



SUMMER 2022
Vol. 9, No. 2

Celebrating the Class of 2022

The class of 2022 celebrated Commencement at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts on May 13, with an audience of family, friends, faculty and staff. The ceremony honored MD program and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies students as they became alumni.

The graduates included 244 MD students, three of whom completed joint MD/PhDs and eight who earned dual MD and master's degrees in science, public health or business administration. The graduate students included 280 master's degree recipients from Drexel's pre-med/pre-health, career-oriented and biomedical science programs, and 23 PhD students.

This was the first Commencement to take place on the Kimmel Center's stage since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the return to tradition added to the day's celebratory mood. Drexel community members and graduates' loved ones filled the venue with cheers and applause. The event was also streamed live for those who could not attend in person and is archived online.

Donna M. Russo, PhD, HU '89, the William Maul Measey Chair in Medical Education, interim vice dean for educational affairs and senior associate dean for curriculum, welcomed everyone to the event. Charles B. Cairns, MD, the Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean and senior vice president of medical affairs, also addressed the attendees, followed by a greeting from Stanley W. Silverman, vice chair of Drexel University's Board of Trustees.

Lynn Yeakel, former director of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership and the Betty A. Cohen Chair in Women's Health, was honored posthumously for her longtime leadership and contributions to gender equality with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, which was accepted by her husband and son.

Attendees heard an address from celebrated educator and pediatric infectious diseases pioneer Sarah S. Long, MD, an associate professor of pediatrics, and chief of infectious diseases at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

During the ceremony, MD program graduates recited the Physician's Pledge — led by Natalie S. May, MD, associate professor of medicine — promising to dedicate their lives to serve humanity and put the health and well-being of their patients first. Elizabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD,

founding dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, led the Graduate Student Oath, in which students vow to pursue truth while maintaining integrity, professionalism and a commitment to lifelong learning. Ayman S. Bodair, MD '19, a captain in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, led students graduating into military service in the Oath for MD Officers.

After Edward Siegel, MD '12, MBA, inducted the class of 2022 into the Alumni Association, Kara M. Jacobs, MD '22, offered the graduate remarks. The ceremony ended with a farewell from Seema Baranwal, MD, senior associate dean for student affairs.



Art in medicine event teaches MD students keen observation



Franklin medalists on history and hopes for mRNA therapy



Match Day sheds light on class of 2022's bright future

Contents

Commencement 1
Destination Excellence 3
Art in Medicine Event 10
Faculty Awards 15
Match Day 18

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Activities and accomplishments 6-9

NEWS & EVENTS

New regional medical campus,
honor societies, Explore & Serve Day . . . 12-17

In Memoriam 9

Calendar 17

Get to Know 19

pulse

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Transitions and Growth

What a remarkable time it has been. Our College of Medicine Commencement festivities returned to the Kimmel Center on May 13, and I got to experience that tradition in a magnificent setting for the first time since becoming dean. Our esteemed faculty and I were so proud to send the class of 2022 on to the next phase of their careers!



Charles B. Cairns, MD

Indeed, this is also a time of year when we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our tremendous faculty. In May, the College honored faculty and professional staff with Golden Apple Awards for teaching and service, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies bestowed their Teaching and Mentorship Awards to faculty in each division. I thank the recipients and all of our faculty for your leadership and excellence in teaching our students.

Faculty recruitment, engagement, development and retention are critical to our institution's success, and I am grateful to the Office of Faculty for their tireless efforts to provide engaging, effective programming. The team has offered several recent development opportunities for our faculty, including a workshop that guided attendees in strengthening their CVs in preparation for academic promotion, with the help of senior faculty mentors. Our 2022 Faculty Day addressed "Creating a Culture of Mentorship" and featured a plenary talk and panel discussion on leadership and mentoring.

Another recent area of growth is the launch of the Executive Leadership in Health Care (ELH) program, a complementary program of the nationally renowned Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program. ELH supports the advancement of women in mid-career to senior-level leadership positions in U.S. and Canadian health systems. The program welcomed its first cohort of 27 fellows in May. This expansion of ELAM's critical mission of increasing the representation of women in leadership roles in academic medicine and health care carries forward the College's legacy as the first degree-granting medical school for women in the world.

The number of our regional clinical campuses continues to expand. This spring we were pleased to finalize an affiliation agreement with Cape Fear Valley Health System in Fayetteville, North Carolina, to serve as a regional medical campus for the College of Medicine. Drexel medical students can now opt to complete their third- and/or fourth-year clinical rotations within the health system. Our affiliate and regional clinical campuses are vital to the MD students' clinical training years, and we are proud of the high-caliber hands-on education they provide.

Our Philadelphia facilities continue to evolve as well. The new Drexel Health Sciences Building in University City is on schedule to open this fall. The College of Nursing and Health Professions will move into the building when it opens, and we plan on moving our medical education components next summer. I will update you all on this exciting move throughout the next year.

Finally, we will be meeting our new crop of MS, PhD and MD students within the next few weeks! I look forward to getting to know them alongside the rest of our community. Until then, I wish you a safe, relaxing summer.

Charles B. Cairns, MD

Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs

James A. Batts Jr. Diversity Dinner

On May 11, College of Medicine students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered at the Germantown Cricket Club for the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion's James A. Batts Jr. Diversity Dinner. The event celebrated the achievements of the graduating students who are from groups that are under-represented in medicine, and raised \$13,500 to support underrepresented students' success.

The dinner is named in honor of James A. Batts Jr., who joined the faculty at the Medical College of Pennsylvania (MCP), a College of Medicine legacy institution, in 1979 and retired in 1989 as senior attending physician and professor emeritus in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Batts had an interest in increasing the number of underrepresented medical students and regularly recruited and mentored students. Each year, he hosted a party at his own expense for underrepresented students and faculty at MCP, gathering attendees at the

Cricket Club.

The dinner now honors the commitment of the College of Medicine to diversity and inclusion, dating to its roots in MCP, Hahnemann Medical College and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. The event also raises money for the Dr. James A. Batts Student Fund, which will help students with their education expenses, fees to attend conferences, test preparation materials and tuition support.

The 2022 keynote speaker was Safiyya Shabazz, MD, president of the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania, an affiliate of the National Medical Association, which aims to serve as a collective voice for Black physicians, increase equity in medicine and eliminate health disparities. Other speakers included alumni Brittney Bruno, MD '19, and Irene Kirkland Mintz, MD, MCP '86, as well as members of the MD program class of 2022 including Elizabeth Centurion, William Justice and Kingsley Ozongwu.





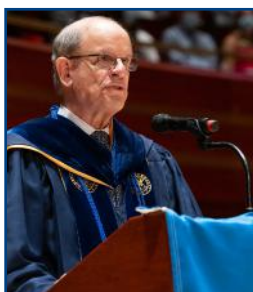
Scenes of Celebration



Donna M. Russo, PhD, HU '89: *We anticipate the promise of what you will become: healers rooted in compassion and humanism, scientific investigators ready to innovate and discover, and future advocates for research, health, well-being, inclusion and justice.*



Charles B. Cairns, MD: *All of you have faced adversities unique to this time in our history, and you have met these challenges effectively and with great courage. You have supported one another personally and academically, reminding all of us that the College of Medicine's culture of caring lives on in you.*



Stanley W. Silverman: *As you pursue your career, the best advice I can share with you is to step out of your comfort zone, be open to new opportunities that come your way, and create your own opportunities. Embrace change, the only constant in life.*



Paul Yeakel Sr. (left) and Paul Yeakel Jr.: *Thank you for this wonderful honor for my wife, Lynn Yeakel. She was a giver. She loved Drexel, and she started a number of programs that funded women and men in the medical school. We miss her dearly.*



Sarah S. Long, MD: *Our hearts are full. Our pride in what you have become is vast. And our hopes for you are boundless. You are our legacies and your families' legacies.*



Edward Siegel, MD '12, MBA: *The only constant is change. Staying flexible, adapting to new challenges, and finding new solutions is part of what has kept this school going for nearly 175 years, and are traits that will serve you well in the future.*



Kara M. Jacobs, MD '22: *As physicians, scientists, researchers and academics, we are intrinsically also lifelong innovators, healers, advocates and champions for the respect, dignity and equality of all people.*



Seema Baranwal, MD: *While we are saying farewell, "commencement" means "beginning," so today we also celebrate the hope and promise that each of you carries into your careers and your lives as you make a powerful impact on society.*





Bryant **Barker**

Kathleen Bryant, Neuroscience PhD student, **Binay Singh, BS biomedical/medical engineering '22**, and **Jacqueline Barker, PhD**, associate professor of pharmacology and physiology,

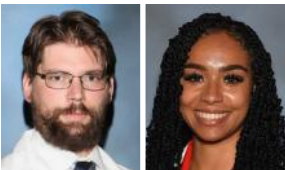
authored "Reinforcement History Dependent Effects of Low Dose Ethanol on Reward Motivation in Male and Female Mice," which was published in the April 11, 2022, issue of *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*. Bryant also received a Research Society on Alcoholism Student Merit Award.



Ciraku **Bacigalupa**

Loreal Ciraku, Molecular & Cell Biology and Genetics PhD student; **Zachary Bacigalupa, PhD molecular and cell biology and genetics '18**; Cancer Biology program alumni

Jing Ju, MS '19, **Rebecca Moeller, MS '20**, and **Rusia Lee, MS '19**; **Giang Le Minh**, Biochemistry of Health & Disease PhD student; **Michael Smith, MS biochemistry of health and disease '17**; **Christina Ferrer, PhD molecular and cell biology and genetics '15**; **Wiktorija Gocal**, third-year MD student; **Mauricio Reginato, PhD**, professor and interim chair, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University and Thomas Jefferson University authored "O-GlcNAc Transferase Regulates Glioblastoma Acetate Metabolism via Regulation of CDK5-Dependent ACSS2 Phosphorylation," which was published in *Oncogene* on February 22, 2022.



Costa **Price-Moyer**

Gabriel Costa and **Alexis Price-Moyer**, first-year medical students; **Orcel Kounga**, director of admissions and student affairs, College of Medicine at Tower Health; and **Lara**

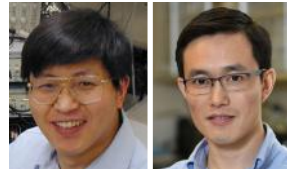
K. Ronan, MD, professor of neurology and assistant dean of student affairs, diversity, equity and inclusion, College of Medicine at Tower Health, presented a poster abstract, "Toolkit for Intercampus Student Groups: Inclusion Practices in a Distributed Medical Model" at the 2022 AAMC Group on Student Affairs, Careers in Medicine, Organization of Student Representatives national meeting, held April 7-9 in Denver, Colorado.

Christina Curran-Alfaro, Neuroscience PhD student, received a Research Society on Alcoholism Student Merit Award. Curran-Alfaro also received a travel award to attend the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics annual meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Experimental Biology 2022 Conference in April.



Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD, professor of pharmacology and physiology, and a colleague at Thomas Jefferson University received new funding from the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Consortium multi-PI collaborative grant program. The funds will support their project "Atomic

Structure of FX-68 Bound to CX3CR1 Reconstituted in Lipid Nanodiscs." Fatatis was also awarded funding from the Rolling Pilot Award Program of the Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Biome Project for "Direct and Combinatorial Anti-tumor Effects of CX3CR1 Antagonists in Prostate Cancer."



Gao **Wang**

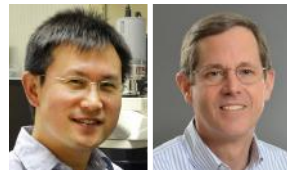
Wen-Jun Gao, MD, PhD, professor, and **Dong Wang, PhD**, assistant professor, both in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, were awarded an R21 grant from the National Institutes

of Health for "Norepinephrine Tunes Prefrontal-Thalamic Circuitry to Modulate Avoidance Behavior." **Nancy Mack**, Neuroscience graduate student, will serve as key personnel for the project. Mack, Gao, **Shasha Yang, PhD neuroscience '21**, **Yousheng Shu, PhD**, adjunct professor of neurobiology and anatomy, and a colleague from Fudan University in China published "Prefrontal Cortical Control of Anxiety: Recent Advances" in *The Neuroscientists* on January 27, 2022.



Edward Hartsough, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, and colleagues from Thomas Jefferson University, University of Miami and UT Southwestern Medical Center authored "Multi-omics Profiling Shows BAP1 Loss Is Associated With

Upregulated Cell Adhesion Molecules in Uveal Melanoma," which appeared in *Molecular Cancer Research* April 15, 2022.



Hou **Houle**

Shaoping Hou, PhD, assistant professor and principal investigator, and **John D. Houle, PhD**, professor and co-investigator, both in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy,

have been awarded a five-year, \$1,882,900 R01 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for the project "Combining Serotonergic Neural Progenitor Transplantation and Exercise to Improve Cardiac Disorders and Autonomic Dysreflexia After Spinal Cord Injury."



Caitlin Howe, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, delivered a poster presentation, "Student Perspectives on a Lab Restricted Gross Anatomy Experience During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons for the Future of Cadaveric-Based Gross Anatomy Lab in

Undergraduate Medical Education" at the Experimental Biology meeting in Philadelphia on April 4, 2022.



Elena Irollo, PhD, postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, was one of the authors of "Sphingosine-1-Phosphate/TGF- β Axis Drives Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition in Asthma-like Disease." The paper appeared in the April 2022 issue

of the *British Journal of Pharmacology*.



Klase



Van Duyne

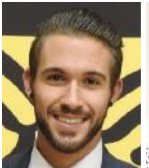
Zachary Klase, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and physiology, received Pennsylvania CURE grant funding for "Development of Novel HIV-1 Tat Inhibitors:

From Latency to Cure." Other Drexel faculty currently collaborating with Klase on this work are **Rachel Van Duyne, PhD**, research assistant professor of pharmacology and physiology, and **Michael Nonnemacher, PhD**, associate professor of microbiology and immunology.



Nonnemacher

Xuan Luo, MS drug discovery and development '19, a Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student, was selected as a finalist for the American Association for the Advancement of Science E-poster Competition. Luo was one of three finalists selected from the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology poster group who participated in a 30-minute discussion about their research.



Malloy



Côté

Dillon Malloy, Neuroscience PhD candidate, **Marie-Pascale Côté, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, and a colleague from the College of Staten

Island published "Adapting Human-Based Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation to Develop a Clinically Relevant Animal Model" in the 2023 "Spinal Cord Injury and Transcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulation" special issue of the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*.



Olimpia Meucci, MD, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, and colleagues from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences published "Heterogeneity of Ferrous Iron-Containing Endolysosomes and Effects of Endolysosome Iron on Endolysosome Numbers, Sizes, and Localization Patterns" in the *Journal of Neurochemistry* in April 2022.



Miller



Krebs

Vandana Miller, MD, and **Fred Krebs, PhD**, both associate professors in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and investigators at North Carolina State University

and Rutgers University received a four-year, \$1.76 million grant from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. The multisite project, titled "Development of a Closed-Loop Control System for Plasma Medicine," focuses on developing technology to achieve regulated delivery of non-thermal plasma in biomedical applications.



O. Mortensen



España

Ole V. Mortensen, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and physiology, was awarded funding from the Pennsylvania CURE grant program to support his project "Real-time

Ex Vivo Modulation of ERK1/2 Signaling in Dopamine Neurotransmission." The co-investigator for the project is **Rodrigo España, PhD**, associate professor of neurobiology and anatomy. Mortensen and colleagues at Florida Atlantic University, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, University of Pittsburgh, and the Wistar Institute published "Allosteric Modulator KM822 Attenuates Behavioral Actions of Amphetamine in *Caenorhabditis elegans* Through Interactions With the Dopamine Transporter DAT-1." The paper appeared in *Molecular Pharmacology*



A. Mortensen

in March 2022. Mortensen, **Andréia Mortensen, PhD**, assistant professor of pharmacology and physiology, and colleagues from the University of Buenos Aires and the University of the Republic authored "Molecular Characterization of the Serotonergic Transporter From the

Cestode *Echinococcus granulosus*: Pharmacology and Potential Role in the Nervous System," which appeared in *Parasitology Research* February 16, 2022.

Mitch Nothem, PhD pharmacology and physiology

'20, current postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, received the Research Society on Alcoholism's Junior Investigator Meeting Award for the society's 2022 scientific meeting. Nothem was also selected to present at the U.S. Association for the Study of Pain's 2022 meeting in the Substance Use and Addiction special interest group. His talk was "Ethanol Antiallodynia and Reward Seeking in Mice With Spared Nerve Injury."

Dana Peterson, PhD, professor of neurobiology and anatomy, was elected to serve a three-year term on the Educational Affairs Committee of the American Association of Anatomists (AAA). She was also chosen to be one of 20 oral presenters for the anatomy education platform for the 2022 Experimental Biology/AAA national meeting, held in April 2022 in Philadelphia.



Pirino



Martin



Samels



Barson

Neuroscience PhD students **Breanne Pirino**, **Cydney Martin**, **Christina Curran-Alfaro** and **Shanna Samels**; Neuroscience master's student; **Genevieve Curtis**, **PhD neuroscience '22**; **Jacqueline Barker, PhD**, associate professor of pharmacology and physiology; and **Jessica R. Barson, PhD**, assistant professor of neurobiology and anatomy, published "Sex-Related Differences in Pattern of Ethanol Drinking Under the Intermittent-Access

Model and Its Impact on Exploratory and Anxiety-like Behavior in Long-Evans Rats," which appeared in *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* on May 1, 2022.



Mauricio Reginato, PhD, professor and interim chair, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, served as a grant reviewer for an NIH fellowships panel, Oncological Sciences: Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy in March 2022. He and a colleague at Thomas Jefferson University have received a Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Consortium multi-PI collaborative grant for their project "Uncovering Metabolic Vulnerabilities for Targeting Breast Cancer Brain Metastatic Growth." He also presented his research at the annual meeting of the NIH/NCI Alliance of Glycobiologists for Cancer Research held at Florida International University in Miami in April 2022.

The Department of Pharmacology & Physiology was well represented at the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics annual meeting, which was held in conjunction with Experimental Biology 2022 in Philadelphia in April. Trainees from multiple labs presented their research and participated in the meeting's poster competition.

Christina Curran-Alfaro, Neuroscience PhD student, and **Qiaowei Xie**, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student, received travel awards to attend the meeting.

Jason Wickman, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student, was awarded first place in the Graduate and Post-baccalaureate Students category in the Neuropharmacology Division for his poster, "miR-106b-25 Dysregulation in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Contributes to T Cell Dysfunction."

Other poster presentations included:

"MKP3 Overexpression and ERK1/2 Phosphorylation in Dopaminergic Neurons Regulate DAT Trafficking and Function"

Christina Besada, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student

"A History of Low Dose Ethanol Modulates Ventral Hippocampus Activity During Motivated Behavior"

Kathleen Bryant, Neuroscience PhD student

"Defining Dopamine-Mediated Changes in NLRP1, NLRC5, NLRC4, and AIM2 Inflammasomes in Human Myeloid Cells"

Joanna Canagarajah, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences MS student

"Dopamine May Exacerbate Neuroinflammation in the Context of HIV by Driving Inflammatory Phenotypes in Macrophages"

Breana Channer, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student

"Mice Exposed to Chronic Low-Dose Ethanol Exhibit Reduced Sensitivity to Changes in Magnitude of Reward"

Christina Curran-Alfaro, Neuroscience PhD student

"The Regulation of Glial Glutamate Transporters After In-Vitro Ischemic Stroke"

Simran Gill, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student

"Small Extracellular Vesicles Induced Gene Expression Changes in Microglia"

Xuan Luo, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student

"Dopamine-Driven Increase in IL-1 β in Myeloid Cells Is Mediated by Differential Dopamine Receptor Expression and Exacerbated by HIV"

Stephanie Matt, PhD, postdoctoral researcher

"The Effect of Spared Nerve Injury on Ethanol Reward Seeking and Reinstatement"

Mitch Nothem, PhD pharmacology and physiology '20, postdoctoral scholar

"Immune Cell Regulation by Macrophage Derived Small Extracellular Vesicles in Pain"

Richa Pande, Microbiology & Immunology PhD student

"Modulation of Glutamate Transporters as a Potential Therapeutic Intervention for Neurological Disorders"

Katelyn Reeb, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student

"The Impact of HIV Infection in Cocaine Seeking Behaviors"

Qiaowei Xie, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student

"Allosteric Dopamine Transporter Modulator Inhibits Cocaine-Induced Behavior"

Yibin Xu, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student



Photis Rotsides, Biochemistry of Health & Disease PhD student, was selected for a short talk, "Elucidating the Antibiotic Sensing Mechanism of VanB Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci," at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology annual meeting in April 2022.



Rhea Temmermand, a Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student, received third place in the in-person research poster competition of the Drexel Emerging Graduate Scholars Conference. Her poster was titled "Development of Glutamate Transporter Modulators as a Novel, Non-opioid Treatment for Neuropathic Pain."



Robert Thayer Sataloff, MD, DMA, professor and chair of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery, received a 2022 American Academy of Teachers of Singing Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his contributions to singers, voice teachers and the voice community at large.

Sataloff also presented at Vital Voice: Mechanisms for Vocal Revitalization Through Music Therapy and Music & Medicine, a virtual symposium held May 16 and 17, 2022.

Valerie Trollinger, MD, adjunct professor of clinical otolaryngology, presented the Chambliss Faculty Award Lecture at Kutztown University on March 31, 2022. Her talk was "Diagnosing and Correcting Voice Problems in Professors: Your Voice Does Not Need to End Your Career."



Priscila Sato, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology and physiology, received an R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute in support of her research project "Dysregulation of Cardiac Signaling in Disease and Stress." She has also become a member of the

Sato

American Heart Association's Early Career Committee of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. Sato, Pharmacology & Physiology PhD students **Ruxu Zhai** and **Jonathan Snyder**, and **Sarah Montgomery**, research assistant, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, published "Double Life: How GRK2 and β -arrestin Signaling Participate in Diseases," in *Cellular Signalling* online April 14, 2022. Zhai, Sato and colleagues from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University published "Myocardial GRK2 Reduces Fatty Acid Metabolism and β -Adrenergic Receptor-Mediated Mitochondrial Responses" in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* on March 3, 2022.

Anna Zhang, a Pharmacology & Physiology PhD student, presented her work at the American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 2022. Her presentation was titled "Subsets of Cancer Cells Expressing CX3CR1 Are Endowed With Metastasis-Initiating Properties and Resistance to Chemotherapy."

In Memoriam



Spector



Overholser

Nancy D. Spector, MD, senior vice dean for faculty, executive director of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program, and professor of pediatrics, **Barbara**

Overholser, MA, ELAM's director of stakeholder engagement and communications, and a colleague from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine are the editors of *Women in Pediatrics: The Past, Present and Future*, which was published in May 2022.

Elizabeth Hazel Murphy, PhD, emeritus professor of neurobiology and anatomy, died on March 20 at age 82. She graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in 1957, then obtained a BA in English literature from the University of Wales. She earned a second BA in psychology in 1966, followed by a PhD in psychology in 1969, both from the University of London. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in neurology at Stanford University, then served on the behavioral sciences faculty of the University of Chicago. Murphy came to Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1976, serving as acting chair from 1989 to 1992. She led an accomplished NIH-funded research program studying the effects of prenatal cocaine on brain and behavior development. Murphy transitioned to a teaching role in 1999, leading the Medical Neuroscience course for many years. She is predeceased by her daughter, Kristina, and her husband, Tony Twyman, and survived by her son, Ruslan, her granddaughter, Tala, and a sister, Gill.



welfare of children.

Daniel R. Taylor, DO, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, authored an opinion article for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on April 27, 2022, about the declining number of public swimming pools in the Philadelphia area and the importance of pools for the health and

Louise Greenberg, PhD, a former faculty member in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, died on January 12, at the age of 89. She received a BSc in chemistry from Dickinson College and a master's and PhD in biochemistry and neuropsychopharmacology from Bryn Mawr College. Her research contributed meaningfully to our understanding of how aging regulates adrenergic receptor responsiveness in the brain, and how these molecular changes can reduce adaptation to stress in aged individuals. In addition to her research, Greenberg held other positions in the pharmaceutical and executive search industries. She is predeceased by her husband, Cyrus, and her parents, Ruth and Arthur. She is survived by four nephews: Bruce, Brian and Douglas Greenberg, and Stephen Heiser, and three nieces: Randi Jean Greenberg, Louise Cooper and Susan Kershaw, as well as three grand-nieces and three grand-nephews.

Dispassionate Observation in Art and Medicine

First-year medical students at the College of Medicine at Tower Health honed their observational skills this February during a “Dispassionate Observation in Art and Medicine” event designed to make them better diagnosticians by enhancing their observational skills.

“For me and a lot of medical students, we see art and science as the antithesis of each other,” said first-year Gopal Topiwala, who attended. “But I think in reality, they’re sort of going after the same concept. Like with pattern recognition: When you analyze art, you’re analyzing patterns. In science, as a pathologist, you might be looking at slides to analyze patterns and find what’s going on. So I thought it was interesting to connect those two things.”

Paul Scalzo, a first-year medical student who participated in the event, was also intrigued by the title. “I’ve always thought medicine to be a passionate profession, and I’d never heard of ‘dispassionate observation’ in relation to medicine.”

The session began with a group of around 20 medical students — members of the first Drexel medical class at the new West Reading Campus — gathering to discuss the concept of dispassionate observation, which involves learning to put off biases and premature assumptions by making low-inference observations with their own senses as the diagnostic tool. “Historically, visual observation was a

key tenet of physical examinations. There was great care in visual observation,” faculty member Kelly Brennan, MD, explained. “The premise of this session is that there’s so much power in the visual inspection of a patient.”

After the initial discussion, students practiced those observation skills with donor body patients, with the instruction to examine the donor organs and bodies in simple terms including color, shape, or contrast as well as quantitative assessments of size or weight. Learning to observe fully and without discomfort remains critical

to diagnoses and patient outcomes. Brennan cited the importance of a paper written by prominent Stanford physicians (Verghese et al., 2015) who explored how many misdiagnoses result from a failure to fully visually examine the patient. Many of the misdiagnoses mentioned in the paper resulted from the failure to thoroughly examine areas that can be emotionally uncomfortable for both parties, like the perineum.

For students like Abigail Murtha, a first-year medical student in the Medical Humanities program for whom art has long been a central part of life, the session was also an opportunity to explore ways to integrate their artistic side into their development as physicians. “I was really interested to hear how Dr. Brennan and other physicians had





integrated the humanities as a part of their lifestyle,” Murtha said. “I had always kept those two things separate as a part of myself.”

Murtha enjoys painting, when she can find the time. “I’m looking at all the unfinished canvases and paint palettes that are sitting around,” she said. “With any hobby, it can be difficult to continue in medical school.” But she isn’t the only med student from her cohort with an arts background. Murtha counts herself lucky to be one among many creative colleagues, some of whom have hosted events throughout the year. She is even considering starting an arts club to help students develop that side of themselves in community during the busy stages of medical school.

“One of the ways that I’ve tried to maintain my life as an artist has been by joining the Medical Humanities program,” Murtha said. “I think that you can really marry those two skills.”

That’s what drew Scalzo to participate in the session, too. “Our class has artists, dancers, musicians. I’m not one of those,” he said. “I wanted to take a look at something I’m not particularly strong in and use it to learn more about medicine.”

For Murtha, the session was about learning to observe with detail in order to build the bigger picture, rather than working the other way around. “As medical students, we often overcomplicate things, unfortunately – looking for the bigger picture, looking to see if something is diseased, rather than asking ‘What is the texture of this thing? What is the color?’” she said.

Scalzo saw it as an exercise in learning to let the patient’s body teach you. “It was kind of the opposite of what my idea of it was. The dispassionate observation was about removing your biases and stereotypes of the situation,” he said. “It actually aligned with a lot of my own ideas and passions.”

Verghese A. et al. “Inadequacies of Physical Examination as a Cause of Medical Errors and Adverse Events: A Collection of Vignettes.” *Am J Med.* 2015 Dec; 128(12):1322-4.e3.

Topiwala appreciated the chance to become both more procedural and more creative in his diagnoses; since diseases don’t present the same way every time, putting aside assumptions while gathering visual observational data feels important to him. “I think dispassionate observation allows for a broader

differential diagnosis,” he said. “It allows us to be more creative, which is not really a word you hear a lot in medicine, but I think it’s a good skill to have.”

This was the first in what it is hoped will be a series of similar events. In a second session, the students made three large mosaics from upcycled pottery for a community pediatrics clinic. An upcoming event will spotlight a student who is a former carpenter.

Brenan was quick to acknowledge the enthusiasm of this cohort, the first group of medical students at the

brand-new campus. “They will always be the first class, and there is an amazing energy with these students that is so much more than medical school,” Brenan said. “It’s like nothing I ever thought could happen. It’s a Zeitgeist of enthusiasm and a desire to learn.”

– G.K. Schatzman



The event organizers wish to acknowledge the tremendous support of Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, former dean of the College of Medicine, who now serves as director of West Reading’s Bioethics and Professional Formation course, Karen Restifo, MD, JD, regional vice dean of the College of Medicine at Tower Health, and academic coordinator Andrea Bensusan. They also expressed gratitude to the team at the gross anatomy lab where part of the event was hosted, and to the donors to the Human Gift Registry on whose bodies the students practiced observation.

HOP Brings Community Care to Greater Enon

The Health Outreach Project hosted its first community clinic of 2022 at Greater Enon Missionary Baptist Church on May 12. First-year medical students ran stations including triage, vision examinations, respiratory and heart monitoring, blood pressure checks, blood glucose testing and health education. College of Medicine alumni generously contributed their time as resident physicians to provide expert guidance to the students, as well as patient consultations throughout the day. The clinic remained busy for the duration of the event as patients received complimentary care and had their medical needs attended to. Volunteers noted that their favorite moments involved conversations that they struck up with patients of all ages, allowing them to understand those individuals they were caring for on a deeper level. Student organizers and



volunteers hope to return to Greater Enon Missionary Baptist Church in the future, and they look forward to more similar clinics at other sites throughout the Philadelphia area.

Cape Fear Valley Health System Becomes Regional Medical Campus

In April, Drexel University College of Medicine announced that Cape Fear Valley Health System would become a new regional medical campus. Through an affiliation agreement, Drexel medical students now have the opportunity to select the health system for their required clinical rotations in the third and fourth years of their education.

The two organizations signed the affiliation agreement in January, followed by approval by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education for the regional medical campus designation.

"Third- and fourth-year clerkships are a transformative period for an aspiring physician," said Charles B. Cairns, MD, Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean and senior vice president of medical affairs. "This collaboration will be another setting available to our students where they can treat diverse patient populations and chart out their future in medicine."

Cape Fear Valley Health System's main teaching hospital is Cape Fear Valley Medical Center (CFVMC), which serves a large and diverse patient population. Per year, CFVMC has 32,000 admissions, 980,000 outpatient visits and 120,000 emergency room visits (making it one of the 10 busiest ERs in the nation).

Cape Fear Valley Health System's primary service area includes Cumberland County, N.C., which has 335,000 residents and is home to Fort Bragg, the nation's most populous military base. It is among the top 200 health systems in the U.S. and has been nationally recognized as a leader in quality care. As a regional medical campus, Cape Fear Valley Health System expects to attract more emerging physicians who will want to live and

practice in the southeastern region of North Carolina after receiving their medical degree.

"We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Drexel," said Cape Fear Valley Health System CEO Michael Nagowski. "The need for more entries into the health care workforce in southeastern North Carolina is great. The partnership with Drexel will support our efforts to expand the health care workforce." Hershey Bell, MD, will serve as associate dean of the Cape Fear regional medical campus.

This new agreement will not affect existing relationships, including the College of Medicine's current regional medical campuses — Allegheny Health Network, Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente-Bay Area, UPMC Harrisburg and WellSpan York Hospital — and its four-year campus in West Reading, the College of Medicine at Tower Health. Cape Fear Valley Health System will also continue to work with other programs and their respective medical students, including those who stay in the region for graduate medical training as residents.



Hershey Bell, MD, Michael Nagowski, Charles Cairns, MD, and Karen Restifo, MD, JD, regional vice dean of the College of Medicine at Tower Health, gathered in Philadelphia to formalize the affiliation agreement.

Transition to Clinician Honors Class of 2024

The College of Medicine's MD program class of 2024 gathered at the Kimmel Center with faculty, family and friends on April 25 to celebrate students' accomplishments in their first two years of medical education as they enter the next phase of their journey to becoming physicians.

Due to the pandemic, the class's White Coat Ceremony, a pivotal event for a medical student, took place virtually. The Transition to Clinician event marked students' entrance into the medical profession with a pinning ceremony. The students also recited an oath to commit to the professional obligations, ethical principles and lifelong service to humanity the medical profession requires.

Several students from the class of 2024 submitted design ideas for the pin that

was used in the ceremony, and a design created by La Niece Carpenter, MD '24, won the majority of the class's votes. Carpenter said she was thinking about both the classroom and the clinical sides of medical education as she worked on the emblem. "I wanted the pin to be super-specific to our class and what we're celebrating," Carpenter said. She wanted the design to clearly represent a diverse group of



students in this transitional period. The pin includes three students with Queen Lane and a stack of textbooks behind them; the students are facing a stethoscope and a hospital.

Andrew Joseph, MD '24, was chosen by his classmates to give a speech at the ceremony. In his address he remarked on the bonds forged in medical school, which continue even when the class disperses to various clinical sites. "Whether you know it or not, feel it or don't, we are all bound together by this white coat with this little dragon on our shoulders," he said, adding that the word he uses to describe the class is "family."

Rita Guevara, MD '12, assistant dean of diversity, equity and inclusion, gave a keynote address, noting, "I am so happy to welcome you as a key member of the medical team. We absolutely need you on the team, taking care of our patients." She concluded, "Your future patients are so lucky to have you."

Special Event: "The Future of mRNA Therapeutics"

On May 4, the College of Medicine was proud to host Katalin Karikó, PhD, senior vice president of BioNTech and adjunct professor of neurosurgery at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, and Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, the Roberts Family Professor of Vaccine Research at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, for a special lecture on "The Future of mRNA Therapeutics." Approximately 75 people attended the in-person lecture, held in the New College Building's Geary Auditorium. An additional 130 watched via livestream.

Karikó and Weissman, whose groundbreaking work enabled the safe and effective use of mRNA as a platform for the COVID-19 vaccines, were the recipients of the 2022 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Sciences, which is presented annually by the Franklin Institute. Karikó presented the seminal discoveries that led to the development of mRNA

therapies, starting with the discovery of mRNA in 1961 and ending with FDA approval of COVID-19 LNP-mRNA vaccines. Weissman continued the presentation with the advantages of mRNA-based therapeutics for vaccines, in vivo gene therapy, in vivo immunotherapy and protein delivery, ending with a discussion of the promising future for this research.



Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, and Katalin Karikó, PhD

Recent Thesis Defenses

We congratulate the following students from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies on the successful defense of their theses.

Avantika Ahiya

Microbiology & Immunology PhD Program

Title: Lipid Homeostasis and Antimalarials in *Plasmodium falciparum*

Advisor: Akhil B. Vaidya, PhD



Sarah Bennison

Neuroscience PhD Program

Title: Characterization of ADNP Functions From Establishing Neuronal Morphology in Neonates to Functional Circuitry in Adulthood: Implications for ADNP Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Advisor: Kazuhito Toyooka, PhD



John Chojnowski

Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics PhD Program (MD/PhD Student)

Title: Uncovering a Novel Regulatory Mechanism for Casein Kinase 2 (CK2)

Advisor: Todd Strochlic, PhD, VMD



Jennifer Connors

Microbiology & Immunology PhD Program

Title: The Impact of Aging on Antiviral Signaling and Immune Function

Advisor: Elias K. El Haddad, PhD

Co-advisor: Michele A. Kutzler, PhD



Swati Dass

Microbiology & Immunology PhD Program

Title: Investigation of *Plasmodium falciparum* Mitochondrial Ribosomes

Advisor: Hangjun Ke, PhD

Co-advisor: Akhil B. Vaidya, PhD

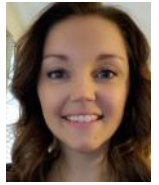


Jaclyn DeFinis

Neuroscience PhD Program

Title: Spinal Dopaminergic Mechanisms That Modulate the Recovered Micturition Reflex After Spinal Cord Injury

Advisor: Shaoping Hou, PhD



Ari Gordon

Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics PhD Program (MD/PhD Student)

Title: Differences From Within: Comparative and Functional Genomics of Diverse Bacteria Isolated From Children's Ear Infections

Advisors: Joshua Chang Mell, PhD, and Elias K. El Haddad, PhD

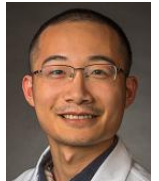


Zhucheng Lin

Pharmacology & Physiology PhD Program

Title: The Role of Serum-Derived Small Extracellular Vesicles in Pain

Advisor: Seena Ajit, PhD



Phillip Palmer

Microbiology & Immunology PhD Program

Title: Bacterial Persistence and Biofilms: Implementing AI and CRISPR Technologies to Study Mechanisms of Chronic Bacterial Infection

Advisor: Garth Ehrlich, PhD

Co-advisor: Will Dampier, PhD



Mitchell Parker

Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics PhD Program (MD/PhD Student)

Title: A Comprehensive Structural Classification of RAS Conformations

Advisors: Roland Dunbrack, PhD, Erica Golemis, PhD, and Joshua Meyer, MD



Cameron Trueblood

Neuroscience PhD Program

Title: Grafting Embryonic Neural Progenitor/Stem Cells to Improve Neuronal Regulation of Cardiovascular Function After Spinal Cord Injury

Advisor: Shaoping Hou, PhD



Jane Clifford Retirement Symposium and Award

On March 20, more than 100 faculty and students attended the Jane Clifford Retirement Symposium to honor Jane Clifford, PhD, for her illustrious academic career, including her 21 years as chair of the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. She also served as director of the MD/PhD program for 12 years and was associate dean for medical student research. To honor her contribution and service, the department has created the Jane Clifford Best PhD or MS Dissertation Award, which will be given annually to students who best represent Clifford's scientific rigor and creativity. This year's recipients included Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics students **Michelle Swift, PhD '21**, and **Emily Esquea, MS '21**.



Emily Esquea, MS '21, Jane Clifford, PhD, and Michelle Swift, PhD '21

Faculty and Staff Recognized for Excellence and Service

Faculty in the MD program and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies were honored in May with awards to recognize excellence in teaching and mentoring.

The Graduate School's Teaching Award recipients were chosen by faculty, staff and students for excellence and innovation in teaching, ability to inspire students, and service as a mentor and role model. The Mentoring Awards honored faculty who ably mentor colleagues and students in a supportive environment, while advocating for the advancement of their mentees.

Pre-medical and Pre-health Programs

Best Professor:

- Monika Jost, PhD
- Víctor J. Acuña

Best Mentor:

- Anita Gaurnier-Hausser, PhD

Interdisciplinary & Career-Oriented Programs

Best Professor:

- Paul McGonigle, PhD
- Dennis Melamed, MA
- William Tobia, MS, MBA

Best Mentor:

- Joanne Mathiasen, PhD

Biomedical Science Programs

Best Professor:

- James M. Burns Jr., PhD

Best Advisor/Mentor/Student Advocate:

- Jacqueline Barker, PhD

The MD program's Golden Apple Awards recognize outstanding service and teaching by faculty and professional staff, who are nominated by each class of medical students for the honor. Non-faculty awards are given to acknowledge professional staff who have provided outstanding service, and are voted on by the entire student body.

Class of 2025

Foundations of Basic Science – Year 1

Queen Lane Campus:

- Caitlin Howe, PhD
- Jed Shumsky, PhD
- Douglas Whitmire

West Reading Campus:

- Dana Peterson, PhD

Frontiers – Year 1

Queen Lane Campus:

- Edward Gracely, PhD

West Reading Campus:

- Meera Nair Harhay, MD, MSCE

Class of 2024

Foundations of Basic Science – Year 1

- Haviva Goldman, PhD
- Vanessa Pirrone, PhD
- Todd Stochlic, PhD, VMD

Foundations of Patient Care – Year 1

- Maya A. Bass, MD

Frontiers – Year 1

- David B. Cooperberg, MD

Case-Based Learning – Year 1

- Kristen M. Ryczak, MD

Health Advocacy Practicum – Year 1

- Renee Kottenhahn, MD

Case-Based Learning – Year 2

- Donna Antonucci, MD

Foundations of Basic Science – Year 2

- Cheryl A. Hanau, MD

Health Advocacy Practicum – Year 2

- Steven Rosenzweig, MD

Class of 2023

Attending Physician

- David August, DO, Crozer-Chester Medical Center
- Eduardo Espiridon, MD, Tower Health
- Jonathan Finkel, MD, Crozer-Chester Medical Center
- Brittini Jones, DO, Crozer-Chester Medical Center
- David McClosky, MD, Crozer-Chester Medical Center

Resident Physician

- Rachel Draper, DO, Crozer-Chester Medical Center
- Aaron Haag, DO, Allegheny General Hospital
- Athena Tudino, MD, Crozer-Chester Medical Center

Class of 2022

Attending Physician

- David B. Cooperberg, MD, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
- Matthew Hartman, MD, Allegheny General Hospital
- David Matson, DO, Tower Health
- Erica Poletto, MD, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
- Joshua Zaritsky, MD, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Resident Physician

- Christian Hochhalter, MD, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
- Usama Nasir, MD, Tower Health
- Priva Vyas, MD, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

Student Government Association Award

- Caroline Bush

Student Body Award

Queen Lane Campus:

- Amy Baranoski, MD
- Caitlin Howe, PhD
- Michael M. White, PhD

West Reading Campus:

- Kelly Brenan, MD
- Andrea Bensusan

Honor Societies Recognize Excellence, Leadership and Humanism

The induction ceremony and banquet for the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society and Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) were held on March 23 at the Germantown Cricket Club. The event was attended by the inductees, as well as current honor society members, family and friends. David S. Tichansky, MD, MBA, professor and interim academic chair of the Department of Surgery at the College of Medicine, who is an AOA member, delivered the June F. Klinghoffer, MD, Lecture.

Eight faculty members, two alumni, 25 residents and fellows, and 51 students were inducted into AOA, a society committed to the idea that medical care can be improved for all by “recognizing high educational achievement, honoring gifted teaching, encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community, supporting the ideals of humanism, and promoting service to others.” GHHS, which recognizes students, residents and faculty who are “exemplars of compassionate patient care and who serve as role models, mentors and leaders in medicine,” welcomed four faculty members, three residents and 27 medical students to the society. A list of all inductees is available at bit.ly/drexel-aoa-ghhs.

In his address, Tichansky focused on the concepts of “best” and “care,” saying, “I am not just talking about the cliché ‘I want to do my best because I care about people.’ I mean really walking the walk.” He invoked the memory of two great physicians who were present at the ceremony in spirit: June F. Klinghoffer, MD, WMC ’45, the namesake for the lecture, and Alma Dea Morani, MD, WMC ’31, after whom Tichansky’s chair of surgery is named. He stated that these Woman’s Medical College alumni embodied the traits of caring and striving to do one’s best, believing that their patients deserved “not a trace less” than “giving your best to every patient every day.”

Tichansky concluded by remarking on the state of medicine and the world today. “There has never been a time in medicine where humanism and scientific excellence and inner drive and caring have merged so greatly than in the past two years.” He added, “Your best will not always be good enough to save the patient, but that is no reason not to bring it every day. I am relieved to know the people in this room, the next generation, will keep achieving excellence in pursuit of perfection, keep working hard every day, and keep being good company for the greats that have walked before us.”





Explore & Serve Highlights Research and Service

On April 8, the Division of Pre-medical and Pre-health Programs within the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies held its fifth annual Explore & Serve Day. This year marked a return to in-person presentations. Explore & Serve offers pre-medical and pre-health students the opportunity to showcase their research and community service endeavors.

The day began with a keynote address from Cheryl Hanau, MD, professor and Richard Shuman MD Chair of the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and interim dean of MD admissions. Nine oral presentations covered topics ranging from community health and education in Philadelphia to diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma, stroke, squamous cell carcinoma and more. The first poster session included 14 laboratory, clinical and independent research posters on an array of health care topics including cardiac symptoms in women, Alzheimer's disease, SARS-CoV-2 infection in cats, spinal cord injury, bereavement and lung cancer. Seven community service posters covered student engagement with Philadelphia's MANNA organization, Drexel Dragon Claws, COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts, "Stop the Bleed" training, the Adventurer's Club, the Bethesda Project and MVP360.

Acknowledging the community service focus of the day, the Graduate Student Association collected donations for two organizations: Doctors Without Borders, an international organization offering emergency aid to people in need, and The Wardrobe, a Philadelphia organization that works to combat clothing insecurity for a range of populations.



Calendar

August

- 5 **White Coat Ceremony**
The Academy of Music
240 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Contact: Ariel Basch, alg37@drexel.edu
- 26 **Toast to Tenacity**
Virtual event
Information: drexel.edu/visionforward
Contact: visionforward@drexel.edu

September

- 5 **Labor Day**

October

- 10 **Indigenous Peoples' Day**
- 12 **Tower Health Research Day**
Reading Hospital – Tower Health
420 S. 5th Avenue
West Reading, PA 19611
Contact: Alexandra Short,
alexandra.short@towerhealth.org
- 27 **Discovery Day**
Pennsylvania Convention Center
1101 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Information: drexel.edu/medicine/discoveryday
Contact: Bency Oonnoony, bo25@drexel.edu

Save the Date

Women's Leadership Summit, February 10, 2023

Contact: Jacqueline Barker, PhD,
jmb893@drexel.edu

Ongoing

He Cares Pledge Campaign, through September 30

All men are encouraged to sign the pledge to take family leave when needed.

Information: drexel.edu/visionforward/get-involved/he-cares-pledge
Contact: visionforward@drexel.edu

Full calendar: All College of Medicine events are available at drexel.edu/medicine/news-events/events.

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.



Bright Futures Unfold at Match Day

On March 18, the MD class of 2022 learned where they are headed in the next stage of their training. Match Day is a nationwide event, and one of the most anticipated milestones in a medical student's education; Drexel's Main Building was filled with joy and excitement as the countdown to noon began. When they opened their envelopes, students cheered, hugged and some shed tears of joy about their residency matches.

More than one-third of the class will remain in Pennsylvania for their residencies. Primary care specialties accounted for the greatest number of matches, with 48 students matching in internal medicine, 23 in family medicine and 14 in pediatrics.



Get to Know...

What is your official title at Drexel?

I'm the web manager in the Marketing and Communications Office at the College of Medicine.

Have you ever wished you could make up a more accurate title for yourself? If so, what would it have been?

My title is fairly accurate. I manage everything that is related to the College of Medicine and Drexel Medicine websites.

Explain what you do in under 50 words.

Together with my awesome team and a variety of stakeholders, I develop and implement a web content strategy that tells an engaging story about the College of Medicine as a school, as well as about the people who make ours a unique institution.

Who do you interact with most on a daily basis?

Faculty, faculty leadership such as chairs, and administrative staff, along with the marketing and communications and web teams. However, anyone can reach out to me and I'm happy to help!

What is your typical day like?

My typical day begins with a cup of tea and a review of new emails that've come in. New requests for updates or projects are prioritized and incorporated into my team's workflow. Next, I execute requests and work related to web content. Progress is reported to stakeholders via email or Zoom meeting. At any given time, there are content review cycles occurring so there are communications to conduct. I also report on website activity metrics to stakeholders and suggest ways to improve the website. I use the data to identify issues to fix or ways we can improve the user experience. I end my day with a review and prioritization of ongoing action items to keep things moving steadily forward.

How do you see your work fitting into the big picture of the missions of the College?

I hope my work, via the website, helps people find each other, whether that's faculty finding each other for collaboration, helping a student learn more about a mentor, or bringing people together for a common cause. I hope the story we tell through the website motivates people to do great things and also provides help in their endeavors.

What are your favorite and least favorite tasks?

My favorite tasks involve project management and

web strategy. I love working with stakeholders to devise ways to make a great website and then planning, documenting and executing projects. I don't actually have a least favorite task, only not enough hours to get everything done. If anyone has a lead on a time tuner, please let me know.

What is your educational and previous work background? How did those prepare you for what you do now?

My undergrad degree is in English and I had planned on being a journalist/writer/researcher, but when the internet really took off I pivoted to digital. Around 2003, my mom gave me a PMBOK (Project Management Book of Knowledge™), igniting my love affair with project management, which I made official by obtaining a master's degree in 2018 (a forever Dragon!) and a certification in 2021. All this helps me daily, from storytelling to structuring content to managing workflow, projects and stakeholders.



Suzanne Dreitlein,
MS '18, CAPM,
Web Manager

When you were working on site, did you bring your own lunch or eat out?

I used to bring lunch from home but when the Trader Joe's opened on Race Street I'd pick up lunch vittles every Monday to store in the office fridge for the entire week.

What's one unusual or unexpected item in your home work space or your office?

Vermeer is my absolute favorite of the 17th century northern European painters. In my office spaces, at home I display a commemorative *Milkmaid From Rijks* Playmobile, and on campus I have a copy of *The Little Street* hanging on the wall. I've gone so far as to make a reproduction outfit of *Young Woman with a Water Pitcher* that I wore to the Met in New York City where the original painting is on display. One day I hope to visit his birthplace in Delft, Netherlands, and complete my obsession checklist.





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SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27



Discovery Day 2022