VOL. 10 WINTER 2025

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

College of Medicine

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

BAYHEALTH MEDICAL CENTER: DREXEL'S DISTRIBUTED EDUCATIONAL MODEL AT WORK

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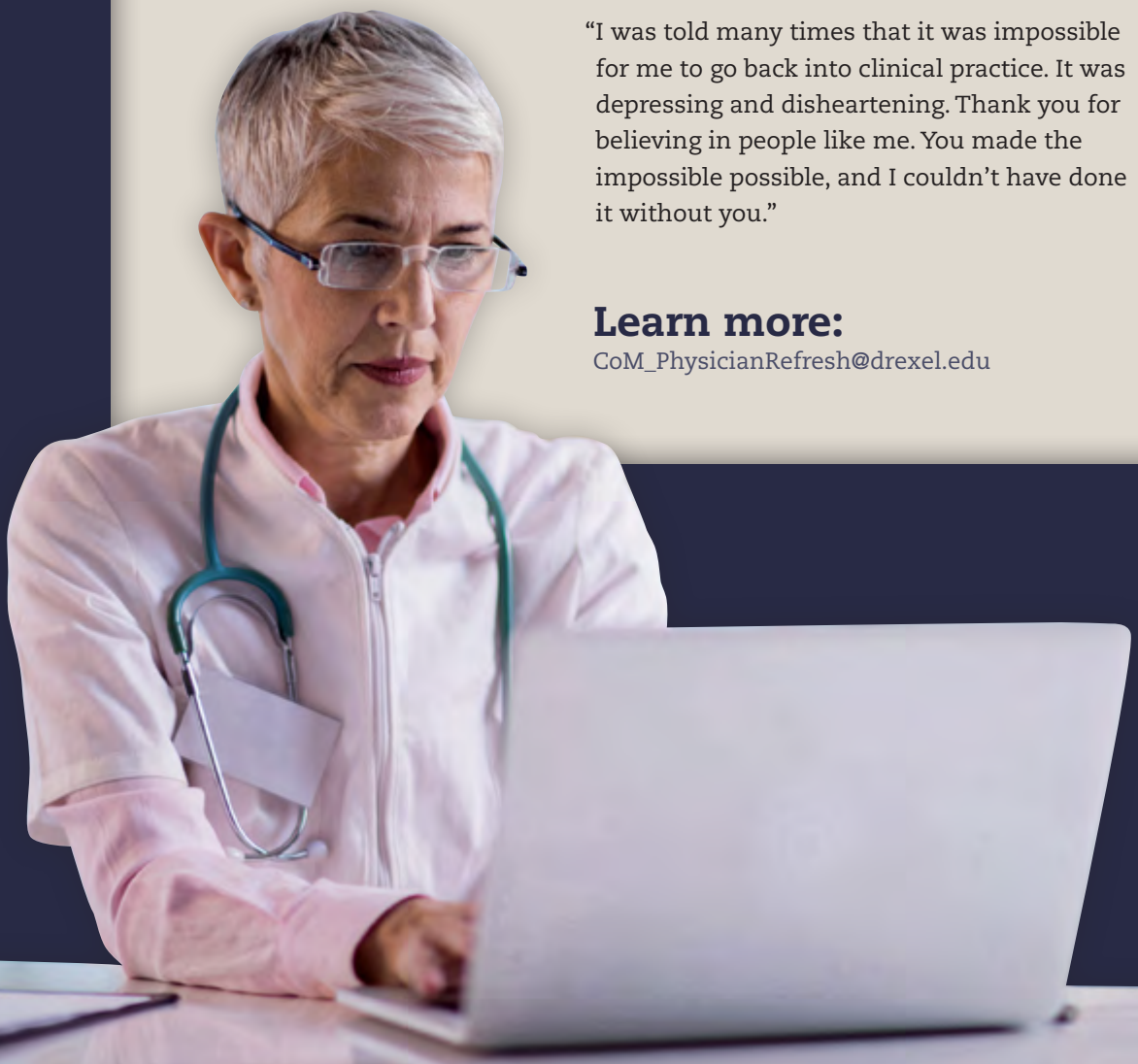
"Time away from practice can be isolating for a physician. This program provided an invaluable way to regain knowledge, confidence and skills, as well as to establish professional connections."



"I was told many times that it was impossible for me to go back into clinical practice. It was depressing and disheartening. Thank you for believing in people like me. You made the impossible possible, and I couldn't have done it without you."

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ON THE COVER
Drexel third-year MD students were welcomed to Bayhealth Medical Center, which recently became a regional medical campus for the College of Medicine.

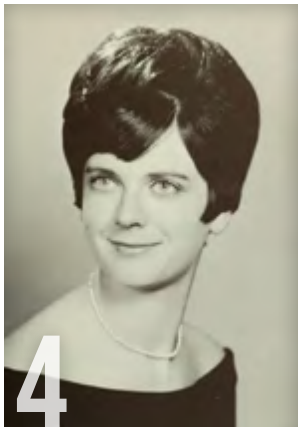
Photo: Brandon Howie/Bayhealth

FEATURED

DREXEL FORGES NEW COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP
Drexel faculty, staff and students are connecting with young Philadelphians at the neighboring Science Leadership Academy Middle School.

ARTICLES

DEPARTMENTS



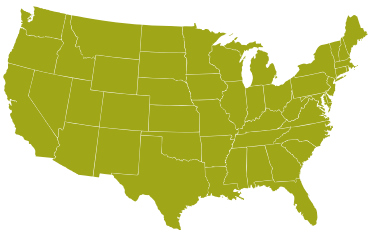
Jeannette Chirico-Post, MD, WMC '68, has forged a successful career caring for veterans and championing gender equity.

Matches Made in Medical School

The class of 2024 had a triumphant Match Day, with a success rate of 96% in the National Residency Matching Program. After the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program, all students seeking a residency match obtained one.

2024 Residency Match

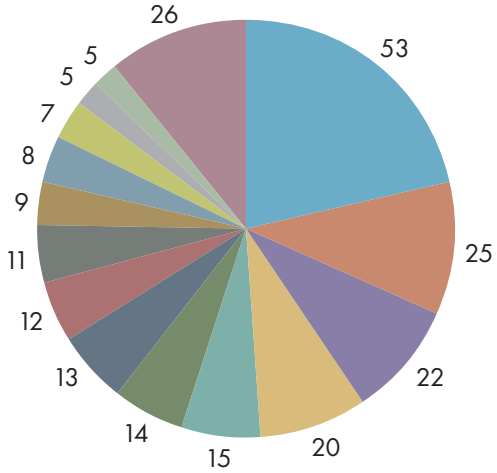
Match by State



Pennsylvania	79
New York	35
California	25
New Jersey	17
Massachusetts	11
Ohio	9
Washington, D.C.	7
Florida	7
Maryland	7
Connecticut	6
Delaware	6
Illinois	6
North Carolina	6
Missouri	5
Virginia	5
Rhode Island	4
South Carolina	3
Texas	3
Louisiana	2
New Hampshire	2
Tennessee	2
Vermont	2
Washington	2

Match by Specialty

One third of the class entered primary care specialties.



Internal Medicine	53
Emergency Medicine	25
General Surgery	22
Anesthesiology	20
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Psychiatry	14
Pediatrics	13
Family Medicine	12
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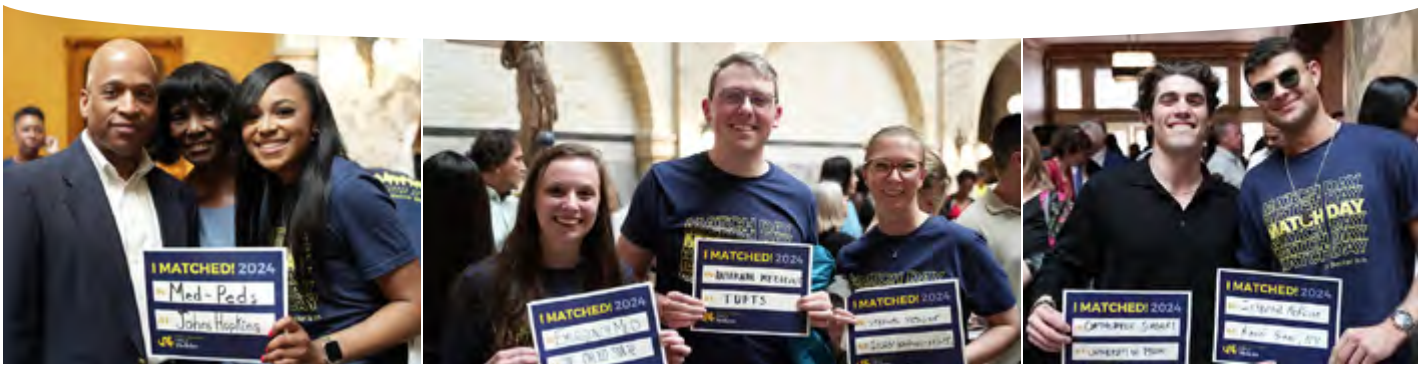
Radiology	9
Orthopaedic Surgery	8
Otolaryngology	7
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	5
Medicine-Pediatrics	5
Other	26



As the year winds down, it is time to take a pause to look back at how the legacy of Drexel University College of Medicine continued to grow in 2024 and what milestones we can look forward to celebrating in the year ahead. On September 15, the Lower Merion Historical Society dedicated a state historical marker in Bala Cynwyd, Pa., at the Idenlea Estate. This was the home of Dr. Hannah E. Longshore (1819-1901), the first female physician in Pennsylvania and an alumna of the inaugural Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMCP) class of 1852. Her daughter was the well-known suffragette Lucretia Mott Longshore Blankenburg (1845-1937). This remarkable family also played an integral role in the establishment of WMCP, as Hannah's brother-in-law, Dr. Joseph S. Longshore, was one of the co-founders.

What followed was the rich legacy of WMCP and its graduates, which reads like a history book of America. Counted among the ranks of alumni are the first Native American female physician, Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte; members of the United States House of Representatives Dr. J. Howard Swick and Dr. Isaac Barber; a Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David Shulkin; an aspiring Olympian and Title IX trailblazer, Dr. Mary O'Connor; a NASA astronaut, Dr. Patricia Robertson; and a physician who lent her name to the disease she first described, Dr. Myrtelle Canavan.

Even Hollywood has taken notice of the school's pioneering impact by having the fictional character Dr. Michaela Quinn graduate from WMCP in the television show Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman. This legacy continues to the present day as Drexel University College of Medicine has become one of the largest private medical schools in the United States, graduating over 300 physicians per year. We can look forward to celebrating this amazing history in 2025, which marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

All of these milestones and achievements remind us of our common connections through our predecessor institutions, and now collectively as alumni of the College of Medicine. Not only is it important to be connected to the past, but to continue to build a strategic plan for the future. The Alumni Association Board of Directors would like to strengthen ties with current students through mentoring and networking. As former students, we know the quality education that they are receiving. As alumni, we comprise a network of thousands of physicians and scientists who can assist today's learners in finding post-graduate training positions and research opportunities.

As we reconnect at Alumni Weekend in May and at the celebration of the 175th anniversary of WMCP, take that extra second to pause and reassess how you can make an impact to continue the long, successful legacy of Drexel graduates. If you would like to learn more about ways to give back to the College or get involved, please contact Andrea Hannan at adp77@drexel.edu or 215.432.7934.

Meghan Berkenstock, MD '11
President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

A Champion for Women and Veterans:

JEANNETTE A. CHIRICO-POST, MD, WMC '68

By Nancy West

1968 was one of the most tumultuous years in American history. While the Beatles topped the charts with "Hey Jude," the U.S. was rocked by the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, widespread protests against the Vietnam War and violence at the Chicago Democratic National Convention. At the same time, Gloria Steinem was leading the second-wave feminist movement and NASA's Apollo 8 astronauts completed the first human orbit of the moon.

It was during this turbulent time that Jeannette A. Chirico-Post, MD, WMC '68, graduated from Woman's Medical College, determined to support women who wanted to become doctors while advancing her own career at a time when female physicians faced a great deal of discrimination.

"I knew when I was a youngster in grade school that I wanted to be a doctor," says Chirico-Post. "It began when my younger sister was ill. My folks said that I was very attentive to her and, when the doctor made a house call, I tried to tell him what to do. When he was preparing to give her a shot, I said, 'Oh, she doesn't need a shot.' I learned to speak my mind at an early age."

Speaking her mind helped her to meet the challenges she faced while pursing a career in medicine when women were in the minority. Her greatest support came from her family. "My parents worked very hard to help me get through school. I couldn't have done it without them," she says.

YOU'RE A WOMAN. WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Chirico-Post's first experience with discrimination was with her pre-med advisor at St. John's University in New York. She was determined to earn a straight Bachelor of Science degree, which would enable her to apply to medical school, instead of the Bachelor of Science and Education degree that her advisor was recommending. He said, "You're a woman. Why do you want to go to medical school? I don't know if I can support you."

Undeterred by his response, she changed her approach. She switched her major to chemistry and found a very encouraging chemistry professor who helped make her application to medical school stand out. She applied to six schools, an expensive proposition that her parents wholeheartedly supported, and was accepted by Woman's Medical College.

"The support for women at Woman's Medical College was unbelievable — very different from what we got anywhere

else," she recalls. "It was a very caring place in the '60s. June Klinghoffer [MD, WMC '45] and many other wonderful faculty members looked after us."

Chirico-Post also supported her fellow students. A member of Zeta Phi, the women's medical fraternity housed in an old Victorian mansion on Fox Street, she became one of the fraternity officers and ran the house. "We served dinner six nights a week," she relates. "The students considered it a blessing to come home and have a really great meal ready for them. We fed about 20 women on those six nights, and we also ran socials — that's where I met my husband, Jim. We got married after graduation."

The newlywed couple moved to Buffalo, N.Y., where Chirico-Post completed her internship and residency in neurology at a hospital affiliated with the University of Buffalo, and they welcomed their first child, Christopher. Once again, she faced discrimination when she learned that a male resident who was the same year and had the same night calls as she did was making $500 more than she was.

"In the '70s, that was a lot of money," she says. "So I went to the chairman about it. He said, 'Oh, but he's married and has a child.' And I said, 'Oh, but I'm married and I have a child.' He said, 'But you have a husband.' I said, 'I'm married and have a child and do the same call and the same rotations.' He finally gave me my $500."

Her fellow female residents often came to her for help with their own problems with discrimination. She recalls that one year, the male residents put up a girlie calendar in the residents' room. "The women were angry and came to me," she says. "I marched over to the residents' room and said to the guys, 'Take it down.' And they did. It was finished."

Fortunately, she also encountered a lot of people who were happy to help women advance in medicine. "I had a lot of support when I was preparing to take the boards," says Chirico-Post, who was six months pregnant with her second child at that time. "Pioneering behavioral neurologists Drs. Norm Geschwind and Frank Benson were a great help to me."

Chirico-Post paid it forward by mentoring other young women. "We had a 'girls club,'" she recalls. "They would come to our house for dinner, and we made sure everyone had a place at the table for Thanksgiving and no one had to be alone for the holidays."

COMMITTED TO HELPING VETERANS

In 1974, after a few years in private practice, Chirico-Post decided to become a neurologist with the Department of Veterans Affairs, a move that defined the rest of her career. In the beginning, she joined the VA for a very practical reason — equity of salary, something that was difficult for women to achieve in those days. But the reason she stayed with the VA for the rest of her career was because she loved helping and improving care for veterans.

She served in various leadership roles at the Boston VA Medical Center for 20 years. As assistant chief of staff, she ran the quality management program for that facility. "I always believed that it was up to us to police ourselves to make sure we were doing right by our patients," she states.

When the chief of staff position opened at the Boston VA, she applied but wasn't selected. "I was absolutely crushed by that and felt it was a discriminatory act. But I have lived my life with the belief that sometimes when a window closes, a door opens," she reflects. Another chief of staff position opened up at the Providence VA Medical Center in Rhode Island and she applied.

In the meantime, she had a mammogram, which she had delayed due to the passing of her mother during that same time period. She soon got the news that she had breast cancer. A week later the director of the Providence VA Medical Center called to offer her the chief of staff position.

"I was thrilled to have been selected, but couldn't make a decision because of my cancer diagnosis," she relates. "The director said, 'Jeannette, when you're ready to call me back, you'll call me back.' I took a few weeks, met with the surgeon and had a treatment plan in place. When I called the director to tell him the plan, he said, 'I'm going to wait for you.' And he did, even though my cancer treatment took months. When I went to Providence, it was the best thing that happened to me," she continues. "I loved being the chief of staff. As a physician, you have the opportunity to affect hundreds of people's lives individually. As chief of staff, you affect thousands of people's lives."

Soon after that, Chirico-Post was selected to become network director for the VA's New England Healthcare System, which extended from Maine to Connecticut.

"Great mentors guided me through the procedure of applying to become network director," she recalls. "A national search was conducted, and I was delighted to be selected. That's how I wrapped up my career with the VA, serving eight years as network director where I had the opportunity to positively affect tens of thousands of people's lives. It was one of the most rewarding and most challenging times for me."

There was a huge shift occurring in the VA from inpatient to outpatient care, she says. "Our facilities in New England were

old and we were losing resources left and right, and yet they were demanding that we do so many things with limited resources. To help bridge this gap, I developed working relationships with premier medical schools in New England. I also appealed to VA headquarters for additional funding and got more than $40 million to make big improvements in both inpatient and outpatient facilities in our network."

Dedicated to providing the best possible care to veterans, Chirico-Post participated in the development of quantifiable quality measures as drivers of veteran health care nationwide. Her network developed many of the recognized clinical centers of excellence for the Veterans Health Administration, incorporating state-of-the-art research activities in daily work. As a result of her hands-on style, the New England network became well recognized in performance improvement, earning the coveted national Kizer Quality Achievement Award.

IMPROVING CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS

Chirico-Post retired in 2008, but not for long. Within a few months, a former colleague asked her to work on an initiative to improve care for women veterans in the Veterans Health Administration. It was too good an opportunity to pass up, and she spent another five years working on that study project. Her expertise was instrumental in the development and implementation of a protocol to be used nationally to address and improve routine primary care and specialty care for women.

"VA facilities were not necessarily geared for women's health," she notes. "We established a Women's Health Division, and our team developed criteria to evaluate how we were doing, asking women veterans if they were getting all the services they needed. We asked the VA medical centers whether they had enough female physicians on staff to meet the requests being made by women veterans. Some chiefs of staff did not recognize that as a specific requirement," she says.

"It was a challenge to get them to follow the protocol in some places," she continues. "We were known for being tough but reasonable. I used this line with the chiefs of staff to emphasize the importance of providing quality care to women veterans: 'What if the headline in the local newspaper is 'Woman denied care because this service is unavailable at this facility?' Then they got it!"

She adds, "I met many Vietnam veteran nurses in the VA who continued to advocate for their fellow women veterans. We know that, in some instances, years may occur between physical, sexual and emotional trauma before the memory would come to a conscious level for treatment by mental health providers. When I was at the Boston VA, we had a great PTSD program for women. I'm sure there are millions of women veterans who are getting better care because of that team and what we did," she reflects. "We set the standard for what needed to be done, and it brought me back to my original role in life as a student at Woman's Medical College. This is one of the achievements I'm most proud of, along with being a network director."

Chirico-Post also loved the one-on-one with patients. "That's a unique bond when someone shares with you how they're feeling. It was so rewarding to get to know and help so many veterans. I'm also proud of the influence I had over where new VA clinics were going to open. I asked the hard questions like, 'Would we meet the VA rule that a veteran shouldn't have to travel more than 50 miles to get care?' And the fact that we finally put telehealth in place has expanded care to many more veterans in more remote areas."

WE MUST PRESERVE OUR PAST.

Reflecting on her education, Chirico-Post says, "I have always taken great pride in being a graduate of Woman's Medical College."

One way she has expressed that pride is through her generous contributions to both the WMC/MCP Legacy Scholarship for medical students and the Allies of the Archives fund that supports Drexel's Legacy Center. "We must preserve our past," she emphasizes. "If you don't look at what has come before, it will be forgotten. Discrimination was a big part of our past in medicine, and I think the Legacy Center has a responsibility to make sure that people know that it existed and still exists at some level. It's important to keep the legacy alive so people can appreciate all that women went through to get more equal footing with men in medicine."

Members of the Zeta Phi fraternity in 1968.

MEDICINE IN MOTION

David Cuthbert, MD '14 , treating a child in the clinic.

THREE ALUMS COMBAT BURNOUT BY CARING FOR MIGRANT PATIENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

By G.K. Schatzman

Some facts are notoriously hard to get our heads around. For instance, it is a fact that even in your stillest moment, everything from your atoms to the solar system is in motion. And yet, when we breathe deeply toward sleep at night, we can feel everything settled in its place.

"We" is selective here, of course, for it is also a fact that millions of people around the globe find themselves without even this semblance of stability, their homes turned inhospitable through disaster.

To truly grasp the scale of the migration crisis can sometimes seem a burden beyond bearing. As three alums of Drexel University College of Medicine have discovered, while fixing your mind on a problem can be a pathway to burnout, getting your hands on it can be the antidote.

THE JOURNEY

David Cuthbert, MD '14, is board certified in emergency medicine. "Burnout" was a word that gained relevance for him sometime during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, while vice-chairing a department, raising his first kid and anticipating his second. It was around then that his identical twin, Darren Cuthbert, MD, MPH, floated the idea of doing a nonprofit advisory mission in the Dominican Republic, a country with statistically high motor vehicle accident mortality. In just a few short years, their new, apolitical organization has taken them to Pakistan, Jordan, Guatemala and Ukraine, where they've established relationships with local professionals to provide expertise, aid and clinical help. Oh, and Cuthbert has three kids now.

The itinerary may sound exhausting, but Cuthbert says it has been revitalizing. "When you go on a mission, it's just like starting all over again. It really is a lovely experience."

Naaz Fatteh, MD, MCP '92, cosigns that conclusion. An infectious disease specialist who has recently spent time in Belgium working with Ukrainian refugees, she has long been aware that the difference between "there" and "here" is a matter of time. In a global world, community health includes attention to migrant health issues.

David Cuthbert, MD '14, (right) with College of Medicine classmate Sandeep Segar, MD '14, who joined him overseas at various refugee camps.

"Diseases permeate," she says. "With COVID and mpox and other things that are crossing borders, people realize more and more how important it is that every country has the ability and infrastructure to take care of infectious diseases."

Susan Levine, MD, MCP '93, works with immigrant populations in Farmington, Conn., an area outside of Hartford that she says has come to represent people from 68 different countries in recent years. Passionate about advocacy within the U.S. immigration systems, she says there is still something special about taking her work abroad. "Working abroad renews my joy of medicine and keeps me grounded. I love the purity of medicine global health offers, when administrative tasks and sometimes excessive testing are replaced by more reliance on physical exam and history skills."

Cuthbert, Fatteh and Levine can each recall an experience that expanded their sense of the world outside their own geography. Cuthbert cites the aid missions he went on in Afghanistan while enlisted in the Marines after high school. Growing up, his mother had been in and out of the hospital with melanoma and breast cancer, and his father had passed away from lung cancer when he was still a teenager. Despite his admiration for the medical professionals that cared for his parents, he didn't see medicine as a possibility for himself; growing up lower-middle class, he says, "We were almost, in a way, made to believe that academics wasn't in our future." His time in the Marines would plant the seed that would change that when he later went to college.

"We'd have a large speaker on top of the Humvee and amplify throughout a valley that we were here to provide medical care. And people would hike for six to eight hours to come and get care from our physician," he recalls. It was on missions like these that he learned to speak the local language, Pashto. "I remember I would see how grateful they were to all of us for the care that was provided. And that's certainly something that I held on to and that probably motivated this subconsciously."

Fatteh's connection with people displaced not only geographically but also culturally — far from their own language, food and other little things that build a sense of belonging in a place — is born of her own experiences crossing cultures as a child.

"Every summer, my parents would take my two siblings and me to India for the full three months of summer vacation. And I'll tell you, it was very difficult for us at the time, because there were not any of the amenities that we were used to. We used to take a bag of Doritos and try to make it last for the summer, because there wasn't any food that we recognized," she recounts with a laugh. "We complained bitterly." Now, she takes her own children on aid trips abroad, hoping to replicate that boundary-expanding experience for them even as they struggle with the same kinds of difficulties.

On a trip to Libya after the civil war, Levine says, "I discovered something peculiar about myself, which is that I was oddly comfortable in chaotic environments." While she continues to be drawn to work abroad, her aid trips to Libya and to Haiti with the International Medical Corps would ultimately inform her work in public health back home, which she sees as "a natural evolution of doing global health work abroad."

"I had this 'aha!' moment a few years ago that this was a really impactful way to teach global health locally," she says. "And knowing something about global health impacts the care of absolutely every patient, because so many patients have a migration story of one kind or another."

What is abundantly clear when speaking to all three of them is that working with migrant and refugee populations isn't simply an extension of their commitment to caring for patients. It is also a source of energy, gratitude and optimism in their own lives, in a time when medical professionals need that more than ever. So, how does doing more work, in uniquely challenging contexts, add up to an antidote for burnout?

THE ENVIRONMENT

Overwhelmed care zones like refugee camps, disaster relief areas and low-access communities present unique challenges, but they also offer an incomparable opportunity to connect with a fundamental, authentic practice of medicine.

For Fatteh, it presents an opportunity to step outside specialty silos when the need calls for it. "I don't normally treat children, but if there were children and the need was there, I would," she says. "I'm not going to do anything I don't feel comfortable with, but you could go beyond your normal workday and do things that felt necessary."

Cuthbert appreciates the reprieve from the more frustrating aspects of the health care system at home. "You can finally just be yourself," he says. "You're not being an actor for the system. You're not being an actor for the purpose of self-preservation, to prevent someone from suing you. You can finally just do what you think is right, and it's removing all those barriers. It's very different, and it's quite cathartic."

"It's rediscovering the joy of pure medicine," says Levine, without the burdens of billing and administrative tasks. "You have a bunch of patients to see, and your primary purpose is just to figure out what's wrong with them and do your best job as a physician."

"As physicians, we're now trained to be typing on the computer and talking to people at the same time. But I feel that difference when I'm leaned in, I'm looking at this person, and that's the only

Naaz Fatteh, MD, MCP '92, with son Armaan on a volunteer trip to Belgium.

A group of International Medical Relief volunteers who cared for Ukrainian refugees in Belgium.

thing that's going on," Fatteh says. "When you're on these trips, your sole purpose is to be there for these people. I think if we could capture that bubble in everything we do, we'd all be able to be more authentic."

There are the lessons that one learns from one's patients, too, Levine adds. "The energy of resilience in the case of refugees is really reassuring, and it settles me when I feel like complaining about a bad day or having too much work to do. When people come and completely, successfully rebuild their lives, and do it with grace, it's inspiring."

THE CHANGE

One symptom of burnout is the feeling that your work doesn't make a difference. The counterpoint to that, Levine believes, is effective advocacy, something she's striving to teach the next generations of physicians in her own system at the University of Connecticut. The Immigrant Health arm of the university focuses on three fronts: clinical care, education and advocacy.

Clinical care is probably what comes to mind first for most of us with refugee health. When people are displaced, the continuity of their health care is, too. Some of the refugees Fatteh encountered in Belgium had chronic conditions that had gone without treatment for weeks or months because their access was cut off or their medications ran out. Crowded housing situations also tend to contribute toward skin conditions like rashes. Beyond the care of physical conditions, though, Fatteh also found herself called upon to address the psychosocial challenges of displacement.

"It takes a lot of acclimating, and not just to the language. A lot of what this mission does is to just provide that emotional support, the recognition that this is difficult, because people get lost in the shuffle of things," she says. "These were people who were blowing in the wind, wondering where they were going to settle or whether people would even remember that they're refugees, because they're dressed normally and not living in a refugee camp. But they're still people who are displaced and looking for connection."

Educating physicians on the health impacts of migration is equally vital. Where we're from and where we go can be one of the most important aspects of our health care profile. "The immigrant health program definitely has had a ripple effect throughout the rest of internal medicine," Levine says. "I think other faculty, even if they're not regularly treating or seeing newly arrived immigrants, have a sort of heightened awareness. They're thinking and asking about where people are from."

When you account for the fact that cultural beliefs around health differ not only across national cultures but even across county lines, that question becomes vital. Medication adherence issues, for instance, are almost always culturally influenced, Levine says. "I honestly believe that just being open to different cultures, having some exposure to taking care of people from different parts of the world, whether you do it here or abroad, makes you a better doctor, because you're open to different perceptions and beliefs about health. It makes you a better communicator, and every internist needs to be a good communicator who is culturally humble. You don't have to have all the answers, but I think you have to be willing to realize when culture is probably playing a role in something that you're missing."

For young physicians, Levine suggests that finding out who you want to advocate for will make for a more sustainable career. "The antidote to burnout, in my personal opinion, is learning about what population of patients you really feel strongly about advocating for, and then learning how to be the most effective in that role, rather than building your career around what you think the lifestyle of a given specialty is going to be."

Even if stretching your comfort zone at international levels doesn't seem like the right move for you, there is important advocacy work to be done here in the U.S. The University of Connecticut program, for instance, partners with the university's law school and with Physicians for Human Rights to radically increase the success rate of asylum applications, up to 90%. "We learned how to get a history from somebody and present that story to the judge, the defense and the prosecution in a way that really tells their story in a clear and convincing way," she explains — for instance, when an applicant has injuries from gang violence. "A lot of these cases will turn on the clarity of the medical evidence."

Ultimately, migrant health is a global issue that can and perhaps must be approached from every vantage point. As Fatteh says, diseases permeate borders — "and disease is a manifestation of poverty." That means that the right allocation of resources can go a long way. And these three College of Medicine alums will be going right along with them.

STABILITY AND CHANGE AT BAYHEALTH MEDICAL CENTER:

DREXEL'S DISTRIBUTED EDUCATION MODEL AT WORK

By Kate McCorkle

All photos courtesy of Brandon Howie/Bayhealth

For decades, Drexel University College of Medicine has relied on a distributed model of education for its third- and fourth-year students, rotating them through a variety of clinical sites. The addition of its newest regional campus, Bayhealth Medical Center, in Dover, Del., highlights an apparent paradox in this educational model — namely, that its greatest assets seem to be opposites. Faculty and students reveal that the synergy, between stability on the one hand and change on the other, creates a dynamic environment. In this educational setting, students become better, more well-rounded physicians.

In the distributed model of education, the College of Medicine acts like a hub or centralized base while third- and fourth-year medical students experience their clinical rotations at sites outside the main campus or a university hospital. Drexel enjoys affiliations with 25 hospitals where students can elect to do core rotations. Additionally, the College has eight regional campuses in Pennsylvania, California and now Delaware, where students may complete their required rotations. In a class of around 300 students, about 220 are based at one of the regional medical campuses as opposed to rotating through multiple sites.

Dana Farabaugh, MD '03, senior associate dean of undergraduate medical education, and professor of obstetrics and gynecology, states that in Drexel's distributed education model, "Students are in the hospitals, learning from faculty who are doing bedside teaching with patients. They're going into the OR and doing rounds. It's truly a campus unto itself."

Ryan Gibson, a third-year student who is part of Bayhealth's inaugural cohort, attests to this approach. Having done two rotations, he says, "The very first day, [faculty] threw you in the pool and said, 'Time to see some patients. We're here to help if you need help.' I thought it was a fantastic approach."

Because Drexel has a long history of employing this educational model, the College has developed strong relationships with many clinical partners. In the case of Bayhealth, a former clinical affiliate has become a regional medical campus.

THE TRANSITION TO REGIONAL MEDICAL CAMPUS

Bayhealth Medical Center was a clinical site for Drexel for 15 years, meaning students could choose to do some, but not all, clinical rotations there. During the application process to become a regional medical campus, which is conducted through the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, Bayhealth needed to show they could satisfy all Drexel's requirements for third- and fourth-year students. Farabaugh says they also needed to demonstrate that "the campus has the resources required to meet the needs of the medical students." Fortunately, Bayhealth does have experience in undergraduate medical education since the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) has worked with them as a regional campus for five years.

The expansion into Delaware is new territory for Drexel. Ten students started their third year at Bayhealth in spring 2024. Should they choose, they are able to continue their clinical requirements there as fourth-year students as well.

Shalini Shah, MD '05, MPH, program director of the Bayhealth Undergraduate Medical Education Department and regional dean, Bayhealth campus, says, "As a clinical site, we had students here for five or six weeks. Previously, we had students coming in for OB-GYN, family medicine and internal

Third-year MD students Atharva Bidaye (left) and Ryan Gibson (right) with Shalini Shah, MD '05, regional dean, Bayhealth campus.

medicine... Now [we're doing] all their core rotations, their entire education." Although the cohort is based at Bayhealth, "Drexel still provides the overall structure and support for their students."

Gibson, who's originally from the Smyrna area of Delaware, says that he weighed the pros and cons when deciding whether to rotate through multiple sites or remain at one regional campus. Ultimately, a regional campus made more sense for him, since he wanted to be near family in Delaware and Maryland, and he needed consistent housing that would accommodate his cat.

He was already familiar with Bayhealth Medical Center, since he'd worked in the emergency room as a scribe while an undergraduate at the University of Delaware. So, Gibson knew he would "get a very good education at the hospital." Choosing to do his third year at Bayhealth "made a lot of sense," he says.

Drexel University graduate Atharva Bidaye, originally from South Brunswick, N.J., is also part of the inaugural cohort at Bayhealth. He says the decision to continue his clinical education here was two-fold. First, he wanted the stability of having "one home base for the entire year." Since "the third year has a lot of change," that consistency was important. And secondly, the Delaware location was central to his loved ones in Maryland and New Jersey. Bayhealth "hit all the things I was looking for," he explains.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSISTENCY

Bidaye, Gibson, Farabaugh and Shah all emphasize that the primary appeal of the regional campus for both students and faculty is stability.

From a practical standpoint, housing and the routines of daily life can be consistent. There is less physical upheaval than with a shorter-term rotation. There is also the benefit of becoming familiar with one hospital, along with the ease of learning one electronic health record system.

At a deeper level, however, stability gives students the ability to join and invest in a community. Farabaugh explains that this tends to be important to Drexel students. "They enjoy becoming part of not only the health system community, but the community they're living in," she says.

"I think institutions are looking for more stability as well," she elaborates. "They want to have a cohort of students who are there all the time. They can really get to know them." Another benefit of having a consistent group of students is that this can serve as a potential pipeline for future physicians. "If this gets students interested in the area, gets them interested in the system, maybe they'll want to do their residency training there. If not residency, maybe they will ultimately want to come back and practice there," Farabaugh explains.

Related to this sense of community is the access to research opportunities. Shah says, "It's easier to do research when you are in a location that's consistent for two years. You get to know the various programs."

Farabaugh echoes this, saying, "Students are always interested in their ability to do some research." Conversely, the faculty develop substantial relationships with these students as well.

Shah points out that this mentoring relationship is quite important for burgeoning physicians. As students navigate personal and professional challenges, "Just having someone lean over and say, 'Hey. Something's off. What's going on?'" can make a difference in their academic life and personal wellbeing.

The Bayhealth undergraduate medical education team intentionally cultivates these opportunities for mentorship. Shah says that she and her colleague, Zohaib Ghatala, MD, undergraduate medical education associate director, meet one on one with every core student twice a year. They've done this with their PCOM students and are looking forward to continuing the practice with the new Drexel cohort.

Their meetings go beyond academic advising, Shah says. They are able to get to know the students as individuals and ask, "What are your dreams? How can we support you to become the physician you want to be?" Since students will remain at Bayhealth for all of their clinical rotations, faculty "have a whole year — potentially two years — to help them become the physician they want to be."

Gibson affirms this mentoring mindset from a student perspective. "The physicians at Bayhealth — not only are they respectful and nice — they're very willing to teach," he says. "They help guide you…I don't feel nervous or scared to ask my question. I know they're very willing to listen."

Shah hopes that while the Drexel cohort is at Bayhealth, they will develop personally as well as academically. She says part of learning to become a physician is realizing one needs to care for oneself. "You don't need to sacrifice yourself in order to take care of the patient," she explains. "You can take care of yourself and the patient. You can achieve both."

THE UNEXPECTED BENEFIT OF NOVELTY

Interestingly, while stability is cited as a regional campus's greatest asset, Bidaye and Gibson are also quick to point out the opposite: namely, that being in an environment outside of Philadelphia is equally enriching. Residing in Dover "is a nice change," Bidaye says. "All my post-high school education has been in a city, so it's nice seeing how a community hospital runs, seeing different types of patient populations and what might be different here… I've been excited and open for this environment and to get my education here." Gibson echoes, "I like exciting and new things. I like to be tested. I knew this hospital would do just that."

Bidaye points out the seeming contradiction between a student wanting stability and at the same time recognizing that change can be beneficial. He says that starting out as a medical student, it can seem very important to have a main university hospital. "'I'm here for four years. I have more stability and more answers,'" he says of the logic. "But now that I'm *not* in that, and I've had to adjust to this educational system, I appreciate having this exposure to different types of health care systems, a different city, a different environment. There's only so many times we can see something different."

One of these new opportunities while at Bayhealth is a wellness curriculum for core students. The months-long course addresses topics such as perfectionism, coaching and finances. Shah says that as a student progresses through their medical career as a resident and then an attending, it is beneficial to have been introduced to these concepts. She adds that it will be interesting to see the cross-pollination between Drexel and PCOM students, particularly the conversations and learning that may occur between a DO and an MD student. Gibson already recognizes this diverse population as an asset. "You're exposed to other students, other universities, so you get to see what everyone's thinking," he says.

Another unique aspect of the Bayhealth campus is that the medical center has the first lifestyle medicine interest group in the state of Delaware. The young specialty is based on six pillars (nutrition, sleep hygiene, mental health, connectivity, substance abuse cessation and physical activity) aimed at helping reduce the risks and rates of chronic disease conditions. Shah says Bayhealth's interest group is run by students and residents, elects officers and is formally recognized by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine.

DIFFERENT WORLDS, SAME IDEALS

Despite the differences between Philadelphia and Dover, some aspects of the medical education remain the same. Gibson points out that while the environment may seem worlds apart, a *Drexel* education is a *Drexel* education. He observes, "The aspect of being hands-on, and physicians who really want the students to learn — that's similar to Drexel."

Bidaye also mentions that even though the patient population is "strikingly different," he's seen a good amount of commonality. Through conversations with patients, he's been able to recognize that "a lot of their concerns and vulnerabilities are the same."

For example, he says patients are "always worried about insurance-related issues or about how their family member will make it through a difficult diagnosis." These concerns aren't unique to one area or one type of patient. "Politically, culturally and socially, the patient population between the two cities looks like they could not be further apart," he explains. "But when it comes to our health — and navigating the health care system in this country — it's interesting to see how much there is in common."

Bidaye says that ultimately, the educational experience of being both rooted in community, yet simultaneously able to experience different communities, "is going to round us out more" on the path toward becoming practicing physicians.

Gibson notes this dynamic as well. There's the stability of the Drexel community, of a core educational experience, and yet there's also exposure to new voices, new ways of doing things. He appreciates the didactic message from faculty "who want your knowledge to explode," combined with the hands-on approach of immediately encountering patients. And while the College of Medicine creates the foundation, it's beneficial to hear from other physicians, PCOM students and other trainees they may encounter.

He says the experience at Bayhealth is "a melting pot essentially. I think that's fantastic. You're going to learn. Bayhealth has a fantastic thing going that's only going to get better as they accommodate more students. The relationship with Drexel and Bayhealth is going to grow, and it's going to be fantastic in the long run for students and make them well-rounded physicians."

As Drexel alumni, Farabaugh and Shah found that common connection helped during the process of moving forward with Bayhealth as a regional campus. They both describe returning to the Queen Lane Campus as an enriching byproduct of the certification process. "I am just so excited to see this full circle," Shah says. "When I was a student, I had dreams of becoming a physician, and now I'm getting to pass it on."

"Students are in the hospitals, learning from the faculty who are doing bedside teaching. It's truly a campus unto itself."

Dana Farabaugh, MD '03, senior associate dean of undergraduate medical education

ALUMNI WEEKEND

This past May, alumni gathered to reminisce, rekindle old friendships and spark new ones.

Photos from the event, and many other Drexel alumni events, are available at flickr.com/photos/drexelalumni/albums/.

We hope to see you at Alumni Weekend 2025, being held May 2-3. In addition to welcoming all alumni, we will honor the classes of 1975 as they join the Golden Dragon Society in recognition of their 50-year reunion. We will also celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Woman's Medical College, the world's first degree-granting medical school for women.

SAVE THE DATE!

ALUMNI WEEKEND: MAY 2-3, 2025

Contact Kate McGovern at kbm56@drexel.edu for more information.

SLAMS Program Brings Together Health Professions Community and West Philly Neighbors

Middle school students can be a tough crowd to impress, but Drexel University College of Medicine community members leading educational courses at Science Leadership Academy Middle School (SLAMS) say that, more than a year into the program, the students are excited and engaged.

The courses include hands-on lessons in health topics from Drexel University health professions community members. In a variety of different sessions, faculty, students and professional staff members from the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Professions teach educational sessions that fall under one of two core curriculums. "Science of Health," for fifth and sixth graders, incorporates lessons about health science topics including anatomy, physiology and personal health, and "Go Into Health," for seventh and eighth graders, includes discussions and demonstrations on a wide variety of health care professions.

One goal of the SLAMS mini-courses is to introduce young Philadelphians to the breadth of health professions and opportunities. Having instructors from the diverse Drexel University community also helps give students who are from communities historically underrepresented in medicine the opportunity to see someone with a similar background succeeding in health professions fields.

"Our hope, our dream, our vision, our ultimate goal is that we can make an impression as we continue to meet them here at SLAMS and potentially follow them through their academic career," says Annette Gadegbeku, MD, lead faculty overseeing the program. Gadegbeku is associate professor and chief, Division of Community Health in the Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, and senior associate dean of the Office of Community Health and Inclusive Excellence at the College of Medicine. "Then maybe one day some will matriculate into Drexel University's undergraduate schools and even end up at one of our

health professions graduate programs. Over a decade, we would have made an impact and created a pathway that leads to increasing the diversity of the workforce in this area."

Drexel community members began participating in SLAMS mini-courses shortly after the College of Medicine's MD program students joined their College of Nursing and Health Professions peers in the Health Sciences Building in fall 2023, when a colleague in Drexel's School of Education contacted Gadegbeku. The courses continued throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, and the Dornsife School of Public Health has also joined the collaboration. This summer, the partnership expanded to include a summer camp for SLAMS students, hosted by the Drexel Office of University and Community Partnerships and staffed by volunteers from the same Drexel schools and colleges, plus the College of Engineering.

As a professor and an advisor to community engagement-focused student programs, Gadegbeku knows that both the middle schoolers and the Drexel students benefit from the program. "We often hear from medical students that working at SLAMS is a great way to take a break from studying and to do something fun, but that is still health related," she says. "What's cool is that as a student, they get to talk about the subjects and skills they have been developing. What better way to reinforce some of what they are learning and that they will be teaching in the future to patients?"

Gadegbeku says other Drexel-based program participants also gain a great deal from participating in the program. In a session called "Food to Fuel," Kirsten Larson, PhD, professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, taught students about how food is broken down for nutrients and how those nutrients enter the bloodstream. Like Gadegbeku, Larson gave the middle school students a glowing review. "The students were excited and engaged. It was fun teaching young people with so much energy and passion," Larson says. "Working with these curious and knowledgeable young people who might be sitting in our classes in a few years was very motivating."

Local alumni who are interested in volunteering for a future SLAMS session should contact Sammy Brink, project coordinator in the Office of Community Engagement, at sb4496@drexel.edu or 215.991.8971.

Celebrating 175 Years of Woman's Medical College

A Century of Women Deans

Ann Preston
1866-1872

Emeline Horton Cleveland
1872-1874

Martha Tracy
1917-1940

Rachel Bodley
1874-1888

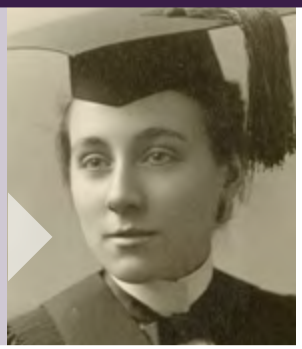
Margaret Craighill
1940-1946

Clara Marshall
1888-1917

Marion Spencer Fay
1946-1963

A Legacy of Mentorship

Many Woman's Medical College alumnae were inspired to pay it forward by mentoring students who followed in their footsteps. This "chain" illustrates how mentorship can build on itself and have an impact for generations.



Marie Formad, MD, WMC 1886, who was the first woman member of the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society, mentored **Catharine Macfarlane, MD, WMC 1899**. Macfarlane was a pioneer in preventive cancer screening.

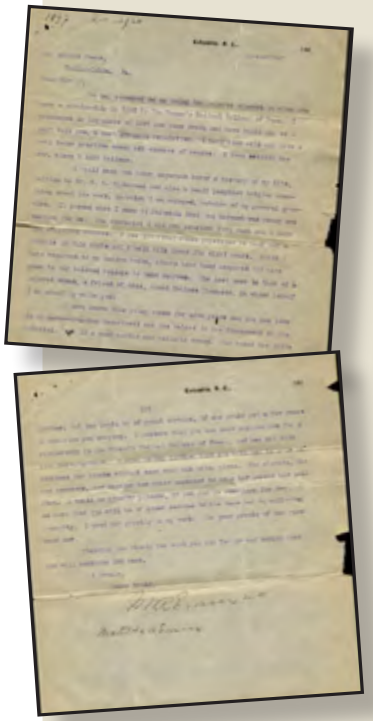
Macfarlane served as a mentor to **Katharine Boucot-Sturgis, MD, WMC '42**, who went on to become a pioneer in the field of pulmonary research, authoring around 100 publications on important topics like the correlation between smoking and lung cancer.

Boucot-Sturgis mentored **Lila Stein Kroser, MD, WMC '57**, a family practice physician who served as the third woman president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society and the second woman president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.

Joyann Kroser, MD, MCP '90, the daughter of Lila Stein Kroser and Al Kroser, is now a gastroenterologist practicing in the greater Philadelphia area. She recently chose to name a room in the Drexel Health Sciences Building in honor of her parents' influence on the College of Medicine and on her own career.

Mentorship Among Black Women

Some of the earliest Black medical students in the U.S. were educated at Woman's Medical College. Mentorship among these women was especially vital given the added challenges they faced compared to their white peers.



Matilda Evans, MD, WMC 1897, served as a mentor to many students, including **Melissa Thompson, MD, WMC 1910**. Evans met Thompson in her work as the first female physician in South Carolina. Thompson, who worked in Evans' hospital, wanted to apply to medical school and needed financial assistance. Evans wrote a recommendation letter to Alfred Jones of Woman's Medical College that ultimately swayed the school's decision. In her letter, Evans says, "I am sure that she will be of great service to the race and to suffering humanity. I need her greatly in my work. The poor people of her race need her."

"I am sure that she will be of great service to the race and to suffering humanity. I need her greatly in my work."

"Challenge the status quo. The reason we have so many new discoveries in medicine and elsewhere is because someone somewhere had the gall to challenge the traditional way we do things. Not being satisfied with the current way that things are — when they clearly aren't working — is a good thing. We need more of that, and it's not always easy."

– An excerpt from the address given by David J. Shulkin, MD, MCP '86, HD '19, at the College of Medicine's 2019 Commencement ceremony

A Timeline of Transformation

The experience of women in medicine has changed drastically since the founding of Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Read in their own words what students experienced throughout the years.

1870

"We entered in a body amidst jeers and groanings, whistling and stamping of feet by the men students, who had determined to make it so unpleasant for us that, from choice, we would not care to attend another. On leaving the hospital, we were actually stoned..."

– Elizabeth, WMC 1870

1911

"Things we considered impossible to be accomplished, came to lose their formidable appearance."

– Berta, WMC 1911

1954

"The first questions I was asked in interviews at the co-ed schools were 'Do you plan to get married?' and 'Do you plan to have children?' If the answer was yes, then you were out."

– Doris, WMC '54

1968

"Even as late as 1968 women were discouraged and even prohibited from certain areas of medicine, such as surgery, at other medical schools across the country. At WMC we could become anything!"

– Janet, WMC '68

1971

"MCP was different, because of its history. We were taught to be compassionate physicians in an environment that was non-competitive and very supportive. I became a different kind of doctor because I came here."

– Louis, MCP '71

2002

"On a brisk winter morning during my second year of medical school [in 2000], we celebrated the founding of the Medical College of Pennsylvania... For the women of our present institution this represented 150 years of adversity met by triumph and tradition forever engraved into the pages of history. We stood together in honor of all those who came before us, who forged the path for women to become leaders in science and medicine."

– Allison, MCP Hahnemann University '02

The Fight for Gender Equity Continues

Although the medical profession has made great strides toward gender equity, there is still much work to be done. Important work continues through programs at the College of Medicine.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to teach future family physicians and explore innovative approaches to enhancing medical education. The impact of the WMC/MCP Legacy Scholarship continues to resonate in my professional journey, and I remain deeply appreciative of the support that made it possible."

– Elizabeth C. Koffler, MD '17, recipient of the WMC/MCP Legacy Scholarship

Save the Date!

We will celebrate the 175th anniversary of Woman's Medical College on Friday, May 2, 2025, in Philadelphia. Visit bit.ly/WMC175th to learn more.

1948

"It was still a challenge in 1948 when we were sent to hear a lecture at one of the, then, all male medical schools. When I started into the building I was told that I could only enter by the side door. However, when I started toward the elevators, I was surrounded by three husky men who informed me that women were not allowed upstairs. After much explanation I was eventually allowed to go up and listen to the lecture, then told I had to leave promptly thereafter... by the side door!"

– Margaret, WMC '48

1948

"At WMC it was such an inspiration to see women get the opportunity to practice medicine, teach medicine and even find research positions. At the time, women who wanted to attain positions like these faced closed doors virtually everywhere else."

– Margaret, WMC '48

1971

"When I applied for my orthopedic surgery training at Jefferson, I really didn't know it was a rarity for women to go into orthopedics. It seemed very natural, as I had the example of Dr. Anna Brady, a captain in the Army and orthopedic professor at WMCP. The MCP hallways had portraits of women leaders in ophthalmology, obstetrics and others. Dr. Ann Barnes, a general surgeon, taught us anatomy, so from the get-go, surgery was a specialty to explore. No one told me anything other than 'Go for it.' So I did."

– Helen, MCP '72

1994

"It was when I walked down that hallway that I knew that I was in the right place. I passed large, beautiful, powerful portraits of commanding appearing women. I felt that I had found a home."

– Camilla, MCP '94

1991

"My most special memory is walking into a patient's room at MCP Hospital with male colleagues and having patients automatically assume I was the doctor."

– Beth, MCP '91

The *Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine*® (ELAM®) program and Executive Leadership in Health Care program are year-long, part-time fellowships for women, dedicated to developing the professional and personal skills required to lead and manage in academic medicine and health care environments. ELAM celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2025.

"ELAM provided a safe space to stretch goals and grow, with experienced mentors helping. I learned where I needed to develop further and have used that knowledge ever since. I particularly credit ELAM with giving me the skills to step successfully into leadership roles in national organizations."

– Debra Perina, MD, ELAM '08

The Woman One Scholarship Fund raises tuition funds for talented underrepresented students who are committed to practicing medicine in underserved areas.

"The Woman One program continues to remind me of all that is possible and all that still needs to be done. There are incredible people using their time, energies and abilities to further medicine and bring about significant change."

– Chinwe Ibeh, MD '14, Woman One Scholar

"Because of Woman One, I did not have to overlook primary care. I have the freedom to practice where I'm truly needed, and in a specialty that is motivated by the ability to truly help."

– Stephanie Johnson, MD '13, Woman One Scholar

'40s

Gladys T. McGarey, MD, WMC '46, was featured in an article in *Entrepreneur* magazine and on an episode of "The Doctor's Art" podcast. McGarey was one of few women to attend medical school in the U.S. in 1941. She opened her own medical practice with her former husband in Wellsville, Ohio, in an era before women could open their own bank accounts. She also co-founded organizations such as the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine and the American Board of Integrative Medicine. Today, the still-consulting centenarian is the author of six books, including her most recent, *The Well-Lived Life: A 102-Year-Old Doctor's Six Secrets to Health and Happiness at Every Age*.

'60s

Samuel H. Basch, MD, HU '61, is being honored by Mount Sinai Hospital for his 50 years of service. Basch completed his residency as chief resident with the hospital in 1965, and began his career there as the assistant chief of the Consultation-Liaison Service. Throughout his career at Mount Sinai, Basch served as clinical professor, attending psychiatrist, member of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) Admissions Committee, supervisor of the psychiatry residents at ISMMS, member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Attending Staff, and recurring member of the Faculty Psychotherapy Conference.

Loretta P. Finnegan, MD, HU '64, spoke at the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence's 2024 conference during a plenary session on "The Evidence-Based Practices That Underlie the Effectiveness of OTP Treatment." The event was held in Las Vegas, Nev., May 18-22.

Elissa J. Santoro, MD, WMC '65, was featured in an episode of the online radio show "Close Up Radio." Santoro is a retired breast surgical oncologist. In 1979, she started the first breast cancer center in Livingston, N.J., the Breast Care and Treatment Center, where she practiced for more than 40 years. She is considered a pioneering surgical oncologist, visionary and women's health advocate. After retiring from her surgical practice in 2020, she continued her work as a breast care consultant for Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health Center, seeing about a dozen patients a day.

Alfred M. Sadler Jr., MD, HU '66, and his identical twin brother, Blair, who co-authored a book titled *(P)luck: Lessons We Learned for Improving Healthcare and the World,* were featured in a *Monterey Herald* article. During his medical career, Sadler specialized in surgery and internal medicine. He and his brother went on to work together as a medical-legal team, making significant contributions to health care and medicine.

'70s

Len Lichtenfeld, MD, HU '71, became a member of the newly established Cancer Business Advisory Board at Anixa Biosciences Inc., a biotechnology company focused on the treatment and prevention of cancer. Lichtenfeld is an experienced medical oncologist and independent consultant with an extensive background in cancer care, cancer research, health care policy and physician payment. He is a member of the CancerCare board of directors and an advisor to several early-stage patient- and cancer-focused companies, including Trialjectory and OneHealth. Lichtenfeld was previously the chief medical and scientific officer and deputy chief medical officer for the American Cancer Society.

Conrad D. Tamea, MD, HU '74, was one of the authors of a study published by the peer-reviewed journal *Biomedicines* on March 11, 2024. The study, "Safety and Efficacy of Wharton's Jelly Connective Tissue Allograft for Rotator Cuff Tears," evaluated the improvement of patient-reported pain, quality of life and functionality scales after applying Wharton's jelly in rotator cuff defects.

David Behar, MD, HU '75, JD, wrote an article for *Clinical Psychiatry News* on the ways in which visual supervision of suicidal patients could drastically reduce deaths by suicide. Behar is a psychiatrist in Lower Merion, Pa.

Mary Anne Delaney, MD, HU '77, was featured in an article by *WHYY News* regarding her participation in a conversation on women's reproductive rights, specifically focusing on the impact of recent legislation in Alabama and the overturning of Roe v. Wade in June 2022. Delaney provided insights into the medical aspects of reproductive health, including the importance of IVF as a resource for individuals seeking to have children.

Robert J. Wicks, PsyD clinical psychology, HU '77, presented on "Recognizing, Preventing and Limiting the Dangers of Secondary Stress" at the Fall Family Caregiver Virtual Symposium hosted by Duet. He discussed resilience, self-care and the integration of psychology and classic spiritual approaches to maintain a healthy perspective. Wicks is professor emeritus at Loyola University, the author of over 60 books and an international lecturer.

The Drexel Legacy Society hosted a luncheon for alumni in February 2024 in Boca Raton, Fla., In attendance were **Carol Shear, MD, WMC '57**, **Arthur Howard, MD, HU '67**, **Frank Sandor, MD, HU '64**, and retired faculty member **Carl Della Badia, DO**.

Maureen R. Litchman, MD, HU '78, the medical director of the Wright Center for Community Health Wilkes-Barre Practice and a board-certified family medicine physician, was recently presented with a Family Medicine Education Consortium award for creative writing in the prose category. She received the award during the consortium's annual meeting in Providence, R.I., for her story "Not Knowing," which recounts Litchman's experience delivering a baby in the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital emergency room.

Thomas J. Zaydon Jr., MD, HU '78, was promoted to professor of plastic surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine. He is currently in private practice in Miami, Fla.

'80s

Mark J. Russ, MD, HU '80, was named chief medical officer of New Canaan's Silver Hill Hospital. Russ has 40 years of clinical and leadership experience, and will work to enhance Silver Hill Hospital's programming, improve access to evidence-based treatments, and fulfill its mission to transform the lives of people impacted by mental health disorders and addiction. Prior to joining Silver Hill, Russ served as vice president for clinical programs and medical director at New York-Presbyterian/Westchester Behavioral Health. He previously had a long and successful tenure at the Zucker Hillside Hospital overseeing inpatient and emergency services.

Mary Albaugh, MD, HU '82, was appointed medical director at Dickinson Center in northern Pennsylvania. Albaugh is a board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist who has over 40 years of clinical experience. She will also continue to serve as a psychiatrist at Deerfield Behavioral Health, where she started in 2015.

Keith Burkhart, MD, MCP '82, received the 2024 American College of Medical Toxicology Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his dedicated passion for and commitment to the field of medical toxicology. Burkhart is senior advisor for medical toxicology to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to his professional achievements, he is proud of his role as grandfather to five children.

Richard W. Petrella, MD, HU '83, joined East Georgia Medical & Surgical Associates and will be practicing at the newly opened East Georgia Cardiology. Petrella is board certified in internal medicine with subspecialty certifications in cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology. He is a primary site investigator for a range of clinical trials and a member of numerous organizations, including the Digital Vascular Imaging Physician National Advisory Board, the Boston Scientific Physician National Advisory Board and the Guidant Corporation Eastern United States Council. In his previous role at UPMC Hamot, Petrella performed the first directional coronary atherectomy in Pennsylvania.

Rohinton J. Morris, MD, HU '84; Surgery Residency, HUH '89; Thoracic Surgery Fellowship, HUH '92, was appointed chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Tower Health in eastern Pennsylvania. Morris previously served as chief of Jefferson Health's Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, co-director of its cardiovascular service line and medical director of Jefferson's Center for Perfusion and Extracorporeal Technology.

Daniel J. Rader, MD, MCP '84, was honored with the American Heart Association's 2024 Merit Award, receiving $1 million in funding for his groundbreaking research focused on new genes and pathways altering lipid metabolism and causing cardiovascular disease, as revealed through large-scale human genetics. Rader is the Seymour Gray Professor of Molecular Medicine and chair of the Department of Genetics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and chief of the Division of Human Genetics at Penn Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Michael Ackermann, PhD microbiology and immunology, MCP '85, MBA, was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board at Circular Genomics. Ackermann began his career with Eli Lilly and Company, where he was instrumental in the launch and commercialization of multiple successful psychiatric drugs for the treatment of depression, psychosis and ADHD. He then served as the senior vice president at Quintiles (now IQVIA) and co-founded the AB Collaborative Investment, an angel fund, where he also serves as president. Ackermann then expanded his executive and entrepreneurial experience with multiple positions as a board member or consultant to Fortune 500 and start-up companies in the biopharma sector. Since 2015, he has served as co-founder, board member and chief business officer at Arrivo BioVentures LLC.

Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, HU '85, was featured on *Philadelphia* magazine's list of the 150 Most Influential Philadelphians. In addition, he was recognized as one of *Philadelphia Business Journal*'s Most Admired CEOs and named to the journal's Power 100. Cacchione is the CEO of Jefferson University and Jefferson Health.

Mary I. O'Connor, MD, MCP '85, co-founder and chief medical officer of Vori Health, was featured in an episode of the "Disruption/Interruption" podcast. O'Connor discussed Vori Health's integrated team approach to musculoskeletal care, emphasizing patient engagement and the benefits of telehealth for accessibility. She also highlighted how Vori Health addresses health disparities, especially in women's health, through a hybrid virtual and in-person service model. O'Connor, who is an orthopedic surgeon, health equity advocate and former U.S. Olympic athlete, is co-author of *Taking Care of You*.

Reginald Blaber III, MD, HU '89, executive vice president and chief clinical officer of Virtua Health, was recognized as a Veterans in Business honoree by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. Blaber spent six years in the Army and rose to the rank of major. After his service, he transitioned to a civilian career, practicing throughout the Philadelphia region, including more than two decades at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, which is now part of Marlton, N.J.-based Virtua Health. He was president of the system and created the Lourdes Cardiovascular Institute. He remains involved with military personnel through Virtua's colleague community "We Serve" and through its "Here to Serve" initiative, which is aimed at removing barriers to health care for service members and their families.

Marc Colton, MD, MCP '89, joined Precision Healthcare Specialists. Colton is a board-certified urologist with more than 30 years of experience in private practice and hospital environments. He offers a full range of urologic care for patients with prostate, bladder and kidney cancer, and provides medical and surgical management for patients

with erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence and kidney stones. Colton performed southwest Florida's first Aquablation surgery, which is an advanced, minimally invasive treatment for symptoms of enlarged prostates. Additionally, he was the first physician in New Jersey to perform GreenLight laser therapy, a procedure that rapidly heats and vaporizes excess prostate tissue to restore natural urine flow.

'90s

Alyssa Dweck, MD, HU '90, was featured on an episode of the "Perimenopause WTF!" podcast hosted by Rachel Hughes. Dweck discussed the anatomy of the vagina, and common issues experienced during perimenopause and menopause.

Wendye Robbins, MD, MCP '90, was appointed CEO of Incendia Therapeutics. Robbins is a pharmaceutical executive with more than 20 years of experience revolutionizing drug discovery and leading the growth of companies at all stages of development. She has served as an independent director for RAPT Therapeutics since 2019 and has raised approximately $2 billion in capital across the many companies she has supported.

James Tursi, MD, MCP '90, was appointed to the Board of Directors of NeuroBo Pharmaceuticals. He will also serve as a member of the board's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Tursi is currently executive vice president of Global Research and Development for Endo International. He has held a number of leadership roles in the pharmaceutical industry throughout his career. Tursi practiced medicine and surgery for 10 years and created a medical education company, I Will Pass, which assisted physicians in the process of board certification.

Katherine Sherif, MD, MCP '91, gave a lecture at the Henrietta Lacks Symposium at Morehouse School of Medicine on ethnic disparities in polycystic ovary syndrome. Sherif is a professor and vice chair of academic affairs in the Department of Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.

John Sundy, MD/PhD microbiology and immunology, HU '91, joined the Board of Directors at Sanofi. Sundy is chief medical officer and head of research and development at Seismic Therapeutic, a machine learning immunology company. He is adjunct professor of medicine in the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology at Duke University School of Medicine, where he was previously a tenured faculty member before moving to the biotech industry. He also serves on the boards of Neutrolis Inc. and the Childhood Arthritis & Rheumatology Research Alliance, and he is a member of the Steering Committee of the National Institutes of Health Immune Tolerance Network.

David Thomas, MD, HU '91, was appointed dean of medical education and chair of the Department of Medical Education at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, having previously served as associate dean for continuing medical education and system vice chair for education within the Department of Medicine. From 2020 to 2022, he was chair of the Department of Medicine for the Mount Sinai Health System. Thomas is the recipient of numerous awards including the Solomon Berson Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Edward J. Ronan Mount Sinai Medical Student Distinguished Teacher Award, the Alexander Richman Award for Humanism in Medicine, the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award for his work with the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership, and the Jacobi Medallion, which he received in 2019 from the Mount Sinai Alumni Association and Icahn Mount Sinai.

Anthony Yanni, MD, HU '92, published a book, *A Bandana and a Bluebird: The Path to a Patient Centric Healthcare System*, which makes the case for patient centricity in health care delivery, hospitals and the pharmaceutical industry. Yanni practiced internal medicine in Scranton, Pa., where he was born and raised, for a decade before pivoting to the pharmaceutical industry.

Daniel Brown, MD, HU '93, was named chair of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences. Brown has served as interim chair since summer of 2023, and has been with the center since 2013. Prior to his new position, he was the founding director of the Division of Interventional Oncology and served as the department's vice chair for innovation and clinical research. Brown has authored more than 100 articles and scientific abstracts, and has written performance guidelines for a number of the minimally invasive oncologic interventions performed at Vanderbilt.

Scott M. Klein, MD, MCP '93, was appointed president and CEO of Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital (MWPH). Klein is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric critical care medicine, and has spent the past 30 years working in children's hospitals. He began his career in medicine as a pediatric intensivist, then transitioned into pediatric hospice and palliative care. Before joining MWPH, Klein served as executive vice president, chief operating officer and chief medical officer at Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, N.Y.

Eric Pifer, MD, MCP '93, was a guest lecturer at a Commonwealth Club of California's Nutrition, Food & Wellness member-led forum. His lecture was recorded and featured in an episode of the organization's podcast. Pifer is a board-certified internal medicine physician, and he serves as the medical director of San Francisco Concierge Medicine at Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation.

Matthew Davis, MD, MCP '94, RPh, was appointed chief operating officer of Tiziana Life Sciences Ltd., a biotechnology company developing breakthrough immunomodulation therapies via novel routes of drug delivery. In this role, Davis, who also serves as chief medical officer, will drive the company's growth and strategic initiatives. He will be responsible for overseeing Tiziana Life Sciences' day-to-day operations, including research and development, manufacturing, clinical trials and commercialization efforts. He has extensive experience in the biotechnology industry, coupled with his deep understanding of medical affairs.

Parvez Fatteh, MD, MCP '94, joined the medical team at Medrina, one of the nation's largest physical medicine and rehabilitation physician groups. Fatteh has over two decades of experience in addiction medicine and physical medicine and rehabilitation. In addition, he will continue practicing at Bicycle Health, while also serving as the medical director of the Recovery & Resilience Centers in San Francisco, Calif.

Adrienne Green, MD, HU '94, was appointed CEO of the San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living, making her the first woman and medical doctor to ever lead the senior center. Green worked for 25 years at the University of California, San Francisco, where she was a clinical professor of medicine, chief medical officer for the UCSF Medical Center, and vice president for patient safety and accreditation. She served on the board at the Campus for Jewish Living for four years prior to becoming CEO.

Daniel Kim, MD, HU '94, MBA, received the Riverside County Medical Association's Outstanding Contribution to Medicine Award. Kim is chair of medicine at Riverside University Health System and founding director for the University of California Riverside Internal Medicine Residency program.

Alexia Gordon, MD, MCP '95, received a Lefty Award for her book *Murder in G Major,* part of her Gethsemane Brown Mysteries series. The novel was also nominated for an Agatha Award for Best New Novel and was selected as one of *Suspense Magazine*'s Best Debuts. Gordon is an International Thriller Writers debut author, who put literary endeavors on hold to finish medical school and family medicine residency training. After establishing a medical career, she returned to writing fiction and completed Southern Methodist University's Writer's Path program in Dallas, Texas.

Jeffrey Hawtof, MD, HU '95, was honored with the Physician Philanthropy Award by the Beebe Medical Foundation. Hawtof has been a steadfast supporter of the foundation, serving as a founding member of the 1916 Club for a decade. He is involved in the Sussex Supports Beebe campaign and serves on its committee. He joined Beebe's medical staff in 1998. He is a past vice president and chief medical officer for Beebe Healthcare and currently serves as director of both provider information technology and medical education there. Hawtof is board certified in family medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He sees patients at Beebe Primary Care Rehoboth in Delaware.

Hahnemann University alumni gathered for their annual reunion tradition: attending a Texas A&M versus Florida Gators football game. In attendance were **Richard Tabor, MD '93**, **Andrew Summers, MD '93**, **Elmer ("IronEl") Pinzon, MD '94**, **Michael Addonizio, MD '93**, **Jack Lee, MD '93**, and friend of the group Jeff Gerkins.

Rajaram Nagarajan, MD, MCP '95, has been appointed medical director of Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center and professor of hematology-oncology at Baylor College of Medicine. Prior to this, he was a professor at the University of Cincinnati Department of Pediatrics. Nagarajan has more than 20 years of experience as a pediatric hematologist-oncologist and more than 10 years of service as a medical director. He has also served as co-clinical director of the Cancer Survivorship Center at Cincinnati Children's Medical Center and as grant chair for the University of Cincinnati Cancer Survivorship Grant.

Shawn J. Pelletier, MD, HU '96, was appointed chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery in the Department of Surgery and director of the Transplant Service Line at University of Virginia (UVA) Health. He has been on the faculty at UVA for 12 years and had served as interim division chief since 2022. Pelletier is also surgical director of liver transplantation at UVA Health, medical director for LifeNet Health, and transplant program director for United National Organ Sharing. He is a leader in several professional organizations, including the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, the International Liver Transplant Society, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, and the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. Pelletier has contributed to more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals. His research interests include ex vivo liver perfusion and improvements in allocation of deceased donor livers.

Jeffrey Weiss, MD, HU '97, founder and CEO of Weiss Medical Allergy, has rebranded the organization as Impact Medical Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, marking a significant chapter in the practice's journey. The organization comprises four locations, including Riverdale, Paramus, Morristown and West Nyack, N.J., with a dedicated team of 12 physicians and four advanced care providers serving about 50,000 patients annually. Weiss completed his pediatric residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, during which he won numerous teaching awards and was honored as the "Most Compassionate Doctor." He was also awarded "Best Teaching Fellow of the Year" at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Weiss is board certified by the American Board of Allergy and Immunology and has been practicing medicine in northern New Jersey since 2002.

Deborah Lang, PhD molecular pathobiology, MCPHU '98, associate professor of dermatology at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, has been awarded a two-year $300,000 Discovery Boost Grant from the American Cancer Society for her project "Exploring Roles for PAX3 in Regulating Gene Expression on a Post Transcriptional Level." Lang's work has garnered awards from foundations and institutes including the Schweppe Foundation, American Skin Association, Harry J. Lloyd Charitable Trust, Leo Foundation and National Institutes of Health. She has earned honors such as the Falanga Endowment and the Daneen and Charles Stiefel Investigative Scholar Award through the American Skin Association.

Madan N. Kandula, MD, HU '98, president and founder of ADVENT, was interviewed on the podcast "Dentistry Uncensored With Howard Farran," to discuss the fight against sleep apnea. Kandula is board certified in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, with 20 years of experience in clinical practice. He was also the first surgeon to perform balloon sinuplasty in Wisconsin, and he developed a new model of care, the Breathing Triangle, a simple concept that can provide relief for sleep and sinus struggles.

Brian Radbill, MD, HU '98, a board-certified nephrologist, was appointed chief medical officer at Overlook Medical Center, part of Atlantic Health System. Radbill is responsible for the clinical leadership of Overlook Medical Center's medical staff. Radbill most recently served as chief medical officer and senior vice president of medical affairs at Mount Sinai Morningside, a 495-bed hospital in Manhattan. In that role, he served as the incident commander for the hospital's Incident Management Team when the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 and coordinated the hospital's local response through multiple successive waves of the pandemic.

'00s

John Davidyock, MD, MCPHU '01, was named senior vice president and chief physician executive at UF Health Central Florida. Most recently, Davidyock served as vice president and chief medical officer for the Polk region at Baycare Health System. He was also the associate chief medical officer and chief of hospitalist medicine for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division in Orlando and the interim associate chief medical officer at Temple University Hospital & Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia.

Asif M. Ilyas, MD, MCPHU '01, MBA, received the Michael Gratch MD Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society. He is associate dean of clinical research at the College of Medicine, a professor of orthopedic surgery at Thomas Jefferson University, a surgeon at the Rothman Institute and president of the Rothman Opioid Foundation.

Erum N. Ilyas, MD, MCPHU '01, a dermatologist with Schweiger Dermatology and interim academic chair of dermatology at the College of Medicine, provided her best tips for treating dry skin in winter in an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Ilyas also received a patent for textiles that contain built-in UV protection but do not include sunscreen chemical finishes.

Sanjay Nayak, PhD pharmacology, MCPHU '01, was appointed chief strategy officer at Ocular Therapeutix. Previously, Nayak was the founder and fund manager of a biotech-focused private investment fund, Sentiv Capital. Prior to founding Sentiv, Nayak was the founder and managing partner at AnalyzeRx LLC. He is the author or co-author of several publications related to presynaptic receptors in the brain.

Joshua Hottenstein, MD '02, a family medicine physician, is opening a new primary care practice in Lewisburg, Pa., called Eulistic Health, offering a full range of primary and preventive care services. He is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.

Jeffrey Nau, PhD; MS medical science '02, was appointed chief operating officer at Kalaris Therapeutics and was elected as a member of the Ophthalmology Foundation Board of Directors. In his role as a board member, Nau helps the organization deliver upon its mission to improve eye care and advance the preservation and restoration of vision. Prior to joining Kalaris, he held leadership positions across several pharmaceutical, medical device and biotechnology companies. He has authored many peer-reviewed publications and holds numerous patents.

Gilbert Smith, DO; PBC medical science preparatory '02, joined Campbell County Health Behavioral Services as a mental health provider. Smith has an extensive background in childhood psychiatry and substance use management, starting when he received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He later completed three years of residency at Larkin Community Hospital and fast-tracked into the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at Larkin Community Hospital in consortium with Nicklaus Children's Hospital.

Christopher D. Evans, MD/MPH '03, is an associate professor of medicine in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics and Infectious Diseases at Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine. Evans has received numerous awards for his work with medical students and fellows, and with the Oregon AIDS Education and Training Center. He was principal lead for vaccine administration at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Evans is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases, with an additional certification as an HIV specialist from the Academy of HIV Medicine.

Brett Karlik, MD '03, joined the OCLI Vision team of eye care professionals. Karlik is an ophthalmologist with a diverse range of expertise in ophthalmic procedures, including no-stitch micro-incision cataract extraction, pterygium excision, eyelid blepharoplasty, Botox treatment, selective laser trabeculoplasty for glaucoma, focal and panretinal photocoagulation retinal laser treatment, and laser refractive vision correction.

Stacey A. Scheib, MD '04, joined the Fertility Institute of New Orleans as a minimally invasive gynecological surgeon, specializing in fertility surgeries and complex gynecological surgical needs, in addition to complex cases of endometriosis and pelvic pain. She has received several honors, including being named a National Electrosurgical Scholar by the Association of Professors of Gynecology & Obstetrics and receiving the Alumni Trustee Endorsement Grant and Women's Health Education Award from Drexel.

Erik Sylvin, MD '06, MBS biological science '02, joined Holy Cross Medical Group as a thoracic surgeon. Sylvin is board certified in thoracic surgery and general surgery, and a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and General Thoracic Surgery Club. Prior to joining Holy Cross Health, Sylvin was an attending physician with Florida Heart and Vascular Center at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Fla. Sylvin has authored several high-impact academic papers in journals such as the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Chest*. He also authored a book chapter in the American College of Surgeons textbook on the principles and practices of chest wall mass surgery.

Diana Xerxes Bharucha, MD '07, was honored by the Muscular Dystrophy Association with a Tribute Award for her significant contributions to helping those with neuromuscular diseases through scientific discovery, care and fundraising. This award acknowledges the legacy and life's work of those whose extraordinary efforts support the patients and families served by the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Bharucha is an associate professor of pediatrics and neurology at the Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Lesley Rabach, MD '08, co-founder of LM Medical NYC, was selected as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor for being among the best in her specialty. Rabach is a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, board certified in both facial plastic surgery and otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. Her surgical training includes a fellowship sponsored by the American Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery and a residency and internship in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at Yale New Haven Hospital. Rabach's extensive education, training and experience have earned accolades in her field, and she has been published in various medical journals.

Liang Oscar Qiang, MD; PhD molecular and cell biology and genetics '09, delivered a presentation, "Advancing Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia Research: Insights From Human Stem Cell Models," at the annual conference of the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation in Tampa, Fla., on June 22, 2024. He was also awarded a three-year, $200,000 Alzheimer's Association Research Grant for the project "Bi-phasic Microtubule-Based Mechanisms and Therapies for Tauopathies." Qiang is an associate professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy at the College of Medicine.

Santisree Tanikella, MD '09, joined the pediatrics team at UPMC Outpatient Center in Montoursville, Pa. Tanikella completed her residency in pediatrics with the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, associated with Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y. She also completed a fellowship in integrative medicine with the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine in San Diego, Calif. Most recently, Tanikella practiced pediatric integrative medicine with Geisinger in Lewisburg, Pa.

'10s

Meghan S. Haggerty, MD '10, a radiation oncologist at Northeast Radiation Oncology Centers, was profiled in an article in *Happenings Magazine* for National Women Physicians Day. Haggerty is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Scranton, where she was a Dean's Scholarship recipient. After completing an internship in internal medicine at Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Philadelphia, she completed her radiation oncology residency at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y., serving as chief resident in her final year.

Clarence Lee Jr., MD '10, joined Drexel's President's Leadership Council in March 2024. He also met students in the Drexel Pathway to Medical School program, from which Lee graduated in 2006. He earned an MBA from Drexel in 2014. Lee is a physician-entrepreneur, author, speaker and CEO of CMLEEJR Companies LLC, a personal development company.

Anna Katsman, MD '10; Orthopedic Surgery Residency, Drexel/Hahnemann '16, received her American Board of Orthopedic Surgery certification. Katsman is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon with a subspecialty interest in adolescent sport injuries, scoliosis, trauma and hip preservation. After graduating from her residency at Hahnemann, she continued her training with a sports medicine fellowship at New York University, where she has taken care of athletes participating in college and professional leagues including the NFL and WNHL.

Michael Messina, MD '10, chief of orthopedic surgery at Phoenixville Hospital, has been named an "Emerging Leader: Provider Organization Leaders Under 40" by *Becker's Hospital Review*. This accolade recognizes young health care leaders who are making significant strides in innovation and development within their organizations. Messina joined Phoenixville Hospital in 2016 and assumed his current role as chief of orthopedic surgery in 2020. He received fellowship training from Harvard University in comprehensive management of shoulder pathology, encompassing sports-related injuries to advanced arthritis requiring reconstructive joint replacement surgery.

Paul Owen Phelps, MD '10, has been recognized as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor for the second year in a row. Phelps is an oculofacial plastic surgeon who specializes in performing cosmetic and reconstructive procedures of the eyelid, orbit and lacrimal system. A fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Ophthalmic and Plastic Reconstructive Surgery, Phelps founded Chicago Oculofacial Plastic Surgery in 2021. He is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. He is currently an attending physician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County. In addition to his clinical activities, Phelps serves as a clinical associate professor at the Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

Nicholas Bertoni, MD '11, an emergency medicine specialist, was named to the Pennsylvania Medical Society's 2024 Top Physicians Under 40 list. Bertoni is based at WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital's emergency department.

Kathryn E. Bowser, MD '11, was named to *Drexel Magazine*'s 40 Under 40. Bowser is a vascular surgeon at ChristianaCare, co-director of the ChristianaCare Center for Aortic Health and an assistant professor of surgery at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Jefferson University. She earned her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Drexel in 2007.

Andrew Gold, MD; MS biological science '11, was recognized as a *Philadelphia Business Journal* 40 Under 40 honoree and was profiled in an article by the publication. Gold is assistant professor of anesthesiology and critical care at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and co-director of the surgical intensive care unit at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Melvin King III, MS forensic science '11, was promoted to development manager at CORE, an education nonprofit in Las Vegas dedicated to ensuring historically underserved students and their families achieve economic mobility and lead choice-filled lives. King initially joined CORE as a program manager before transitioning to the role of data and grant

manager. Prior to CORE, King served as a learning specialist at Touro University and as a case manager for Nevada Partners Inc., where he worked in the realm of adjudicated youth and alternative education. He has also worked as a developmental advising specialist at West Virginia University.

Nicoleta J. Economou, PhD biochemistry '12, was interviewed by the publication *Artificial Intelligence in Medicine* for an article about the necessity of fairness, transparency and inclusivity during the development, implementation and monitoring of health AI. Economou is algorithm-based clinical decision support oversight director at Duke University School of Medicine.

Shalin Patel, MD '12, joined the spine program at Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates, serving the Delmarva Peninsula. Prior to his Drexel degree, Patel earned his undergraduate degree at Boston College. He subsequently completed his residency training in orthopedic surgery at Loma Linda University Medical Center and pursued fellowship training in spine surgery at Harvard University.

Laura A. Stein, MD '12, received the 2024 Dean's Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching at an Affiliated Hospital from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Stein is an assistant professor in the Department of Neurology and the co-director of the Neurology Residency program. After graduating from Drexel, she completed her neurology residency and vascular neurology fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and earned her master's degree in medical education from Penn's Graduate School of Education.

Diana (Meskill) Stephens, MD '12, joined University of Rochester Medicine Finger Lakes Health and will be practicing at Geneva General Dermatology. Stephens is certified by the American Board of Dermatology and is a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology. She completed her residency in dermatology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She previously practiced at Cayuga Medical Associates in Ithaca and Homer.

Luiz Araujo, MD '13, a board-certified vascular surgeon, joined the team of heart and vascular specialists at Bayhealth Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgical Associates. Before joining Bayhealth, Araujo worked for Vascular Specialists of Delaware and operated at Christiana Hospital, Wilmington Hospital and St. Francis Hospital in northern Delaware. He holds board certifications from the American Board of Surgery in general and vascular surgery.

Veronica Cellini, MD '13, a board-certified pediatrician, has begun practicing at two Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers: Waymart Pediatric Center in Waymart, Pa., and Sterling Pediatric Center in Lake Ariel, Pa. Cellini previously spent seven years as a general pediatrician at Annapolis Pediatrics in Maryland, providing sick and well care for patients ranging from newborns to young adults. She is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She completed her pediatric residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Kraftin Ellice Schreyer, MD '13, was featured in *Drexel Magazine*'s 40 Under 40. Schreyer is an associate professor of emergency medicine at Temple University, and she created Temple's Emergency Medicine Administrative Fellowship program.

Alumni Honored at AOA Induction Ceremony

Three College of Medicine alumni were elected to Drexel's chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the Delta Zeta chapter, which recognizes high educational achievement, gifted teaching, leadership development in academia and the community, and humanism and service.

Alumni inductees were:
Lynn E. DeLisi, MD, MCP '72
Ellie Pavich Salinski, MD '08
Rene Ramirez, MD '09

Austin Williams, MD '13, was included on the Pennsylvania Medical Society's list of Top Physicians Under 40. Williams is a surgeon in the breast cancer program and assistant professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Maj. Saira Ahmed, MD '16, was profiled in an article about the physicians who practice at the Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Clinic at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Ahmed, who is the clinic's service chief, has been a pediatrician for eight years and has specialized in adolescent and young adult medicine for five years, addressing a range of primary and subspecialty needs for patients aged 12 to 25.

Fred Okoye, DO; MS interdisciplinary health sciences '16, who graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2024, entered a urology residency at SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn, N.Y. Okoye was featured in a testimonial about his match placement on the American Osteopathic Association's social media.

Jared T. Tobolski, MD '16, a general cardiologist who specializes in noninvasive cardiology, was appointed director of the Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute's Preventive Cardiology and Subspecialty Clinic and director of cardiac rehabilitation. Tobolski received residency training at Brown University and completed a fellowship in cardiology at Maine Medical Center.

Dominick Trombetta, MD '16, received his board certification as a child and adolescent psychiatrist from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He was also appointed as a faculty member in the University of Washington Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Trombetta was initially certified as a general psychiatrist in 2021. He works at Wyoming Behavioral Institute, providing child and adolescent psychiatric services. Trombetta is one of just six board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrists living and working in Wyoming.

David L. Bernstein, PhD neuroscience '17, Stacia I. Lewandowski, PhD pharmacology and physiology '21, and colleagues in the College of Medicine published "Inactivation of ERK1/2 Signaling in Dopaminergic Neurons

by Map Kinase Phosphatase MKP3 Regulates Dopamine Signaling and Motivation for Cocaine" in the *Journal of Neuroscience* on January 31, 2024.

Emily Ortega Goddard, MD '17, PBC Drexel Pathway to Medical School '13, joined Brown Surgical Associates' Divisions of Bariatric Surgery and General Surgery. Goddard, who will also serve as a surgeon at the Providence VA Medical Center in Rhode Island, specializes in both bariatric and general surgery, with a particular interest in surgical endoscopy, robotic surgery, complex abdominal wall reconstruction and hernia surgery, foregut surgery and bariatric surgery.

Jennifer Hope, PhD microbiology and immunology '17, was awarded the Bristol Myers Squibb-MRA Young Investigator Award by the 2024 Melanoma Research Alliance for her project "Overcoming Resistance to Immune Checkpoint Blockade Therapy With PSGL-1." She is also the principal investigator for a Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center Research Consortium pilot funding grant, with College of Medicine colleagues serving as co-investigators, for the project "Development of a Novel Preclinical Model to Address Mechanisms of HIV-Mediated Enhancement of Pancreatic Cancer Incidence and Severity." Hope is an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at the College of Medicine.

Andrew T. Gargiulo, PhD neuroscience '19, see Pirino '24**.**

Khalil Taylor, MS interdisciplinary health sciences '19, was awarded the McGruder-Knox Scholarship at an awards ceremony held by the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania in February 2024. The scholarship is awarded to exceptional Black or African American medical students who are in their second or third year and demonstrate a sustained commitment to serving their community through volunteer work, outreach programs or other initiatives. Taylor is now a fourth-year MD student at Drexel.

'20s

Nicole Gribbin, MS drug discovery and development '20, associate director of regulatory affairs at MCRA, authored "CMC Considerations for Medical Device-Led Combination Products" online in *Orthopedic Design & Technology*. Gribbin emphasized the importance of understanding the regulatory landscape governing combination products, in particular chemistry, manufacturing and controls (CMC) requirements. Gribbin has been involved in the pharmaceutical industry in various capacities, specializing in CMC and biologics, since 2009. She provides MCRA's clients with FDA regulatory strategies and submission support.

Deannah Jordan, MD '20, a pediatrician, joined the medical team at Norfolk Pediatrics, part of CHKD Medical Group. Jordan completed residency training in pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Capt. Carl Tischbein, MD '20, joined the sustainability team at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as part of the institution's renewed commitment to sustainability. His main goals in this role are to offer an insider's perspective on perioperative waste and develop plans to simultaneously reduce waste generation, save taxpayer money, and play a small part in preserving our planet for the next generation.

Emily M. Black, PhD neuroscience '21, is the co-author of the novel *National Treasure Hunt: One Step Short of Crazy*, which is inspired by the *National Treasure* film franchise. Black and co-author Aubrey R. Paris discussed the book at a Library of Congress "Live! At the Library" event, "A True-Life 'National Treasure,' on Film and at the Library," in June 2024. She also cohosts the "National Treasure Hunt" podcast and serves as its sound engineer. Black is an adjunct professor and researcher whose work focuses on the neurobiology of traumatic stress and substance abuse.

Stacia I. Lewandowski, PhD pharmacology and physiology '21, see Bernstein '17.

Brianna Mosley, MS biomedical studies '21, was elected as the Region IX director for the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine Harlem for the 2023-2025 term. SNMA is the nation's oldest and largest independent student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. Mosley plans on specializing in obstetrics or pediatrics after she graduates in 2025.

Alexis Price-Moyer, MS Drexel Pathway to Medical School '21, was quoted in an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about Drexel's expanding network of medical school campuses. Price-Moyer was one of the first 40 students enrolled at Drexel's Tower Health Regional Medical Campus in West Reading when it opened in 2021, allowing her to receive medical training without leaving her hometown. She is currently participating in the NIH Medical Research Scholars Program, a comprehensive physician-scientist development program.

Lorela Ciraku, PhD molecular and cell biology and genetics '22, see Esquea '24.

Genevieve R. Curtis, PhD neuroscience '22, see Pirino '24.

Leila E. Hilal, MD '22, wrote an article for *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*'s website, in which she discusses U.S. Senators John Fetterman, Sheldon Whitehouse and Peter Welch's proposed legislation to cancel school lunch debt nationwide and how it would allow children in poverty to have access to consistent nutritious meals. Hilal is a family medicine resident at Lancaster General Hospital in Lancaster, Pa.

Nancy Flynn Mack, PhD neuroscience '22, and Drexel colleagues were the authors of "Prefrontal Regulation of Social Behavior and Related Deficits: Insights From Rodent Studies," which was published in *Biological Psychiatry* on March 13, 2024.

Ivy Ochieng, MS interdisciplinary health sciences '22, was one of the ten recipients of a $10,000 scholarship from a partnership between the National Board of Medical Examiners and National Medical Fellowships. The students were selected from 423 qualified applicants who demonstrated leadership, perseverance, commitment to service and financial need. Ochieng is a second-year medical student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She previously worked as a teacher at an elementary school in which the majority of students were from low-income backgrounds.

Kristopher S. Raghavan, PhD molecular and cell biology and genetics '22, was a speaker at a webinar presented by Fierce Biotech and Integral Molecular in June 2024, "Redefining Antibody Specificity Profiling for IND." Raghavan is an application scientist at Integral Molecular, specializing in membrane proteome array.

Katie Bryant, PhD neuroscience '23, was featured in *eNeuro*'s "Beyond the Paper" series, which interviews the authors of recent work published in the journal. She discussed her studies into how low-dose alcohol changes reward-seeking behavior, in addition to her experiences in the College of Medicine's Barker Lab and her future plans. Bryant is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Indiana University School of Medicine, investigating how alcohol exposure promotes or alters impulsive behavior.

Dillon Malloy, PhD neuroscience '23, was featured in an article from Pfeiffer University's online news site detailing his academic journey at the university. Malloy joined EY-Parthenon, Ernst & Young's global strategy consulting arm, as a scientific consultant in July 2024. In addition to his Drexel degree, he earned his BS in health and exercise science from Pfeiffer University.

Sopiko Darchiashvili, MS drug discovery and development '24, and colleagues at Drexel's Colleges of Medicine and Engineering were among the authors of "X-Chromosome Linked Genes Associated With Myeloid Cell CNS Trafficking Contributes to Female-Male Differences in the Disease Outcome for Neuroinflammatory Diseases," which was published in the July 2024 issue of *NeuroImmune Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

Emily M. Esquea, PhD molecular and cell biology and genetics '24, **Lorela Ciraku, PhD molecular and cell biology and genetics '22**, and colleagues at the College of Medicine, Drexel's College of Arts and Sciences, the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine published "Selective and Brain-Penetrant ACSS2 Inhibitors Target Breast Cancer Brain Metastatic Cells" in the May 15, 2024, issue of *Frontiers in Pharmacology*.

Breanne E. Pirino, PhD neuroscience '24, **Andrew T. Gargiulo, PhD neuroscience '19**, **Genevieve R. Curtis, PhD neuroscience '22**, and colleagues at the College of Medicine authored "Kappa-Opioid Receptor Stimulation in the Nucleus Accumbens Shell and Ethanol Drinking: Differential Effects by Rostro-Caudal Location and Level of Drinking," which was published in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology* on March 25, 2024.

IN MEMORIAM

Pauline Chusid, MD, MCP '80, MBA, died on October 13, 2024, of ovarian cancer. Dr. Chusid also completed her internal medicine residency at MCP before receiving fellowship training in nephrology at Temple University. She practiced in Florida until a car accident required her to stop. She later earned an MBA in health care administration at the University of South Florida. Dr. Chusid is survived by her husband, Jerry Williamson (MD, MCP '75), whom she met at a College of Medicine reunion; her son, Zachary; stepdaughter, Lindsay Weathers; and her grandchildren, Henry, Grant and Logan, in addition to numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She is predeceased by her parents and her brother, Phillip.

Rupal Patel Khurmi, MD '03, died May 14, 2024. She earned her undergraduate degree at Georgetown University in 1997 before matriculating at the College of Medicine. She completed her pediatrics residency at the University of Arizona, after which she spent a year as a pediatric hospitalist at Tucson Pediatric Hospitalists. She then began working for Abbott Laboratories, and later AbbVie Inc., in a range of leadership roles, most recently as medical director of U.S. and Global Medical Affairs. Dr. Khurmi is survived by her husband, Sunny Khurmi (MD '02); their children, Jai Dhillon and Nia Ronit; her parents, Pramod and Kokila Patel; her sister, Sapna Vaghani (MD '04); and her dog, Lexus.

John J. O'Donnell, MD, HU '74, died August 30, 2024, at the age of 75. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Rutgers Health/Monmouth Medical Center in 1977. He went on to serve as an emergency physician at Greenville and Delaware County Memorial Hospitals and was named a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. He was also a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He is predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Margaret, and survived by his wife, Mary McGee; two sons, John (Melissa) and Michael; and three grandchildren.

Barbara Schepps Wong, MD, HU '64, died on March 14, 2024. After graduating from Hahnemann, Dr. Wong completed residency training at the New England Deaconess Hospital and the Boston City Hospital. Her career as a radiologist ultimately brought her to Rhode Island, where she worked for Rhode Island Medical Imaging, serving as president of the organization for 15 years. She was also founder and director of the Anne C. Pappas Center for Breast Imaging at Rhode Island Hospital. Dr. Wong spent much of her career advocating for gender pay equity, having herself experienced discrimination as a woman in medicine. She is survived by her husband, Richard (MD, HU '64); daughter, Deborah (Todd Rothenhaus); and grandchildren, Chris and James.

Fae M. Adams, MD, WMC '51, December 16, 2023
Greg S. Ahearn, MD, HU '95, June 16, 2024
Richard A. Alemian, MD, HU '60, March 10, 2024
Jay Thomas Allen, MD, MCP '93, November 2, 2023
George Raymond Andrews, MD, HU '72, November 8, 2023
Cathy Jean Artis, MD, MCP '74, November 7, 2023
Robert L. Barton, MD, HU '65, March 23, 2023
Nathan A. Berger, MD, HU '66, June 15, 2024
Helen Margaret Blanchard, MD, WMC '57, October 18, 2023
Robin K. Dhillon, MD, HU '86, May 17, 2024
John F. DiTunno Jr., MD, HU '58, March 18, 2024
Ronald G. Donelson, MD, HU '73, December 27, 2023
Michael E. Earick, MD, HU '61, August 13, 2023
Antoinette Eaton, MD, WMC '56, June 22, 2023
William E. Evans III, MD, HU '57, June 8, 2024
Anne Cusack Fallahnejad, MD, HU '72, July 28, 2023
Richard A. Farson, MD, HU '59, November 15, 2023
Donald S. Faust, MD, HU '60, November 19, 2023
Charles A. Finn, MD, HU '85, July 25, 2023
Harlan V. Francis, MD, HU '48, July 26, 2023
Churchill C. Franklin, MD, HU '56, January 21, 2024
Gertrude Jane Frishmuth, MD, MCP '73, November 6, 2023
John C. Gaudio, MD, HU '65, February 3, 2024
Joseph A. Gillerlain, MD, HU '54, July 26, 2023
William S. Gordon, MD, HU '60, January 31, 2024
Santosh Gupta-Bala, MD, MCP '87, February 4, 2024
William R. Hamaker, MD, HU '60, January 9, 2024
Richard A. Happ, MD, HU '66, January 21, 2024
Joan Ann Howanitz, MD, WMC '69, March 29, 2024
Eleanor E. Howell, MD, WMC '64, March 3, 2024
Sandral Hullett, MD, MCP '76, March 22, 2024
Mark J. Kane, MD, HU '94, July 3, 2024
William Kaplan, MD, HU '74, January 19, 2024
Loretta Keil, MD, MCP '80, March 3, 2024
Dale L. Kemmerer, MD, HU '63, October 16, 2023
Edwin R. Knopf, MD, HU '64, February 13, 2024
Norman N. Kohn, MD, HU '55, April 14, 2024
Stephen H. Laffey, MD, HU '71, October 22, 2023
Joan Elizabeth Larkin, MD, MCP '74, March 23, 2023
Martin E. Levy, MD, HU '57, August 12, 2023
Thomas A. Lukaszczyk, MD, HU '54, October 11, 2023
David A. Major, MD, HU '64, September 9, 2023
Brendan V. McAdams Jr., MD, HU '62, February 18, 2024
Robert B. McKinstry, MD, HU '52, December 22, 2023
John J. Mecca, MD, HU '66, May 11, 2024
Vincent J. Menna, MD, HU '65, April 9, 2024
Denis J. Milke, MD, HU '65, February 7, 2024
William H. Miller, MD, HU '57, January 12, 2024
Robert E. Mitchell, MD, HU '61, December 28, 2023
Matthew Willis Morin, MD '15, March 27, 2024
John Allen Morrow Jr., MD, MCP '93, October 22, 2023
James A. Murphy, MD, HU '67, October 10, 2023
Norman Mutchnick, MD, HU '70, February 20, 2024
Louis M. Nardella, MD, HU '76, August 10, 2023
Barbara Garrett Nelson, MD, MCP '75, December 17, 2022
Kevin Porter Newman, MD, MCP '77, December 19, 2023
Arthur J. O'Connor, MD, HU '61, January 26, 2024
Elizabeth Percy Pattison, MD, WMC '60, December 13, 2023
Mary Franklin Paulus, MD, WMC '70, July 4, 2024
James J. Perry, MD, HU '81, December 14, 2023
Adrienne J. Preston, MD, WMC '67, April 24, 2024
Samuel J. Puccinelli, Jr., MD, HU '75, August 17, 2023
Holley William Reed, MD, HU '46, July 17, 2024
Shannan Rieder, PBC drug discovery and development '23, February 17, 2023
Peter Benjamin Riesz, MD, HU '59, February 27, 2024
David C. Rilling, MD, HU '66, April 22, 2024
Carmen A. Romeo, MD, HU '55, December 26, 2023
Joseph R. Sabo, MD, HU '74, April 4, 2023
Rev. Dr. James H. Salmon, HU '57, November 13, 2023
Gabriel S. Salzman, MD, HU '78, March 8, 2024
Johan Erik Samanta, MD, MCP '95, September 17, 2023
Barbara Schepps, MD, HU '68, March 14, 2024
Mary Pauline Siracusa-Parisi, MD, HU '51, February 27, 2024
Roslyn Souser, MD, WMC '66, MBA, June 28, 2024
James F. Squadrito Sr., MD, HU '53, September 26, 2023
Jeffrey A. Stead, MD, HU '78, May 8, 2024
Rush Barrett Steelman, MD, HU '63, May 8, 2024
Joseph M. Stellabotte, MD, HU '96, June 13, 2024
Barbara-Jean A. Stibler, MD, WMC '65, August 22, 2023
Lloyd C.M. Tom, MD, HU '59, September 15, 2023
William N. Toth, MD, HU '60, September 8, 2023
Paul Charlton Waibel, MD, HU '73, May 13, 2024
Robert P. Waldman, MD, HU '78, April 19, 2024
Nina Ward, MD, MCP '71, January 7, 2023
Robert M. Weinstock, MD, HU '64, March 16, 2024
Richard Weismer, MD, HU '71, February 3, 2024
Peter J. Whitcopf, MD, MCP '94, January 21, 2024
Inez Cecile White, MD, WMC '67, August 30, 2023
John L. Wright, MD, HU '56, October 1, 2023
Homer Yasui, MD, HU '49, July 25, 2023
Harvey P. Yeager, MD, HU '59, August 20, 2023
Brian E. Zable, MD, HU '92, September 29, 2023

NEW & NOTABLE AROUND CAMPUS

THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE SAW IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN 2024. HERE ARE A FEW.

LEON MCCREA II, MD, MPH, has been named the Deborah J. Tuttle, MD and John P. Piper, MD Vice Dean for Educational Affairs. McCrea had led the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion since 2019 as assistant dean and then senior associate dean. He also previously served as director of the Drexel Pathway to Medical School program. McCrea is an associate professor of family, community and preventive medicine. In his new role, he will be responsible for ensuring the success of all aspects of the MD program and overseeing the Office of Educational Affairs.

SEEMA BARANWAL, MD, has been appointed to the William Maul Measey Chair in Medical Education and named vice dean of institutional effectiveness. In this role, Baranwal is leading the necessary efforts to ensure compliance with LCME requirements and overseeing continuous quality improvement processes. She will also continue to provide oversight of the Office of Student Affairs and Career Advising. Baranwal is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine.

ANNETTE B. GADEGBEKU, MD, has been named senior associate dean of the new Office of Community Health and Inclusive Excellence (OCHIE). Gadegbeku is an associate professor in the Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine and medical director of Healing Hurt People in Drexel's Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice. OCHIE has been formed to better align and strengthen the College's resources to address inclusivity across missions. In this role, Gadegbeku will continue to promote urban health equity and advance curricular support, research and training in community health and inclusive excellence.

DONNA M. RUSSO, PHD, HU '89, joined the Association of American Medical Colleges as assistant secretary of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. Russo, who stepped down from her roles at the College, was a longstanding faculty member and a leader in educational affairs and curricular development for the MD program.

CECILIA M. SMITH, DO; INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY, HUH '79, has been appointed associate dean of the College of Medicine's Tower Health regional medical campus in West Reading. Smith is also interim academic chair of the Department of Medicine. She previously served as chair of Reading Hospital's Department of Medicine. Her successful leadership at the College and Reading Hospital makes her well suited to fostering the ongoing success of the West Reading students, faculty and professional staff.

ERUM ILYAS, MD, MCPHU '01, has been appointed interim academic chair of the College of Medicine's provisional Department of Dermatology. She has been a faculty member since 2016 and directed the Dermatology Pathway since 2021. As chair, she will focus on building the pre-clinical and clinical dermatology curriculum for medical students while expanding research opportunities and community outreach.

ITZHAK FISCHER, PHD, has stepped down as chair of the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy after a distinguished 33-year career at the College of Medicine and its predecessor institutions. He will stay on as a tenured professor.

RODRIGO A. ESPAÑA, PHD, has been appointed interim chair of the department. España is a tenured professor of neurobiology and anatomy and director of the Center for Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience. España has been with the department since 2011. His years as an educator, mentorship of students and colleagues, service to the College, and national and international renown as a researcher made him an ideal candidate to lead the department.

Investing in
DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE'S HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

DREXEL UNIVERSITY College of Medicine

Your gift toward the future of health care ensures that our students have access to the best tools and environments for their development. In addition, making a naming gift connects you — or the legacy of a loved one — to the vital spaces where our students gain the practical, real-world experience that helps them excel in their medical careers.

State-of-the-art spaces available for naming include:

- Simulation Labs
- Anatomy Teaching Spaces
- Simulated Patient Rooms
- Wet Labs
- Classrooms
- Student Study Spaces

Your generosity will foster a richer, more integrated learning experience and support the continued growth and excellence of Drexel's health-related programs. Thank you for considering a gift that will make such a meaningful difference.

"I am thrilled to name a space at Drexel College of Medicine's new Health Sciences Building. This room represents more than a physical location; it is symbolic of my family's legacy with the College. By giving back, I am honoring my parents' memory by following in their footsteps, as my mother was an alumna, and my father was faculty. Their example was a testament to the importance of academic excellence, as they encouraged and supported the next generation of physicians. Through this naming we hope to inspire others to do the same."

— Joyann A. Kroser, MD, MCP '90

"My father, Bill Weiss, graduated from high school in 1943 and was drafted immediately to serve in World War II. He landed on Normandy Beach and had the difficult job of being a medic. After the war, he was not able to follow his dream of going to medical school due to the need to support his mother and brothers. Years later, when I decided to pursue medicine as a career, he felt that his dream was finally coming true.

In dedicating a room in Drexel's Health Sciences Building, we are honoring Bill's memory and aspirations while supporting today's medical students in a meaningful way. My father would be pleased."

– Kenneth J. Weiss, MD, HU '73

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

Andrea Pesce Hannan, MBA '22

Assistant Vice President of Development
Office of Institutional Advancement
Drexel University College of Medicine

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To learn more about supporting these efforts or naming an exhibit, please visit giving.drexel.edu/archives, or contact Jill Rall, director of development, at 267.254.5470 or jhr53@drexel.edu.

Drexel University College of Medicine has a rich history, steeped in the traditions of our predecessor institutions. The College and our Legacy Center Archives & Special Collections are committed to honoring this legacy through the creation of numerous exhibits at the new Health Sciences Building. These displays will help students connect with and draw inspiration from our storied past.