Being All-Inclusive

In the United States, an estimated 0.6 percent of adults, or 1.4 million individuals, identify as transgender, according to a study published in 2016 by researchers at the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law.* The study provides the first state-level estimates of the percentage of adults who identify as transgender, ranging from 0.3 percent in North Dakota to 0.8 percent in Hawaii. (For Pennsylvania, the estimate is 0.44 percent, or 43,800 people.) Young adults are more likely than older adults to identify as transgender. Among adults ages 18 to 24, 0.7 percent identify as transgender. Moreover, according to a 2017 report from the Williams Institute, 0.7 percent of U.S. youths between the ages of 13 and 17 say they are transgender.

Transgender and Gender Non-binary Patients

It is well known that transgender and gender non-binary individuals (people who identify as neither men nor women) face health disparities, including increased risk of HIV infection and delayed cancer diagnosis. These disparities can stem from a lack of access to quality care, but they are also related to a reluctance to seek care when it is available. If a patient’s sex assigned at birth and gender identity differ, if the patient’s appearance — or insurance card — doesn’t match someone else’s expectations, the encounter is stressful from the outset.

To enhance the ability of Drexel Medicine staff to create an environment that is inclusive, welcoming and respectful, the Population Health Management group organized a special Staff Grand Rounds, “Welcoming Transgender and Gender Non-binary Patients.” The training was facilitated by Jesse Krohn, associate director of education and prevention in the Drexel University Office of Equality and Diversity, and Alex Daniels-Iannucci, executive director, Student Life.

In order to promote culturally competent care, the session focused on a basic understanding of sex versus gender; the differences between gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation; learning about the transgender and gender non-binary communities; the experience of transgender and gender non-binary patients and other members of the Drexel community; and best practices. Best practices include being aware

* continued on page 4

*The Williams Institute, a think tank at UCLA School of Law, conducts independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy.
On April 9, Drexel University and Tower Health signed a memorandum of understanding and announced plans to develop a branch medical school campus of Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health, in West Reading, Pennsylvania, subject to the appropriate accreditation approvals. Tower Health is a strong regional health-care provider, comprising six area hospitals. The branch campus will be near Reading Hospital, Tower’s flagship medical center and a site of strong educational and training programs, which has been affiliated with the College of Medicine for many years.

To have a branch campus will expand the footprint of the medical school and address the growing demand for highly trained physicians. This innovative collaboration may also provide a setting for students who come from areas close to Berks County and may wish to have a future practice there. We will also continue to have clinical rotations at Reading for students who are based in Philadelphia.

I am delighted to affirm that our appreciation of, and commitment to, our other regional and academic campuses goes on unabated. We look forward to strengthening our close ongoing relationship with Hahnemann University Hospital and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in collaboration with their new owner, American Academic Health System. We are working closely together to meet newly designed clinical goals aimed to enhance the delivery of care and the trainee experience at these Philadelphia campuses.

We are also pleased to be engaged in a rewarding affiliation with Crozer-Chester Medical Center, our newest regional medical campus, an organization with a longstanding tradition of excellent undergraduate and graduate medical education. We cherish our ongoing academic relationships with all our affiliates and regional campuses benefiting our medical student education.

I was very happy with the results of our Match, on March 16. More than half of our graduates will be in the tri-state area: 72 students matched to hospitals in Pennsylvania, 38 in New York and 22 in New Jersey. (You’ll find more numbers and a picture further on in this newsletter.)

It is my hope that increasing numbers of students will choose not only to remain in Pennsylvania, but to match at our affiliates. Drexel University College of Medicine is part of the fiber of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. We and our students benefit from the individual character of each clinical site, and we want to contribute to those sites our expertise and that of Drexel’s other colleges and schools.

Daniel V. Schidlow, MD
Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs
A typical research laboratory consists of lab members from around the world, with diverse backgrounds. This remains important because it allows researchers from other countries and backgrounds to interact and learn more about another’s culture and history, thus providing additional perspectives on scientific ideas and future collaborations. When people envision a “scientist,” they think of someone who looks like Bill Nye, when in fact it is one of the more diverse fields. Unfortunately, there is still a lack of minorities and individuals from underprivileged backgrounds — more specifically African Americans — pursuing scientific careers. This could be due to an absence of awareness, role models or, more important, confidence. Thankfully, there appears to be a strong interest in science and medicine within these communities, from grade school to graduate-level coursework. The problem is transitioning these interests into careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

Need for Sustainable Efforts
Universities around the nation are diligently implementing programs that integrate students with diverse backgrounds into basic science research. However, to have a robust impact, there needs to be sustainability that lasts for years to encourage further recruitment and development. Furthermore, there need to be programs beginning in grade school to help nourish the youth who are interested in scientific careers. And lastly, there needs to be a stronger outreach from the scientific and educational community via social media that can connect with students across the nation.

I am a fourth-year Neuroscience PhD candidate in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy and was recently awarded an F99/K00 fellowship from the National Institutes of Health. My goal as a researcher is to advance the scientific field by understanding the molecular and cellular underpinnings of mental health disorders such as schizophrenia and autism. However, I have a responsibility as well to assist in the community and serve as a role model by inspiring and educating minority students interested in pursuing a career in STEM.

For instance, I was a speaker for Upward Bound, a program for inner-city youth at Mercer County Community College in Trenton, New Jersey. In addition, I volunteer at St. James School, a middle school in Philadelphia. This is extremely important to me personally, as I relate to many of the students who grew up in a similar environment, and thus I have the ability to understand and communicate effectively with them. My talks discuss the journey and passion for science I’ve always had; I also reveal the struggles I’ve experienced in the field as a young African-American male scientist.

A Duty to Pay It Forward
Recently, I was invited to speak to the Natural Sciences Department at Virginia Union University, a historically black university. The talk focused on my current research projects and future publications. But more importantly, the presentation encouraged many students of color to continue their dreams to become a scientist. We are now working to establish a bridge program to transition Virginia Union undergraduate students to the Graduate Program in Neuroscience at Drexel.
Being All-Inclusive

of one’s own biases and behaviors, using gender-inclusive language, and addressing each patient in a way that is courteous and respectful of them.

You can’t be expected to know the patient’s preferences in advance, Krohn says, but you can avoid making assumptions. Instead, she advises, ask questions and be sure to listen to the answers with an open mind. Call the patient by name, rather than use the gender-based honorifics Mr., Ms., and so on. Ask what pronouns the patient uses. The pronouns they, them and their may be preferred by gender non-binary folks (used with the plural verb: they are, not they is).

The language, particularly pertaining to individuals who are transgender and gender non-binary, changes really quickly, Krohn acknowledges. “Things that were completely appropriate and ‘in the know’ two years ago already start to sound hopelessly outdated.” For example, gender non-binary replaced gender non-conforming.

Of course, in the 21st century, change is not real until it can be documented in electronic health records. Congruence was achieved with the latest release of Allscripts, rolled out in February, which offers optional fields for gender identity and sexual orientation in the Patient Profile Dialog.

Faculty and Staff Resources

In addition to its own programming, the University Office of Equality and Diversity offers culturally relevant training for faculty and staff upon request, tailored to the needs of the participants. Topics might include fostering an inclusive culture in the classroom, LGBTQ+ allyship, or bystander intervention, among others (drexel.edu/oed/training/overview). Online training, such as “Understanding Title IX,” is offered through Career Pathway on DrexelOne.

In collaboration with Human Resources, the office has published a manual for employees about transitioning in the workplace that was “pretty warmly received,” Krohn notes. Transitioning at Work: Guidelines & Resources for the Drexel Community was drafted by a committee that included the University’s LGBTQA+ Colleague Resource Group. It’s geared towards people at Drexel who may be considering coming out as transgender or non-binary, and what that might mean for them, what health benefits they have, how to talk to their supervisors, how to use a different name, and so on (drexel.edu/hr/resources/employee-resources/gender-transition).

For Students

The College of Medicine’s Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion supports several student groups, including the LGBT Medical Student Group (drexel.edu/medicine/about/diversity/diversity-for-students). DUCoM students can also take advantage of the initiatives of the University-wide Student Center for Diversity & Inclusion (drexel.edu/studentlife/diversity).

Destination Excellence

A lack of minority professionals in the STEM fields may discourage the younger generation from becoming scientists. My first mentor, Dr. Daniel Williams, is a professor at North Carolina Central University, also a historically black university. He introduced me to the biomedical sciences and provided me with the encouragement to succeed in this field. It is now my duty to pay it forward and empower the next generation of scientists. My career goals are to become a full professor and principal investigator at a research institute, but along the way, I will work continuously to motivate and encourage students of color to join the scientific field.

— Austin A. Coley
Neuroscience PhD Candidate

AAMC Focus on Future Care and Current Students

2012 The Association of American Medical Colleges convenes the Advisory Committee on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Development.

2014 The AAMC Advisory Committee on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sex Development introduces Implementing Curricular and Institutional Climate Changes to Improve Health Care for Individuals Who Are LGBT, Gender Nonconforming, or Born with DSD: A Resource for Medical Educators

2018 The American Medical College Application Service includes the option to specify “current gender identity” on the common medical school application. The revised form allows applicants to select their preferred set of pronouns from a dropdown menu and offers the gender non-binary Mx. in the dropdown list of honorifics.
FAQ: Managing and Sharing Research Data

Answers are provided by Deb Morley, director of Data & Digital Stewardship, Drexel University Libraries. Morley oversees the Drexel Libraries’ Data Services Program, which assists researchers in finding, managing and publishing research data.

What is research data management? Research data management is the organization, storage, preservation and sharing of data collected and used in a research project. It involves the everyday management of research data during the lifetime of a research project (for example, using consistent file-naming conventions). It also involves decisions about how data will be preserved and shared after the project is completed.

What is a data management plan? A data management plan is a roadmap that outlines what you will do with your data during and after you complete your research. It describes the data that will be created, the standards used to describe the data (metadata), who owns the data, who can access the data, how long the data will be preserved or made accessible, and what facilities and equipment will be necessary to disseminate, share or preserve the data. It is an essential component of responsible research conduct. Many funding agencies require or encourage the development of data management plans for research.

There will be costs associated with managing your data. Check with your funding agency if they may be counted in the budget.

How can I store data and share it with collaborators at a different institution? Researchers should consult with their respective IT departments or Drexel University IT (consult@drexel.edu) for information about options for storing active data or sharing active data with collaborators at a different institution. The Libraries can assist researchers with identifying solutions for archiving “the data at rest” (their final dataset) for public access.

What is the benefit of sharing my data? Sharing research data can be seen as part of the scientific method, extending the verification process and providing sources for new research. Data sharing encourages collaboration between researchers, which can result in important new findings, and gives credit for research outputs.

Am I required to share my research data? Your funding agency may require that you share your data or make them publicly accessible. Also, many journal publishers now require that the data that underpin publications be deposited within a publicly accessible repository.

You should share research data that is necessary to validate findings described in your publication, data that might be valuable to others, and unique data that cannot be readily replicated. The National Institutes of Health offers examples of studies that produce unique data: large surveys that are too expensive to replicate; studies of unique populations, such as centenarians; studies conducted at unique times, such as a natural disaster; and studies of rare phenomena, such as rare metabolic diseases (grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/data_sharing_guidance.htm).

What if my data contains patient health information? Funding agencies understand that in some cases sensitive data cannot be shared. You should indicate in your data management plan why you can’t share some or all of your data. However, sharing de-identified versions of your data can often be beneficial for verification of published results and potential reuse.

Can data sharing or public access interfere with my ability to patent an invention? And/or do I risk losing the opportunity to be first to press? Most funders expect publicly funded research data to be freely available, with as few restrictions as possible. However, in most cases, delays or restrictions are acceptable if necessary to protect intellectual property or commercially confidential data. Review the guidelines of your funding agency. Contact Drexel’s Office of Technology Commercialization for information about invention disclosure.

Does Drexel offer a data repository for researchers? Drexel does not have a dedicated data repository. Drexel’s digital repository, iDEA, serves as (1) an electronic archive of Drexel University institutional records of historic value; (2) an institutional repository for scholarly output (e.g., dissertations); and (3) a system for hosting digitized and born-digital collections of acquired materials. Since iDEA was not designed as a data repository, the Libraries is selecting test cases of Drexel-created research data to help determine what would be required to provide data curation and archiving services to the Drexel community.

In most cases, there are funder-specific, discipline-specific, or multidisciplinary data repositories where you can archive your data to make it discoverable and publicly accessible. Visit the Libraries’ Research Data Repositories Guide for more information (libguides.library.drexel.edu/data) or contact the Libraries (see below).

Where can I find information on managing my research data and creating a data management plan? Drexel University Libraries is a resource for current practices in research data management and funder/publisher requirements for data sharing. Librarians provide Drexel researchers guidance on the creation of data management plans, assist researchers in finding appropriate data repositories, and consult with researchers on how to share data to meet publisher requirements. We can help you sort out exactly how your funding agency’s policies apply to your research project. Librarians can also guide researchers to the appropriate Drexel faculty and staff to contact for areas outside of our purview.

Contact datamanagement@drexel.edu for assistance.
Talent Showcase Benefits Families Facing Pediatric AIDS

The 25th annual Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert organized by Drexel College of Medicine students raised more than $24,000 this year for children living with HIV and AIDS. Since its inception, PABC has raised over $574,000 for the patients of the Dorothy Mann Center for Pediatric and Adolescent HIV at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. The Dorothy Mann Center is the largest of its kind in the tri-state area, providing comprehensive care, including social services, to children infected with HIV and their families. The money raised by the concert through donations, ticket sales, a raffle and an auction helps provide affected families with emergency funds for housing, utilities, food and rent, and assists in offsetting other family expenses such as college application fees and supplies for summer camp.

Pew Triples Down on Support for Aging in Place Program

The College of Medicine’s support for homebound seniors received a boost recently when Pew Charitable Trusts approved a $125,000 grant to the college’s Aging in Place Program. Aging in Place provides geriatric care and social services to frail, low-income seniors in Philadelphia. It marks the third time Pew has approved a grant for the successful program, to which Drexel physicians have attributed positive outcomes for elderly participants, including greater longevity and independence, with fewer falls and hospitalizations.

The grant, which will be distributed over 33 months, will allow Drexel to continue supporting Becky Ledva, MSW, who works with geriatric patients who are homebound or near-homebound. Ledva connects patients with service providers who visit their homes. She also supports families faced with making decisions about the care of elderly loved ones.

The Aging in Place program (formerly known as Geriatric Home Visits) is led by B. Brent Simmons, MD, an associate professor and chief of the Division of Geriatric & Palliative Medicine. The grant was approved through the Pew Fund for Health and Human Services in Philadelphia.

Warm Hearts and Full Stomachs

Few things do more to help a person feel at home than being able to sit down to a well-cooked meal. That’s what made it special when a group of volunteers representing the College of Medicine’s Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine offered up a small feast at the Gift of Life Family House in Philadelphia. The event was arranged by Caytlin Deering, DO, a second-year fellow.

The Gift of Life Family House is a nonprofit that serves as a home away from home for transplant patients and their families. It provides temporary, affordable lodging, meals and support services to those who travel to Philadelphia for transplant-related care.

And what was on the menu? Baked ziti and, because there’s always room for it, Jello.
Drexel University and five Philadelphia-area health systems have founded a nonprofit clinical research consortium to streamline and expand access to clinical trials in the region. Called Partners in Innovation, Education, and Research (PIER Consortium™), the clinical trial system will span New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In addition to Drexel, the founding members of PIER Consortium are Atlantic Health System; Einstein Healthcare Network; Geisinger, including AtlantiCare; Main Line Health; and Thomas Jefferson University. A signing ceremony was held on April 16.

Clinical trials have traditionally been offered at academic medical centers and through affiliated hospitals to ensure that patients are treated safely and effectively with the best standard of care. Unfortunately for patients, this can mean traveling many miles, sometimes across the country, for novel treatment. The PIER Consortium will bring clinical trial sites to larger numbers of patients, while also bringing new treatments to market faster.

The idea for the consortium originated with Stephen Klasko, MD, HU ’78, president and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health. The focus is on bringing the best health care to the patient “where they are,” in the words of David Whellan, MD, COO of PIER Consortium and executive director of the Jefferson Clinical Research Institute. “Our vision is to advance patient care in the moment and improve quality of life and outcomes in the future,” Whellan said. “It can take decades to prove a drug is safe and effective for a particular disease, which means some patients die waiting for new therapies.”

An estimated 80 percent of clinical trials fail to finish on time. Having contracts in place and physicians identified could allow trials to both start and reach enrollment capacity quickly. The expertise shared across sites through PIER will streamline the clinical trial process across institutions, making it more effective for patients, trial sponsors and researchers.

Patients will be able to hear about trials from their own physicians, whom they already trust. The consortium will also give young investigators more opportunities to become engaged in clinical trials, said Ellie Kelepouris, MD, associate vice dean for clinical research and chief of the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension at the College of Medicine, who spoke at the signing. Kelepouris was appointed by Vice Dean for Research Kenny Simansky, PhD, as Drexel’s lead on the Physician-Investigator Advisory Committee for PIER.

Simansky and Drexel University Provost Brian Blake, PhD, who also spoke, attended the ceremony on behalf of the University. Simansky is the Drexel representative on the PIER Board of Members and chairs the PIER Board of Managers (the operations board), on which Noreen Robertson, DMD, associate vice dean for research, also serves.

Drexel Helps Found Clinical Research Consortium

Association of Black Cardiologists Elects Dr. Fontaine

John M. Fontaine MD, MBA, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, has taken office as the 17th president of the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC). Fontaine, a board-certified cardiologist and an arrhythmia specialist, is the director of the Arrhythmia Service at Drexel Medicine.

ABC was founded in 1974 to promote the prevention and treatment of strokes and cardiovascular disease in blacks and all minority populations. When it comes to cardiovascular ailments, minorities have historically suffered higher disease and mortality rates than the general population.

According to Fontaine, to achieve its mission, ABC takes a multidimensional approach encompassing education, research and advocacy. “Our educational and community programs have been critical in diversifying the workforce and improving the cardiovascular health of all people,” he notes.

Fontaine is a graduate of Rutgers Medical School in Piscataway, New Jersey, and completed his fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. Like the organization he now heads, he is committed to attaining health equity for minorities and all at-risk patients.

A nonprofit organization with nearly 2,000 national and international members, ABC is open to physicians, scientists, nurses and other health care providers, as well as students, health care advocates, corporations and institutions.
Portraits Unveiling Honors Key Leader

A portrait of the late Leonard Ross, PhD, who held top leadership roles in the College of Medicine’s legacy schools over a quarter century, was unveiled at a special event on April 13 at the Queen Lane Campus.

Ross joined the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1973 as professor and chair of the Department of Anatomy, where he played a key role in developing research in the neurosciences. After serving as executive vice dean of MCP, in 1990 he became the first Annenberg Dean of the College and then of the combined medical schools of MCP and Hahnemann University.

He established new Departments of Human Genetics, Family Medicine, and Radiation Oncology and was responsible for the introduction of the alternative curriculum track, the Program for Integrated Learning. Along with D. Walter Cohen, MCP’s 18th president and later chancellor, he worked toward creating the Queen Lane Campus and establishing the Institute for Women’s Health. In 1994, Ross was named president and CEO of MCP, while retaining his role as dean. He announced his retirement in 1998. Jill Ross Stein donated the portrait of her father to the College of Medicine.

Archivists Receive Award From American Medical Women’s Association

The American Medical Women’s Association honored the archivists of the Legacy Center at Drexel University College of Medicine with the 2018 Camille Mermod Award for exceptional service to the association. The award was presented during the organization’s annual meeting in March.

The American Medical Women’s Association, founded in 1915, is the oldest multispecialty organization of women physicians. The association aims to empower women to lead in improving health for all, within a model that reflects the unique perspectives of women.

Association Executive Director Eliza Chin, MD, MPH, nominated the Legacy Center in recognition of the work the center has done for the organization.

“The Legacy Center has organized and catalogued all of [our] materials, digitized many photographs in the collection, and created introductory videos and teaching aids to introduce the history of [the association] and the American Women’s Hospitals Service to a wider audience,” says Chin.

In addition to collecting and preserving these materials, and making them discoverable, the Legacy Center provides access and offers support to scholars and other researchers worldwide as they seek to learn more about the roles of women physicians in history, explains Joanne Murray, director of the center.

“These collections are among the most often requested,” Murray says. “The association recognizes the importance of sharing the stories of women physicians — stories that might otherwise disappear.”

Clothing Drive Helps Domestic Abuse Victims

Three outreach-minded College of Medicine students created their own community engagement project in California by initiating a clothing drive to benefit survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The students were performing their clinical rotations at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento when they organized the effort to help WEAVE, a nonprofit that provides crisis intervention services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Sacramento County. WEAVE also provides 24/7 response, outreach and services for victims of sex trafficking.
A Date With Destiny

When the clock struck noon on Friday, March 16, thousands of medical students around the country opened white envelopes to find out where they will spend the next three to seven years of their lives. This year, for the first time, the Drexel medical students opened their envelopes in the auditorium of Main Building on the University City Campus. More than 130 students matched in the tri-state area; another large number – 36 – are headed to California. We are growing the ranks of primary care, with 57 going into internal medicine; 24 into family medicine; 21, pediatrics; and 5 med/peds.

Lia Suzanne Logio, MD, FACP, Named Chair of Medicine

Lia Suzanne Logio, MD, FACP, joined the College of Medicine as the June F. Klinghoffer Distinguished Chair of the Department of Medicine on March 1.

Logio comes to Drexel from Weill Cornell Medical College, where she was the Herbert J. and Ann L. Siegel Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Medicine and served as an associate dean of faculty development. She was a longstanding program director of the Internal Medicine Residency program at Weill Cornell, having previously served in this role at Duke University Medical Center and Indiana University School of Medicine. She also served as the director of Weill Cornell’s Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (LAMP) for early-career faculty. A general internist, Logio was a teaching attending at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell and in the outpatient practice of Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates.

Logio received her medical degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed her residency in internal medicine at Duke University Medical Center, serving as assistant chief resident at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. She was an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Medicine at Duke until 2001, when she joined Indiana University School of Medicine as an associate professor and assistant dean of faculty development. At Indiana, she founded the Faculty Enrichment and Educational Development (FEED) program, offering quarterly workshops to help faculty connect and work on new skills. She was recruited to Weill Cornell in 2010. She is a graduate of Drexel’s ELAM® (Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine) program for women.

Throughout her career, Logio has been involved in education at all levels, introducing innovations in medical student and graduate medical education, and faculty development. She led one of the Educational Innovations Projects for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education while at Indiana University, gaining recognition as a thought leader on how best to train physicians to care for patients in the 21st century. She has served on dozens of professional, institutional and faculty committees, including as president of the Association of Program Directors of Internal Medicine and on the board of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. Her use of technology to enhance learning earned her the first-ever designation as an Apple Distinguished Educator at the graduate medical education level.

Logio’s research has focused on patient safety, quality improvement, medical education and patient-centered care. Other areas of expertise include high-value care, competency-based assessment, mentoring, and leadership development, with recent work on physician wellness. She has lectured and presented widely on these topics.

Across the nation’s 137 academic departments of medicine, Logio will be the 21st female chair of medicine.

Renewing Our Ties

The College of Medicine’s collaborative friendship with Sejong General Hospital in South Korea was renewed last fall when officials signed an addendum to the memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. The original MOU, executed in November 2010, had already been extended twice. This addendum extends the term of the MOU until November 2020.

Daniel Lee of Sejong General Hospital, and College of Medicine Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, display the MOU.
WHAT WE’RE DOING

Neha Manjari Akella, a PhD candidate in the Biochemistry graduate program, was chosen for a short talk at the October 2017 Biology of Cancer: Microenvironment & Metastasis Conference in Cold Spring Harbor, New York, to present her research “O-GlcNAc Transf erase Regulates Breast Cancer Tumor-initiating Cells.” She is doing thesis work in the laboratory of Mauricio Regnato, PhD, professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.

Peter Baas, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, has obtained a two-year grant from the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation for “Functional Basis of SPG4-based Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia.” He is a co-investigator on two Department of Defense grants: “Boston Biorepository, Recruitment, and Integrative Network (BBRAIN) for Gulf War Illness” (three-year grant; PI: Kim Sullivan, Boston University); and “Veterans with Gulf War Illness: Understanding the Spectrum of Experiences Related to Aging and Semographics” (three-year grant; PI: Girija Kaimal, Drexel College of Nursing & Health Professions).

Baas and his recently graduated neuroscience student Ananda N. Rao, PhD (a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University), published “Polarity Sorting of Microtubules in the Axon” in the February issue of Trends in Neurosciences (epub November 30, 2017). In March, Baas presented a seminar, “Microtubules and Gulf War Illness,” at Georgetown University. He also presented a platform presentation, “A New Genetic Mouse Model for SPAST-based Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia Reveals the Importance of Toxic Gain-of-Function Mechanisms,” at the American Society for Neurochemistry meeting, held March 24-28 in Riverside, California. He presented a seminar with the same title at the University of Illinois at Chicago on March 2.

Jessica Barson, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, chaired the session “One Size Does Not Fit All: Individual Differences in Substance Abuse” at the 2018 Winter Conference on Brain Research, held January 14-19 in Whistler, British Columbia. More recently, Barson attended the 2018 Posters on the Hill conference, held April 17-18 in Washington, D.C., as a faculty mentor for one of her STAR Scholars, Justina Toma, a Drexel undergraduate majoring in biological sciences.

Vineet Bhandari, MD, a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and chief of the Section of Neonatal Medicine at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, and colleagues published “Hyperoxia Causes miR-34a-mediated Injury via Angiopoi etin-1 in Neonatal Lungs” in Nature Communications 8, article no. 1173, online October 27, 2017. The other Drexel Department of Pediatrics authors are Drs. Mansoor Syed, Pragnya Das and Aishwarya Pawar, all in the Section of Neonatology at St. Christopher’s. Their research revealed that inhibiting the microRNA miR-34a significantly reduces bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) in mice. BPD is a chronic lung disease that affects up to 15,000 premature infants every year in the United States. The study suggests that targeting miR-34a could treat this complex disorder. (PMCID: PMC5660088)

Sara Blazewskiewicz and Sarah Bennison, Neuroscience PhD candidates; Trevor Smith, research assistant; Kazuhiro Toyo-oka, PhD, assistant professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published a review article entitled “Neurodevelopmental Genetic Diseases Associated With Microdeletions and Microduplications of Chromosome 17p13.3” in Frontiers in Genetics on March 23, 2018.

Renato Brandimarti, PhD, visiting research professor; Gordon S. Hill, an MD/PhD student; and Olimpia Meucci, MD, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, are authors of “The Lipid Raft–dwelling Protein US9 Can Be Manipulated to Target APP Compartmentalization, APP Processing, and Neurodegenerative Disease Pathogenesis,” published in the online Nature journal Scientific Reports, November 8, 2017.

Zachary Brodnik, a PhD candidate, and Rodrigo España, PhD, assistant professor, both in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, and collaborators from the University of Colorado Department of Psychology published “Diazepam Concurrently Increases the Frequency and Decreases the Amplitude of Dopamine Transient Release Events in the Nucleus Accumbens” in the Journal of...
Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, January 2018 (epub October 20, 2017). Brodnik is a member of the España Lab.


Wei Du, MD, clinical professor and chair, Department of Psychiatry, has been elected secretary of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society for 2018-19.

Rodrigo España, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, chaired the session “Stress-induced Alterations in Limbic Neurochemistry” at the Winter Conference on Brain Research, held January 14-19 in Whistler, British Columbia. In February, he presented a seminar entitled “Hypocretin Regulation of Dopamine Signaling and Motivated Behavior” at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

Brielle Ferguson, PhD, former student, and Wen-Jun Gao, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published “Thalamic Control of Cognition and Social Behavior Via Regulation of Gamma-Aminobutyric Acidergic Signaling and Excitation/Inhibition Balance in the Medial Prefrontal Cortex” in Biological Psychiatry, April 15, 2018; 83:657-669 (epub December 7, 2017). Ferguson earned her PhD in Neuroscience in August 2017 and is currently a postdoc at Stanford University.

Itzhak Fischer, PhD, professor and chair; Jed Shumsky, PhD, associate professor; and Ying Jin, PhD, research assistant professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published “Axonal Regeneration of Different Tracts Following Transplants of Human Glial Restricted Progenitors Into the Injured Spinal Cord in Rats” in the May 1 issue of Brain Research (epub February 1). Also, Fischer and Shaoping Hou, PhD, assistant professor, Department of

* continued on next page

Calendar

June
27–July 1 Improving Resiliency to Delay Aging
American Aging Association 47th Annual Meeting
Courtyard Philadelphia Downtown
americanagingassociation.org/meeting

July
25–26 Fundamentals of Medical Research & Scholarship
Contact: Michele Taylor, mt475@drexel.edu

August
10 White Coat Ceremony, Class of 2022
Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 11 a.m.
Contact: ms92@drexel.edu

September
3 Labor Day

October
11 New Faculty Orientation
Queen Lane Campus, 3–4:30 p.m.
Contact: Michele Taylor, mt475@drexel.edu

23 Discovery Day
The College of Medicine’s annual research day
The Pennsylvania Convention Center
Contact: Alyssa Abrohms, aa3436@drexel.edu

Ongoing

Drexel Medicine Physician Refresher/Re-entry Course
Contact: Cynthia Johnson, 215.762.2580

REFRESH: Information Skills for Health Sciences Research and Practice Workshop
2nd Friday of each month, 9–11 a.m.
Hahnemann Library, Room 1208,
New College Building
libguides.library.drexel.edu/refresh

Alumni: For information about alumni events, please call toll-free 888.DUGRADS (888.384.7237), email medical.alumni@drexel.edu or visit drexel.edu/medicine/alumni/events.

Fischer was invited to participate in a project with the National Institutes of Health’s Center for Scientific Review and the company Social Solutions International, designed to test the effect of anonymity in grant applications on outcome scores.

Sachin Gandhi, a second-year medical student, won third place in the Pennsylvania Medical Society’s first-ever student poster presentation for his abstract “Assessing the Efficacy of CyberKnife Stereotactic Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation Therapy for Early Stage Breast Cancer.” Students from across the state submitted abstracts and 10 were selected for presentation at the society’s annual meeting in October 2017. Gandhi earned his undergraduate degree from Drexel’s School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems.

Simon Giszter, PhD, professor of neurobiology and anatomy, presented a poster abstract, “Connectivity Analysis of Multielectrode Neural Recordings Using a Stochastic Dynamic Operator Framework,” at the NIH IMAG/MSM Consortium meeting, held March 21-23 at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland.

G. Peter Gliebus, MD, interim chair of the Department of Neurology, was invited by the government of Tucumán province in Argentina to give several talks at the 1st Regional Neuroprevention Meeting, held December 4-5, 2017. His presentations to physicians included an introduction to cognitive neurology and patient evaluation in clinic; Alzheimer’s disease, disease development and new diagnostic methods; and primary prevention and secondary prevention of Alzheimer’s disease. He also spoke to the general public about cognitive disorders.

Roxane Javadi, a second-year medical student, presented “Mass Drug Administration for Neglected Tropical Diseases: Benefits Versus Risks for Global Health in the 21st Century” as a panelist on Global Health and Sustainability at Drexel’s 11th Annual Student Conference on Global Challenges, held March 1.

Ajay Kohli, MD ’15, a resident in the Drexel/Hahnemann Radiology Residency program, is one of the alumni featured in Drexel Magazine’s annual 40 Under 40 issue. Kohli, who also earned his undergraduate degree at Drexel, in economics, was cited for his work in combining technology and medicine to build innovations in health care delivery (drexelmagazine.org/2018/40-under-40-winter-spring-18/).

J. Yasha Kresh, PhD, professor and research director in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology and director of Cardiovascular Biophysics, was the keynote speaker at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Philadelphia Awards Banquet on April 17. In his talk, “Part Man, Part Machine: The Sum of Its Dynamic Blood Pumps,” he presented the state of the art in mechanical circulatory support devices and novel cardiac replacement designs from his lab, used to bridge heart-failure patients awaiting heart transplantation, enable functional remodeling/recovery, and provide long-term (destination therapy) cardiac pump replacement.


Victor Lidz, PhD, professor, Department of Psychiatry, received an honorary doctorate from the Leopold-Franzens University of Innsbruck (Austria). The degree, Doctor of the Social and Economic Sciences, was awarded during the university’s Dies Academicus on October 13, 2017. Lidz gave the keynote lecture in the ceremonies for the opening of the fall semester. His title was “Strengthening the Strong Program in Cultural Analysis.”

Lina Maciuna, a PhD candidate in the Biochemistry graduate program, received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F31) from the National Institutes of Health for her project “Investigating How VanS Induces Vancomycin Resistance Genes: Vancomycin Sensing and Signal Transduction.” She is doing thesis research in the lab of Patrick Loll, PhD, professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.
Confocal image of PD-L1 (green) in autophagosomes (red) in MDA-MB-231 triple-negative breast cancer cells treated with a Sigma1 modulator (IPAG). Nuclei are labeled in blue.

Andrew Matamoros, a PhD student in the Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics program in the laboratory of Peter Baas, PhD, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received a National Institutes of Health NRSA F31 Graduate Research Fellowship entitled “Microtubule-Mediated Nerve Regeneration: Knocking Down Fidgetin, a Microtubule-Severing Protein, Augments Microtubule Mass and Axon Regeneration.”

Donna McNelis, PhD, professor and vice chair, Department of Psychiatry, received the 2017 Frank J. Menolascino Award for Excellence, which is given to promote excellence in the field of dual diagnosis (co-occurring mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities). The award was presented at the National Association of the Dually Diagnosed annual conference in November 2017.

Mark Messih, MD, third-year resident in the Adult Psychiatry Residency program, and Wei Du, MD, clinical professor and then-interim chair, Department of Psychiatry, co-authored “Game on: Addressing Resident Wellness and Burnout Within Training Programs,” a letter to the editor published in Academic Psychiatry, Vol. 42, Issue 1, February 2018 (PMID: 28819866; published online August 17, 2017).

Alyssa Mezochow, a fourth-year medical student, presented a poster, “Surveying HIV Healthcare in Western Ghana,” at Drexel’s 11th Annual Student Conference on Global Challenges, held on March 1.

Eugene Mironets, fourth-year PhD student in Neuroscience; Patrick Osei-Owusu, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology; Elizabeth A. Owens, former technician, Pharmacology & Physiology; Di Wu, PhD, research associate; Tatiana Salto, research assistant; Eileen Collyer, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; Shaoqing Hou, PhD, assistant professor; and Veronica J. Tom, PhD, associate professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published “Soluble TNFα Signaling Within the Spinal Cord Contributes to the Development of Autonomic Dysreflexia and Ensuing Vascular and Immune Dysfunction After Spinal Cord Injury” in The Journal of Neuroscience, April 2. Additional authors were Department of Biology faculty members Drs. Valerie Bracchi-Ricard, Roman Fischer, Jerome Ricard and John R. Bethea (chair), Drexel College of Arts & Sciences.

Sarah Monaco, MS, a Neuroscience PhD candidate, gave a mini-symposium platform presentation, “KIFC1 Crosslinks Microtubules in a Manner That Opposes Axon Retraction,” at the annual meeting of the American Society of Cell Biology, held on December 2-6, 2017, in Philadelphia.

Hemalatha Muralidharan, a Neuroscience PhD candidate, was awarded the 2017 Frank J. Menolascino Award for Excellence, which is given to promote excellence in the field of dual diagnosis (co-occurring mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities). The award was presented at the National Association of the Dually Diagnosed annual conference in November 2017.

• continued on next page
blog on March 7, 2018. Additional Drexel authors were Drs. Srikala Ponnuru, Varsha Goswami and Sharon Griswold, Department of Emergency Medicine; and Patricia A. Shewokis, PhD, College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Ankita Patil, MS ‘17, now a PhD candidate; Ananda Rao, PhD ‘17; Zachary Brodnik, a PhD candidate; Liang Qiang, MD, PhD, research assistant professor; Rodrigo España, PhD, assistant professor; and Peter Baas, PhD, professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, are authors of the study “Sub-threshold Exposure to Sarin Negatively Affects Neuronal Microtubules in a Manner Exacerbated by Stress: Implications for Gulf War Illness,” presented by Patil at the Society for Neuroscience meeting held November 10-15 in Washington, D.C.

Lauren A. Plante, MD, MPH, professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, is the editor of Expecting Trouble: Early Warnings and Rapid Responses in Maternal Medical Care (CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, 2018). She specializes in maternal-fetal medicine.

Ekamjeet Randhawa, MD, in his second year in the Internal Medicine Residency program, won first place for his poster “Evaluation of CT Angiograms from the Hahnemann Emergency Room” in the Residents & Fellows Poster Competition at the Pennsylvania Medical Society’s annual meeting last October.

Maya Rao, PhD, a 2017 graduate of the Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics program; Simon Cocklin, PhD, associate professor; and Patrick Loll, PhD, professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, published “Interaction Between the AAA+ ATPase p97 and Its Cofactor Ataxin3 in Health and Disease: Nucleotide-induced Conformational Changes Regulate Cofactor Binding,” in Journal of Biological Chemistry, Volume 292, Number 45, November 10, 2017. Rao created the image that the journal chose for the cover.

The cell behaves like a factory, employing diverse systems to carry out different functions. Each system contains molecular machines that perform mechanical work.

Nimerta Sandhu, a second-year medical student, presented a poster, “International Development of Culturally Specific Reproductive Health Curriculum to Develop Lasting Behavior Change and Improve Health Outcomes,” at Drexel’s 11th Annual Student Conference on Global Challenges, held on March 1.

Allan B. Schwartz, MD, professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, added to his series of Medical Mystery articles for The Philadelphia Inquirer with a piece about President Dwight D. Eisenhower, “The President Was Stricken on the Golf Course” (October 26, 2017), and one about President William Henry Harrison, “Was It Really Cold Weather That Killed the President?” (March 13, 2018).

Christian Sell, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, presented a paper, “Metabolic Interventions May Delay or Block Key Aspects of Cellular Senescence,” at Healthy Aging, a symposium sponsored by the Orentreich Foundation for the Advancement of Science and held October 25-27, 2017, at Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, New York. Ashley Azar, PhD, a recent graduate of the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, who did her thesis research in the Sell Lab, was co-author.

Valerie Sodi, PhD ‘17; Zachary Bacigalupa, a PhD candidate; and Christina Ferrer, PhD ‘15, all in Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics; Wiktoria Gocal, Drexel undergraduate; Dimpi Mukhopadhyay, MS ‘17; and colleagues are the authors of “Nutrient Sensor O-GlcNAc Transferase Controls Cancer Lipid Metabolism via SREBP-1 Regulation” published in Oncogene (online October 2017). Sodi, Ferrer and Mukhopadhyay performed their research in the laboratory of Mauricio J. Reginato, PhD, professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, where Bacigalupa is a current lab member.

Donna Sudak, MD, professor of psychiatry and interim program director for the Adult Psychiatry Residency, has been named president of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Programs.

Tell your colleagues what you’re doing. Email CoM_Pulse@drexel.edu.
Daniel R. Taylor, DO, associate professor of pediatrics, is the author of several articles: “Nervous Teenager’s Hands Turn Blue — Diagnosis: Pseudochromhidrosis,” with co-author Dana Toib, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, in Contemporary Pediatrics, online August 1, 2017; “The One News Story This Philly Pediatrician Wants to Keep in the Headlines” in The Philadelphia Inquirer, online August 4, 2017 (which he discussed on the air in “The Rising Rates of Teen Suicide” on WTXF-TV [Fox-29] in October); and “Medical Mystery: Why Is This 4-Year-Old So Often in the ER?” in The Philadelphia Inquirer, online September 3, 2017.

Veronica Tom, PhD, an associate professor of neurobiology and anatomy, and John Bethea, PhD, a professor and department head of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, were awarded a $2,497,558 grant from the National Institutes of Health for the project “Soluble TNFa in the Development of Autonomic Dysreflexia After Spinal Cord Injury.”

Renee Turchi, MD, MPH, associate professor of pediatrics, was named the 2017 Pennsylvania Pediatrician of the Year by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The peer-nominated award was announced on March 2. Turchi is medical director of the Center for Children with Special Health Care Needs at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children and director of the statewide Pennsylvania Medical Home Initiative, a program of the academy that is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She has collaborated with Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association for more than a decade to advance collaborative and integrated mental health and pediatric care for children and adolescents.

Turchi is an alumna of the College of Medicine’s predecessor school Medical College of Pennsylvania and completed her residency at St. Christopher’s. She also holds a faculty appointment with Drexel’s Dornsife School of Public Health. St. Christopher’s is the first institution in Pennsylvania to have back-to-back Pediatrician of the Year Award winners. The 2016 awardee was Daniel Taylor, DO, also associate professor of pediatrics at Drexel.


Erol Veznedaroglu, MD, the Robert A. Groff Chair in Neurosurgery and director of the Drexel Neurosciences Institute, is among the authors of “Thrombectomy 6 to 24 Hours After Stroke With a Mismatch between Deficit and Infarct” published in the New England Journal of Medicine, November 11, 2017.

Amanda Woodworth, MD, assistant professor of surgery, has been selected by Susan G. Komen Philadelphia to receive a $25,000 grant from the Komen Philadelphia Community Grants Program for screening patients for breast cancer. The grant period runs from April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019.

Lyandysha (Lana) Zholudeva, a PhD candidate in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received a Dean’s Travel Award from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies to attend the International Symposium on Neural Regeneration, where she presented a poster, “Characterization of Transplanted Neural Precursor Cells Enriched with Excitatory Postmitotic V2a Interneurons in a Cervical Spinal Cord Injury.”

Award-winning presenters with their mentors at the International Symposium on Neural Regeneration (l-r): John Houle, PhD, and Kaitlin Farrell, and Lana Zholudeva and Michael Lane, PhD.

Kaitlin Farrell, an MD/PhD candidate, also presented a poster, “Neuroinflammation and Dorsal Raphe Neuronal Activity Associated With Depression After Spinal Cord Injury.” There were more than 100 poster presentations at the symposium, and Zholudeva and Farrell won two of the six available awards. The conference was held November 27-December 1, 2017, in Pacific Grove, California.

Compliance & Privacy

Resources: Drexel employees can find all the compliance and privacy links they may need at top right on the Employee Tab of DrexelOne (one.drexel.edu).
‘60s

Helen Marie Schmidt, MD, WMC ‘63, medical director of House Calls Primary Care with Kindred at Home in Liberty Lake, Washington, has been included in *Marquis Who’s Who*.

Loretta Finnegan, MD, HU ‘64, was cited in an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as the pediatrician who first formally described neonatal abstinence syndrome. The article, “Youngest Victims of Crisis Go Uncounted,” noted that most hospitals still use the scoring system developed by Finnegan to assess NAS severity and the effectiveness of treatment.

Elissa Jeanne Santoro, MD, WMC ‘65, was recognized by Continental Who’s Who as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member in the field of medicine, in recognition of her role as a breast surgical oncologist at RWJBarnabas Health Center for Breast Health and Disease Management in Westfield, New Jersey.

Edward Zissman, MD, HU ‘69, received a lifetime achievement award for his dedication to the Jewish community in Orlando at the Jewish Academy of Orlando’s annual gala.

‘70s

Richard A. Gambescia, MD, HU ‘71, a gastroenterologist at Philadelphia Gastroenterology Group, was recognized by Becker’s GI & Endoscopy as a “GI Leader to Know.”

‘80s

Terrence Loughlin, MD, HU ‘80, an otolaryngologist, joined OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center in Mendota, Illinois.

Thomas Swain, MD, HU ‘80, presented at a seminar hosted by Health First Physician at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place in Melbourne, Florida, where he discussed heart and vascular health.

Dorothy I. Bulas, MD, MCP ‘81, was promoted to chief of the Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Radiology at the Center for Hospital Based Specialties at Children’s National Health System.

M. Louis Van de Beek, MD, HU ‘82, is chief medical officer of Keystone Shops, which opened the Philadelphia region’s first medical marijuana dispensary, in Devon, Pennsylvania. Keystone plans to open dispensaries in King of Prussia and South Philadelphia.

Frederick J. Bloom Jr., MD, HU ‘83, the president of Guthrie Medical Group, has been appointed to the board of directors of the AMGA Foundation.

Robert Schreiber, MD, HU ‘83, joined Fallon Health, a not-for-profit health care services organization in Worcester, Massachusetts, as vice president and medical director of its Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly.

Mark S. Codella, MD, HU ‘84; Gastroenterology Residency, HU ‘87; Gastroenterology Fellowship, HU ‘89, chair of the Department of Medicine at Nazareth Hospital in Philadelphia, presented “Colorectal Cancer: Preventable, Treatable, Beatable” at a Dine with the Docs community event hosted by the hospital on March 7, in honor of Colorectal Awareness Month. A member of the College of Medicine’s Alumni Association Board of Directors, he will take office as president of the board on July 1.

Carmine Volpe, MD, MCP ‘84; General Surgery Residency, MCP ‘90, was named medical director for all of Mercy Health System’s oncology services.

Robert K. Clark, PhD, HU ‘85, was re-elected for a third term as a commissioner on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which performs peer evaluation and accreditation of public and private universities. Clark works at Cumberland County College as the special assistant to the president for planning, research, institutional effectiveness and grants.

Robert Brown, MD, HU ‘86, a board-certified dermatologist, joined Integrated Dermatology in Massachusetts, and will be serving the Brighton, Mashpee and Needham locations.

Kenneth T. Ashkin, MD, MCP ‘87, a neurologist at Mecklenburg Neurological Associates, and affiliated with Carolinas Medical Center, has been named a 2017 Top Doctor in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Three Generations of DUCoM

Graduates of three successive College of Medicine classes, all residents in the Family Medicine & Community Health Residency program at the University of Pennsylvania, convened for a photo while on inpatient service at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (l-r): Laura Kurash, MD ‘17 (PGY1), Ben Cocciaro, MD/MPH ‘15 (PGY3), and Christine Schultheiss, MD ‘16 (PGY2).
Joseph Brady, MD, HU ’87; Surgery Residency, HU ’93, a general surgeon, joined South County Health in Wakefield, Rhode Island.

Dennis E. Mayer, MD, HU ’87, a general surgeon, joined Mary Black Physicians Group Surgical Specialties in Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

Scott Cook, MD, MPH, MCP ’88, became the associate medical director at Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, according to a LinkedIn update. He is also the chief medical officer at My House Call and the medical director at multiple addiction medicine centers.

Theresa Eichenwald, MD, MCP ’88, has been named medical director at CitiWell, the corporate wellness program for Citi headquarters in Irving, Texas.

Kevin Claffey, MD, HU ’89; Surgery Residency, HU ’94, board-certified surgeon, joined the SSM Health Medical Group’s new specialty clinic in Benton, Illinois.

Kevin Claffey, MD, HU ’89; Surgery Residency, HU ’94, board-certified surgeon, joined the SSM Health Medical Group’s new specialty clinic in Benton, Illinois.

Brian Kelly, MD, HU ’89, was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology.

Craig Reigel, MD, MCP ’89, orthopedic surgeon at the Virginia Orthopedic Center, has been named a 2018 Top Doctor in Culpeper, Virginia.

‘90s

Kenneth Krumins, MD, MCP ’90, physician at Jewett Orthopaedic Clinic in Winter Park, Florida, was recognized in Orlando magazine’s list of Top Doctors 2017.

Martin Schaeffer, MD, MCP ’90, pain medicine physician at CNY Spine and Pain Medicine, has been named a 2018 Top Doctor in Liverpool, New York.

Dean Laurence Fiergang, MD, HU ’91, a pediatric ophthalmologist at Pediatric Eye Care of Maryland, has been named a 2017 Top Doctor in Baltimore, Maryland.

Amy Murtha, MD, MCP ’92, has been appointed chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Services at the University of California, San Francisco. She started in her new role on May 1. She joined UCSF from Duke University School of Medicine, where she was a professor in the Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatrics.

Susan Schneider, MD, MCP ’92, joined ThromboGenics NV, in Leuven, Belgium, as chief medical officer. ThromboGenics is a biotechnology company developing novel medicines for back-of-the-eye diseases and focused on diabetic eye disease.

Patrice M. Weiss, MD, HU ’92, executive vice president and chief medical officer at Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Virginia, was named by Becker’s Healthcare to its national list of “100 Hospital & Health System CMOs to Know” for 2018. This is the third consecutive year she has received this recognition.

Sharad S. Mansukani, MD, HU ’93, senior advisor of TPG Capital LP and a member of the board of directors of Kindred Healthcare Inc., was appointed to the board of directors of Endo International, PLC.

Anthony Tufaro, DDS; MD, HU ’93, has been named professor of surgery and chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

Christina Jones, MD, MCP ’95, a family physician, joined the UHS Primary Care practice in Oxford, New York.

David A. Kolde, MD, HU ’96, a family medicine physician in Wenatchee, Washington, joined the board of directors of the Community Foundation of North Central Washington.

Sunil Rayan, MD, HU ’96, a vascular surgeon, joined Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas (California) as chief of staff.

Richard Tomolonis, HU ’96, has been named chair of the Department of Surgery at Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Matthew Campbell, MD, HU ’98, presented at a heart and vascular seminar “Mitral Valve Repair – Minimally Invasive Methods Including MitraClip” at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place in Melbourne, Florida.

Sandra Lee, MD, HU ’98, a dermatologist, has a new reality TV show on TLC called Dr. Pimple Popper. It debuted on the network on January 3.

William Collyer, MD, MCPHU ’99, joined Deaconess Clinic Urology in Evansville, Indiana.

Mark Glaum, MD, MCPHU ’99; PhD, MCPHU ’01; Drexel/Hahnemann Internal Medicine Residency ’02, and colleagues of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Associates of Tampa Bay have opened an office in Wesley Chapel, Florida, the practice’s fifth location. He is an associate professor of medicine and pediatrics at the University of South Florida’s Morsani College of Medicine. He also earned his MS in physiology from Hahnemann in 1993.

‘00s

Gregory Dobash, MD, MCPHU ’00, opened a new practice at the St. Luke’s Ashland Family Practice in Ashland, Pennsylvania.

Jonathan Lord, BS Emergency Medical Services, MCPHU ’00, joined Flagler County (Florida) as chief of emergency management. He was previously director of the state Division of Emergency Management, where he oversaw the response to Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma.
Ilan B.K. Martin, MD, MCPHU ’00, is president-elect of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, effective in May when he completed a one-year term as secretary-treasurer of the society. Martin is professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at West Virginia University School of Medicine, and is also a professor in the school’s Department of Medicine.

Kathleen M. Schmeler, MD, MCPHU ’00, an OB/GYN and associate professor in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital, was profiled in an article in The ASCO Post. The article focused on her work in cervical cancer prevention and treatment, especially in the Rio Grande Valley along the Texas-Mexico border, where the cervical cancer rates are 30 percent higher than in the rest of Texas. She is a co-leader of the Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) program, which uses a Skype-like video-conferencing program to link MD Anderson faculty in Houston with Rio Grande Valley clinicians.

Brent W. Burkey, MD, MCPHU ’01, was appointed president of Fisher-Titus Medical Center in Norwalk, Ohio.

Marina Shtern, MD ’03, a family medicine physician, joined Family Medicine at Souderon, a Grand View Medical Practice in Souderon, Pennsylvania.

Naveen Kumar, MD ’05, a breast surgeon, opened the newly created Breast Care Program at Granville Surgical Associates in Oxford, North Carolina. He completed his general surgery residency at St. Barnabas Medical Center (Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) and received training in plastic surgery at Duke University Medical Center.

Evgeny Krynetskiy, MD ’06, joined Seaside Surgery Center in Naples, Florida, as a physician partner, specializing in foot and ankle surgery.

Obhe Asemota MD ’07; OB/GYN Residency ’12, has joined Aspire Fertility’s newest IVF clinic in Atlanta, Georgia, as a reproductive endocrinologist.

Samantha Lee Furia, MD ’07, internist, joined the newly established practice Internal Medicine of Elizabeth in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Jeffrey T. Gibbs, MD ’07, has joined Merit Health Central’s burn center medical staff at Joseph M. Still Burn Centers. After graduating from the MD/MBA program at Drexel, he completed residencies in general surgery at Loyola University and in plastic surgery at Indiana University. He also completed a burn fellowship at Indiana before his plastics residency and, most recently, a surgical critical care fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University.

Sapna Shah, MD ’08, board-certified endocrinologist, joined the DuPage Medical Group, a multispecialty physician group in the Chicago area. She sees patients in the group’s Bloomingdale and Hinsdale, Illinois, offices. Shah completed her residency in internal medicine at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, in Cleveland, and her fellowship in endocrinology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

’10s


Kristen Long, PhD Microbiology & Immunology ’12, assistant professor at Mansfield University, in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, was profiled in an article on her work on pancreatic cancer in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine.

Katie Shoe, MD ’14, a family medicine physician, joined Wellspring Family Medicine, in Maryland and West Virginia, and the medical staff at Garrett Regional Medical Center, Garrett County, Maryland, to provide family physician services and obstetric care. She completed her residency in family medicine at Via Christi Hospitals through the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.

Christina Ferrer, PhD Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics ’15, is a research fellow at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital. See Sodi in What We’re Doing, page 14.

Ajay Kohli, MD ’15, see What We’re Doing, page 12.

Brielle Ferguson, PhD Neuroscience ’17, is currently a postdoc at Stanford University. See What We’re Doing, page 11.

Kate Iyoob, MS Criminalistic Science ’17, has joined the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, police department as a crime scene technician/investigator. She is one of the first three civilians the department has hired as crime scene workers.

Dimpi Mukhopadhyay, MS Cancer Biology ’17, is a research scientist at the Kimmel Cancer Center. See Sodi in What We’re Doing, page 14.

Maya Rao, PhD Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics ’17, see What We’re Doing, page 14.

Valerie Sodi, PhD Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics ’17, is doing postdoctoral research at Fox Chase Cancer Center. See What We’re Doing, page 14.
Former Residents and Fellows
(alphabetical)

Joanne Astill, MD; Psychiatry Residency, MCP ’90, joined the University of Vermont Health Network’s Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh, New York.

Kathleen Galatro, DO; Noninvasive Cardiology Fellowship, MCP/HHU, joined the cardiology team at Watson Clinic Main in Lakeland, Florida.

Jordan Glaser, MD; Drexel/Hahnemann Orthopedic Surgery Residency ’14, has joined Lake Norman Medical Group, Orthopedic Spine Mooresville, in Mooresville, North Carolina. He completed his fellowship in spine surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

Marilyn Heine, MD; Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, MCP ’89, received the 2016 Colin C. Rorrie Jr., PhD Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians for her career dedicated to advocating on behalf of the medical profession nationwide. She practices emergency medicine and hematology/oncology.

Irene I. Komarynsky, MD; Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency, MCP, joined Stamford Health Medical Group in Stamford, Connecticut.

Ashok Patnaik, MD; Internal Medicine Residency, MCP/HHU ’96, has joined Tug Valley ARH Regional Medical Center and ARH Cardiology Associates in South Williamstown, Kentucky.

Cary Rose, MD; Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellowship, HU ’94, is one of three cardiologists brought on board by South Georgia Medical Center to run a new cardiology practice that opened in January in Valdosta, Georgia.

In Memoriam

Nicholas C. Battafarano, MD, HU ’49, November 9, 2017
Albert C. Beatty Jr., MD, HU ’58, March 6, 2018
George L. Becker, Jr., MD, HU ’54, September 5, 2017
Darryl R. Brown, MD, HU ’86, November 24, 2017
Clifford J. Buckley, MD, HU ’62, September 29, 2017
Joseph Hankinson Carter Jr., MD, HU ’62, October 19, 2017
Florence J. Chinn, MD, WMC ’53, September 20, 2017
Walter E. Corrigan, MD, HU ’48, August 22, 2017
Marvin R. Cressman, MD, HU ’59, February 4, 2018
James A. Crozier, MD, HU ’74, October 19, 2017
Martha Jane Danis, MD, WMC ’55, June 8, 2017
James K. Davis, MD, HU ’59, September 14, 2017
William E. K. Davis, MD, HU ’66, December 24, 2017
Charles P. DeFeo Jr., MD, HU ’52, December 12, 2017
Thomas J. Dowd, MD, HU ’55, September 26, 2017
Paula M. Duncan, MD, MCP ’72, October 25, 2017
Marion Joyce Farlin, MD, WMC ’59, August 16, 2017
Michael S. Feldman, MD, HU ’67, October 14, 2017
Geraldine Fink, MD, WMC ’53, April 13, 2017
Howard Z. Finkel, MD, HU ’69, January 25, 2018
John A. Fisher, MD, HU ’52, November 3, 2017
George C. Ginter, Jr., MD, HU ’54, February 4, 2018
Betty La Verne Gorman, MD, WMC ’56, October 2017
Robert H. Griffen, MD, HU ’53, September 18, 2017
William G. Hamm, MD, HU ’48, February 11, 2018
Bruce S. Harris, MD, HU ’68, March 31, 2018
Marjorie Harriet Hendry, MD, WMC ’53, November 27, 2017
Angela D. Hill, MD, WMC ’66, April 1, 2018
Mary Harriet Hudson, MD, WMC ’61, November 9, 2017
Alan L. Itskowitz, MD, HU ’64, October 10, 2017
Miriam Klabaner Jacobs, MD, WMC ’54, February 26, 2018
Stanley J.M. Jallo Jr., MD, HU ’50, February 7, 2018

J. Elizabeth Jeffress, MD, WMC ’49, January 21, 2018
Eda Kahana, MD, WMC ’46, March 7, 2018
Kenneth Kaminker, MD, HU ’64, January 8, 2018
Richard H. Kaplan, MD, HU ’73, August 22, 2017
H. Lawrence Karasic, MD, HU ’60, December 22, 2017
Steven E. Katz, MD, HU ’63, January 29, 2018
Bernard L. Klionsky, MD, HU ’52, November 12, 2017
Arch R. Krenzel, MD, HU ’49, November 29, 2017
William D. Lamberton, MD, HU ’53, March 15, 2018
Eleanor Olga Leise, MD, WMC ’64, November 6, 2017
Edgar C. Lloyd, MD, HU ’54, November 19, 2017
Thomas P. Lynch, PhD ’12, April 28, 2018
Robert I. Miller, MD, HU ’61, January 30, 2018
Patrick P. Moraca, MD, HU ’54, October 2017
James F. Mulligan, MD, HU ’69, November 15, 2017
Kirk F. Musselman, MD, HU ’82, August 27, 2017
Floyd T. Nasuti, MD, HU ’61, December 23, 2017
Robert B. Ort, MD, HU ’65, January 29, 2018
Joseph M. Page, MD, HU ’64, January 19, 2018
M. Lee Pearce, MD, JD, HU ’55, October 12, 2017
John S. Pulizzi, MD, HU ’61, September 27, 2017
Lillian Rochlin, MD, WMC ’42, November 5, 2017
William F. Rath, MD, HU ’54, January 28, 2018
Mark Ruderman, MD, HU ’61, March 16, 2018
Francis P. Salvatore Sr., MD, HU ’48, February 9, 2018
Ronald Schaupp, MD, HU ’60, October 15, 2017
Sidney H. Starrels, MD, HU ’49, November 13, 2017
Lorraine I. Stengl, MD, WMC ’47, February 8, 2018
Irene G. Tamagna, MD, WMC ’43, March 25, 2018
Mary A.H. Thomas, MD, HU ’47, January 1, 2018
Paul R. Tourigny, MD, HU ’84, December 31, 2017
H. Richard Ward, MD, HU ’62, August 27, 2017
Donald J. Wilfong Jr., MD, HU ’79, March 28, 2018
Norma S. Wohl, MD, HU ’45, January 27, 2018
Carl F. Wolf, MD, HU ’68, January 17, 2018
Valerie Kim Wright, MD, MCP ’77, April 7, 2017
With its March 31 banner recognizing the 153rd birthday of Anandi Gopal Joshi, Google gave the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania a second chapter in its most recent claims to fame (see Pulse Winter issue). Joshi came to WMC from India and, after graduating in 1886, returned as her country’s first female physician. Her life was cut short by tuberculosis just a few years later. Before she died, however, she served as physician-in-charge of the female ward of a hospital in Kolhapur and planned to open a medical college for women, like her alma mater. At left is the building on Arch Street that was the first home of Homeopathic Medical College, in 1848, and Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, in 1850.