthew Moront, assistant professor of pediatrics and surgery, are the medical director and surgical director, respectively, for ECMO at St. Christopher's. Keeping it all in the family, Dominick M. Carella, R.N., MSN, an ECMO coordinator, is a graduate of Drexel's College of Nursing & Health Professions, and his colleague Christine Small, R.N., is currently enrolled.

Monmouth Medical Center Honors Drexel Connection

As part of the festivities celebrating its 125th anniversary, Monmouth Medical Center, a regional medical campus of the College of Medicine, unveiled a plaque on September 12 that commemorates Monmouth's history and honors the College of Medicine's role in its evolution. The text says, in part, "The hospital is one of New Jersey's largest academic medical centers, and has been a teaching hospital of Philadelphia's Hahnemann University and now the Drexel University College of Medicine for more than 40 years." Monmouth Medical Center was among the 2012-13 Best Hospitals in the New York metro area and New Jersey rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*.



O'Donnell Named Trustee Emerita

Donna Gentile O'Donnell, Ph.D., has been named trustee emerita of Drexel University College of Medicine. O'Donnell was appointed to the board in 2003. During her active tenure, she served in many key roles, including membership on the Academic Affairs and Marketing & Development committees. As the former president of Franklin Health Trust, O'Donnell was instrumental in leading the negotiations for the merger of the foundation's assets into the College of Medicine. Later, she co-chaired the national search that resulted in the appointment of Dr. Richard V. Homan as dean and senior vice president for health affairs. In 2005, O'Donnell was appointed to the Drexel University Board of Trustees, where she served on many committees, including Academic Affairs and the Drexel Network Committee. In addition to her emerita position at the College of Medicine, O'Donnell continues to serve the University as a member of the Law School Board for the Earle Mack School of Law.



Convenient Care Center Named Best of Philly

The Drexel Convenient Care Center in The Shops at Liberty Place has been named Best of Philly 2012 Medi-Clinic. The center is staffed by board-certified nurse practitioners who provide a variety of non-emergency medical services, including flu shots, in a walk-in setting. As the citation noted: "Two things guaranteed to make you feel better: (1) No appointments needed. (2) Leaving with your prescription in hand." Learn more at www.drexelmedicine.org/cc.



Drexel President John Fry and University Chairman Richard Greenawalt presented Dr. O'Donnell with a tribute plaque and a Drexel Dragon.

College Exports Communication Skills

An international team of physician educators is collaborating in the adaptation of 12 core segments from the College of Medicine's DocCom series into the German language. DocCom is a web-based resource comprising 42 media-rich modules developed to enhance the teaching of healthcare communication skills. The original English-language series, a joint production between the College and the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare, is currently in use by more than 14,000 trainees in medical schools and residency programs around the world. (Four demo modules are available free of charge at www.webcampus.drexelmed.edu/doccom/user/.)



Dr. Christof Daetwyler is managing the production of DocCom Deutsch.

more, visit www.webcampus.drexelmed.edu/doccom/deutsch.

Christof J. Daetwyler, M.D., associate professor of family medicine, is the principal investigator for DocCom Deutsch. A Swiss-based Novartis foundation has donated approximately \$368,000 for the series, which will be produced at the University of Berne's Institute for Medical Education. The modules, to be written by German-speaking faculty, will feature videos with experts and actors who are at home in the German language and culture. The modules are expected to be online in the fall of 2013. To learn



Trustee Gattinella Appointed CEO of DoubleVerify

College of Medicine Trustee Wayne Gattinella has been named CEO and director of DoubleVerify, based in New York City. An acknowledged leader in online media verification and performance, DoubleVerify validates more than 60 billion advertising impressions per month to ensure brand safety and effectiveness for the world's largest digital advertisers. Gattinella was previously CEO and president of WebMD, which evolved under his leadership into the most recognized brand of online health information, reaching more than 100 million unique users per month. He has served on the board of trustees of Drexel University College of Medicine since May 2009 and sits on the Finance Committee.

Institute for Women's Health and Leadership Welcomes Woman One Scholars

Four medical students entered the College of Medicine in August with an additional common bond – each is the recipient of an Institute for Women's Health and Leadership Woman One scholarship.

The newest Woman One Scholars are Angela Bryant from Columbus, Ohio; Christina Maddox, Sacramento, Calif.; Susan Ramirez, Philadelphia; and Ingrid Schmiederer, Bucks County, Pa.

Each spring, the Woman One award ceremony recognizes an outstanding woman leader in the Philadelphia community and raises funds for the Woman One scholarship, which was established to assist talented, underrepresented minority women medical students. The Woman One program has raised more than \$2.5 million in 10 years. In addition, several donors have created fully funded Woman One scholarships in the names of their organizations.

Bryant's scholarship is funded by proceeds from the Woman One program; Maddox is the St. Christopher's/Health Partners Woman One Scholar; Ramirez is the Sunshine Lady Woman One Scholar and Schmiederer is the W.W. Smith Woman One Scholar. Each woman will receive an \$80,000 scholarship over four years. In addition to the three named scholarships, AmeriHealth Mercy is supporting the tuition of fourth-year Woman One Scholar Donyell Doram.

The 11th annual Woman One award ceremony will take place on April 29, 2013, at the Rittenhouse Hotel in Philadelphia. For more information, visit www.drexelmed.edu/womanone.

At the White Coat Ceremony (l-r): Susan Ramirez; Barbara Schindler, M.D., vice dean for educational and academic affairs; Ingrid Schmiederer; Lynn Yeakel, director of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership; Christina Maddox; Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D., Annenberg Dean and senior vice president of medical affairs; and Angela Bryant.

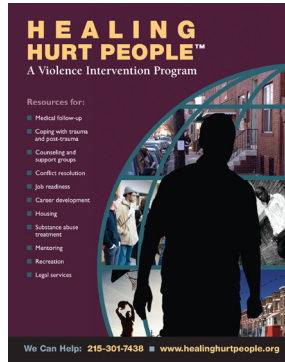


Conference Focuses on the Impact of Trauma on Victims of Violence

Understanding and addressing trauma and its impact on victims of violence was the focus of a two-day National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs conference hosted by Drexel University in August. NNHVIP, which currently has about 20 participating members, is headquartered in Philadelphia as a partnership between Drexel University, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. The conference brought together hospital and community-based healthcare and service providers, policymakers and researchers.

After introductory remarks by Theodore Corbin, M.D., associate professor of emergency medicine at the College of Medicine and medical director of the Healing Hurt People program, attendees heard from the conference's keynote speaker, Constance Rice, a lawyer and co-director of the Advancement Project, a multiracial civil rights organization.

Workshops and speakers covered a range of topics including trauma-informed care, workforce development,



and research and policy. Discussions also focused on strategies to address the psychological trauma of violence, which often goes unaddressed in health care settings. This trauma may impede the recovery process and can increase risk for both re-injury and retaliation.

During a lunchtime panel moderated by Maiken Scott, WHYY behavioral health reporter, community interventionists and their clients discussed what works and what doesn't when it comes to recovering from trauma.

One of the panelists, Tony Thompson, a community interventionist from Healing Hurt People, noted, "It's a people thing; you need to be real, listen, and build a connection with clients who have been through this kind of trauma."

For more information, visit www.nonviolenceandsocialjustice.org/Healing-Hurt-People/29.

Medical Student Policy Would Offer Childcare Services for Patients

Jason Woloski, a third-year Drexel medical student, is the author of a policy recently adopted by the Medical Student Section of the American Medical Association, *Implementation and Funding of Childcare Services for Patients*. The policy states: "AMA-MSS will ask the AMA to encourage primary care and emergency department settings, where feasible, to offer inexpensive or free childcare services to patients." (MSS Res 21, A-12)

In support of his policy proposal, Woloski cited research showing that 13 percent of women delay

medical care solely due to lack of childcare. In addition, childcare is intrinsically linked to several other reasons women delay medical care. Woloski said he became interested in the topic after doing a research project with Dr. Ana Núñez, director of the Women's Health Education Program. He noted that court systems and fitness centers are similarly decreasing barriers to attendance by offering childcare. In the healthcare setting, Woloski believes these services will benefit not only patients, but also physicians, who often have to battle the distractions and lack of patient attention related to children in the examination room.

Woloski's policy will now go in front of the "big house" – the AMA House of Delegates – to be considered for approval by the physicians. (Regardless of the outcome there, it will remain permanent policy in the Medical Student Section.)

Woloski is soliciting support from physician groups and specialty organizations for when the policy is heard at the AMA-HOD. For further information, please contact him at jrw93@drexel.edu.



Jason Woloski, Class of 2014

Compliance & Privacy

We Never Guess ... We Ask!

The tag line on this column leads new readers to ask a good question of the Compliance & Privacy Officer: What is it you hope the reader is not guessing about? We like to reconsider and answer this question in a fall column designed to welcome new readers and refresh the tenured Compliance & Privacy reader about guessing versus asking.



Edward Longazel
Chief Compliance
& Privacy Officer

The quick answer is that the Compliance & Privacy Office trusts that faculty, staff and students do not guess on issues of right versus wrong. A rapidly expanding set of policies and procedures exists for any institution with patients and insurance payments. Place the complexity of health care provision amidst the missions of education and research in an academic setting, and the regulatory environment becomes a challenging tangle of overlapping state, federal and accreditation agency regulations.

New federal requirements stipulate penalties for failure to provide and document quality care.

The College of Medicine community should not be guessing on questions regarding conflict of interest, the code of conduct, medical record documentation, encryption, or proper billing and reimbursement regulations. We should not be guessing on Human Resources policies regarding time-keeping, progressive discipline, or harassment. We should not be guessing about access, use or disclosure of patient information. Federal HIPAA Privacy and Security rules provide our patients guaranteed federal rights that charge us with specific responsibilities to protect medical information from improper disclosure or access. Penalties have risen to \$1.5 million per breach.

"We ask," in the second part of the tag line, can mean to pose that one nagging question or to request training on a topic or issue of particular interest or concern at a department, division or activity level. The Compliance & Privacy Office is eager and ready to give thoughtful consideration to questions and triage tough issues to experts with the appropriate administrative, legal, or risk management resources to answer the question when necessary.

An independent confidential hotline is also available to report sensitive issues and concerns when confidentiality is important.

We never guess ... we ask! Call anytime to ask a compliance or privacy question, or to request training: 215-255-7819

Confidential hotline: 866-936-1010





White Coat Ceremony

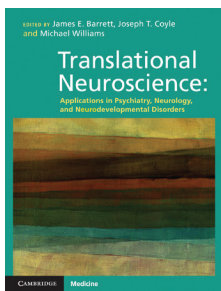
Drexel University College of Medicine welcomed 260 new medical students during the annual White Coat Ceremony on August 10. The Class of 2016 received their white coats and recited the Hippocratic Oath together for the first time, signifying their passage into the medical community. The Alumni Association gave the white coats for the class.





Erika Aaron, R.N., CRNP, MSN, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Disease & HIV Medicine, is a co-author of "Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for the Prevention of HIV Transmission to Women in the United States" in *AIDS* 2012, August 18 (epub ahead of print).

Drs. James E. Barrett, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, and director of the Drug Discovery & Development Program;



Michael Williams, adjunct professor in the department; and Joseph T. Coyle of Harvard Medical School are the editors of *Translational Neuroscience: Applications in Psychiatry, Neurology, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Randal R. Betz, M.D., clinical assistant professor of orthopedic surgery was one of 23 surgeons focusing on pediatric spine surgery who were featured by *Becker's Spine Review*. Betz is the chief of staff and medical director of the spinal cord injury unit at Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia.

Drs. Patrick DeMeo, Dennis J. Phillips, and Edward Snell, assistant professors, and **Robert Schilken**, instructor, all in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and affiliated with Allegheny General Hospital, serve on the medical team for the Pittsburgh Pirates. DeMeo, who chairs AGH's Department of Orthopedic Surgery, is the medical director for the Pirates and Snell is head physician.

April E. Fallon, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry, was selected to receive the Psychiatric Educator of Physicians Award of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society.



Festa



Meucci

Lindsay Festa, M.S., research assistant, and **Olympia Meucci, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor, both in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, are co-authors of "Effects of Opiates and HIV Viral Proteins on Neurons: The Role of Ferritin Heavy Chain and a Potential for Synergism" in the July 2012 issue of *Current HIV Research*.



Gadegbeku



Kutzler

Annette Gadegbeku, M.D., assistant professor, Department of Family, Community, & Preventive Medicine, and **Michele Kutzler, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, were selected to represent the College at the Association of American Medical Colleges Early Career Women Faculty Development Seminar, July 7-10.

Elizabeth Crowe, an M.D./Ph.D. candidate in the Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics Program, was awarded a Kirschstein-NRSA* individual pre-doctoral fellowship from the National Institute on Aging for a project entitled "Astrocyte Senescence and HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorders." The pre-doctoral fellowships named for Ruth L. Kirschstein, an icon at the National Institutes of Health and the first woman director of an NIH institute, are given by the participating institutes to applicants with the potential to become independent, highly trained physician-scientists.

Crowe's four-year fellowship involves the collaborative sponsorship of **Drs. Claudio Torres**, assistant professor, and **Christian Sell**, associate professor, in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and **Drs. Michael Nonnemacher**, assistant professor, and **Brian Wigdahl**, professor and chair, Department of Microbiology & Immunology.

During the summer, Crowe, who is currently working in the laboratory of Drs. Torres and Sell, received the Adelaide M. Delluva Student Travel Award from the Association for Women in Science, Philadelphia Chapter, to travel to Bregenz, Austria, for the 11th International Symposium

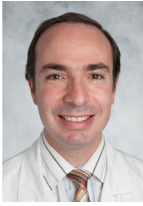
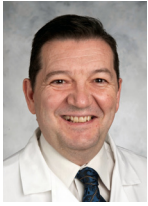


on Neurobiology and Endocrinology of Aging, held July 29-August 3. There she gave an oral presentation, "Astrocyte Senescence as a Component of Alzheimer's Disease." She is entering year 5 of the M.D./Ph.D. program overall, and 2012-13 will be her third year of research.

*Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD Fellows (F30)



Eugene Hong, M.D., Hamot and Sturgis Endowed Chair and Professor, and chief of the Division of Sports Medicine, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, and **Jocelyn (Joy) Ricasa, M.D.**, then a sports medicine fellow, presented "A Novel Treatment for Chronic Achilles Tendinopathy" at the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine in San Francisco in June 2012.



Drs. Agustin Legido, professor of pediatrics and neurology, and **Ignacio Valencia**, associate professor of pediatrics and neurology, were guest speakers at the 21st annual meeting of the Mexican

Society of Pediatric Neurology in Riviera Nayarit last May. Legido presented "Neonatal Seizures: What's New?" and "Mitochondrial Disease: Personal Experience with Epilepsy and Autism," and Valencia presented "Infantile Spasms: Advances in Treatment" and "Channelopathies in Epilepsy."



Frank J. Lexa, M.D., vice chairman and professor, Department of Radiologic Sciences, was invited to present several talks at the meeting of the Chinese Society of Radiology, the 19th Chinese Congress of Radiology, October 18-22, in Chengdu, including the keynote address, "Radiology 2022 – Visions of Our Future."



Deborah R. Lorber, assistant vice president, risk management, was an invited speaker at the American Conference Institute's Advanced Forum on Obstetric Malpractice Claims, held June 27 in Philadelphia. She served on the panel "The State of Obstetric Malpractice."



Vicki L. Mahan, M.D., pediatrics faculty member, is the first author of "Inhaled Carbon Monoxide Provides Cerebral Cytoprotection in Pigs" published in *PLoS One*, Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2012. She joined the Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in July.

Calendar

November

American Diabetes Month

4 **Reception at AAMC Annual Meeting**
San Francisco Marriott Marquis, 6-7:30 p.m.
For alumni, students, residents, faculty, and friends
Hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations
Register at www.drexelmed.edu/alumnievents

10 **Annual Day of Trauma**
Courtyard Marriott, 21 N. Juniper Street, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: Jennifer Sumter, 215-762-2580

Reception at American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency, Chicago, 6-7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Ophthalmology and Alumni Relations
Register at www.drexelmed.edu/alumnievents

14 **D. Walter Cohen, DDS, Lectureship in Diabetes**
New College Building, Geary Auditorium, 4 p.m.
"The Future of Diabetes Care in the 21st Century"
Presented by Mark H. Schutta, M.D.
Information: Joan Mitchell, 215-991-8324

14-16 **Vision 2020 Third Annual Congress**
Collaborating for Change
The Hilton Portland, Portland, Ore.
Information: 215-991-8190

15 **Reception for Dean Schidlow**
Toscani Events by ViVÁ, 6-8 p.m.
200 N. Park Road, Suite 401, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Register at www.Drexelmed.edu/alumnievents

27 **Reception for Dean Schidlow**
Best Western Premier Eden Resort & Suites,
6-8 p.m. 222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601
Register at www.drexelmed.edu/alumnievents

December

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

6 **Reception for Dean Schidlow**
Hilton Harrisburg, 6-8 p.m.
One N. Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Register at www.drexelmed.edu/alumnievents

2013 – Save the Date

Feb 16 **Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert**
Information: Star Tiko, cft27@drexel.edu

For more information about alumni events, please call 215-255-7345 or 866-373-9633 (toll free), or email medical.alumni@drexel.edu.

Daniel A. Mascarenhas, M.D., clinical professor of medicine, was named one of the 50 Most Influential Indian Americans by *SiliconIndia*. A cardiologist at Easton Hospital, he has sent more than 400 pacemakers and defibrillators to India over the last few years.



Amir Pelleg, Ph.D., adjunct professor, Department of Medicine, presented an invited talk, "ATP-test in the Management of Syncope: Basic Aspects of Data Interpretation," during the 18th World Congress of Cardiac Electrophysiology, Cardiosim

2012, held June 13-16, in Nice, France.



Vladimir Ratushny, Ph.D., a candidate in his eighth year of the M.D./Ph.D. program in molecular and cell biology and genetics, is the author of "The Children of Physicians," in the summer 2012 issue of *The Pharos*, the quarterly journal of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He discusses "the viewpoints of a small cohort of medical students upon entering the

profession of their parents." Here he is pictured with his mother and grandmother, Sophia Ratushny Sharfstein, M.D., and Bina Sharfstein, M.D.



The J.J. Noonan Scholarship Award of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science was presented to three students in the Master of Laboratory Animal Sciences program: (l-r) **Catrina Wong**, **Laura Turner**, and **Kyla Yeregui**. The awards, which are based on merit and achievement as well as need, were given by the Delaware Valley Branch of AALAS on September 12.

Residents Win Prizes

Three Drexel/Hahnemann psychiatry residents received prizes at the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society's Colloquium of Scholars: Annual Update in Psychiatry, held last spring at the Queen Lane Campus. In the case reports category, **Nivedita Mathur, M.D.**, won first prize for "Managing Neutropenia in Patients on Clozapine" and **Salman Majeed, M.D.**, won third prize for "Clozapine-Induced Gastrointestinal Hypomotility – A Clinical Challenge." **Liudmila Lobach, M.D.**, received first prize for the best cognitive behavior therapy write-up.



Mauricio J. Reginato, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, has been invited to serve as a member of the Peer Review Committee on Cell Structure and Metastasis of the American Cancer Society for the term January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2016.



Schidlow



Dovey

Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D., Annenberg Dean and professor of pediatrics, pharmacology and physiology, and medicine, is a co-author of the preface in *Enfermedades Respiratorias en Pediatría* (Santiago,

Chile: Mediterraneo, 2012). In addition, he and **Mark E. Dovey, M.D.**, associate professor of pediatrics, are co-authors of the chapter "Fibrosis Quística."

Schidlow was the keynote speaker at the Third Congress of the National Federation of Cystic Fibrosis of Spain, held June 22-25 in Madrid. Speaking in Spanish to health professionals, patients and parents, he presented the most recent therapeutic advances in his talk, "Cystic Fibrosis: A New Dawn."



Christine Stinger (right), senior veterinary technician and supervisor for ULAR at the Queen Lane Campus, received the Technical Service Award of the Delaware Valley Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science on September 12.



Vielsemeyer



Kutalek

Faiz Subzposh, M.D., a cardiovascular disease fellow; **Steven Kutalek, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, Division of Cardiology; and **Ole Vielsemeyer, M.D.**, assistant

professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, published the case report "Unusual Infection Related to an Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator in a Dog Breeder" in the July 3 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*.



Varjavand



Novack

Nielufar Varjavand, M.D., associate professor of medicine; **Dennis H. Novack, M.D.**, professor of medicine; and **Barbara A. Schindler, M.D.**, professor of psychiatry and vice dean

for educational and academic affairs, published "Returning Physicians to the Workforce: History, Progress and Challenges" in the spring 2012 issue of *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions* (epub June 25).



Schindler



Andrew S. Wechsler, M.D., professor and former chair, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, was the keynote speaker at the recent meeting of the Scandinavian Association of Thoracic Surgery held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The title of his lecture was "Surgical Ventricular Reconstruction in the Era of STICH and PCI: Shaping the Future."

The Bush Medicine Partnership

When Drexel medical students venture to Cameroon, they bring with them crucial medical supplies and funds for clinic transportation (students themselves pay for or find grants to fund their airfare). The first group who went managed to raise about \$3,000 from family, friends and faculty members, but **Cecilia Sorensen**, now a fourth-year student, quickly realized that this approach was not sustainable. She began to appeal to corporations to see if the group could get donations of vitamins and drugs.



"Everyone asked 'are you a 501c3?' So I decided to find out what we needed to start one," Sorensen says. Within a few months, she had founded the Bush Medicine Partnership. Now the group can fund-raise as a charitable organization. Better still, their status qualifies them to receive really large medical donations. Major pharmaceutical and medical supply companies donate products to MAP International, which acts as a clearinghouse for the donated materials. In Cameroon, Sorensen was able to observe first-hand what was needed. "I have a standing list, from sutures to drugs – the same things are always in demand," she says. MAP fulfills these requests, and each student lugs two huge duffel bags on the plane to Africa. The \$50 for checking a second bag is a small price for delivering free medical supplies into just the right hands.

Sorensen, whose experience with relief work in India drove her decision to become a doctor, has made the project sustainable in other ways too. She recruited Natalie Beaty, a year behind her in school, for the board of the nonprofit, and next year they'll bring on someone new. "I want to keep doing this," Sorensen says. "The idea is to keep the chain going. We have even helped groups from other schools."



Dr. Weingarten, Mr. Samuels, and James McGuire, DPM, Temple Foot & Ankle Institute.

Michael S. Weingarten, M.D., professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Vascular Surgery, and co-authors won the Clinical Research Poster Award for their abstract "Diffuse Near Infrared Spectroscopy Prediction of Healing in Diabetic Foot Ulcers: A Human Study and Cost Analysis" at the Symposium on Advanced Wound Care, held September 12-14 in Baltimore, Md.

The paper that was the subject of the abstract has been accepted for publication by *Journal of Wound Repair and Regeneration*. In addition to Weingarten, the authors include doctoral candidates Joshua A. Samuels and David Diaz, and Drs. Michael Neidrauer, Leonid Zubkov and the late Dr. Elisabeth Papazoglou, all in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems; and **Jane McDaniel, R.N., BSN**, and **Lori Jenkins, R.N., MSN**, Department of Surgery.

Medical Assistant Pipeline Is a Win-Win for Participants and Practices

It has been an especially hectic week at Drexel University's Student Health Center, where Shanita Singletary recently started her new job as a medical assistant. Bubbling over with enthusiasm, she proudly relates that she and her MA colleagues have given over 600 vaccines and allergy shots to students returning to campus for the fall quarter. That's one of many new skills she acquired through Drexel's Certified Medical Assistant Pipeline Program.



Sarah Steltz (left), who helped develop the pipeline program, with Shanita Singletary, a graduate.

Launched in January 2012, the six-month program provides paid technical skills training, professional development, mentoring by seasoned medical professionals, career and job coaching services, and a number of job opportunities through Drexel's College of Medicine. The program is a collaborative effort between Drexel and the West Philadelphia Skills Initiative, with generous support from the University City District and Philadelphia Works, Inc., which provided a wage subsidy of 50 percent during training. The opportunity was open to individuals who were unemployed, residents of West Philadelphia and certified medical assistants.

"Even though I was certified, finding a job was hard because most employers want someone with more experience," says Singletary. "Drexel was willing to teach and coach us while we were getting more experience, and give us a chance to get a permanent position with Drexel's College of Medicine. I knew this program would give me an advantage over other job candidates coming off the street."

Singletary notes that she has learned many impor-

tant skills that weren't covered in MA school, such as customer service and conflict resolution. "We also learned how to work with the elderly, as well as people with disabilities," she says. "They taught us exactly what we needed to know to begin working independently in the real world, including the IDX/Allscripts system and how to give allergy shots. I had to give one my first day on the job!"

The pipeline program has been a win-win for its ten graduates and the practices that have hired them, according to Meliton Villabona, administrator for the Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine. "With medical assistants receiving on-the-job training, the department has extra resources to get the work done and a strong pool of candidates to draw upon for hiring," he says, noting that his department hired two MAs from the program, including Singletary. "We are very pleased with their performance so far," he adds.

"We usually don't have the benefit of observing someone we plan to hire for four months," says Valerie McDaniel Packlaian, administrator for the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. "We knew that the two MAs who completed their on-the-job training in our area were very good fits. They were both quick studies, anxious to learn and took pride in their work. They now have full-time positions in our Women's Care Center and our Feinstein office."

"The skills of the pipeline medical assistants are unbelievably good," observes Liz McFarlane, office manager, Department of Medicine. "They got top ratings for high quality work from our doctors and senior medical assistants. In addition to technical skills, they are very good at handling customer service and issues involving emotional intelligence. This should really help in the area of employee retention, which has been a challenge for all the departments." McFarlane's department hired two of the three MAs who trained with them and found a position for the third in the Department of Surgery.

Many hiring managers want the pipeline program to run again, according to Sarah Steltz, Drexel Human Resources workforce development manager, who helped to develop it. "I've also had many requests from the West Philadelphia community, so we know that word has traveled through the neighborhood where a lot of talent is waiting to be tapped."

As for Singletary, her new job as a medical assistant may serve as a crucial stepping stone in her journey to the future. Buoyed by her success, she is thinking about enrolling in Drexel's physician assistant program next fall.

For more information, contact Sarah Steltz at ses89@drexel.edu.



Golfing for Good

The eleventh annual Stamatakis Golf Classic drew 140 golfers to the Philadelphia Cricket Club to support the scholarship fund in the name of Manuel N. Stamatakis, a trustee and the founding chair of the College. The scholarships benefit medical students with proven academic ability and financial need. This year 11 students were named Stamatakis Scholars. For more information, visit www.drexelmed.edu/golf2012.



'50s

Mark H. Wholey, M.D., HU '53 has been appointed director of Allegheny General Hospital's Center for Vascular and Neurovascular Intervention. He was previously affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

'60s

James O. Finnegan, M.D., HU '64 was one of two recipients of the 2012 Healing Spirit Award given by Lourdes Health Foundation. He is a surgeon with LMA Surgical Associates, an affiliate of Lourdes Health System, in Haddon Heights, N.J. He practices with his son, **Mathew J. Finnegan, M.D., HU '88**.

Stephanie A. Gregory, M.D., WMC '65 has been appointed to the scientific advisory board of the Lymphoma Research Foundation. She is the Elodia Kehm Chair of Hematology and professor of medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.



'70s

Robert Skversky, M.D., HU '70 was listed as a Top Doctor in the *Inland Empire* magazine of Southern California. His practice focuses on the medical treatment of overweight or obese patients.

F. Richard "Rick" Ervin, M.D., HU '71 medical director of informatics for McLeod Health, has received the 2012 William Stead Clinician Award from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association. He is the state TB medical consultant for South Carolina as well as the TB medical clinician for an area covering 13 counties. He maintains offices in Columbia and Florence.



Orie Kaltenbaugh, M.D., HU '72 an orthopedic surgeon, joined the staff of Fremont Area Medical Center at its new orthopedic specialty practice, Fremont Orthopedics in Fremont, Neb.

Thelma Korpman, M.D., HU '74 was listed as a Top Doctor in the *Inland Empire* magazine of Southern California. She is an anesthesiologist with Kaiser Permanente in Fontana, Calif.

Mariell Jessup, M.D., HU '76 associate chief-clinical affairs, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, and medical director of the Penn Medicine Heart and Vascular Center, was named president-elect of the American Heart Association.

Steven Farber, M.D., HU '77 is the author of the book *As Sick as Our Secrets* (Wasteland Press, 2012), a description of his recovery from addiction to prescription medications. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in health policy and management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dennis Saver, M.D., MCP '77 a family physician with Primary Care of the Treasure Coast, Vero Beach, Fla., was one of 82 physicians nationwide invited to the White House to be recognized as a leader in health information technology and to attend two meetings hosted by the Department of Health and Human Services. He serves as the chair of the Meaningful Use Subcommittee for the South Florida Regional Extension Center and is the past president of the Florida Association of Family Physicians.

Stephen Klasko, M.D., HU '78 was appointed to the board of directors of Fifth Third Bank. He is the dean of the Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida and CEO of USF Health. A former faculty member and vice dean at Drexel University College of Medicine, he served as interim dean from 2003 until he left to take the position at USF in 2004.

Pamela Marinchak, M.D., MCP '78 has joined the staff of Penn Foundation. Marinchak's post-graduate training included a fellowship in child psychiatry at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute.

John A. Handal, M.D., MCP '79 was listed in "21 Spine Surgeon Leaders for Non-Profit Hospitals" by *Becker's Spine Review*. He is chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and director of spine surgery at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia.

'80s

Christine Petti, M.D., MCP '81 was voted a Favorite Cosmetic Surgeon of 2012 in the *Daily Breeze* magazine's Best of South Bay. A board-certified plastic surgeon, she practices in Torrance, Calif. She was an author of the FDA study "Multi-Center Evaluation for the Treatment of Cellulite Using a New Minimally Invasive Laser Approach."

Barbara C. Cavanaugh, M.D., HU '82 joined the clinical review team at HealthHelp, a specialty benefits management company based in Houston. Cavanaugh is an associate professor of radiology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and serves as division director for breast imaging.

Vicki L. Mahan, M.D., HU '82 See page 13.

Joseph Cacchione, M.D., HU '85 has been appointed to the board of directors of Cadence Health. He is an interventional cardiologist and the chairman of operations and strategy for the Heart & Vascular Institute at the Cleveland Clinic.

Steven R. Jones, M.D., HU '85 has joined the medical advisory board of Atherotech Diagnostics Lab to assist with the expansion of its disease management program. He is an assistant professor of medicine and director of inpatient cardiology at Johns Hopkins.

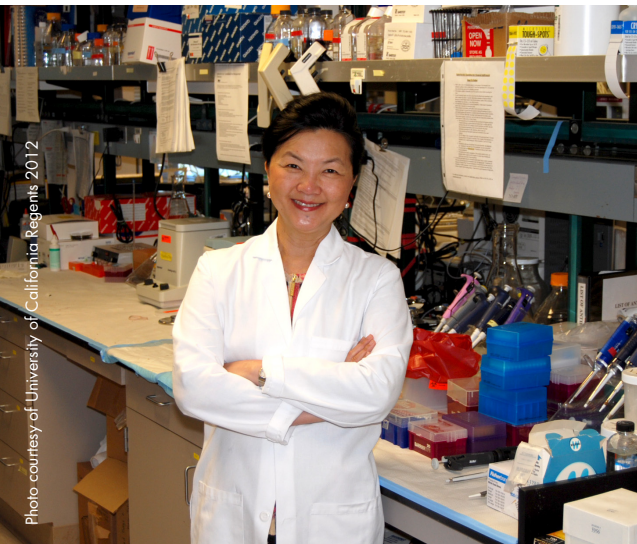
R. Kirk Seiler, M.D., HU '85 has brought his practice, Urologic Surgery Associates, into the AnMed Health Physician Network in Anderson, S.C., under the name AnMed Health Urology.

Hope S. Selarnick, M.D., MCP '85; Psychiatry Resident, HU was selected to receive the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society's Daniel Blain Award for dedication and service to the profession of psychiatry. She heads the addiction recovery unit at the Philadelphia VA and holds a staff appointment at Kindred Hospital, as well as a faculty appointment at Jefferson Medical College.

Chester J. Maxson, M.D., MCP '86 was listed as a Top Doctor in *Jupiter Magazine*. A board-certified gastroenterologist, he is a partner at North County Center for Digestive Health, Jupiter, Fla., a subsidiary of GastroCare, LLC.

'90s

Elizabeth Ann Arthur, M.D., HU '90; Dermatology Resident, HU '95 was appointed to the board of directors of the New York regional office of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. A board-certified dermatologist, she practices at Helendale Dermatology & Medical Spa, Rochester, N.Y.



Yvonne Wan, M.S., HU '81; Ph.D., HU '83 joined the University of California, Davis, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as professor and vice chair of research. She will also serve as scientific director of a new biorepository program, and participate in the Human Anatomical Specimen and Tissue Oversight Committee.

Save the Date

**Alumni Weekend May 3 & 4, 2013
50 Year Reunion, May 15-17, 2013**

Class Representatives are needed for years ending in 3 and 8.

For more information, contact Alumni Relations toll-free at 866-373-9633.

Daniel Edmundowicz, M.S., HU '86; M.D., HU '90 has been named professor of medicine, section chief of cardiology, and vice chair of program development in the Department of Medicine at Temple University School of Medicine. Previously, he served as director of cardiovascular medicine at UPMC Passavant hospital.

Glenn W. Stambo, M.D., HU '91 an interventional radiologist at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Tampa, Fla., has become one of the first physicians in the country to treat acute ischemic stroke patients with the Trevo, a minimally invasive catheter system used to remove blood clots.

Jennifer Phelps, M.D., MCP '92 has completed an intensive, two-year integrative medicine fellowship, including the study of botanical medicine, mind-body physiology, nutrition and holistic clinical care, through the University of Arizona under the direction of Andrew Weil, M.D. Phelps, who is board certified in family medicine, practices in Ridgefield, Conn.

Dennis J. Phillips, M.D., MCP '92 See *DeMeo*, page 12.

Ted James, M.D., MCP '96 has been appointed director for the Clinical Simulation Laboratory at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care. He is an associate professor of surgery at the UVM College of Medicine and an oncology surgeon in Fletcher Allen's UVM Medical Group.

Robert Zickler, M.D., HU '96 a board-certified vascular and general surgeon, has joined CaroMont Heart in Gastonia, N.C.

Dipak Panigrahi, M.S., MCP '97; M.D., MCP '01 joined Sucampo Pharmaceuticals in Bethesda, Md., as vice president, medical affairs, a newly created position. He was previously with Provision Pharmaceutical Consulting.

Naveen Ramineni, M.D., HU '97 has joined the Orthopaedic and Spine Institute's Medical Centers at the Texas Center for Athletes. He is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation with subspecialty board certification in pain medicine.

Yale S. Popowich, M.D., MCP '98 a board-certified plastic surgeon, has moved his cosmetic and reconstructive surgery practice to Pearl Women's Center in downtown Portland, Ore.

Mark J. Sigman, M.D., MCP '98 joined the staff at The Medical Concierge®, a division of EastCoast Medical Network, Inc., a physician house-call service based in Orlando, Fla. He is board certified in pediatric medicine.

S. Joshua Szabo, M.D., HU '98; Orthopedic Surgery Resident '03 received the Stephen J. Snyder Excellence in Teaching Award at the Arthroscopy Association of North America's annual convention. He volunteers as a lab instructor at AANA's surgical skills course. He practices at Tri Rivers Surgical Associates in Mars, Pa., and serves as team physician for the U.S. Ski Team and Snowboard Association.

Renee Palmyra Armour, M.D., MCPHU '99 joined CentraState Healthcare System's surgical team. She is a board-certified general surgeon. Her practice is Armour Breast Surgery in Freehold, N.J.

Robert Eric Dinenberg, M.D., MCPHU '99 has been appointed chief medical officer of Viridian Health Management. He is an occupational medicine physician and has worked closely with Viridian the past several months while completing his occupational and environmental medicine residency. He is based in San Diego.



Jason Ramirez, M.D., MCPHU '99 joined the faculty of the Floyd Medical Center Family Medicine Residency program in Rome, Ga. He also will see patients at the Family Medicine Residency Clinic. Prior to joining Floyd, he worked in a private practice in Carlisle, Pa., and as a hospitalist at Carlisle Regional Medical Center.

Rahim Remtulla, M.D. '07 is one of a select group of four physicians in the Office of Attending Physician at the U.S. Capitol. He serves as a primary care provider to members of the U.S. Congress and the Supreme Court, and travels with congressional delegations. A Navy scholarship recipient, he trained at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and after completing his residency, he became the solo chief of residents for the naval center's internal medicine training program for 2010-11. He is an assistant professor of medicine at the Uniformed Services University.



Congressional Delegation to Qatar, C300 Airplane

'00s

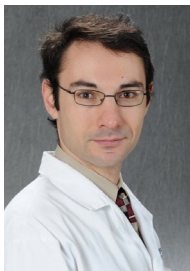
David M. Kashmer, M.D., MCPHU '01 has launched Emergency Surgical Staffing, LLC, an agency owned and operated by surgeons. ESS surgeons belong to its "Cloud Department of Surgery," which provides a virtual infrastructure, including monthly department meetings by teleconference. Kashmer is chief of trauma, surgical critical care, and emergency general surgery at Guthrie Health System, Sayre, Pa.

Ivar L. Frithsen, M.S., MCP '98; M.D. '02 board certified in family medicine, joined the medical staff of Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene in Keene, N.H., as a hospitalist. Previously, he was medical director in the South Carolina Agromedicine Program and served as an assistant professor of family medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina.

George Dreszer, M.D. '03 received the American Association of Plastic Surgeons James Barrett Brown Award, which recognizes the best plastic surgery journal article of the year. He completed his plastic and reconstructive surgery training at the University of Minnesota and a plastic surgery fellowship at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey before joining Take Shape Plastic Surgery in Fort Lauderdale this year.



Mikhail Kogan, M.D. '04 has been appointed chief medical advisor for DNA Health Corp's planned Center for Integrative Medicine and Wellness in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The center will be part of a resort on Saadiyat Island and is set to open in 2013. Kogan is an assistant professor of medicine at George Washington University and medical director of the GW Center for Integrative Medicine, with which the new center will be affiliated. He is board certified in internal and geriatric medicine, and holds certification in homeopathy, traditional Chinese medicine, and Ayurvedic medicine.



Jacque P. LeBeau, M.D. '04 an ENT-facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, has joined the medical staff at Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart in Pensacola, Fla. He also practices at Nemours Children's Clinic in Pensacola. He is board certified in head and neck surgery and is board-eligible in facial plastic reconstructive surgery.

Marc McCleary, M.D. '05 has joined the medical staff of St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, Ill., after concluding his military commitment as a major in the U.S. Air Force. He sees patients at Clinton County Rural Health on the hospital campus. He completed his residency in the St. Louis University School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Belleville, Ill. (which includes training at Scott Air Force Base outpatient clinics), and then served as a faculty member.

Natasha Sandy, M.D. '05 a dermatologist and medical director of Columbia Medical Dermatology & Skincare in Columbia, Md., received one of the "40 Under Forty Achievement Awards" from the Network Journal.

Todd M. Tupis, M.D. '06 has joined Coastal Orthopedics, a private practice group in Conway, S.C. He completed a fellowship in orthopedic sports medicine at Orthopaedic Research of Virginia.

Michaela Vasil Remtulla, M.D. '07 completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., in 2011. She has joined the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group as a generalist. Her office is in Silver Spring, Md., and she delivers and operates at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring.

Ali Ahsen Shah, M.D. '07 joined the staff of Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network's Spine & Joint Center in Allentown, Pa. He completed his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at The Ohio State University Medical Center and a fellowship in spine medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Spine Health.

Breanna M. Caltagarene, MLAS '09 earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is completing a one-year internship at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center in Springfield, Va.

Kathleen Moyer, M.D. '09 has joined Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre, a campus of Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, as a pediatric urgent care specialist. She completed her pediatric residency at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, following a pediatrics internship at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, N.Y.

Veronica Ramirez, M.D. '09 completed her residency in pediatrics in the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program, and has stayed on at UCSF Fresno as a fourth-year chief resident at Children's Hospital Central California in Madera.

Eddie Appelbaum, M.S. '11 is attending the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Christina McCullough, MLAS '12 has begun veterinary school at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

• continued on page 22

In Memoriam

Alumni

Raymond H. Arner, M.D., HU '60, August 7
William A. Black, Jr., M.D., HU '65, June 16
Patrick M. Boccagno, M.D., HU '58, June 9
Herman Chmel, M.D., HU '68, August 29
Christopher James Connors, M.D., MCP '85, July 03
Richard M. Doncaster, M.D., HU '45, July 12
Gregory J. Fulchiero, M.D., HU '70, July 7
Theodore M. Gilbert, M.D., HU '77, July 22
Matthew A. Henke, M.S., '12, June 29
Edward I. Kraus, M.D., HU '42, September 2
Glenn J. Lau, M.D., HU '73, June 6
DeForest W. Metcalf, M.D., HU '45, August 28
J. P. Norris, M.D., HU '56, July 8
Peter Pellegrino, M.D., HU '60, June 30
David John Sedor, M.D., HU '85, June 25
Frank A. Serena, M.D., HU '40, June 19
Arthur D. Silk, M.D., HU '47, August 12
Rudolph G. Szabo, M.D., HU '54, August 10
James A. Thomas, M.D., HU '79, August 25

Joseph A. Savastio, M.D., HU '59 of Lemoyne, Pa., died July 27. He was 81. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War and a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College. He was a general practitioner in Camp Hill, Pa. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alice Savastio.

Former Residents and Fellows

Ruth P. Zager, M.D., General, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Resident, MCP and HU '74 was selected to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society. She is retired from her full-time position as a child psychiatrist and faculty member at Jefferson.

Robert Kersh, M.D., Cardiology Fellow, MCP '82 has joined the Holy Cross Medical Group in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was previously with Cardio Pulmonary Associates in Plantation, Fla.

Paul McCabe, M.D., Neurology Resident, MCP '90 joined Geisinger Community Medical Center of Scranton, Pa., as a staff neurologist.

Harris Bram, M.D., Anesthesiology Resident, HU '92 a board-certified physician in anesthesiology and pain management, joined the team of orthopedic surgeons at Advanced Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Institute in Freehold, N.J.

Alumni Association 2013 Award & Board Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for new Alumni Association board members and for the 2013 Alumni Association Awards. The awards will be presented during Alumni Weekend, May 3 & 4, 2013, and the Graduate Citation Award will be presented at the Discovery Awards Dinner in October 2013. Award nominees must be able to attend the Award Ceremony in order to be considered.

Award and Board Nomination forms can be found at www.drexelmed.edu/Alumni/Association and submitted to the Office of Alumni Relations. Please include a current CV of the nominee. Submit forms to:

Patty Comey
Alumni Relations Executive Director
Drexel University College of Medicine
1601 Cherry Street, Suite 1050
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Email: medical.alumni@drexel.edu
Fax: 215-255-7302

Should you have any questions, please call toll-free: 866-373-9633.

**All nominations must be received
by December 31, 2012.**

Bhadresh Patel, M.D., Internal Medicine Resident, HU '95 was appointed chief of medicine at Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center in Crystal River, Fla. He practices at Beverly Hills Medical Center, Beverly Hills, Fla.

David Miller, D.O., Thoracic Surgery Resident, HU '98 a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon, joined Sparks Health System in Fort Smith, Ark.

Jennifer A. Springer, M.D., Emergency Medicine Resident, MCP '98 joined the Lee Memorial Health Systems, Lee Convenient Care in Fort Myers, Fla.

Jason Finkelstein, M.D., Internal Medicine Resident, MCPHU '02 an interventional cardiologist with Wise Regional Health System and Advanced Heart Care in Decatur, Texas, was named to the "Super Doctors Rising Stars" list in the July issue of *Texas Monthly*.

Sonal J. Patel, M.D., Internal Medicine Resident '10 has joined Drexel University College of Medicine as an assistant professor of medicine after completing her fellowship at Scott & White Hospital, Texas A&M University. She joins **Drs. Barbara Simon, MCPHU '00**, and **Renee Amori, MCPHU '02**, in the Division of Endocrinology.

Jocelyn (Joy) Ricasa, M.D., Sports Medicine Fellow '12 has joined Bon Secours Medical Associates in Virginia Beach, Va. She is board certified in family medicine, internal medicine and sports medicine. See *Hong*, page 13.

Meet the Dean

The Office of Alumni Relations cordially invites Pennsylvania alumni to meet Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D., Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean, Drexel University College of Medicine, and senior vice president of medical affairs, Drexel University:

Reading November 15, 6-8 p.m.
Lancaster November 27, 6-8 p.m.
Harrisburg December 6, 6-8 p.m.

For details or to register, visit www.drexelmed.edu/alumni-events.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send your professional accomplishments and achievements to *Pulse* at pulse@drexelmed.edu. The Drexel University Online Alumni Directory (www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DXU/) allows you to post and view more informal class notes, search for friends, and register for permanent email forwarding. Be sure to visit the directory often and keep your information up to date. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at: medical.alumni@drexel.edu or 866-373-9633

Driven for a Reason: Akash Patel, Class of 2013

Akash Patel is a man with a plan. The fourth-year medical student has accomplished a great deal in the past seven years, revealing drive and intelligence – as well as versatility and humility – along the way.

Little of Patel's childhood might suggest his current success in medical school. Born in New Jersey to Indian immigrants, Patel was sent to Vadodara, India, to live with grandparents while he was an infant. His parents, both of whom worked multiple jobs, did not think they could provide the right care for their son under those conditions. When he was about 4, Patel returned to his parents. It was a humble background, he says.

In high school, something happened to change the course of Patel's life. Always keen on science and physics, he began to develop an interest in medicine after volunteering at area hospitals. One visit in particular has remained with him. He and fellow volunteers met a baby in the NICU at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, an infant whom they later realized would not survive.

Patel recalls their physician-escort eloquently explaining that the doctors might not be able to help *everyone*, but there remained those whom they *could* help. That thought has stayed with him. "There's so little you can do for most, but if you don't try –" Patel pauses. "Maybe your contribution won't save *this* patient's life, but you advance the field so much that the next person can take it to the next level," he says.

Patel became so certain of his future career that he applied to the accelerated B.S./M.D. program at Drexel University. Under this program, high school students are accepted into the university; if they maintain a certain GPA and perform well on the MCATs, they are admitted to the College of Medicine within three years. While many students would consider this task challenge enough, Patel declared a biomedical engineering major. For this degree, he would have to complete four years of academic work in just three (rather than roll some credits into his first year of medical school as is possible with other majors). "It was ridiculously intense, trying to finish four years of credit in three years," he says. "I'm glad I did it, but it was really difficult at the time."

Patel credits his friends with "keeping him sane" during this period. A serious girlfriend, a roommate with the same accelerated major, and being active in the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity all helped him navigate the rigorous demands of his program. He was also a founding member of the committee that brought the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to Drexel. In its first three years, Drexel's Relay raised more than \$100,000 for cancer research.

After his undergraduate experience, medical school has

seemed "less stressful" to Patel. He says he's "having the time of [his] life" at the College of Medicine. He especially appreciates the spirit of camaraderie and support that distinguishes the College from other medical schools. "The class is 250 people and we all know each other really well. We help each other out whenever we can."

It was during a routine pediatrics clerkship that Patel discerned his passion for radiology – due in large part, he says, to the stellar pediatric radiology department at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. "[They are] the most tremendous educators I've had the opportunity to work

with," he says. While most radiologists interpret images, write a report, then send it to the physician, "at St. Christopher's it's different," Patel explains. There, physicians go downstairs to the radiology department to review cases in person. "Every morning [the radiologists] take the opportunity to review images with the pediatric team, get the history from them, and teach while demonstrating the findings on the patient." This collaboration greatly impressed Patel. He says the team dynamic is "really inspiring ... and the people who are really benefiting are the patients."

Patel is very aware of the opportunities and support he has received on his journey. He proudly states that he is a Stamatakis Scholar, a beneficiary of the scholarship fund founded by College of Medicine trustee

and former chair, Manuel Stamatakis. (Patel has received the scholarship all four years – an unprecedented accomplishment.) "I don't know what [Stamatakis] saw in me," he says. "I really want to thank the generous contributors to Drexel."

Patel continues to express gratitude for his acceptance into the B.S./M.D. program as well. "Drexel gave me and my family this opportunity, and at such a young age. It's hard for me to think that someone can have such faith in a high-schooler. I'm extremely thankful for that. I hope that one day I could potentially contribute to the scholarship fund at Drexel."

Patel has also taken Drexel's outstanding clinical education to heart. In addition to helping future students financially, another long-term goal is to teach radiology in an academic environment. With his track record of setting and surpassing goals, it seems to be only a matter of time.

For information on contributing to a scholarship fund, please email jjz@drexel.edu or call 215-255-7343.



Akash Patel at the Stamatakis Golf Classic reception.



Accessing Compassionate Care Just Got Easier

Introducing drexelmedicine.org

Drexel Medicine has a new online resource for patients at drexelmedicine.org. The website features Drexel Medicine's doctors and health care providers, specialties, office locations, appointment information, videos and more. An easy-to-search health information library and interactive symptom checker provide on-demand health information. Comprehensive practice information and provider profiles make it easy to find and contact Drexel Medicine.

The College of Medicine site at drexelmed.edu continues to host all of the information related to educational programs, research, and alumni events.

The College also has expanded its social media

presence by adding a second Facebook site. We now have two official Facebook pages dedicated to sharing news and information of interest to our College and patient communities. To follow academic news and events about our students and faculty we encourage you to "like" our page at www.facebook.com/DrexelCollegeofMedicine. To get clinical news from and about Drexel Medicine physicians and medical practices, please like our page at www.facebook.com/DrexelMedicine.

Twitter users can still follow us @DrexelMedNews. And don't forget our active YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/DrexelMedicine) and Flickr account (www.flickr.com/drexelmedicine).

