



## Tales of Transformation: The Patient-Centered Medical Home

The *patient-centered medical home* is much more than an appealing concept; it is a transformative model of health care delivery. To be a patient-centered medical home in a fee-for-service world is not easy. Yet Drexel Medicine is on track to have all of its primary care practices recognized as patient-centered medical homes within just a few years.

As chair of family medicine, Eugene Hong, MD, was part of the first discussions about adopting the new model. "A group of us said 'OK, we'll do this at the Manayunk practice. Let's try this, and then we can share our experience'" — glib words, as Hong recalls now that the group met every single week for the next 14 months.

Currently, in his role as associate dean for primary care and community health, Hong finds himself overseeing the transformation of other practices into the PCMH model, with the support of Nancy Hansen, RN, director of clinical transformation and innovation, and her team.

The patient-centered medical home has been described for decades in the literature, Hong notes, but now there are very clear definitions. In 2007, four physician organizations — the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American Osteopathic Association — came together to

write the *Joint Principles for the Patient-Centered Medical Home*. In 2011, the same groups created guidelines built on those principles. Soon, as with many formalized codes, there emerged several certification programs (there is no national or federal recognition).

Drexel Family Medicine in Manayunk and Drexel Internal Medicine on Fairmount Avenue have each been recognized as a Level 3 (top) PCMH by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. NCGA, one of the more widely accepted certifying bodies, is recognized by Independence Blue Cross, which promotes the PCMH model with performance-based incentive programs. Four additional Drexel Medicine practices are ready to seek recognition, and three more will follow.

External recognition is the capstone of top-to-bottom changes in how the practice approaches the delivery of care. Hong describes the key elements: The patient-centered medical home is a physician-led practice, with the physician heading a multidisciplinary team focused on the patient's needs. Providers look at the whole patient in terms of care, and that care is integrated and coordinated. The patient has enhanced access to care. Undergirding all of these elements are quality and safety.



PCMH wizards: Nancy Hansen, RN, and Eugene Hong, MD

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# pulse

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# A Look at Graduate Medical Education

It is apropos on the heels of Match Day to mention that our students have done increasingly well in matching to the places they want. It only takes one of our students to do well in a program for that program to think well of us. I have been fortunate in my travels to meet chief residents in various programs who are our graduates, and we can see that our students who match in Drexel/Hahnemann programs or at our affiliates generally turn in great performances. We prepare our students

very well to hit the ground running and be good physicians from the word go.

We offer some 37 residency and fellowship programs in conjunction with Hahnemann; on July 1, a new fellowship will make 38 [see page 7]. These graduate medical education programs are very important to us. Medical student education is enriched by experiences where residents are part of the team; the students learn and get an idea of what they're going to have to do in the future. The LCME particularly wants to see that students have contact with residents in their inpatient and outpatient rotations. The quality of our programs is constantly being scrutinized by our vice dean for GME, Dr. Mark Woodland, and the designated institutional official, Jay Yanoff, PhD. They do a tremendous job in



Daniel V. Schidlow, MD

working with the program directors not only to secure accreditation but also to create an invaluable experience.

Sometimes senior students get very wrapped up in whether or not they get their first or second choice of program. My motto (which I have been repeating for over 30 years) is "more important than where you go is what you do when you get there." Ultimately, the acquisition of knowledge and training as a resident, as a fellow and throughout life is a personal skill.

In my view, a residency program, and particularly a fellowship program, represents an environment that gives us opportunities — opportunities to have access to patient material and to experienced people who can act as role models or help us establish better clinical judgment. But the responsibility as well as the pleasure of learning rests with us. We can be in the best of environments in a superb training program with lots of patients and lots of teachers, and yet not learn or act accordingly. I believe that one's emotional intelligence, one's ability to work in teams, one's enjoyment of the personal relationships and the duty toward patients are what make an experience wonderful.

Individual qualities and motivation, as well as taking responsibility for one's education, are keys to success, more so than the learning environment. The motto of the famous Spanish University of Salamanca (a Harvard of the Middle Ages) is *Lo que Natura non da, Salamanca non presta*, meaning "What Nature does not give to the individual, Salamanca (the best learning environment possible) will not lend."

Daniel V. Schidlow, MD  
Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean  
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs

# Destination Excellence: Drexel Pathway to Medical School

The Drexel Pathway to Medical School (DPMS) program has just completed its 10th year. In that time, more than 132 DPMS students have finished the program and matriculated as medical students at Drexel University College of Medicine.

Medicine has long recognized that the delivery of medical care and the education of medical students are enhanced by a diverse learning and academic environment. However, medical education has struggled to recruit and retain a more diverse student body, which would lead to a more diverse workforce.

In 2003, the Drexel Pathway to Medical School program was developed to challenge students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds who had not been able to gain admission to medical school. Students in the DPMS program are not only from racial and ethnic backgrounds that are underrepresented in medicine; we recognize that students from rural communities, and from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds are underrepresented too.

DPMS students take a portion of the first-year medical school curriculum, along with graduate-level science courses and an MCAT preparation course. If they are successful in meeting the required GPA (in this coursework) and MCAT score, they are admitted to the medical school. To date, more than 50 DPMS students have graduated from Drexel University College of Medicine, and the remainder are current medical students. DPMS students become leaders as they matriculate into the medical program. They make an impact in the medical community long before graduation, through their community service contributions and public health endeavors. They also serve as role models and tutors for current DPMS students.

Students from the DPMS program have graduated to become residents and practicing physicians in a variety of specialties, many of them choosing primary care. Since the students are from all over the country, many are practicing in regions outside Philadelphia. Current literature suggests that the disparities in health care that are seen in diverse communities may be best addressed by physicians who themselves are from diverse communities ("Minority Physicians' Role in

the Care of Underserved Patients: Diversifying the Physician Workforce May Be Key in Addressing Health Disparities" in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, February 2014 [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24378807]).

The program has been so successful in its mission that it is being replicated at other medical schools and in other parts of the country. Last year, we received more than 300 applications for the 40 positions the program has expanded to admit.

DPMS not only augments the College's commitment to diversity, but it also increases overall diversity in the medical community by adding a group of students who would otherwise not have had the chance to demonstrate their mettle, perform in medical school and become practicing physicians.

For more information, visit [drexelmed.edu/DPMS](http://drexelmed.edu/DPMS).

— Loretta Walker, PhD, and  
Anthony R. Rodriguez, MD  
Co-Directors, DPMS Program



**Loretta Walker, PhD, assistant professor, was the founding director of the DPMS program. She is now the co-director with Anthony R. Rodriguez, MD, associate dean for student affairs and diversity.**

## Medical Home

• *continued from the cover*

The change itself happens at the practice level, while Hansen's team gives input based on informatics, and handles the administrative tasks that help move the process forward, such as writing up new policies and procedures. A key provider, the office manager and a senior medical assistant have to be involved, Hong says, to engage everyone else.

### Team-Based Care

"One of the things we look at closely is the skill sets and roles of people across the practice," Hansen says. "Everyone needs to be able to work to the maximum of their ability or licensure, so we move the tasks to the right people to make sure the team is working most efficiently." As an example, a diabetic patient should receive monofilament testing for diabetic foot neuropathy at each visit. Medical assistants are trained to do this, but often the doctor would do it, so the responsibility for testing was unclear. "PCMH not only helps us do the right thing for the patient," Hong says, "it also forces us to look at what we do on a systems basis — it makes more sense for the MA to do this test — that's the idea of teamwork."

### The Whole Patient – Integrated and Coordinated Care

The PCMH is a hub for the patient's health, so there is close follow-up when the patient sees a specialist. Special attention is paid to transition of care when a patient is discharged from the hospital, says Steven Zinn, MD, assistant professor of family medicine. At Drexel Family Medicine in Manayunk, a nurse care manager contacts such patients to make sure they understand their medications and discharge instructions, and to arrange for follow-up. Some patients are surprised, Zinn says, but they seem happy about it. "They might say 'I'm glad you called — I have six new prescriptions from the hospital, plus what Dr. Zinn was giving me.' Medication resolution is very important."

The medical home also coordinates care for patients who are unable to coordinate those services for themselves. "In a traditional model, if you have a condition that needs to be managed, it's up to you to schedule the necessary appointments with your provider," Hansen says. "If you stop scheduling those appointments, nothing may happen. Part of being a medical home is that the practice is in a kind of contract with the patient. If patients are not following up with us, we provide outreach to them."

Electronic medical records that interface with lab results have made this possible. "We're moving toward running monthly reports on all of our diabetic patients," Hansen explains. "This is already happening in some practices. We break the data down by patients who haven't had a visit within the clinically recommended time, depending on the control of each patient's disease." The team assigns the patients to one of three cohorts according to their most recent clinical values; then the practices can prioritize their outreach efforts.

### Quality Over Quantity

"As part of the medical home, you have to have a sound quality improvement plan in place," Hansen says. "We provide quality outcome data to the practices on at least a quarterly basis." Each practice can see how it's doing and how it compares to the appropriate benchmark. "I'm sure every provider here wants to deliver the best care possible," Hansen says, "but until you look at your numbers, you're not always aware of what that is."

Outcomes are measured on group and individual levels. A practice can look at its chronic disease management and at the incidence of preventive services, such as Pap smears or colonoscopies. Hansen's team also looks at flu status of patients and then checks the appropriate subset of patients to see if they've had the pneumonia vaccine they need.

### Communication and Enhanced Access

Test results are provided by phone or letter, and soon will be available through an online patient portal. The practices work at educating patients about their diseases or conditions, and priming patients to look for follow-up; the post-test mantra is "if you don't get your results, please check in with us."

Enabling patients to communicate with their providers by email or a patient portal is one way a practice can enhance access. Another is to keep some openings in the schedule to see patients the same day they call. All Drexel Medicine primary care practices have one or more open-access slots available each day. "This is one of the things that has been difficult for people to embrace," says Hansen, "but the concept is that if you provide open access slots, eventually you will not be booked out three months."

### Leadership

The most important element in adopting the new model of care delivery is leadership, Hong says. He credits Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, for his vision and unflagging support of the process. The dean created the new position of associate dean for primary care and community health, appointing Hong, in 2012. The expectation that all the primary care practices would be certified and recognized as PCMH within a few years was written into his job description, Hong attests. Hansen's position as director of clinical innovation and transformation was also new. "These titles, I think, recognize the changes that need to be occurring in the health care delivery system — and are occurring at Drexel Medicine," Hansen says.

"This has been, and continues to be, a team effort," says Hong, praising the leadership of other colleagues, including Drs. Susanna Evans, Ibiyo Lawrence, Nathalie May, and Richard Paluzzi, as well as Steven Zinn. "We're trying to do the right thing for our patients, their families and the communities we serve. Change is difficult. But if you look at what we're trying to do on a macro level, it's very exciting."



## Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert Raises \$25,000

The annual Drexel University College of Medicine Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert was another smashing success, raising more than \$25,000 this year for children with HIV and AIDS. That brings to more than \$500,000 the total amount raised since the event began 21 years ago.

Students, faculty and guests sang, danced, and laughed their way through the February 15 event, which is organized each year by Drexel University College of Medicine students.

"I am so proud of the tireless work, love and community spirit that our students put into this event year after year," said Dennis Novack, MD, professor of medicine and associate dean of medical education, whose band The Dennis Novack Experience performed at the show.

The concert benefits the Dorothy Mann Center for Pediatric and Adolescent HIV at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. The center is the largest of its kind in the tri-state area, providing comprehensive care, including social services, to children infected with HIV and their families. The money raised by the Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert helps pay for the services of a child-life specialist and a dietitian for the program, offers the children the opportunity to attend summer camp, and helps provide the affected families with emergency funds for housing and other expenses.

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children is a teaching affiliate of Drexel University College of Medicine. Most of the hospital-based physicians also hold faculty positions in the Department of Pediatrics at the College.



## Student Awarded AMWA Fellowship

Maranatha (Stephany) Gabaud, a third-year medical student, was recently named a 2013–2015 Anne C. Carter Global Health Fellow by the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). Gabaud is one of only four women medical students in the country to be awarded this fellowship. The two-year fellowship offers the recipients the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the practice of international medicine during their medical education.

The first year of the Carter Fellowship focuses on a global health curriculum, local project development and mentorship. The second year focuses on in-depth planning and preparation for a medical service-learning trip to Engeye Clinic in Uganda. The



**Maranatha Gabaud**

Carter Fellowship culminates in a capstone global health project in Engeye. Each fellow will have approximately \$1,000 to fund her local project planning and to subsidize expenses for her international project and trip to Uganda.

Born in Haiti, Gabaud has volunteered within her communities both there and in the United States. She describes those experiences as being formative in her understanding of "the disparities that plague the health care system in the U.S. and abroad." Her goal for the fellowship is to gain the experience she needs "to bridge the health care gap that exists in the U.S. and in developing countries."

Gabaud came to Drexel after earning a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences with a minor in public health at the University of South Florida. She has served as co-president of the Drexel chapter of AMWA, during which time she spearheaded a collaboration between the members and the Eliza Shirley House, a local women's shelter, to educate women about breast cancer.

## Women's Care Center Receives *Get Covered: Family Planning* Grant

In January of this year, Drexel Medicine's Women's Care Center received a grant to enable everyone at the practice to encourage uninsured patients to enroll in the Affordable Care Act before the March 31 deadline. The grant funds supported the training of two ACA navigators to assist patients with the enrollment process. However, as a result of the program, "every-



one from phone staff to providers has had education about the ACA and enrollment," says Sandra Wolf, MD, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology

and director of the center.

The grant was awarded to the Women's Care Center by the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association as part of a project called *Get Covered: Family Planning*. The selected organizations receive a one-year grant of \$90,476, allowing their staff members to integrate education and enrollment services for the Affordable Care Act into their workflow, "to capture all eligible patients in advance of their appointments, and to greet them as they arrive, offering assistance in enrollment," according to Wolf. In addition to reaching patients who have an appointment, the practice also has planned outreach events.

These education and enrollment efforts will continue after the deadline has passed, in an effort to reach those newly uninsured due to life event changes such as the loss of employment or change in marital status.

## First-Year Student Selected for Scholars Award

Chiemeka Onyima, a first-year medical student, was selected as a recipient of the 2013 United Health Foundation/NMF [National Medical Fellowships] Diverse Medical Scholars Program. The award includes a \$7,000 scholarship. The goal of the program is to provide outstanding minority medical students with an opportunity to undertake community service, develop critical skills and join a network of like-minded and engaged future physicians. Each award recipient conducts a health project at a site of his or her choosing within an underserved community.

Onyima has chosen to work with the Outreach Program of the Unitarian Universalist House, which provides support to older adults living independently in northwest Philadelphia. His goal is to coordinate all aspects of health care and general wellbeing for



**Chiemeka Onyima**

individuals who he says "are unable to obtain proper health evaluations due to financial, mobility, or other health-related factors."

He will visit 10 elderly patients to discern what health issues they have, and report these back to a consulting physician. During follow-up visits he will work with the patients to address safety within the home (securing rugs, assuring handrails are available, and so on), and confirm that they have access to adequate nutrition, especially those with specific dietary needs. A final component of the project will be encouraging patients to engage in physical exercise and safe movement, with the aim of decreasing the ailments associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

Onyima intends to remain in contact with these patients over a period of 18 months to assure that they are continuing to be compliant with his and their physicians' recommendations and are able to attend any follow-up appointments.

## Symposium Launches International Pediatric Research Collaboration

Faculty from seven College of Medicine departments were among the scientists from Drexel University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children who gathered in January for the symposium "Advancing the Healthcare of Children," with the ultimate goal of forming collaborative "dream teams" in translational pediatric health care research. Held in Philadelphia, the symposium brought together researchers with complementary expertise, and provided a series of opportunities for sharing new results and ideas.



**Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter speaks at the research symposium.**

This research collaboration was launched as part of Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter's trade mission to Israel in November 2013, in which Drexel President John Fry participated. During the trip, Fry and officials of Hebrew University and CHOP signed an agreement to form an international research consortium. The research dream teams will compete for grants that will support projects with commercialization potential.

Symposium speakers included Kenny J. Simansky, PhD, vice dean for research at the College of Medicine, whose talk at the opening plenary session provided an overview of the broad range of health care research studies being conducted throughout Drexel University. Amir Toib, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, presented at a plenary session on the nervous system, and Kazuhito Toyooka, PhD, assistant professor of neurobiology and anatomy, spoke at a plenary session on cardiology, metabolism and drug discovery. Jane McGowan, MD, professor of pediatrics, and Wei Du, professor of psychiatry, each moderated a breakout session. About a dozen College faculty members served on various panels.

Since the symposium, researchers have begun working together to prepare proposals of collaborative interest that will be used to provide a foundation for philanthropic fundraising to support these projects.

"Research collaborations speed the pace of discovery," says Simansky. "As a result of our combined work, we hope to accelerate the development of new and better pediatric diagnostics, preventives and therapies that will benefit children everywhere."

## New Fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

The Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine has received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education for a new fellowship program in hospice and palliative medicine. Set to start in July, this fellowship is only the second of its kind in Philadelphia.

The goal of the fellowship program is to train dedicated physicians from qualifying specialties to become leaders in the field of hospice and palliative medicine. The fellowship will focus on the clinical and educational disciplines within palliative care. In addition, fellows will receive specialized training in administration and research.

"Graduating fellows will be prepared for the real-world practice of hospice and palliative medicine after receiving expert training in symptom management, communication, prognostication, emotional and spiritual issues, and advance care planning," says B. Brent Simmons, MD, assistant professor of family medicine and program director of the fellowship. "We want our graduating fellows not only to be expert clinicians, but also to help train the next generation of hospice and palliative medicine



**Brent Simmons, MD, fellowship program director**

physicians." Simmons is board certified in family medicine, geriatric medicine, and hospice and palliative medicine.

The 12-month fellowship features a balanced approach to the practice of inpatient and outpatient hospice, and inpatient and outpatient palliative care. The curriculum will give equal weight and exposure to the full spectrum of hospice and palliative medicine to prepare the fellow for any role he or she may want to engage in after graduation. There are three main elements in the proposed curriculum: hospice, palliative care inpatient consultation service and an outpatient palliative medicine clinic.

Fellows will also have clinical rotations in relevant disciplines, including pain medicine, oncology and congestive heart failure. In addition to the clinical framework, there is a mandatory research project, which can take the form of a grant proposal, a manuscript for publication, continuous quality improvement or a clinical research project. All projects will be supervised by a mentor among the clinical faculty. Finally, there is an integrated and longitudinal experience in which the fellow will learn to teach residents and students about hospice and palliative medicine. During their rotations, fellows will often have a resident or student learning from them in the clinical setting.

## Recharting the Borders

A student-run interdisciplinary seminar series, *Recharting the Borders*, concluded on February 19 after three lively interactive discussions about the health care industry. The program, coordinated by Drexel MD/MBA candidate Ashley Landicho, aimed to bring together the perspectives of students from a range of fields and all different levels of training to discuss issues pertaining to the health care industry, particularly in the age of the Affordable Care Act. Landicho's goal in creating the program was "to bring both education and dialogue ... to all types of [future] leaders," in the health care industry, including direct care providers, public health officials, business leaders, and students still exploring the various avenues available to them.

The first session, "Obamacare FAQs," was held on January 13 and featured Michael Howley, PA-C, PhD, associate clinical professor of marketing, LeBow College of Business. On January 30, David Souchik, vice president of Cpgemini, LLC, and senior partner of KPMG and Deloitte Consulting, addressed "Value in the Healthcare Supply Chain," in the second seminar. The third session, "Leadership Approaches to Healthcare Strategy and Provider Alignment," was presented by Christopher Haines, DO, chief medical officer at Children's Specialized Hospital and former director of pediatric emergency medicine at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. All sessions incorporated both lecture and interactive discussion among participants.

Each session was attended by more than 50 participants, including Drexel medical, nursing, public health, business,

and arts and sciences students and faculty. "I think it was an absolute success," says Landicho. In fact, as a result of the series, a focus group consisting of law, executive healthcare MBA, MPH and MD students was created. The group will discuss problems and solutions in the health care industry in greater depth.



**MD/MBA student Ashley Landicho (center) with (l-r) David Souchik, vice president of Cpgemini, and Michael Howley PA-C, PhD, associate clinical professor of marketing at Drexel.**

## Dr. Schindler Steps Down as Vice Dean

Barbara Schindler, MD, is stepping down as vice dean for educational and academic affairs on March 31, 2014, a position she has held for 18 years. During this time, Schindler led the College through several successful LCME accreditations and provided exemplary leadership and creativity in the service of medical student education.

Schindler will remain a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry, where she will continue her involvement in clinical, research and educational activities, including devoting more time to Caring Together, the program she established 23 years ago for women with psychiatric and addictive disorders.

After graduating from Boston University, Schindler earned her medical degree from our College's predecessor school, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, graduating in the last class before it became the coeducational Medical College of



Pennsylvania (MCP). She completed her internship in internal medicine, and her residency in adult psychiatry and child psychiatry at MCP, serving as chief resident in child psychiatry in her final year. She subsequently joined MCP as an instructor in the Department of Psychiatry, eventually becoming a tenured professor and serving two years as interim department chair. In 2008, she was appointed the William Maul Measey Chair in Medical Education. She is also a professor of pediatrics.

Schindler is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and gained added qualifications in geriatric psychiatry. A distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a fellow of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, she has served in organizational leadership roles locally and nationally.

Schindler has published extensively on numerous psychiatric issues and has been honored with many awards, including the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching and recognition as a 2013 Top Doctor by *Philadelphia* magazine.

## Dr. Oaks Honored

On November 5, 2013, Wilbur W. Oaks, MD, beloved professor of medicine and former chair of the department, was feted at a dinner held in his honor to celebrate his lifelong service to Hahnemann and Drexel. A graduate of the Hahnemann Medical College class of 1955, Oaks spent his medical career as physician, faculty member, and mentor at Hahnemann, MCPHU and then Drexel University College of Medicine. The dinner, attended by former students and faculty colleagues, featured laudatory remarks relating Oaks's ability to diagnose disease and treat his patients with skill and compassion. The chair of the Department of Medicine, James Reynolds, MD, presided over the evening.

The following morning, one of Oaks's former students, Hahnemann alumnus Robert A. Brodsky, MD '89, gave the inaugural *Wilbur W. Oaks Jr., MD, Distinguished Lecture* at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds. The Oaks Lectureship was established to be presented annually at grand rounds to honor the many contributions he has made to the art and science of medicine, the patients he healed and the students he taught.



**Wilbur W. Oaks, MD, HU '55, was honored at a dinner in November. With him are his wife, Mary Ann Oaks, and daughter, Cynthia Oaks Linville.**

## Third Pipeline Class Builds on Success

The third class of adult students is now settled into Drexel's Certified Medical Assistant Pipeline program [Pulse, October/November 2012]. Now in their second month, the students begin to split their time between the classroom and assignments in physician practices. By the fourth and final month of the competitive program, the remaining trainees will be working full time in the practices with the goal of being employed in a permanent position.

On February 28, Drexel President John Fry and Citizens Bank President Dan Fitzpatrick visited the Pipeline class to highlight the work of the West Philadelphia Skills Initiative, Drexel's partner in the Pipeline project. Citizens Bank awarded the University City District \$50,000 to continue funding the WPSI and its efforts to facilitate the matching of jobs and talents.

For more information, please contact Sarah Steltz, associate director, University & Community Partnerships, at [ses89@drexel.edu](mailto:ses89@drexel.edu).

# Compliance & Privacy

## The New OIG Work Plan

The Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) released its work plan for fiscal year (FY) 2014 on January 31, 2014. The work plan presents a summary of current and new projects



**Edward Longazel  
Chief Compliance & Privacy Officer**

the OIG will undertake in the coming year. The work plan is considered a key to identifying potential compliance risk areas. Here are two critical general physician practice areas of audit interest for 2014.

The provision of a "context" section for each risk provides a window into the reasoning behind the interest in the specific risk.

### Physicians — Place-of-service coding errors

*Billing and Payments.* The OIG will review physicians' coding on Medicare Part B claims for services performed in ambulatory surgical centers and hospital outpatient departments to determine whether they properly coded the places of service. **Context:** Prior OIG reviews determined that physicians did not always correctly code non-facility places of service on Part B claims submitted to and paid by Medicare contractors. Federal regulations provide for different levels of payments to physicians, depending on where services are performed (42 CFR § 414.32). Medicare pays a physician a higher amount when a service is performed in a non-facility setting, such as a physician's office, than it does when the service is performed in a hospital outpatient department or, with certain exceptions, in an ambulatory surgical center.

### Evaluation and management services — Inappropriate payments

*Billing and Payments.* We will determine the extent to which selected payments for evaluation and management (E/M) services were inappropriate. We will also review multiple E/M services associated with the same providers and beneficiaries to determine the extent to which electronic or paper medical records had documentation vulnerabilities. **Context:** Medicare contractors have noted an increased frequency of medical records with identical documentation across services. Medicare requires providers to select the billing code for the service on the basis of the content of the service and to have documentation to support the level of service reported.

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Dr. Allen



Dr. Joshi

**Herbert Allen, MD**, professor and chair, Department of Dermatology; **Suresh G. Joshi, MD, MSc, PhD**, director of surgical infection research and research assistant professor, Departments of Surgery, and Microbiology & Immunology; **Nachiket Vaze**, a PhD student in biomedical engineering and surgical infection research; **Catherine Choi, MD**, and



Dr. Choi



Dr. Cusack

**Tesfu Hailu, MD**, former dermatology residents; **Brittain Tulbert, MD**, dermatology resident; and **Carrie Cusack, MD**, assistant professor, Department of Dermatology, published "The Presence and Impact of Biofilm-Producing Staphylococci in Atopic Dermatitis" in *JAMA Dermatology* on January 22 (see article, page 13).



Dr. Baas

**Peter Baas, PhD**, professor of neurobiology and anatomy and director of the graduate program in neuroscience, gave a seminar entitled "Microtubule-based therapies for injury and disease of the nervous system: the kindest cut," at the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research at the University of Pennsylvania in February.



Dr. Ehrlich

**Garth D. Ehrlich, PhD**, professor of microbiology and immunology, and otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, is an editor of *Culture Negative Orthopedic Biofilm Infections*, Vol. 7 in the Springer Series on Biofilms. In addition, Ehrlich was the Morton Klein Memorial Conference Distinguished Speaker at Temple University in 2013.



Dr. Eisen

**Howard Eisen, MD**, professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Cardiology, is a co-author with Longjian Liu, MD, PhD, MSc, associate professor at the School of Public Health, of the report "Epidemiology of Heart Failure and Scope of the Problem," published in the February 2014 edition of *Cardiology Clinics*.



Ms. Ferrer



Dr. Reginato

**Christina Ferrer**, doctoral student, Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics program, and **Mauricio Reginato, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular

Biology, published "Sticking to Sugars at the Metastatic Site: Sialyltransferase ST6GalNAc2 Acts as Breast Cancer Metastasis Suppressor" in the March edition of *Cancer Discovery*.



Dr. Gelo

**Flo Gelo, DMin, NCPsyA**, associate professor of family, community and preventive medicine, and director of the Humanities Scholars program, was nominated for a Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation Innovation Award for her short film, "Emma's Haircut," which addresses the issues a young mother faces when she is diagnosed with breast cancer.

**Michael Goldfarb, MD**, professor of surgery and former chair and program director of the Department of Surgery at Monmouth Medical Center, has been selected to receive the Physician Leadership Award by Monmouth Medical Center Foundation. Goldfarb will be presented with the award at the 42nd annual Crystal Ball Gala, on May 10, 2014, in Lincroft, N.J.



Dr. Greenberg

**Michael Greenberg, MD, MPH**, professor of emergency medicine and chief of the Division of Medical Toxicology, has been named the Louis Roche Award recipient for 2014 by the European Association of Clinical Toxicologists.

This award is the highest presented by the association, recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of clinical toxicology. Greenberg will deliver the Louis Roche Lecture at the 50th International Congress of the association in Brussels, Belgium, in May. His presentation is titled "Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons: Environmental Hazard/Occupational Risk."

**Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD**, professor of neurology and medical director of the MDA/ALS Center of Hope, was recently elected co-chair of the Northeast Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Consortium (NEALS) executive committee.

**Sara Feldman, DPT**, the physical therapist for the MDA/ALS Center of Hope, has also been appointed to the committee. NEALS is an international, independent nonprofit group of researchers who collaboratively conduct clinical research in ALS and other motor neuron diseases, with the mission of quickly translating scientific discoveries into new treatments for people with ALS and motor neuron disease.

**Suresh G. Joshi, MD, MSc, PhD**, research assistant professor of surgery, and microbiology and immunology, and director of surgical site infection research, along with colleagues in Drexel's School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, published "Calcium Binding-Mediated Sustained Release of Minocycline from Hydrophilic Multilayer Coatings Targeting Infection and Inflammation" in *PLoS One* on January 7. The article outlines research that aims to reduce catheter-induced urinary tract infections by coating catheters with a polymer that has antimicrobial properties.

**Lanfranco Leo, Timothy Austin, and Andrew Matamoros**, doctoral students in the laboratory of **Peter Baas, PhD**, professor of neurobiology and anatomy, along with **Wenqian Yu, PhD**, research instructor of neurobiology and anatomy, authored "An Old Neuron's Guide to Regeneration," which detailed their Baas Lab fidgetin project and was included in a press release and booklet featured at the American Society for Cell Biology annual meeting, held in New Orleans in December 2013. Additional authors included colleagues from Drexel's Department of Biology and Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



**Dr. Long**

**Sarah Long, MD**, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and chief, Section of Infectious Diseases at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, has been appointed to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee. The committee

comprises 12 experts who will review and evaluate data on the safety, effectiveness and proper use of vaccines and other related products.

**Corey Meador**, a first-year medical student, is the author of "Beyond the Walls of Hospitals: Life as a Physician-Congressman," published February 6 by *in-Training*, an online magazine for medical students ([in-training.org/beyond-walls-hospitals-life-physician-congressman-42380](http://in-training.org/beyond-walls-hospitals-life-physician-congressman-42380)).



**Dr. Meucci**



**Dr. Barrett**

**Olimpia Meucci, MD, PhD**, professor of pharmacology and physiology, has been appointed deputy director of the recently established Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTRI).

In this role she will be working with the CTRI's founding director, **James Barrett, PhD**, to promote and support clinical and translational research throughout the University.



**Dr. Poggio**



**Dr. Stein**

**Juan Lucas Poggio, MD, MS**, assistant professor, Department of Surgery, was the author of "Perioperative Strategies to Prevent Surgical-Site Infection," which appeared in

the September 2013 issue of *Clinics in Colon and Rectal Surgery*.

In addition, Poggio; **David Stein, MD**, associate professor of surgery and chief, Division of Colorectal Surgery; **Richard Sensenig**, clinical research manager, Department of Surgery; and third-year medical students **James Liu** and **Adrian Kohut**, published "Unique Risks for Mortality in Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease Undergoing Non-emergent Colorectal Surgery" in the *American Journal of Surgery*, November 2013. This study was also presented at the Pennsylvania Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and as a poster at the AMA Research Symposium.

# Calendar

## March

*National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month*

21 **Match Day**  
Information: [shay.myers@drexelmed.edu](mailto:shay.myers@drexelmed.edu)

30 **American College of Cardiology Reception**  
Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 6 – 7:30 p.m.  
775 12<sup>th</sup> NW, Washington, DC  
Information: [medical.alumni@drexel.edu](mailto:medical.alumni@drexel.edu)

## April

*Alcohol Awareness Month*

9 **Golden Apple Awards Ceremony**  
Information: [shay.myers@drexelmed.edu](mailto:shay.myers@drexelmed.edu)

28 **Woman One Award Ceremony**  
Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia  
Information: [janine.barber@drexelmed.edu](mailto:janine.barber@drexelmed.edu)

## May

*Healthy Vision Month*

2-3 **Alumni Weekend**

4 **Digestive Disease Week Reception**  
Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile, 6 – 7:30 p.m.  
Information: [medical.alumni@drexel.edu](mailto:medical.alumni@drexel.edu)

14-16 **50-Year Reunion**

16 **Commencement**  
**50-Year and Grand Classes Luncheon**

## June

*Men's Health Month*

## July

*Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month*

14 **Stamatakis Golf Classic**  
Philadelphia Cricket Club  
Website: [drexelmed.edu/golf](http://drexelmed.edu/golf)

## August

*National Immunization Awareness Month*

8 **White Coat Ceremony**  
Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue  
4200 City Avenue

**Alumni: For more information about alumni events, please call 215.255.7345 or 866.373.9633 (toll-free), or email [medical.alumni@drexel.edu](mailto:medical.alumni@drexel.edu).**



Dr. Jean

**Joanna Solowska, PhD**, research associate, **Daphney Jean, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, and **Peter Baas, PhD**, professor of neurobiology and anatomy and director of the graduate program in neuroscience, in collaboration with Daniel

Miranda, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Biology at Drexel, and his graduate student Mitchell D. Rozario, published "Pathogenic Mutation of Spastin Has Gain-of-Function Effects on Microtubule Dynamics" in the *Journal of Neuroscience* in January 2014.



Dr. Soslau

Dr. Jost

**Gerald Soslau, PhD**, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and vice dean for professional studies in the health sciences; **Christopher**

**Mason, MD; Stephen Lynch, MS; James Benjamin, MS; Dani Ashak, MS; Jamunabai M. Prakash, MS; Andrew Moore, MS; Pamela Bagsiyao, MS; Trevine Albert; Lynn M. Mathew, MD; and Monika Jost, PhD**, assistant professor of radiation oncology and professional studies, published "Intracellular Matrix Metalloproteinase-2 (MMP-2) Regulates Human Platelet Activation via Hydrolysis of Talin" in the January issue of *Thrombosis and Haemostasis* (111, 140-153). At the time of the study, Mason, Lynch,

Benjamin, Ashak, Moore, Bagsiyao and Mathew were students in the Medical Sciences program; Prakash was in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program.

**Donna Sudak, MD**, professor of psychiatry, received the Bowis Award of the American College of Psychiatrists, on February 22 at the ACP annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The award is presented each year to an ACP member or fellow who has played a leadership role within the organization. Sudak was cited as a committed psychotherapy educator, who has established a national and international reputation for her work in the field of cognitive behavioral therapy.

Earlier in the month, as part of a Philadelphia Behavior Therapy Association workshop, Sudak presented "Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Supervision: Evidence-Informed Practices and Ethical Considerations" on February 15 on the Drexel University City Campus.



**Layton McCurdy, MD**, chair, ACP Committee on Awards, presents **Donna Sudak, MD**, with the Bowis Award.

## 2014 Philadelphia Health & Education Corporation Grant Awardees

A scientific review panel met on January 8 to evaluate the applications that were submitted for funding to the Philadelphia Health & Education Corporation's grant program. The panel comprised faculty from the College of Medicine and from other Drexel University schools and colleges. The following will receive awards:

### "Investigation of the Probiotic *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* as a Therapeutic Target for Neonatal Influenza Infection"

- Alison Carey, MD, Pediatrics

Co-Investigator:

Peter Katsikis, MD, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology

### "In-vivo 2 Photon Imaging of Neural Plasticity in Mouse Cortex to Compare Chronic Responses to the Drexel Braided Electrodes vs. Standard Microwires, With and Without Hydrogel Delivered Trophins"

- Simon F. Giszter, PhD, Neurobiology & Anatomy

Co-Investigators:

A. Denise Garcia, PhD, Biology, Drexel

Yinghui Zhong, PhD, Biomedical Engineering, Drexel

### "HIV-1 Viral Reservoir Persistence and CTL Surveillance During Effective Therapy"

- Michael Nonnemacher, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology

Co-Investigators:

Garth Ehrlich, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology

Uri Hershberg, PhD, Biomedical Engineering, Drexel

Yvonne Mueller, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology

### "Co-secretion of A $\beta$ and Norepinephrine in Transgenic Models of Alzheimer's Disease"

- Elisabeth Van Bockstaele, PhD, Pharmacology & Physiology

Co-Investigators:

Aleister J. Saunders, PhD, Biology, Drexel

Rita J. Valentino, PhD, Anesthesiology, CHOP;

Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, U Penn



Dr. Weingarten

**Michael Weingarten, MD, MBA**, professor of surgery, has been invited to present recent research at the 2014 Symposium on Advanced Wound Care/Wound Healing Society's 26th annual meeting, to be held in Orlando, Fla., from April 23-27. The three abstracts, "Low Intensity (55KPA) 20 KHz Ultrasound Heals Venous Ulcers," "In-vivo Validation of Frequency Domain Diffuse Near Infrared Spectroscopy for Deep Tissue Injury Assessment," and "Diffuse Correlation Spectroscopy Monitoring of Capillary Flow as It Correlates to Segmental Pressures

and Vascular Disease," represent collaborative efforts between the College of Medicine and Drexel's School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems.



Dr. Woodland

**Mark Woodland, MD**, vice dean for graduate medical education and program director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency, was recently appointed vice chair of the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. His term begins May 1.

## Researchers Discover Underlying Cause of Eczema

An estimated 30 million Americans suffer from eczema — the term for a group of medical conditions that cause the skin to become inflamed or irritated. The most common type of eczema is known as atopic dermatitis (AD). Now, researchers at Drexel University College of Medicine have shown for the first time what actually causes the itching associated with pruritus, the main symptom of AD.

As reported in the online edition of *JAMA Dermatology* (January 22), the researchers found that the staphylococcal bacteria that are normally found on the skin's surface produce a slime, or biofilm, which blocks the sweat ducts. The researchers explored the body's immune response and found that the blockage caused by AD-related bacteria activates molecules in the immune system known to create the itching and inflammation familiar to all sufferers of eczema.

The research was led by Herbert B. Allen, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Dermatology. "The dermatology community has known that this staph germ was present in eczema," says Allen. "But what we've been able to do in our research is to determine what the staph is doing to cause 'the itch that rashes.'"

Allen and his colleagues studied routine swabs from lesional and non-lesional skin from 40 patients with AD, including 21 males and 19 females ranging in age from 3 months to 85 years. All AD-affected samples contained multidrug-resistant staphylococci,

and all were positive for biofilm. The researchers also studied 20 control samples, which included 10 samples from normal skin and 10 samples from inflamed skin.

"We know that eczema is worse when it involves sweating," explains Allen. "The staphylococci are exposed to the salt water from the sweat ducts and produce the duct-occluding biofilm." This blockage of the sweat ducts activates the immune system's first responders, Allen continues, causing the itchy, red rash characteristic of AD.

Eczema has both a genetic component and an environmental component, Allen explains. "This is the environmental hit," he says. The genetic component has been shown to be related to a mutation in a gene called filaggrin, a filament-associated protein found in the epidermis. The exact role that this defect plays remains unclear. But patients can



**Eczema is known as "the itch that rashes."**

mitigate the genetic hand they were dealt, by treating the skin kindly, Allen says "using less soap, less hot water, less bathing and scrubbing, and more moisturizing." When necessary, antibacterial compounds — bleach gels or even a mild bleach bath, only under the guidance of a physician — can also be an effective therapeutic approach, as is the use of humidifiers and generous amounts of fragrance-free moisturizers.

Allen is now looking into whether occluded ducts also play a role in diseases that have eczema as part of their presentation, including seborrheic dermatitis, granular parakeratosis, prickly heat and tinea pedis (athlete's foot). According to Allen, the findings of his team could conceivably lead to a new kind of treatment, but that was not why he began the work. Rather, he was simply motivated to discover, as he and his team successfully did, how AD functions.

For the full citation and other authors of the *JAMA* paper, see page 10.

**Herbert B. Allen, MD, and colleagues uncovered what staph does to cause eczema.**



## '60s

**Loretta P. Finnegan, MD, HU '64**, is the author of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse 2013 report, *Licit and Illicit Drug Use During Pregnancy: Maternal, Neonatal and Early Childhood Consequences*. The report was released in November 2013 with a presentation by Finnegan during the center's biennial Issues of Substance conference.

**Robert J. Broselow, MD, HU '66**, now works in an urgent care center and raises Black Angus cattle on his ranch in Southland, Texas.

**Lawrence Lazarus, MD, HU '67**, has published a book, *Getting the Health Care You Deserve in America's Broken Health Care System* (October 2013), written for physicians and the lay public. He is currently in private psychiatric practice in Santa Fe, N.M.

**Jerry Frankel, MD, HU '69** of Plano, Texas, a member of Physicians for a National Health Program (pnhp.org) since the 1980s, has created a lay version of PNHP's presentation on health care policy, which he teaches to senior citizens at the senior learning division of the local community college. After practicing general urology for most of his career, Frankel spent four years in academic urology. Now, two years after retiring, he is planning to rejoin the medical workforce part time.

## '70s

**Harry L. Bremer, MD, HU '71**, an adult neurologist, retired from Carle Clinic Association/Carle Physician Group, Urbana, Ill., in December 2013. He was at Carle for 37 years. He is a former president of the Champaign County Medical Society. In 2010, he received the Community Recognition Award from Carle Clinic Association.

**Fredric Brandt, MD, HU '75**, a cosmetic dermatologist based in Coral Gables, Fla., and New York City, has launched two skincare product lines: Do Not Age (DNA) and Xtend Your Youth (XYY). Aside from his dermatology practices, Brandt hosts a radio show called *Ask Dr. Brandt!* on Sirius XM 106. He is board certified in internal medicine and dermatology.

## '80s

**William F. Muhr Jr., MD, HU '83; Diagnostic Radiology Resident, HU '87; Hematology and Oncology Fellow '09**, was featured in *South Jersey Business Journal's* list of Executives of the Year. Muhr has been CEO of South Jersey Radiology Associates in Marlton, N.J., since 2011. He continues in clinical practice and is affiliated with Virtua Voorhees Hospital.

**Stephen Rith-Najarian, MD, HU '83**, a family medicine physician, was hired by Sanford Bemidji Walk-In Clinic in Bemidji, Minn. Previously, Rith-Najarian served as a physician in Cass Lake, Minn., where he retired from a full-time family medicine practice.

**Susan A. Reisinger, MD, HU '84**, was featured in the "2013 Medical Marvels" list of top Nevada doctors in the *Nevada Business Journal*. Reisinger is a radiation oncologist and medical director at 21st Century Oncology at its locations in Las Vegas and Henderson, Nev. She is board certified in radiation oncology.

**Susan Clark Ball, MD, MCP '85; MPH, MS**, was inducted into the Clinton Central School District's Hall of Distinction for her clinical work caring for patients with HIV/AIDS for more than 20 years. Ball is the assistant director of the Bernbaum Unit, Center for Special Studies at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York City. She is also an associate professor of clinical medicine and clinical public health at Weill Cornell Medical College.

## Saris Memorial Fund Award Presented

Kathryn Wieckowski Jarrett, MD '09, a resident in the Drexel/Hahnemann Radiology Residency program, received the 2013 Demetrius S. & Nayda E. Saris Memorial Fund award, which was presented on November 11, 2013. Several of the Sarises' children were on hand for the occasion. Standing behind the recipient, with her husband, Matthew Jarrett, MD, and their children, are (l-r) Barbara Saris Easby; Anne Saris, MD, HU '76; Lydia Saris Mechenbier, MD; Terry Saris Parkes, MD, HU '88; Jay Yanoff, EdD, chief graduate medical education officer, Hahnemann University Hospital; Olivia Rheinhart, director of graduate medical education, HUH; and Robert Koenigsberg, DO, Radiology Residency program director.



**Susan Guttentag, MD, MCP '85**, recently became the director of the Division of Neonatology within the Department of Pediatrics at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., and a professor of clinical pediatrics at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Previously, she served as associate professor of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Meena Desai, MD, MCP '86**, was featured in the list of "100 Physician Leaders to Know in the ASC [Ambulatory Surgery Center] Industry" in *Becker's ASC Review*. Desai is the founder, president and CEO of Nova Anesthesia Professionals in Villanova, Pa., and is a board-certified anesthesiologist. She has held numerous leadership positions with the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care and the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia.

**Mark Farnsworth, MD, HU '86**, a family physician at Barbour County Family Medicine in Philippi, W.Va., was named the Barbour County Chamber of Commerce Member of the Month. Before joining Barbour County Family Medicine, Farnsworth directed the emergency room at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital in Weston, W.Va.

**Scott Sinner, MD, HU '88**, an infectious disease physician, joined Mercy Health–Clermont Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine in Batavia, Ohio. Sinner specializes in wound care, hyperbaric medicine and infectious disease.

**Michael Goldfinger, MD, MCP '89**, board certified in internal medicine, has joined the Internal Medicine Associates of Abington in Jenkintown, Pa. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

**Laurel P. Hansch, MD, HU '89**, was featured in the "2013 Who's Who in Health Care" by the Santa Barbara, Calif., magazine *Pacific Coast Business Times*. Hansch, a radiology specialist, is the chief of staff at Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital in Solvang, Calif.

**Brian K. Kelly, MD, HU '89**, has been appointed director of neurology for Aria Neurosciences. This is a joint venture with Capital Health Institute of Neurosciences, to provide neurology and neurosurgery services to the communities of Aria Health Systems.

## '90s

**Craig Jurasinski, MD, MCP '90**, a board-certified pathologist, joined the Cape Regional Medical Center Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in Cape May Court House, N.J., and was appointed chairman of the Department of Laboratory Services. He was previously affiliated with Coastal Clinical Pathologists in Somers Point, N.J.

**Jeffrey McGovern, MD, HU '90**, of Erie, Pa., completed his tenure as chairman, Department of Medicine, at UPMC Hamot in Erie, where he practices pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. He also served as medical director of information technology during the rollout of the electronic health record system there.



## The Grand Classes Return: A New Tradition

When Robert S. Seeherman, MD, HU '49, came to medical school, he arrived early. An undergraduate at William & Mary, he participated in a wartime program that allowed students to proceed directly from their junior year into professional school. As Seeherman began his medical education at Hahnemann, he simultaneously completed his undergraduate degree. However, he did not receive his William & Mary diploma until he finally requested it in 2004 — almost 60 years late.

This May, Robert Seeherman will return to his *medical* alma mater right on time to help start a new tradition. Graduates from the College of Medicine classes of 1963 and earlier — the "Grand Classes" — are invited to join the 50th reunion alumni at a special luncheon celebration on Friday, May 16, following Commencement.

Seeherman plans to attend with his son Marc and looks forward to seeing some classmates.



**Robert S. Seeherman, MD, HU '49, left, received his undergraduate diploma from William & Mary in 2004.**

**Raymond DeMaio, MD, HU '92**, received the 2013 Good Neighbor Award from the Lebanon Lions Club for offering eye exams to young clients in the community at low or no cost. DeMaio practices ophthalmology at Bouquet, Mulligan, and DeMaio Eye Professionals at their two locations in Lebanon and Elizabethtown, Pa.

**Farzaneh Farzin, MD, HU '94**, was featured in the "2013 Medical Marvels" list of top Nevada doctors in the *Nevada Business Journal*. Farzin is a radiation oncologist at Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada in Las Vegas.

**Michael A. Neri, Jr., MD, HU '96**, has been appointed to the position of assistant area medical director of Kaiser Permanente, Riverside, Calif. He also serves as coordinating chief of urgent care, Southern California.

**Michael Berendt, PhD, HU '97**, was appointed CEO of Bioniche Life Sciences Inc., a Canadian biopharmaceutical company, located in Belleville, Ontario. Berendt joined Bioniche from Aegera Therapeutics, where he was the president and CEO.

**Angela DangVu, MD, MCP '97**, a board-certified pediatrician at Pediatric and Adult Medicine, Inc. in Tustin, Calif., is president-elect of the Orange County Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Joseph C. Hegarty, MD, HU '97**, was featured in "Meet the Doctors" in *South Magazine* (Savannah, Ga.). Hegarty is an interventional pain management physician at Optim Healthcare in Savannah.

**Cheryl Kemerer, MD, HU '97**, a board-certified pediatrician, has joined Warrenton Pediatrics in Warrenton, Va. Kemerer's interests include newborn care and lactation, developmental pediatrics and adolescent health. She holds certifications in neonatal resuscitation and basic life support.

**Brian Radbill, MD, HU '98**, was named chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs for Mount Sinai Queens Hospital in Long Island City, N.Y. He previously served as the medical director of the dialysis program and clinical director of the renal division at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Radbill is also an associate professor of medicine in nephrology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology.

## '00s

**Christopher Romero, MD, MCPHU '01**, a pediatric endocrinologist at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital in Baltimore, Md., was elected to the Society for Pediatric Research in recognition of his contributions to the study of childhood disease through his research into the molecular and genetic mechanisms that regulate the pituitary gland. Romero also earned his master's in medical science at MCPHU.

**Michelle Dougherty, MD '02**, was named medical director of the epilepsy and seizure disorders program at Capital Health Regional Medical Center locations in Hamilton, N.J., at the Center for Neurologic Disease, and in Pennington, N.J., at the Capital Institute for Neurosciences. Dougherty is a neurologist and is board certified in epilepsy by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Previously, she was the director of the neurology residency program, EEG lab, and epilepsy monitoring unit at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia.

**Brett J. Karlik, MD '03**, an ophthalmologist, took ownership of the Elk County Eye Clinic in Saint Marys, Pa., in 2013 after working at the facility for several years. He performs surgery at the Elks Regional Health Center and the Regional Ambulatory Surgery Center. He is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

**Sarah Grace Coleman, MD, '05; Rheumatology Fellow '10**, joined the Department of Medicine/Rheumatology at Doylestown Hospital in association with Rheumatic Disease Associates in Doylestown, Pa. Coleman is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in internal medicine and rheumatology.

## Upcoming Events

### American College of Cardiology Reception

Alumni, faculty, residents, students and friends  
Sunday, March 30, 6 – 7:30 p.m.  
Washington Marriott at Metro Center  
Washington, DC, 20005-3901  
medical.alumni@drexel.edu

### Alumni Weekend

Classes of 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984,  
1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009  
Friday, May 2 & Saturday, May 3  
The Events @ Alumni Weekend  
drexelmed.edu/alumni/reunions

### Digestive Disease Week Reception

Alumni, faculty, residents, students and friends  
Sunday, May 4, 6 – 7:30 p.m.  
Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile, Erie Room  
Information: medical.alumni@drexel.edu

### 50-Year Reunion

Classes of 1964  
Wednesday, May 14 – Friday, May 16  
Three days of events culminating in Commencement  
drexelmed.edu/alumni/reunions

### Grand Classes Reunion

Classes of 1963 and earlier  
Friday, May 16, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
A celebratory luncheon at the Union League

• continued on page 18

# Above and Beyond: Heather J. Painter, PhD '08

Heather J. Painter, PhD '08, is used to exceeding expectations. As a doctoral candidate in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at the College of Medicine, she was both a standout academic and a leader in student government. Since graduating, she has continued to be involved in the College, providing a voice for graduate students through her work with the Alumni Association.

Growing up near Reading, Pa., Painter always thought she would become a science teacher. "I love sharing biology," she says. "I like to see other people get excited about it." With Bachelor of Science degrees in biology and secondary education from Bloomsburg University, she taught sixth and ninth grades. That lasted one year. "It just was not challenging enough," she explains. "I had fun. My kids were fun. But I just wanted to be on the edge of research and learning things every day."

Painter began her Drexel career in the College's Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program. The opportunity to explore different fields before committing to a discipline was a big advantage, distinguishing the College's offerings from other grad programs, in Painter's assessment. Based on her success in the master's program, she was invited to transition into the school's PhD program in microbiology and immunology. There she began working in the laboratory of Professor Akhil B. Vaidya, PhD.

The Vaidya lab focuses on understanding malaria and developing anti-malarial drugs. A global scourge, malaria is most prevalent in tropical regions, disproportionately affecting children. Painter says this work, her closest to translational research, was very satisfying. As a researcher, she found it gratifying to "see an endpoint, a result ... something that's being directly applied to patients."

Painter continues this line of inquiry today as a postdoctoral research assistant in Manuel Llinás's lab at Penn State University. Her current work focuses on the basic biology of the malaria parasite: how it expresses genes and when. "If we can understand exactly how the parasite controls

what genes are turned off and on," she explains, "[those genes can then be targeted] for therapeutic intervention."

This research is critical since malaria has shown resistance to every prescribed anti-malarial. "The more anti-malarials we have, and the more effective they are, the less chance there is for a resistance to develop," she says. Painter's work on malaria merited distinction at Drexel, when she received the Bondi Fellowship Award, given to a continuing PhD student for excellence in research. Since that time, she has had several publications.

Painter thoroughly enjoyed her time as a graduate student at the College of Medicine. Students, she says, receive very focused training as well as experience "great interaction" with the faculty. Similarly, the class is close, and there is easy "interaction and collaboration between programs and between research labs," she adds.

Painter served as an organizer for Discovery Day, the College's annual research day, while she was a student and particularly relished the opportunity to present at the conference. For her, Discovery Day provided an avenue "to broaden your audience and really showcase what's going on at the school and what you're working on."

Painter did more with her time at the College of Medicine than just conduct research and present scholarly findings. In fact, at graduation, she received the Alumni Association Award for services to graduate programs and student body. As president of the Graduate Student Association, she worked closely with the Alumni Association to create programs for graduate students. For instance, the GSA created networking seminars between grad students and alumni, to provide a sense of the various careers possible for science-oriented PhDs. Now as an alum herself, Painter is a board member and treasurer of the Alumni Association.

Painter acknowledges that it can be difficult for graduate students to remain connected to the College — and each other — after graduation: most "tend to move anywhere" in the world for job opportunities. Then, immersed in research, it is easy to "get lost" in the consuming subject and schedule. Painter understands this dynamic and wants to "be a voice for graduate students" since their experience differs from that of medical students.

To this end, she explains that the Alumni Association is actively "reaching out to former [graduate] students to let them know what the Alumni Association is doing." Just as graduate students have a different set of needs, they are also in a position to contribute unique strengths as alumni. Painter seems to be proof of that.



**Heather Painter wants to help graduate students stay connected.**

**Jennifer Episcopo, MD '05**, a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, joined the medical staff of Wilkes-Barre General Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Previously she worked at Ob/Gyn Associates in Allentown, Pa.

**Abbas Husain, MD '05; Emergency Medicine Resident '08**, was promoted to associate program director of the emergency medicine residency program of Staten Island University Hospital in Staten Island, N.Y. Husain also became a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

**Anthony Nici, MD '07**, recently finished his gastroenterology fellowship at New York Hospital Queens and became board certified in gastroenterology. He has joined Crystal Run Healthcare, a multispecialty practice in Middletown, N.Y.

**Gerardo Romeo, MD, '08; DDS**, was hired as a faculty member in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at University of Cincinnati, where he specializes in pediatric oral and maxillofacial surgery, cleft and craniofacial surgery, orthognathic surgery and facial

trauma. Romeo completed a fellowship in pediatrics, specifically in cleft and craniofacial surgery and pediatric oral and maxillofacial surgery at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

**John Paul Henao, MD '09**, is currently finishing his pediatric anesthesiology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. This summer he will join Sierra Anesthesia in Reno, Nev., where he will be the only pediatric anesthesiologist in the city. Henao completed his anesthesiology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



**Steven Stoll, MD '09**, has joined R-Health, a provider of direct primary care, as the start-up's first primary care physician. Stoll, who is board certified in family medicine, completed his residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and subsequently started his private practice, Stoll Medical Group. He earned his undergraduate degree from Drexel in 2005.



## Our Alumni Are Top Doctors

These alumni were named Top Doctors in *Main Line Today* (December 2013), a regional magazine focusing on Philadelphia's Main Line and western suburbs.

Anthony Antonello, MD, MCP '85

Stuart Barish, MD, HU '89

Michael Belden, MD, MCP '94

Kari Boucher, MD, HU '97

Timothy Boyek, MD, HU '82

Sweta Chandela, MD '03

David Cohen, MD, HU '83

Jack Collazo, MD, MCP '90

Seana Covello, MD, HU '94

Gregory Cuculino, MD, MCP '96

Dennis Donnelly, MD, HU '68

Mitchell Drake, MD, MCP '97

Peter Ennis, MD, HU '93

Rita Falcone, MD, MCP '89

Albert Fink, Jr., MD, HU '81

Jeffrey Finkelstein, MD, MCP '85

Kenneth Gelman, MD, MCP '94

Howard Gitter, MD, HU '81

Duane Godshall, MD, HU '98

Stephen Higgins, MD, HU '89

Allison Horowitz, MD '08;

Pediatrics Resident '08

Asif Ilyas, MD, MCPHU '01

Erum Ilyas, MD, MCPHU '01

Denise Joffe, MD, MCPHU '01

Larry Katin, MD, MCP '86

Joyann Kroser, MD, MCP '90

Alex Kuryan, MD, MCPHU '99

Bethany Kutz, MD '02

Jeanna Labik, MD '07

Kathleen Long, MD, HU '78

Russ Love, MD, HU '94

Drew McCausland, MD, HU '69

Maureen McMahon, MD, MCP '95

William Merenich, MD, MCP '87

Roselle Mesmer, MD, HU '93

Christine Meyer, MD, HU '97; MS, HU '98; MS '02

Christopher Meyer, MD, HU '97

Ken Morgenstern, MD, MCP '85

John O'Hara, Jr., MD, HU '76

David Pedowitz, MD, MCPHU '01

Michael Picariello, MD, MCP '86

Ross Podell, MD, HU '93

Richard Ratner, MD, HU '73

Jill Render, MD, MCPHU '00

Robert Ruggiero, MD, HU '67

Kimberly Sabadish, MD, HU '97

Lisa Sardanopoli, MD, HU '91

Joshua Scharf, MD, MCPHU '01

Richard Schott, MD, HU '70;

Internal Medicine Resident '75

John Seedor, MD, HU '81

Sushrut Shah, MD, MCPHU '00

Nancy Sherwin, MD, HU '79

Steven Shore, MD, HU '84

Sallie Speck, MD, MCP '98;

Emergency Medicine Resident '01

Calvin Stafford, MD, HU '71

David Steinman, MD, MCP '88

Jean Stretton, MD, HU '79

Adrienne Towsen, MD, MCP '98

Vanita Treat, MD '02

David Trinkley, MD, HU '92

Andrew Ulichney, MD, HU '95

David Vegari, MD '07

Lawrence Wallach, MD, HU '69

David Walzer, MD, HU '78

William Clay Warnick, MD, HU '89

Laura White, MD, MCPHU '01

Brian Wilner, MD, MCPHU '01

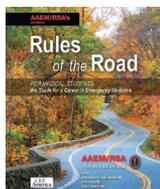
Michael Wolfson, MD, MCPHU '99

Mark Zitlin, MD, HU '85

Erik Zeger, MD, MCPHU '99

## '10s

**Brett Rosen, MD '11**, is one of three chief editors of AAEM/RSA's *Rules of the Road for Medical Students: The Guide for a Career in Emergency Medicine*. He is the author of two chapters in the book as well. Rosen's editorial contributions were recognized with a plaque presented at the national meeting of AAEM/RSA in February in New York. Rosen earned his bachelor's degree from Drexel in 2007.



## Former Residents and Fellows

**Linda Brecher, DO; Rheumatology Fellow, HU '92**, has joined Shore Physicians Group in Somers Point, N.J., as a rheumatologist. Previously, Brecher was with Penn Medicine Cherry Hill in Cherry Hill, N.J. She is board certified in internal medicine and rheumatology and is a member of the American College of Osteopathic Internists and the American College of Rheumatology.

**Sherron Colgram, MD; Obstetrics and Gynecology Resident '13**, a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, joined SMG Women's Health at Morton Hospital in Taunton, Mass.

**Florence Jean-Louis, MD; Obstetrics and Gynecology Resident '06**, a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist, joined Middletown Medical, part of Liberty Medical Group, in Ferndale, N.Y. Previously, she worked at Hudson Valley Healthcare in Monticello, The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center in Newburgh, and Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris, all in N.Y.

**Steven Maser, MD; Orthopaedic Surgery Resident, HU '92**, a hand and orthopedic surgeon, was elected by his peers as president of the medical staff of Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, N.J. Maser has been in private practice for 20 years with offices in Morristown and Dover, N.J.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your professional accomplishments in Alumni Notes. Email your news to [pulse@drexelmed.edu](mailto:pulse@drexelmed.edu).

Read and post more personal notes through the Drexel Online Alumni Directory. Register at [alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DXU](http://alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DXU).

Don't miss your alumni publications! Send your updated contact information to [medical.alumni@drexel.edu](mailto:medical.alumni@drexel.edu)

## In Memoriam

### Alumni

- Joseph L. Azorsky, MD, HU '56** February 3, 2014  
**Robert W. Bacorn, MD, HU '45** December 20, 2013  
**Martha L. Biemuller, MD, WMC '56** November 30, 2013  
**Sylvia Linda Susan Brodsky, MD, MCP '79**  
February 13, 2014  
**James J. Chiappetta, MD, HU '36** November 16, 2013  
**Morton R. Coane, MD, HU '43** November 7, 2013  
**Samuel Cissel III, MD, HU '47** November 25, 2013  
**Dorothy R. Conzelman, MD, WMC '56**  
December 16, 2013  
**Chad C. Cripe, MD, MCPHU '00** February 1, 2014  
**Marie Faraci, MD, WMC, '65** November 23, 2013  
**Patricia Yarovote Hagendorn, MD, WMC '60**  
February 19, 2014  
**Mary J. Hudak, MD, MCP '78** December 30, 2013  
**Roman J. Kownacki, MD, HU '53** January 24, 2014  
**Horace D. Marucci, MD, HU '44** November 17, 2013  
**Trevor Lee McKissick, MD, HU '62** December 16, 2013  
**Richard S. Monheit, MD, HU '43** March 27, 2013  
**Golda R. Nobel, MD, WMC '31** January 20, 2014  
**Mary S. Oda, MD, WMC '46** October 18, 2013  
**Michael Joseph Panella, MD, MCP '89** January 12, 2014  
**Paul Ivan Roda, MD, HU '76** December 2, 2013  
**John C. Skilling, MD, HU '61** November 6, 2013  
**Michael J. Stamatakos, MD, HU '53** February 8, 2014  
**Samuel S. Sverdlik, MD, HU '42** February 2, 2014  
**Merrell E. Thallinger Jr., MD, HU '58** December 1, 2013  
**Benjamin C.K. Tom, MD, HU '55** August 13, 2013  
**Richard A. Witzig, MD, HU '62** April 18, 2013  
**Eugene M. Wyso, MD, HU '52** January 12, 2014  
**Ihor Zajac, PhD, HU '64** January 12, 2014  
**Petrucelli Zaladonis, MD, WMC '59** January 1, 2014

### Faculty

**John R. Prehatny, MD**, adjunct professor of surgery, passed away on February 1. Prehatny graduated from Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine in 1957; he then completed his surgical internship at Methodist Hospital and a residency at Jefferson Medical College. He was chief resident at Philadelphia General Hospital. In a career that spanned almost 50 years, Prehatny began as an instructor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He eventually rose to the rank of chairman of the Department of Surgery at Methodist Hospital. He also spent almost 20 years as a professor of surgery at Jefferson Medical College. He was appointed adjunct professor at the College of Medicine in 2004, and received an award for excellence in teaching in 2013. He is survived by his wife, Helene; his son, John R., Jr.; daughters Charlene Ryan, Linda Swain, Lorraine Belprez and Barbara Rake; as well as two sisters and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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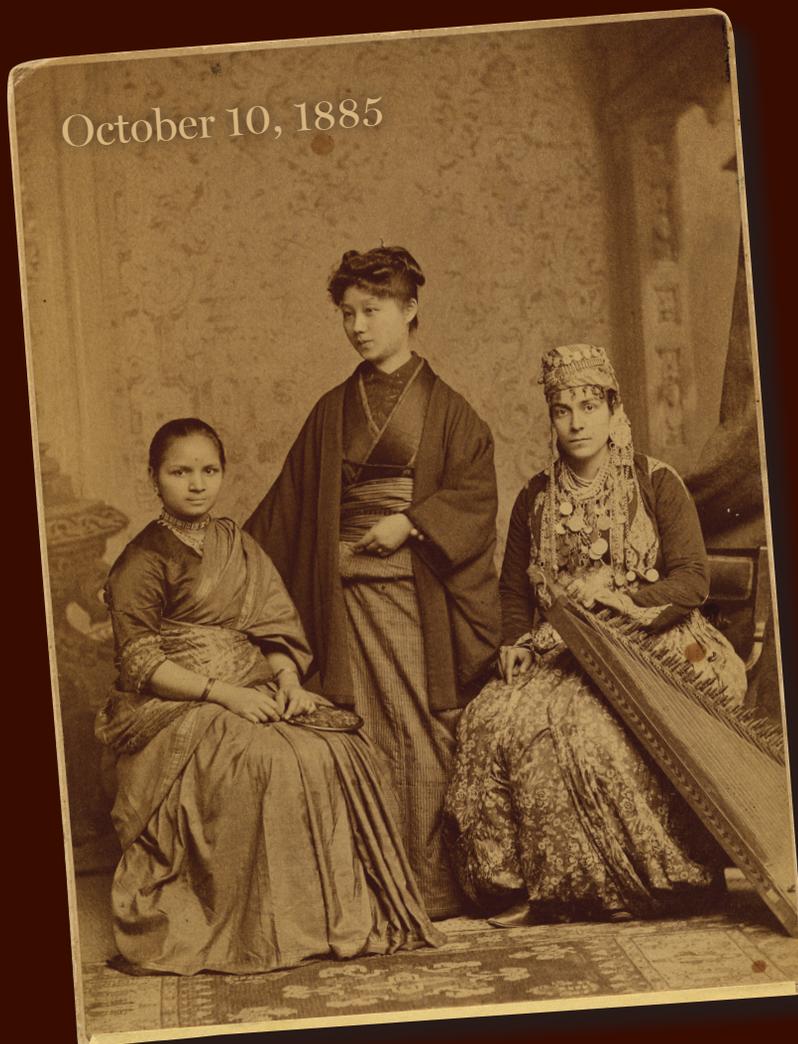
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## Women Came From Around the World to Woman's Med

Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, the first medical college for women in the world, drew Anandibai Joshee, class of 1886, from India; Kei Okami, 1889, from Japan; and Sabat M. Islambooly, 1890, from Syria. Evidence suggests each of the women was the first, or among the first, from her country to earn a degree in Western medicine. Joshee, a high-caste Brahmin woman, was also said to be the first Hindu woman to set foot in the United States. The photo is from the Legacy Center ([drexelmed.edu/archives](http://drexelmed.edu/archives)).