



C. diff: Attacking an Epidemic

Since 2001, the rate of *Clostridium difficile* infection — which devastates the colon — has increased dramatically in the United States. *C. difficile* causes about 500,000 infections each year (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011).

Why did the annual number of *C. diff* infections grow by nearly 43 percent from 2001 to 2012, and the incidence of recurrent *C. diff* jump 189 percent during the same period?

According to the literature, a mutation occurred in *C. difficile* in 2001, causing it to become far more virulent and harder to control, says Drexel gastroenterologist Neilanjan Nandi, MD, assistant professor of medicine. “*C. diff* infection existed before 2001, but we didn’t recognize it as the epidemic it is today,” Nandi says. “Before *C. diff* mutated, it produced two toxins — A and B — that attacked the lining of the intestine. When it mutated, the new strain, known as NAP1 RT027, started producing a binary toxin, a combination of A and B that produces a greater volume of toxin, which is also more virulent.” A similar strain that produces binary toxin, RT078, has been found in livestock, placing animal-based foods as potential infectious reservoirs.



Gastroenterologist Neil Nandi

Another factor contributing to the *C. diff* epidemic is overuse of antibiotics. The intestines contain about 100 trillion bacterial cells and up to 2,000 different kinds of bacteria. Many help protect the body from infection. “Broad spectrum antibiotics kill everything, which means they kill the good gut flora as well as the bad,” explains Nandi. “However, antibiotics don’t kill the *C. diff* spores because they are impervious. Without the healthy bacteria needed to prevent those spores from regenerating and excreting tons of toxin, *C. diff* infection can recur.”

Other factors may have helped select for this mutant strain, Nandi says. Recent studies suggest that trehalose, a naturally occurring sugar (e.g., in mushrooms, honey) used as an ingredient/preservative in processed foods, may have contributed. Pre-2001 *C. diff* strains utilized trehalose inefficiently. However, both RT027 and RT078 possess mutations that enable enhanced growth on trehalose. “Enough basic science research has been done to substantiate this,” Nandi says. Natural trehalose was expensive to isolate, but manufacturing breakthroughs enabled mass production in the year 2000, followed by the notable introduction of trehalose into human foods (e.g., pasta, ice cream). Nandi points out that the decade and a half since trehalose introduction is the same time frame in which the dramatic increase in *C. diff* infection occurred.

The standard testing protocol for *C. diff* can yield false positives for individuals who are colonized with inactive bacteria and not infected. Because of this, *C. diff* infection is over-diagnosed, leading clinicians to prescribe unnecessary antibiotics. A study to better diagnose active *C. diff* infection was led by Barbara Fry-Arrighy, BS, MT(ASCP)SM, director of Infection Control & Prevention at Hahnemann University Hospital, with

• continued on page 4

WINTER 2018/2019

Vol. 6, No. 3



Opportunities lead to role models and mentors



Discovery: Awards for posters and platform presentations



HHS honors two Hahnemann Medical College alumnae

Contents

C. diff: Attacking an Epidemic 1
Destination Excellence 3
New Center to Address Opioid Crisis 5
Compliance Reminder 17
Back Story: Three Books to Read. 24

NEWS & EVENTS

New department chairs, Discovery,
Drexel Black Doctors Network 6-9

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Activities and accomplishments 10-17

ALUMNI NOTES

Class notes, honors, get-togethers 18-22

Calendar 11

In Memoriam 23

pulse

Pulse, a publication for students, faculty, staff and alumni of Drexel University College of Medicine, is published five times a year by the Marketing & Communications Department
1505 Race Street, MS 484
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Danielle Kane

Executive Director
Marketing & Communications

Jean Tracy

Editor

Heidi Karl

Art Director

Contributing writers:

Adrienne Hovey, Lauren Ingeno,
Elisa Ludwig, Gina Myers, Nancy West

Editorial Advisory Council:

Joris Beld, PhD, Danielle Kane, Michael Lombardo,
Paul McGonigle, PhD, Ryan Offer, MD, Andrea Pesce

Submissions may be mailed to *Pulse* c/o
the Marketing & Communications Department,
emailed to CoM_Pulse@drexel.edu
or faxed to 267.359.6360.

For questions, comments or additional
copies of *Pulse*, call 267.359.6363
or email CoM_Pulse@drexel.edu

drexel.edu/medicine
drexelmedicine.org



We're Approved!

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education has approved the creation of our new regional medical campus at Tower Health — a formal recognition that we have the means and support to embrace this initiative.

The innovative relationship between Drexel and Tower Health is moving forward very well because it is mutually enriching. The initiative is important to us because it will provide a wonderful,



Daniel V. Schidlow, MD

state-of-the-art hospital for our students' clinical training and a vital, diverse community with opportunities for civic engagement. For our part, the College of Medicine boasts a state-of-the-art curriculum and a first-rate reputation in medical education.

We are excited that there is going to be a brand new education building less than a mile from the hospital. In a sense, that building will be the emblem of success for a larger development project and vibrant economic growth. We are very happy to be an anchor to that kind of effort in a community where we want to make a contribution.

We are also gratified that we will have a presence in an area where there is a lot of academic activity.

There are some excellent colleges in Berks County and its neighbors, and

we look forward to working with those institutions in meaningful ways, perhaps in graduate offerings, particularly in the health sciences. This kind of alliance for teaching and learning is another way we will be enriched by expanding what we think of as our College of Medicine community.

In fact, we already have good roots in Berks County. I wanted the president of Tower Health, Clint Matthews, to see what terrific students we have. I introduced him to a recent grad, Jonathan Saperstein, MD, a first-year resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Reading Hospital, and to a fellow Hispanic, Noe Cabello, the president of our Latino Medical Student Association, whose family is of Mexican origin and lives in Reading. Mr. Matthews, who hails from Texas, and I enjoyed tamales made by Noe's mom; they reminded him of Texas, and me of "humitas," the Chilean version of tamales (and the local term for bow ties).

Reading and, to a lesser degree, Berks County are full of immigration stories. I don't pretend to be objective, but I am convinced that diversity of association, environment and experience enhances everything we do.

In the end, while we are being enriched by our affiliation with such a successful health system, in a dynamic, diverse community, my hope is that we will contribute to the atmosphere of growth as Berks County produces its first crop of physicians.

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

Opportunities and Role Models

I'm from Roanoke, Virginia, a smaller city. There were no doctors or nurses in my family, but my pediatrician influenced my interest in medicine. I applied to college and went to the University of Virginia for undergraduate school. There, I decided to become a pre-med student and focus on my goal of going to medical school.

No one in my immediate family had graduated from college, so it was a very new thing for both me and my family. With no mentors prior to going to college, I was fortunate that my peer adviser at UVA took me under her wing and recommended that I join the undergraduate chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). That gave me great support in my efforts to go to medical school.

In my fourth year at UVA, I attended a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration event at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. The keynote speaker was a UVA medical school alumna, Dr. Vivian Pinn. She had been the only woman and the only African American in the class of 1967. She talked about the struggles that she encountered and the opposition she sometimes received from her own classmates. She later completed her residency in pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital, joined the faculty at Tufts University, where she served as assistant dean, and became the chair of pathology at Howard University. She was also the founding director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health.

I felt an instant connection to Dr. Pinn, because not only had she gone to UVA, but she was also from a smaller city in Virginia and she didn't have many mentors when she was applying to medical school.

After graduating from UVA in 2011, I decided not to apply to medical school right away; instead I wanted to gain more experience in the field of medicine. Remembering Dr. Pinn's words kept me encouraged on my journey — she lifted barriers for women and minorities interested in pursuing a career in medicine. Because of her story, this goal seemed more attainable for me.

I took three years off from school and worked as a scribe in the Emergency Department at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Working with physicians and residents, I gained great mentors who encouraged me to continue pursuing medicine. I was accepted into the Drexel Pathway to Medical School (DPMS) program in 2014, and matriculated into medical school the following year.

I've had great support and mentoring here at Drexel. When you start the DPMS program, you are matched with a DPMS "Big" — a first- or second-year medical student who has completed DPMS. Your Big is someone who checks in with you and makes sure that you have the resources you need for your classes.

Then in medical school, all first-year students receive a Drexel Big — a second-year student who volunteers

to offer guidance and academic support as students embark on coursework. It was nice because I still had my DPMS Big informally and a new Drexel Big. I also could reach out to upperclassmen who had completed DPMS if I had any difficulties with my classes. In addition, I've gained great faculty mentors who have supported me by providing career guidance and advice on becoming a great residency applicant. Now in my last year of medical school, I am applying for positions in pediatric residency programs. It's humbling to think of how far I've come, and I know that the support that I've received has played a large role in this.

Over the years, I've remembered the great mentoring I've been given, and I decided to give back. I have served as a DPMS Big, a Drexel Big and a Peer Mentor throughout my time at Drexel. I'm still involved in the SNMA, and I was elected co-president of Drexel's chapter in my second year. One of our primary goals was to make SNMA more visible within the student body, and to have more participation from students who might not describe themselves as minority. I've also been involved in the SNMA regional board over the last two years, and I'm currently serving on the event planning committee for SNMA's Annual Medical Education Conference in April 2019. I'm excited because Philadelphia is the hosting city, and the Drexel chapter and the regional board will be able to participate in a more meaningful way.

Continued...



Fourth-year medical student Jasmine Preston gives credit to many mentors, from the "Bigs" she was assigned, to the role models she discovered.

C. diff epidemic

• continued from the cover

a multidisciplinary team including Nandi, internist Kevin D’Mello, MD, assistant professor of medicine, and Michele Kutzler, PhD, associate professor of medicine.

The team amended the existing hospital policy for early detection of *C. diff* infection by adding symptom assessment guidelines for nurses and clinicians. These include review of recent laxative or stool softener administration to rule that out as a possible cause of diarrhea symptoms.

“In the majority of cases studied, patients who were on laxatives or stool softeners experienced diarrhea,” says Fry-Arrighy. “Our guideline now states that only patients who have watery diarrhea three times in a 24-hour period without the aid of a laxative or stool softener are tested for *C. diff*.” In addition, clinicians were educated about limiting the use of antibiotics, particularly levofloxacin.

After implementation of the guidelines and related education, the use of levofloxacin decreased by 44 percent. The rate of health-care associated *C. diff* infection decreased dramatically — by 85 percent.

“Hahnemann now has the lowest *C. diff* rate in Pennsylvania,” notes Nandi. “Our team received the 2017 Hospital Health System Association of Pennsylvania ‘In Safe Hands’ award for our achievements.”

What causes the *C. diff* infection? The most common way to get *C. diff* is by fecal oral transmission. “Fecal matter is everywhere,” Nandi says. “That’s why the safest and most effective way to prevent *C. diff* is hand washing in a sink with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds,” he says. “Alcohol-based hand sanitizers don’t kill *C. diff*.”

Some people are at greater risk for infection than others. “It’s clear that people who are taking antibiotics, frequently visiting hospitals, and being exposed to bacterial spores that may be present on surfaces in health care facilities are at greater risk,” says Kutzler, who also has an appointment in microbiology and immunology. “Just being exposed doesn’t mean that you’re going to get an infection.”

Kutzler’s lab is collaborating with Pfizer, Inc., and Drs. Seth Welles and Neal Goldstein, faculty in Drexel’s Dornsife School of Public Health, to study underlying patient risk factors that may contribute to the acquisition

of *C. diff* infection. “Our primary goal is to understand why some patients develop *C. diff* infection and others don’t, even if they are colonized. We will use that to build a clinical prediction tool for *C. diff* infection, disease severity and recurrence in patients upon admission to the hospital. This research will also help us to design *C. diff* vaccines and clinical trials.”

In a related study, Kutzler, Nandi, D’Mello, and faculty in the School of Public Health are analyzing the microbiome of patients with recurrent *C. diff*. Since 2014, a team has been screening and recruiting hospital patients to donate stool and serum for a biorepository to be used in the study. “It’s clear that disturbances in the gut microbiota caused by prior use of antibiotics play a central role in *C. difficile*,” says Kutzler. “Having a diverse microbiome is very important in protecting against these infections.”

After one episode of *C. diff* infection, a person has a 10 to 20 percent chance of recurrence. After a second episode, this rises to 40 to 65 percent. After a third episode, the rate is 80 percent.

The most therapeutic and cost-effective treatment to date for recurrent *C. diff* is fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT). Nandi has been performing this procedure since 2009, and at Drexel since 2014, as an investigational therapy under IRB approval. Drexel College of Medicine was the first academic medical center in the Philadelphia region to offer FMT. “In FMT, we lavage the colon to get rid of as many *C. diff* spores as possible. Then we flood the colon with stool from a healthy donor,” Nandi explains. “One FMT can result in a 91 percent remission rate. A second FMT can result in a 97 percent remission rate.”

Looking to the future, Kutzler is developing a DNA-based vaccine that neutralizes the toxins created by the *C. diff* bacteria. Drexel has patented the vaccine and licensed it to Inovio Pharmaceuticals. It is in the preclinical testing phase.

Kutzler’s lab is also collaborating with Pfizer to test its *C. diff* vaccine, which is in Phase 3 clinical trials. Drexel is the only site in Philadelphia that is testing this vaccine.

Nandi is pleased with their efforts. “*C. diff* is a devastating infection. It can cause dehydration, which may lead to kidney damage, and toxic megacolon, all of which can lead to death,” he explains. “We are excited about the work we’re doing to control this epidemic.”

Destination Excellence

• continued from page 3

Dr. Pinn’s story still serves as a great inspiration for me, and all the challenges she faced and overcame continue to encourage me as a medical student. So during my third year, when I saw she was being recognized for her accomplishments and receiving the Marion Spencer Fay Lifetime Achievement Award here at Drexel, I had to attend the event. I finally had the opportunity to meet her, and it was beyond amazing. I remembered seeing her when I was dreaming of becoming a doctor. In talking to her as a medical

student, I felt that my dreams had come full circle. It was remarkable to tell her the difference she made in my journey to medicine.

She told me that one of the most important lessons she learned was to let opportunity guide you in your career — to seek opportunities to learn, to mentor, to volunteer. Some of her biggest accomplishments seemed to be smaller opportunities when they were proposed to her. Then they developed into something greater — bigger than she even imagined they could be. And I’m ready to take on the next opportunity.

— Jasmine Preston
Class of 2019

New Center of Excellence To Address Opioid Crisis

With a \$1.5 million three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Drexel University College of Medicine clinicians are undertaking an ambitious, wide-ranging project to address the opioid epidemic in Philadelphia, where 1,217 residents died from unintentional drug overdoses in 2017.

The funding, from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within HHS, will allow the College of Medicine to create a Center of Excellence for Urban Integrated Opioid Use Disorder Healthcare.

The center will:

- Expand and integrate addiction treatment services, including medication-assisted treatment, for high-risk Drexel Medicine patients
- Establish an Addiction Consultation Team to provide expert evaluation to at-risk patients in both inpatient and outpatient health care settings
- Create a highly trained group of peer specialists to help identify, engage, enroll and support at-risk individuals in the recovery process
- Expand opioid use disorder educational programs to all Drexel health care providers, trainees, and affiliates
- Create a replicable model for use by other health care systems

By the end of year 3, the Drexel clinicians are seeking to engage at least 300 new individuals in medication-assisted treatment, to decrease the use of illicit opioids among enrolled patients by 50 percent, and to reduce by half the number of opioid prescriptions written by providers in the Drexel system.

“As a large, community-focused academic health center, with 490,000 patient visits in 2017, Drexel Medicine has a significant opportunity to expand

opioid use disorder prevention and treatment,” says principal investigator Barbara Schindler, MD, a professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the College of Medicine.

Broad Experience

Schindler is the founder and medical director of Drexel’s Caring Together Program, an outpatient treatment program based in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. The program, established in 1991, helps women with substance use disorders

and their children overcome addiction through a multidisciplinary approach.

With the establishment of the OUD Center of Excellence, Caring Together is one of a number of Drexel programs that will be integrated to provide substance abuse treatment and training. Other programs include Drexel’s Opioid Safe Prescribing Task Force; the Department of Emergency Medicine, which provides medication-assisted treatment to patients; Drexel Medicine’s clinical practices; and Drexel’s Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice, which currently treats more than 1,700 HIV-positive individuals in the city.

Schindler says that education for health care workers, medical students and trainees will be a critical component

of the HHS-funded project.

“Because I’ve worked in the field for a long time, educating patients and future clinicians about substance abuse is a passion of mine,” Schindler says. “I want to move addiction out of the social arena of medicine and into the mainstream area of medicine that includes diabetes, cardiac disease and cancer. If physicians start to view addiction as any other chronic disease, then we can really begin to solve this crisis.”



Psychiatrist Barbara Schindler’s expertise in substance use disorders is recognized by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“I want to move addiction out of the social arena of medicine and into the mainstream area of medicine that includes diabetes, cardiac disease and cancer.”

Highlights of the AAMC Annual Meeting

More than a hundred people attended the lunch reception given by ELAM during the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges, held in Austin, Texas, in early November. The *Hedwig van Ameringen* Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program for women, as it is known formally, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2020.

The gathering drew ELAM alumnae, or ELUMs, current fellows, medical school deans, future applicants, and friends and supporters. In opening remarks, College of Medicine Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, expressed his firm ongoing support for ELAM and its alumnae, speaking about the direct positive impact the program has had on leadership at the College of Medicine and across Drexel University. More than 20 ELUMs have risen to executive positions at Drexel. He also noted that advancement of women is

ELAM's Rosalyn C. Richman, MA, special assistant to the director; Page Morahan, PhD, founding director; Nancy Spector, MD, executive director; and College of Medicine Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD

part of the College of Medicine's heritage, as successor to the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, founded in 1848.

Executive Director Nancy Spector, MD, and other members of the ELAM staff spoke about plans for the future, alumnae events and the 25th anniversary celebrations. For information visit drexel.edu/medicine/elam.



Dean Schidlow and Music in Medicine

Also at the AAMC meeting, Dean Schidlow chaired a workshop called "Rhythmic Healing: Music in Medicine." The workshop was part of the Voices of Medicine and Society series, which included discussions led by scholars and out-of-the-box thinkers. According to the AAMC, the series is a conference favorite, intended to push the academic medicine community and society to consider new approaches and solutions in health care.

Schidlow was joined by neuroscientist Nina Kraus, PhD, Hugh Knowles Professor at Northwestern University, and neurologist Alex Pantelyat, MD, assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The three discussed the way the brain processes music in health and disease, and the use of rhythm and melody in the treatment of individuals with cognitive and movement disorders.

The workshop concluded with a short jam session. The presenters, along with audience members, played music using a harmonica, violin and rhythmic noise, over the sound of human brain waves captured by Kraus during her research.



Jihan Langston-Davis, holding plaque, and Amanda Woodworth, MD

Honors From the Pennsylvania Commission for Women

The College of Medicine was recently recognized by the Pennsylvania Commission for Women and the Pennsylvania Department of Health for its participation in the state's HealthyWoman program, which provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to low- and moderate-income, uninsured, and underinsured Pennsylvania residents. Drexel University College of Medicine was honored for achieving the greatest percentage increase in HealthyWoman patient enrollment between fiscal years 2017 and 2018. During that period, Drexel increased enrollment nearly tenfold.

Representing Drexel at the event at the governor's residence were Amanda Woodworth, MD, director of Drexel's Breast Health and Wellness Center and an assistant professor of surgery, and Jihan Langston-Davis, a community navigator in the Department of Surgery.

After the Affordable Care Act became law, more patients became insured. However, there remain many people who are uninsured or have gaps in coverage. The HealthyWoman program is dedicated to reaching them and engaging them in life-saving early detection services.

Discovery Day

With topics ranging from malaria and HIV to spinal cord injury and neuroengineering, more than 400 participants from Drexel University College of Medicine showcased their original research at Discovery Day 2018 on Tuesday, October 23, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Michael Lauer, MD, deputy director for extramural research at the National Institutes of Health, delivered the keynote speech, "Thoughts and Perspectives About Extramural Research: People, Money, and Science." A few of his points: Getting the money should not be considered the finish line. Research administrators deserve attention. Young investigators are dependent for too long on senior investigators. He talked about funding "big science" versus "small science," the ongoing opioid crisis, and his concerns about sloppy science (see page 24).

Awards

Outstanding Medical Student Poster

First Place: Ayomide Igun
Second Place: Rhea Mathew
Third Place: Kyle Samson

Outstanding Clinical Resident/ Fellow Case Study Poster

First Place: Kevin Junus
Second Place: Erin Kelly
Third Place: Atul Bali



Outstanding Clinical Resident/ Fellow Research Poster

First Place: Tess Crouss
Second Place: Mark Ramzy
Third Place: Nihit Shah

Outstanding Senior Graduate Student Poster

First Place: Philip Yates
Second Place: Stacia Lewandowski
Third Place: Lorela Ciraku
Honorable Mention: Linda Chamberlin

Outstanding Junior Graduate Student Poster

First Place: Katherine Locke
Second Place: Kristen Buenconsejo
Third Place: Ioanna Yiantzos
Honorable Mention: Micaela O'Reilly, Sarah Bennison

Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Poster

First Place: Bo Xing
Second Place: Frank Bearoff

Outstanding Technician Poster

First Place: Nicholas Stachowski
Second Place: Raina Bhausar

Barry Waterhouse Outstanding Platform Presentation

First Place: Eugene Mironets
Second Place: Renee Jean-Toussaint

Outstanding Clinical Platform Presentation

First Place: Alexandra Forrest

Outstanding Undergrad Poster

First Place: Robert Newman

Outstanding High School Poster

First Place: Akshaya Raman

Dr. Gliebus Named Neurology Chair

G. Peter Gliebus, MD, has been appointed chair of the Department of Neurology. He had served as interim chair since March 2017. He is an associate professor of neurology, director of the Cognitive Disorders Center at Drexel Neurosciences Institute, and program director for the Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry Fellowship. He joined the College of Medicine in 2015.

As interim chair, Gliebus grew the Department of Neurology, establishing a multiple sclerosis and neuroinflammatory disorder center, expanding the movement disorder and epilepsy divisions, and making changes in clinical operations to improve access to care, including the addition of clinical sites outside Center City. Collaborations with faculty in other departments within the College of Medicine and across Drexel have increased on his watch, and he has established a clinical trials unit to promote clinical-transla-



tional neuroscience research. He is also actively involved in further improving student, resident and fellow education within the field of neurology.

Gliebush is the principal investigator for a number of clinical trials related to memory disorders and dementia.

He is the editor of the book *Progressive Cognitive Impairment and Its Neuropathologic Correlates* and has more than 60 publications and presentations to his credit. He also serves as a reviewer for several national specialty journals. He is a member of the Medical Scientific Committee for the Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter, and serves on more than a dozen local, regional and national committees.

Gliebush earned his medical degree from the Faculty of Medicine at Vilnius University in Lithuania, where he was born. He completed the Drexel/Hahnemann Neurology Residency program in 2008 and the two-year Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry Fellowship at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine's Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center.

Tower Health Celebrates Flagship Reading Hospital

Tower Health commemorated the 150th anniversary of Reading Hospital in 2018 with a yearlong celebration, culminating in the 150th Anniversary Gala on September 22. The hospital dates its founding to the opening of the

Reading Dispensary to outpatients on January 27, 1868. That makes the hospital slightly older than Drexel University (1891) and slightly younger than the College of Medicine's predecessor schools, Hahnemann Medical College (1848) and Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (1850). Reading Hospital has provided third- and fourth-year clinical rotations to Drexel medical students for many years and will soon become a regional medical campus for the medical school.



Drexel President John Fry; Reading Hospital President & CEO William Jennings; Tower Health President & CEO Clint Matthews; College of Medicine Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD; Associate Dean for Admissions & Enrollment Linda Berardi-Demo, EdD; Senior Vice Dean for Educational Affairs Valerie Weber, MD; Tower Health Executive VP for Strategy & Business Development Dan Ahern; Drexel Interim Co-CFO and College of Medicine Associate Dean for Financial Affairs Tony Esposito; and Tower Health Executive VP & CFO Gary Conner.

Reach Out and Read — and Play Ball

Fourteen teams vied for the championship in the 5th Annual Reach Out and Read Basketball Tournament, held at Germantown Friends School in late October. Over 140 spectators were on hand to cheer on the players, having braved torrential rain to attend.

The event benefits Reach Out and Read at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. The 2018 tournament raised \$60,000 for the literacy program, which encourages caregivers to read aloud to children. The funds raised will help purchase 25,000 new books. These are given away to St. Chris patients, who live in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the United States. Families served by Reach Out and Read see numerous benefits: Parents in the program are 2.5 times more likely to read to their children, and twice as likely to do so more than three times a week. The language development of these children improves by 3 to 6 months.

Save the Date!

Next year's event will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019. Players, spectators, scorekeepers, referees and other volunteers are always welcome!

For more information about St. Chris's program, visit

reachoutandreadbasketball.wordpress.com or contact Hans Kersten at hk39@drexel.edu or Dan Taylor, drt23@drexel.edu.



Pediatric faculty members Drs. Dan Taylor and Hans Kersten discuss tournament logistics.

Dr. Evans Appointed Chair of Family Medicine

Susanna G. Evans, MD, has been appointed the Hamot Endowed Chair of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine. She had served as interim chair since February 1, 2018. She was previously associate vice chair for clinical services in the department.

A graduate of Penn State College of Medicine, Evans completed her residency at the University of California, Davis, in the Shasta-Cascade Family Practice Residency program, serving as chief resident. She then completed the Rural Family Medicine/Obstetrics Fellowship at Tacoma Family Medicine, Tacoma, Washington. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Evans joined the College of Medicine in 2012 from Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, where she was associate chair of the Family Medicine Department and program director for the Family Practice



Residency program, as well as a clinical assistant professor of Family & Community Medicine at Penn State.

She served as medical director of the Montgomery Family OB/GYN Center and later as medical director of the Montgomery Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Center. In addition to supervising residents, Evans worked with medical students from Penn State, Temple and Drexel, and was a volunteer preceptor for a Family Medicine Sub-internship for fourth-year medical students.

At Drexel, Evans is the medical director of Drexel Medicine University City. She also practices at the Drexel Student Health Center and at Drexel Family Medicine in Manayunk. She is a member of the Drexel University Physicians Primary Care Task Force and the DUP Marketing Committee, and represents the DUP on the Steering Committee of the Physician Performance Network of Philadelphia. She is the co-course director for the Ambulatory Family Medicine Chronic Care Course and a small-group facilitator in Bioethics.

Drexel Black Doctors Network

The Drexel Black Doctors Network, an interest group specifically targeting the black student population at the College of Medicine, hosted a lively and successful networking event September 28 to connect students with black physicians. More than 85 people attended, including 30 physicians (16 from Drexel; 4 from Jefferson; 2, Penn; 1, PCOM; and 7, other schools or hospitals).

The majority of the students were Drexel medical students, but a number of Drexel graduate students came, mostly those in pre-med or pre-health programs; and a dozen students from other medical schools also attended. Cassandra Mitchell and Kingsley Ozongwu, both second-year students and co-presidents of the network, opened the evening with a brief presentation. Then College of Medicine faculty member Leon McCrea, MD, gave a short talk about the importance of mentorship. Theodore Corbin, MD, MPP, is the faculty adviser for the group. "Both physicians were instrumental in making the event possible," Mitchell said.



Medical student Giscard Adelclat; Resident Adib Rushdan, MD; Assistant Professor Alicia Tucker, MD; and Resident Nerissa Baptiste, MD



Medical students Theo Todd, Douglas Harnett-Robinson and Javaun Porter

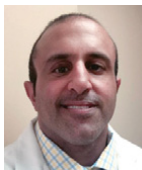


Medical students Uchenna Okoji, Cassandra Mitchell, Kingsley Ozongwu and Samiat Awosanya



Ziauddin Ahmed, MD, professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, is the founding president of a new not-for-profit treatment center of the Kidney Foundation of Bangladesh. The 12,000-square-foot center, located in Sylhet, Bangladesh, will provide afford-

able state-of-the-art care for patients with chronic kidney disease. Ahmed organized Bangladeshi specialists and philanthropists, and obtained support from many U.S. groups, including his division at the College of Medicine. Drexel faculty transplant surgeons and nephrologists will visit to provide services and training.



Mr. Attia



Dr. Wolf

Aria C. Attia, a third-year medical student; **Judith Wolf, MD**, associate professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, and **Ana Núñez, MD**;

professor of medicine, Division of Internal Medicine, and associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, published "On Surmounting the Barriers to HPV Vaccination: We Can Do Better" in *Annals of Medicine*, Vol. 50 (2018): Issue 3 (published online January 22).



Dr. Núñez

Attia and colleagues in Drexel's Department of Materials Science & Engineering and the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems, published "A Review of Nanofiber Shish Kebabs and Their Potential in Creating Effective Biomimetic Bone Scaffolds" in *Regenerative Engineering and Translational Medicine* (2018) 4: 107.

In addition, Attia has received a 2018 Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship from Alpha Omega Alpha, for his project "Osteogenic Potential of MC3T3 E1 Cells on Mineralized Nanofiber Shish Kebabs." The objective of this proposal is to design and create hierarchical nanostructures that closely mimic the building blocks of natural bone, mineralized collagen fibrils. The ultimate goal for the project is to investigate the use of NFSK as a scaffold for bone tissue engineering.



Peter W. Baas, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, delivered a seminar, "Motor-based Polarity Sorting of Microtubules in the Neuron," at the Department of Neuroscience, University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, on November 2, 2018.



Jessica R. Barson, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, delivered a talk, "The Myth of the Academic Supermama: Being OK With Just Being OK," as part of the professional development workshop

"Fixing the Leaky Pipeline for Women in Science: Addressing Issues Facing New Moms" during the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, held November 3-7, 2018, in San Diego.

Soha J. Chhaya, a neuroscience PhD candidate, placed in the top five out of more than 2,300 basic science research abstracts at the International Association for the Study of Pain's World Congress, for her work, "Peripheral Macrophage Recruitment to the Dorsal Root Ganglia Is Critical to Pain Development After Spinal Cord Injury."



Dr. Detloff



Dr. Houlé

Also Chhaya; research assistants **Daniel Quiros Molina, MLAS**, and **Alessandra Tamashiro Orrego; Megan Detloff, PhD**, assistant professor; and **John Houlé, PhD**,



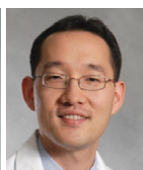
Dr. Molina

professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published "Exercise-Induced Changes to the Macrophage Response in the Dorsal Root Ganglia Prevent Neuropathic Pain After Spinal Cord Injury" in the *Journal of Neurotrauma* (online ahead of print, October 18, 2018).

Detloff and Houlé are Chhaya's mentors.



Dr. Chou



Dr. Lee

Edgar Chou, MD, associate professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine, **Dong Lee, MD**, associate professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV



Dr. Stander

Medicine, and **Eric Stander, MD**, assistant professor of emergency medicine, received a FOCUS award from Gilead Sciences, Inc., to support HIV and hepatitis C testing and testing-related services for both the outpatient and inpatient settings.



Austin A. Coley, a neuroscience PhD candidate in the Gao Lab, presented "PSD-95 Deficiency Alters Afferent-Specific Projections in the mPFC" at a nanosymposium session, "Postsynaptic Organization and Structure," during the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, held November 3-7, 2018, in San Diego.

Megan Detloff, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, recently received a Small Business Innovation Research Award from the National Institutes of Health with her collaborator Andrew Sloan, PhD, at Vulintus, LLC, to develop a low-cost wireless home cage health and activity monitoring system. In August, she gave an invited talk to the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of New England, "Mechanisms Underlying Exercise-induced Reduction in Neuropathic Pain After Spinal Cord Injury."



Mr. Earl



Dr. Balashov

Joshua P. Earl, MS, research instructor; **Jaroslav Krol, PhD**, lab manager; **Archana S. Bhat, MS**, bioinformatics programmer; **Sergey Balashov, PhD**, former Genomics Core Facility manager; **Rachel L. Ehrlich, MS**, bioinformatics programmer; **Bhaswati Sen, PhD**, research staff; **Jocelyn Hammond, MS**, research staff; **Garth D. Ehrlich, PhD**, professor; and



Dr. Ehrlich

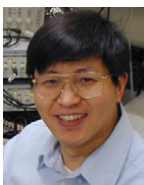


Dr. Mell

Joshua Chang Mell, PhD, assistant professor, all in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, published "Species-level Bacterial Community Profiling of the Healthy Sinonasal Microbiome Using Pacific Biosciences Sequencing of Full-length 16S rRNA Genes" in *Microbiome* 2018 6:190.

Rachel L. Ehrlich, MS; Balashov; G. Ehrlich; and Mell, all identified above, authored "Antagonistic Pleiotropy in the Bifunctional Surface Protein FadL (OmpP1) During Adaptation of *Haemophilus influenzae* to Chronic Lung Infection Associated With Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease," published September 25 in *mBio*, an online journal of the American Society for Microbiology (DOI: 10.1128/mBio.01176-18).

Toyin Erinle, MD, MPH; Jhoneil Cooper, MS '18; Sherice Simpson, MS '17; Darnielle A. Williams, MSHEd; Haley Breslin-Foulkrod, MPH; LaTanya Deeb; Katie Feehan, MPH; Renee Turchi, MD, MPH, professor of pediatrics; and **Enitan Adegite, MD, MPH**, assistant professor of pediatrics, are authors of the poster abstract "Discovering Seasonal Trends in Teenage Pregnancy in an Adolescent Medicine Clinic," presented at the National Reproductive Health Conference, held July 15-18 in Kansas City, Missouri.



Wen-Jun Gao, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, recently gave a talk, "Psychostimulants as Cognitive Enhancers in Developing Brain — Balance Between Risk and Reward," at the international conference Limitless!

Augmentation of Brain Function, held September 19-21, 2018, at the SwissTech Convention Center in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Camille Giraud, a third-year medical student, was awarded a \$15,000 Joseph Collins Scholarship. The Joseph Collins Foundation annually selects one new award recipient at each of 40 medical schools east of the Mississippi River. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in arts and letters or other cultural pursuits outside the field of medicine. Giraud is spending her third year at Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento.

Continued...

Calendar

January

- 21 **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**
- 25 **A Day With the Newborn**
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children,
7 a.m.–4 p.m.
Information: stchristophershospital.com/cme
Contact: alma.barbarena@americanacademic.com
- 26 **Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert**
Main Building, University City Campus,
Doors open: 5 p.m. Concert begins: 6 p.m.
Information and tickets: ducompabc.wixsite.com/pabc

March

- 13 **Sex & Gender Research Forum**
Behrakis Grand Hall
University City Campus
Contact: [Janine Barber, jkb48@drexel.edu](mailto:Janine.Barber@drexel.edu)
- 15 **Match Day**
Queen Lane Campus

April

- TBA **Golden Apple Ceremony**
Queen Lane Campus
- 29 **Woman One Award Ceremony and Reception**
The Rittenhouse, 5:30 p.m.
Information: drexel.edu/medicine/iwhl
or 215.991.8190

May

- 17 **Commencement**

June

- 7 **Faculty Professional Development Day**
Queen Lane Campus, 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Ongoing

Drexel Medicine Physician Refresher/Re-entry Course
Contact: [Cynthia Johnson, 215.762.2580](mailto:Cynthia.Johnson@dm.drexel.edu)

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.

Ngoc (Nesta) Ha, neuroscience PhD student in the laboratory of Kimberly Dougherty, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, presented her research in a talk at the Annual Motor Symposium at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, on November 2, 2018.

Donald C. Hall Jr., a PhD candidate in the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology and Chemistry (College of Arts & Sciences), presented his poster "JEKMag Tech: High Throughput Technology to Grow and Assess Bacterial Biofilm Sensitivity to New Drugs" at the 2018 American Society for Microbiology Conference on Biofilms, held October 7-11, 2018, in Washington, D.C.



Pooja Jain, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, has given several invited talks over the past year: at the Basic Science Seminar Series at the Temple University School of Medicine on March 9, 2018 ("Preventing Myeloid Cells' CNS Trafficking to Combat Neuroinflammation and -infection"); at the 15th International Symposium on Dendritic Cells, June 10-14, Aachen, Germany; at the Unité de Génomique Virale et Vaccination, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France, on June 18 ("Novel approaches to treat HTLV-1-induced leukemia/lymphoma, ATLL"); and at a research seminar at the Center for Preclinical Imaging, Department of Cellular & Molecular Physiology at University of Liverpool, U.K., on June 22 ("Targeting Myeloid Cells' CNS Trafficking to Combat Neuroinflammation and Infection").

Jain was an author of "Follicular Dendritic Cells of the Cervical Lymph Nodes as HIV Reservoirs" in *Frontiers in Immunology*, 9: 805, 2018. For additional papers from her lab, see *Muir* and *Mulherkar*. In addition, Jain was invited to serve as an editorial board member in the category of Infectious Diseases for *Scientific Reports* (a Nature Research journal) for an initial term of two years.



Ellie Kelepouris, MD, professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, was an invited keynote speaker at the 8th Oriental Congress of Nephrology, held October 19-21 in Shanghai, China. She presented "Advances in Understanding Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis," a state-of-the-art talk

related to her research grant, Innovative Treatments of Glomerulonephritis. She also organized a professional development seminar for the American Society of Nephrology and presented "Negotiating for the Ideal Nephrology Position" at ASN Kidney Week, held October 23-28 in San Diego. In addition, Kelepouris recently published a white paper, "Immunoglobulin A Nephropathy: Advances in Understanding of Pathogenesis and Treatment," in the *American Journal of Nephrology*, Vol. 47, Suppl. 1 (June 2018).



Michael Lane, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received an international travel award to attend the annual network meeting of the International Spinal Research Trust in London, England, where he chaired the session "Regeneration and

Recovery After Spinal Cord Injury" on September 8, 2018. Lane was also invited to present a seminar, "Spinal Cord Injury, Plasticity and Repair," at the Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines University (University of Versailles) in Paris, France, as part of a continued international collaboration between Drexel University and the University of Versailles.

Lane and his PhD student **Lyandysha Zholudeva** delivered an invited talk, "Cervical Spinal Cord Injury and Spinal Interneurons," at the Christopher Reeve Stem Cell Symposium during the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting, held November 3-7, 2018, in San Diego. At the meeting, Lane was also part of a special workshop on the Open Data Commons for Preclinical Spinal Cord Injury.

Erik Li, an MD/PhD candidate in Drexel's Biomedical Engineering program, was awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F30) for his project "Afferent Modulation of Rhythm-Generating Neurons in the Spinal Locomotor Central Pattern Generator." He is completing his research under the mentorship of Kimberly Dougherty, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy.



Dr. Nonnemacher

Robert W. Link, a PhD student in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems who is doing research under the mentorship of Drs. Wigdahl and Dampier; **Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD**, associate



Dr. Wigdahl



Dr. Dampier

professor; **Brian Wigdahl, PhD**, professor and chair; and **Will Dampier, PhD**, assistant professor, all in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, are authors of "Prediction of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type

1 Subtype-Specific Off-Target Effects Arising from CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing Therapy" published in *The CRISPR Journal*, Volume 1, Number 4 (August 2018).



Dr. Varjavand

Kelcie Lushefski and **Kevin Priddy**, fourth-year medical students, and **Nielufar Varjavand, MD**, associate professor of medicine and director of Global Health Education for the College, are authors of the abstract "The Brain Drain and Its Adverse Effects on Foreign Healthcare:

A Firsthand Experience," which was presented at the American Academy of Family Physicians Global Health Summit, held September 13-15 in Jacksonville, Florida. The focus of their work was transnational migration of physicians, specifically physician emigration from South Africa and Sri Lanka, and its implications for the home

countries. Based on their poster abstract, the group was also invited to give an oral presentation in a session called "Ideas Worth Sharing," for which six abstracts with unique ideas were chosen.

Kiran Madugula, a PhD student in the laboratory of Pooja Jain, PhD, was awarded a travel grant and invited to make an oral presentation of "Regulation and Perturbation of Myocyte Enhancer Factor-2 Activity in Adult T-cell Leukemia/Lymphoma (ATLL)" at the SNIP/ISNV joint meeting held in Chicago, April 10-14.



Daniel Mascarenhas, MD, clinical professor of medicine, received the Pennsylvania Medical Society's 2018 Physician Award for International Voluntary Service. The award was presented at the society's annual House of Delegates meeting on October 27 in Hershey. An interventional cardiologist, he was honored for his efforts toward the provision of affordable cardiac care in Goa and Mumbai, India. He has been recognized several times for his work with repurposed pacemakers.

Eugene Mironets, a neuroscience PhD candidate, was awarded the Bondi Fellowship and the Barry Waterhouse Outstanding Platform Presentation Award at Discovery Day. He also received a Drexel travel award to attend and present at the International Congress of Neuroimmunology in Brisbane in August. His poster was "Delaying Pharmacological Inhibition of Spinal Soluble Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha (sTNF α) Signaling Diminishes the Development of Autonomic Dysreflexia After Complete High Thoracic Spinal Cord Injury."



Dr. Haddad



Dr. Khan

Roshell Muir, PhD, postdoctoral research fellow in the Haddad Lab, and **Elias Haddad, PhD**, professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine;

Zafar Khan, PhD, professor; **Brian Wigdahl, PhD**, professor and chair; and **Pooja Jain, PhD**, professor, all in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, published "FDC-TFH Interactions Within Cervical Lymph Nodes of SIV-Infected Rhesus Macaques" in *Journal of Neuroimmune Pharmacology*, 13: 204-218, June 2018.

Ria Mulherkar, third-year medical student; **Rashida Ginwala, MS**, a PhD student in the Jain Lab; **Zafar Khan, PhD**, professor, and **Pooja Jain, PhD**, professor, all in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, published "In Vivo and in Vitro Immunogenicity of Novel MHC Class I Presented Epitopes to Confer Protective Immunity Against Chronic HTLV-1 Infection" in *Vaccine*, 36: 5046-5057, August 9, 2018.

Continued...

Women Authors Underrepresented in Medical Journals



A study published in *JAMA* this year concluded that female physicians are underrepresented as authors of opinion articles in the four highest-impact general pediatric journals. Nancy Spector, MD, professor of pediatrics and associate dean for faculty development at the College of Medicine, co-authored the study with colleagues from Harvard Medical School.*

Other studies have highlighted the gender-related publication gap, but this paper shows that the problem extends beyond articles focused on original research. Perspective or opinion articles, in particular, provide authors an opportunity to influence their field and enhance their career. "Diversity of thought is important for innovation in all fields in medicine. Moreover, the ability of women physicians to voice their opinion and share their knowledge is a critical component of career advancement," the authors wrote.

The researchers identified 336 "perspective-type" articles written by physicians of known gender that were published between 2013 and 2017 in *Academic Pediatrics*, *JAMA Pediatrics*, *The Journal of Pediatrics*, and *Pediatrics*. Women made up only 41.7 percent of first authors although 61.9 percent of pediatricians are women (Association of American Medical Colleges, 2015). Notably, all four journals are led by editors-in-chief who are men, and all are associated with medical societies that physicians join in order to support their careers.

The study authors note that the underrepresentation of women physician authors cannot be reasonably attributed to a lack of qualified candidates: During the study period, there were more than 33,000 women in pediatric practice, and more than 7,000 of them were full-time academic faculty. Spector and her colleagues instead point to the well-documented issue of gender disparity on journal editorial boards and unconscious bias as possible reasons for the findings, suggesting it is the process — not the pipeline — that is at fault.

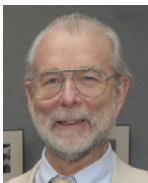
"Intentional inclusion and solicitation of women authors by medical journals is a concrete and immediate action that can be taken to rectify some of the imbalance that we found in this study," said Spector, who also serves as executive director of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program for women. "Inclusion needs to be a standard that is upheld by journal editors and society leaders."

* Julie K. Silver, MD; Julie A. Poorman, PhD; Julia M. Reilly, MD; Nancy D. Spector, MD; Richard Goldstein, PhD; Ross D. Zafonte, DO: "Assessment of Women Physicians Among Authors of Perspective-Type Articles Published in High-Impact Pediatric Journals" (doi:10.1001/jamanet-workopen.2018.0802).

Hiotaka Nakagawa, a second-year medical student; **Nielufar Varjavand, MD**, associate professor of medicine and director of the College of Medicine's Global Health Education program; and Yukiko Onishi, Nakagawa's mentor in Japan, published "A Glimpse Into the Care of Diabetic Patients in Tokyo, Japan, Through the Educational Hospitalization Program" in the spring 2018 edition of the *Journal of Global Health*.



Christopher Para, a second-year medical student, has been appointed to the board of Physicians for Social Responsibility Philadelphia. He is one of two student board members of the 501c3 nonprofit organization.



Amir Pelleg, PhD, adjunct professor of medicine, coauthored the chapter "Adenosine Receptors in the Lungs" in *The Adenosine Receptors* (Humana Press, Springer Nature Switzerland, 2018).

Margo Randelman, a neuroscience PhD candidate, received a travel award to attend the annual network meeting of the International Spinal Research Trust in London, to present a poster of her work, "Daily Acute Intermittent Hypercapnia Training to Improve Respiratory Plasticity Following Spinal Cord Injury" on September 7, 2018. She also presented a poster, "Daily Acute Intermittent Hypercapnia Training to Enhance Plasticity Following Cervical Spinal Cord Injury," at the 2018 Motor Systems Symposium at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

Emily Reimold, MLAS, a veterinary technician at the Drexel Center City animal facility, received the Animal Specialties and Provisions, LLC, Technical Services Award at the September meeting of the Delaware Valley Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science.



MLAS alums (l-r) Faith Witherspoon '17, Sandy Baker '10, and Emily Reimold '10 won honors from the Delaware Valley Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science.



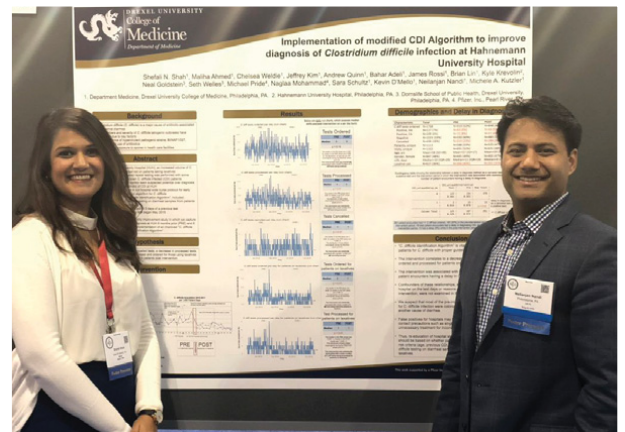
Ralph J. Riviello, MD, professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, has been named chair of Emergency Medicine at Crozer-Keystone Health System. Riviello, who serves as the medical director of the Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center, was interviewed by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about that work for the article "How Can Emergency Departments Better Care for Sexual Assault Victims?" (July 27 on Philly.com).

Karriem Salaam, MD, clinical assistant professor of psychiatry, and medical director of the adolescent inpatient unit at Friends Hospital, is among the authors of *Mind Matters: A Resource Guide to Psychiatry for Black Communities*, published by Global Health Psychiatry. He is one of 10 African-American psychiatrists, all board members of Global Health Psychiatry, who undertook the book project two years ago to describe in plain language the major psychiatric diagnoses in the DSM-5.



Allan B. Schwartz, MD, professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, continues to write articles in the Medical Mystery series for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Recent entries include "Did Abolitionists Poison This President?" about James Buchanan (July 31), "What Was Happening to President Eisenhower?" (September 25) and "The Case of John Quincy Adams' Odd Quivering" (October 16).

Shefali N. Shah, MD, Internal Medicine Residency '18, presented a poster, "Implementation of Modified CDI Algorithm to Improve Diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* Infection at Hahnemann University Hospital" at the American College of Gastroenterology's ACG 2018, held October 5-10 in Philadelphia. The other College of Medicine authors included IM resident **Maliha Ahmed, DO**; graduate student **Chelsea Weldie**, Drug Discovery & Development program; **Drs. Jeffrey Kim**, IM Residency '18; **Andrew Quinn**, **Bahar Adeli**, **James Rossi** and **Brian Lin**, all IM residents; and Department of Medicine



Shefali Shah, with Neil Nandi, presented a poster abstract of *C. diff* research.

faculty **Drs. Sara Schultz, Kevin D'Mello, Neilanjan Nandi** and **Michele A. Kutzler** (also in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology). Additional authors were Drs. Neal Goldstein and Seth Welles from Drexel's Dornsife School of Public Health, and Kyle Krevolin of Hahnemann University Hospital.

Elizabeth Schell, a second-year medical student, co-authored an article, "Reject Strep-Versus-Virus Paradigm for Personalized Approach to Pharyngitis Patients," in *Emergency Medicine News* (September 2018). Richard Pescatore, DO, director of emergency medicine research for the Crozer-Keystone Health System, is the other author.

Sherice Simpson, MS '17, received a travel award from St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Division of Adolescent Medicine, to present her project, "Pregnancy, STD & Contraception Rates in an Urban Clinic" at the National Reproductive Health Conference, held July 15-18 in Kansas City, Missouri. The other poster authors are **Katie Feehan, MPH; LaTanya Deeb; Renee Turchi, MD, MPH**, professor; **Darnielle Williams, MSHEd; Haley Breslin-Foulkrod, MPH**; and **Enitan Adegite, MD, MPH**, assistant professor, all in the Department of Pediatrics. Simpson is a first-year medical student at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. See also *Erinle* in this section.

Continued...

Infectious Diseases at IDWeek

Fellows and faculty in the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine (ID), together with colleagues from other departments, medical students and Hahnemann HIV pharmacists, authored nine posters that were presented at IDWeek 2018, held October 3-7 in San Francisco. The second-year Drexel/Hahnemann ID fellows, **Drs. Marinela Ingilizova, Melissa Tiyouh** and **Nabil Zeineddine**, all received travel grants to attend the meeting. Posters are listed alphabetically by presenter or first Drexel author.

Amy Althoff, MD, assistant professor of medicine, ID: "Higher 'No Show' Rates Are Associated With Lower Rates of Retention in HIV Care and Viral Suppression," co-authored by medical students **Madeline Dwyer** and **Valeria Chew**, and **Edward Gracely, PhD**, associate professor, Family, Community & Preventive Medicine

Elizabeth Gancher, MD, assistant professor of medicine, ID: "Impact of Mandatory Infectious Diseases Consultation on the Use of Core Measures and Mortality in *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteremia at an Academic Medical Center," co-authored by **Drs. Gregory Maslak** (resident) and **Sara Schultz**, assistant professor of medicine, ID; and **Marinela Ingilizova, MD**, ID fellow (presenter)

"Clinical Outcomes Associated With Various Treatment Options for Infections Caused by Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*," co-authored by **Caytlin Deering, DO**, ID Fellowship '18; and Hahnemann University Hospital HIV-specialized pharmacists **Aiman Bandali, PharmD** (presenter) and **Tiffany Bias, PharmD**

Marinela Ingilizova, MD, ID fellow: "Mandatory Infectious Diseases or Hepatology Consult to Improve HCV Linkage to Care in the Inpatient Setting," co-authored by **Drs. Dagan Coppock**, assistant professor of medicine, ID; **Zsofia Szep**, associate professor of medicine, ID; and **Kevin D'Mello**, assistant professor of medicine, GIM; research assistants **Anna Kesaris, Tiffany Scott** and **Taneesa**

Franks; and **Drs. Edgar Chou**, associate professor of medicine, GIM, and **Dong Heun Lee** associate professor of medicine, ID

Brigid Mumford, medical student: "Investigation of the Association Between Neurocognitive Function and Depression in HIV Infection," co-authored by **Drs. Vanessa Pirrone**, assistant professor, Microbiology & Immunology; **C. Virginia O'Hayer**, clinical associate professor, Psychiatry; **William Dampier**, assistant professor, Microbiology & Immunology; **Brian Wigdahl**, professor and chair, Microbiology & Immunology; with **Caitlin O'Loughlin**, former clinical research coordinator, **Maelys Amat, MD '18**, and **Szep**

Melissa Tiyouh, MD, ID fellow: "Discordance Between FibroSure and FibroScan Results in Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-infected Patients Prior to Treatment for Hepatitis C Virus Infection," co-authored by **Lee, Franks, Scott, Kesaris, Chou** and **Coppock**

Nabil Zeineddine, MD, ID fellow: "Active Substance Use Should Not Be a Contraindication for Hepatitis C Treatment in Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-infected Patients," co-authored by **Coppock, Szep, Scott, Franks, Kesaris, Chou** and **Lee**

"Our Experience With *M. marinum* Cutaneous Infections in Three Patients Receiving Anti TNF," co-authored by **Tiyouh** and **Todd Braun, MD**, clinical assistant professor of medicine, ID, Abington Memorial Hospital

"Placental Pathology and Neonatal Outcomes in Pregnancies of Perinatally Versus Non Perinatally HIV Infected Women," co-authored by **Maria Keating, MD**, faculty, Obstetrics & Gynecology; **Shara Epstein, MD**, assistant professor of medicine, ID; **Hervette Nkwihoreze, MPH**, research assistant; **Erika Aaron, MSN, CRNP**, former faculty, Medicine, ID; **Gregg Alleyne, MD**, associate professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology; and **Florence Momplaisir, MD, MSHP**, assistant professor of medicine, ID

Society for Neuroscience

Faculty, staff and students from the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy represented Drexel at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting November 3-7, 2018, in San Diego. Members of the department presented a total of 26 posters.

Cassandra Alexandropoulos, MS candidate in the laboratory of Wen-Jun Gao, PhD: "The Role of Igsf9b in Prefrontal Cortical Function"

Tatiana Bezdudnaya, PhD, instructor; **Vitaliy Marchenko, PhD**, research assistant professor; and **Michael Lane, PhD**, assistant professor: "Sleep-Disordered Breathing Following Experimental Cervical Spinal Cord Injury"

Jani Bilchak, PhD student in the Côté Lab: "Enhancing KCC2 Function Attenuates Hyper-Excitable Stretch Reflex After SCI," co-authored by **Guillaume Caron, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow; **Kyle Yeakle**, research assistant; and **Marie-Pascale Côté, PhD**, assistant professor

Caron: "Bumetanide Differently Alters Spinal Reflex Inhibition Over Time After SCI," co-authored by **Yeakle, Bilchak** and **Côté**

Linda Chamberlin, MD/PhD candidate in the Gao Lab: "Leveraging Prefrontal Parvalbumin Interneurons to Restore Cognitive Function in Schizophrenia"

Soha J. Chhaya, PhD candidate, Houlié/Detloff Lab: "Peripheral Macrophage Recruitment to the Dorsal Root Ganglia Is Critical to Pain Development After SCI"

Genevieve R. Curtis, doctoral student in the laboratory of Jessica R. Barson, PhD: "An Animal Model of Binge-like Eating Using Short vs. Long Access Self-Administration"

Silvia Fernandes, MS, a PhD student in the lab of Shaoping Hou, PhD; **Lyandysha V. Zholudeva**, PhD candidate in the Lane Lab; **Lane**; and **Liang Qiang, MD, PhD**, research assistant professor: "In Vivo Cellular Reprogramming to Restore Respiratory Function After SCI"

D. Leonardo Garcia-Ramirez, PhD, postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Kimberly Dougherty, PhD: "Alterations in Spinal Cord Injury-Induced Plasticity of Spinal Rhythm Generating Interneurons Following Treadmill Training With Epidural Stimulation in Mouse"

Andrew T. Gargiulo, PhD student in the Barson Lab: "Pituitary Adenylate Cyclase-Activating Polypeptide in the Nucleus Accumbens Shell Reduces Ethanol Drinking"

Laura Giacometti, PhD '18, postdoctoral fellow, laboratory of Jacqueline Barker, PhD, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology: "DREADD-Mediated Activation of Dopaminergic Neurons Ameliorates Mild TBI-induced Depression-like Behavior in the Adolescent Female Rat" (based on studies performed in the lab of her PhD mentor, Ramesh Raghupathi, PhD)

Ngoc (Nesta) Ha, PhD student in the Dougherty Lab: "Intrinsic Properties and Connectivity of Spinal Flexor and Extensor Rhythm Generating Neurons"

Dana Lengel, PhD candidate in the Raghupathi Lab: "Sex-dependent Cellular and Cognitive Deficits Following Traumatic Brain Injury in Neonate Rats Are Reversed by Progesterone"

Erik Li, MD/PhD candidate in biomedical engineering: "Postsynaptic Response Patterns to Stimulation of Low-threshold Hindlimb Afferents in Flexor- and Extensor-Aligned Rhythm Generating Neurons"

Nancy Mack, PhD student in the Gao Lab: "Prefrontal Cortex Exerts Top Down Control Over the Ventromedial Hypothalamus to Regulate Aggressive Behaviors"

Marchenko, Bezdudnaya, and **Lane**: "The Role of Fast Inhibition in Facilitation of Phrenic Nerve and Diaphragm Activity During Epidural Stimulation Following Complete Cervical SCI in Rats"

Eugene Mironets, PhD student in the lab of Veronica Tom, PhD: "Delaying Pharmacological Inhibition of Spinal Soluble Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha Signaling Diminishes the Development of Autonomic Dysreflexia After Complete High Thoracic Spinal Cord Injury"

Sarah Monaco, PhD student in the Gao Lab: "Conditional GSK3b Knockout in GABAergic Parvalbumin Interneurons Affects Behaviors and Electrophysiological Properties in Adult and Adolescent Mice"

Surya Pandey, doctoral student in the Barson Lab: "Behavioral Characteristics of Excessive Alcohol Drinkers" (Dean's Student Travel Award)

Eric Prouty, MD/PhD student in the lab of Barry Waterhouse, PhD: "Neurochemical and Electrophysiological Characterization of Target-Specific Neuronal Populations in the Rat Dorsal Raphe Nucleus and Their Susceptibility to Chronic CORT Administration as a Model of Depression"

Margo Randelman, PhD student in the Lane Lab; **Zholudeva**; **Bezdudnaya**; and **Lane**: "Daily Acute Intermittent Hypercapnia Training to Enhance Plasticity Following Cervical Spinal Cord Injury"

Nicholas Stachowski, research assistant in the Dougherty Lab: "Collateral Projections of Lumbar Spinoparabrachial Neurons in Mouse"

Theeradej Thaweerattanasin, PhD, postdoctoral fellow in the Detloff Lab: "Effects of Early and Delayed Strength Training on Neuropathic Pain and Nociceptor Plasticity After Cervical Spinal Cord Injury"

Di Wu, PhD, research associate in the Tom Lab: "Repeated Activation of Adult Dorsal Root Ganglion Neurons Using Designer Receptors Exclusively Activated by Designer Drugs Enhances Functional Sensory Axon Regeneration After Dorsal Root Crush Injury"

Shasha Yang, PhD candidate in the Gao Lab: "Cell Type Specific Input From Mediodorsal Thalamus to Prefrontal Cortical Interneurons"

Phil Yates, MD/PhD candidate, and **Ankita Patil**, PhD candidate, both in the Baas Lab; **Peter W. Baas, PhD**, professor; and **Qiang**: "Tau Pathology as a Mechanism Underlying Microtubule-based Deficits in Gulf War Illness"



Donna Sudak, MD, professor, senior associate training director, and director of psychotherapy training in the Department of Psychiatry, was honored with the Award for Excellence in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy given by the Aaron T. Beck Institute for Cognitive Studies at Assumption College in Massachusetts. This special award “recognizes and celebrates the individual’s exemplary contributions in scholarship, teaching, supervision, and clinical practice.” Sudak received the award on September 28 after presenting a workshop, “Making Supervision More Effective.”



Daniel R. Taylor, DO, associate professor of pediatrics, wrote an opinion piece that was published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* under the headline “This Is My Lane: Philly Doctor on Why Advocating Against Gun Violence Is Part of the Job | Perspective” (online November 15; print edition

November 16). Taylor’s “perspective” was an eloquent response to a tweet from the NRA that said, “Someone should tell self-important anti-gun doctors to stay in their lane. Half of the articles in *Annals of Internal Medicine* are pushing for gun control. Most upsetting, however, the medical community seems to have consulted NO ONE but themselves.” The NRA’s original message reaped a thundering tweet storm of comments from physicians, bereaved parents and others under the hashtag #ThisIsMyLane, some of which included language that would not have seen the light of day in the daily paper or online.

Earlier in the month, Taylor penned another installment in the *Inquirer’s* Medical Mystery series: “What Turned a Little Boy’s Knuckles Yellow?” (November 2).



Renee Turchi, MD, MPH, professor in the Department of Pediatrics, received a grant for her study, the Transition of Care and Telehealth for the Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children.

The \$25,000 grant is to be used through 2019. Turchi is the medical director of the center. She also has a faculty appointment as a clinical professor in the Department of Community Health and Prevention in Drexel’s Dornsife School of Public Health.

Ijeoma Unachukwu, a graduate student in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, received a travel scholarship from the Division of Adolescent Medicine at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, to attend the National Reproductive Health Conference, held July 15-18 in Kansas City, Missouri, to present a poster, “Continuing the Journey: Supporting Nexplanon Adherence Among Adolescents.” The other authors of the poster are **Haley Breslin-Foulkrod, MPH; Darnielle A. Williams, MSHEd; Kimberly Neidig, MD; Latanya Deeb; Lydia White; Nadja G. Peter, MD;** and **Enitan Adegite, MD, MPH**, assistant professor, all in the Department of Pediatrics.

Faith Witherspoon, MLAS, facility supervisor at the Drexel Calhoun animal facility, received the Allentown, Inc., Facility Manager/Supervisor Award at the September meeting of the Delaware Valley Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (photo, page 14).



Dr. España



Dr. Li

Yu-Xiang Zhang, MS, a visiting student in the Gao Laboratory; **Wen-Jun Gao, MD, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy; **Rita C. Akumuo**, medical student;

Rodrigo A. España, PhD, assistant professor, Neurobiology; Chun-Xia Yan, PhD, Zhang’s mentor in China; and **Yan-Chun Li, PhD**, research assistant professor, Neurobiology, published a paper, “The Histone Demethylase KDM6B in the Medial Prefrontal Cortex Epigenetically Regulates Cocaine Reward Memory,” in *Neuropharmacology*, 141 (2018): 113-125.



Lyandysha (Lana) Zholudeva, a neuroscience PhD candidate in the laboratory of Michael Lane, PhD, received a travel award to attend the annual network meeting of the International Spinal Research Trust in London, September 7-8, 2018. She received an award for her

platform presentation, “Intermittent Hypoxia Enhances Connectivity Between Transplanted Neuronal Progenitors and the Injured Cervical Spinal Cord.”

Zholudeva also received an award from MBF Bioscience for the microscopy image she submitted to its NeuroArt competition. The image was selected for the cover of *Journal of Neuroscience Research*, accompanying her letter to the editor, co-authored by Lane, “Choosing the Right Cell for Spinal Cord Repair.” In addition, Zholudeva presented a poster, “Intermittent Hypoxia Enhances Connectivity Between Transplanted Neuronal Progenitors and the Injured Cervical Spinal Cord,” at the 2018 Motor Systems Symposium held at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.



**Tell your colleagues what you’re doing.
Email CoM_Pulse@drexel.edu**

Compliance: Disclose Conflicts of Interest!

The recent case of a renowned Memorial Sloan Kettering oncologist/researcher who failed to disclose conflicts of interest is a reminder of the importance of disclosing industry relationships. Conflicts themselves are not prohibited; most can be mitigated or eliminated. It is the failure to disclose known conflicts that is a violation. For more information, please read the related memo from the Office of Research and the Office of Corporate Compliance and Privacy at drexel.edu/research/news/announcements/2018/October/coi-notice.

'40s

Margaret J. Giannini, MD, HU '45, of La Jolla, California, received the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award in Advancing Community Living in recognition of her more than six decades of outstanding contributions in clinical service and research for people with disabilities, including establishing the first preschool in New York City for children with intellectual disabilities. The honor was presented by Secretary of Health & Human Services Alex Azar at the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research. Giannini was the first director of the institute's predecessor agency, the National Institute on Handicapped Research, appointed by President Jimmy Carter, and still acts as an adviser to HHS.



In 2010, he rejoined his former Division of Nephrology, now part of Northwell Health. He received the Patients' Choice Award in 2015 and 2017. He is still involved in teaching.

Allan B. Schwartz, MD, HU '64, see page 14.

Elissa J. Santoro, MD, WMC '65, founder of the Breast Care and Treatment Center in Livingston, New Jersey, was named to Patient Preferred Physicians, representing oncology in New Jersey. She has been featured in *Preferred Health Magazine*.

Mary Kay Michelis, MD, WMC '66, an ophthalmologist, was profiled for "Women of the Antelope Valley" in the *Antelope Valley Press*. Michelis was the first woman doctor in the United States to specialize in the implantation of an artificial lens in the human eye and the first to develop refractive surgical techniques.

Judy Salz, MD, WMC '69, was one of nine Nevada writers invited to present at Ladies of Literature and Their Stories, a panel discussion held July 28 at the Paseo Verde Library in Henderson, Nevada (authorjudysalz.com).

'50s

Send your news to CoM_Pulse@drexel.edu.

'60s

Lionel U. Mailloux, MD, HU '62; Nephrology Fellowship, HU, emeritus clinical professor of medicine, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, retired from clinical practice in July. After completing his tour of duty in the Army (1960-1968), he joined North Shore Hospital in Manhasset, New York, where he became chief of nephrology. In 1998, he went into private practice in Port Washington, where he also served as director of the Port Washington Dialysis Center.

'70s

Theodore Uroskie, MD, HU '70, was named chair of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's 26th Annual Cancer Survivors Day – Honoring, Remembering, Sharing. He is a retired obstetrician/gynecologist and a board member of the NRCI.

Burnett William Gallman Jr., MD, HU '75, was featured in the 2018 South Carolina African-American History Calendar for the month of August in honor of his service to the African-American community in South Carolina. He works at Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center and is in part-time private practice as a gastroenterologist.

A Pioneer in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Loretta P. Finnegan, MD, HU '64, was honored by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services with the Surgeon General's Medallion, the highest award of the Public Health Service. The presentation took place during the National Convening on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, hosted by HHS on October 17 in Philadelphia. First Lady Melania Trump and HHS Secretary Alex Azar (far left) delivered remarks at the conference. Finnegan received the medallion for her "pioneering leadership and innovative performance" as both a clinician and executive officer of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence and her creation of the Finnegan Score, a groundbreaking assessment tool for



babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, which remains widely used around the globe. The First Lady's office released a statement saying that she had been "inspired by Dr. Loretta Finnegan's lifetime dedication to helping children."

Michael A. Levine, MD, HU '76, a pediatric endocrinologist and medical director of the Center for Bone Health at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, was honored by the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research with the 2018 Frederic C. Barter Award. The award was presented September 29 in Montreal. He is a professor of pediatrics and medicine (medical genetics) at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, and chief emeritus of CHOP's Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes.



Marlene Wolf, MD, MCP '77, gave a presentation, "Targeting the Patient Experience," at the Annual Scientific Assembly of the American Association of Physician Specialists, on June 25 in Nashville.



Stephen Klasko, MD, HU '78, president and CEO of Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson Health, has been named to *Modern Healthcare's* annual list of the 100 most influential people in health care and was highlighted as one of 12 change agents in education by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.

Larry Real, MD, MCP '78; Adult Psychiatry Residency, HU, rejoined Horizon House as medical director after serving since 2015 as chief medical officer for the city of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services. He is also co-director of the Public Psychiatry Fellowship program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Frank M. Stearns, PhD Biological Chemistry, HU '78; MS, HU '72; MBA, retired CEO of the American Red Cross National Testing Laboratory, published "In Memoriam: Herbert J. Eichel (1924-2017) a Passion for Discovery" in the *Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology*, Volume 65, Issue 5, September/October 2018. The article chronicles 30 years of research at Hahnemann Medical College by Stearns' adviser, Herbert Eichel, PhD. Eichel also mentored Drs. Norman E. Conger, Jerome S. Perlsh and Richard DeMaio, and Joseph Bukovsky, MS.

Joseph F. Hacker III, MD, HU '79, a gastroenterologist at Delaware Gastroenterology Associates in Newark, Delaware, was named a "GI Leader to Know" by *Becker's GI & Endoscopy*.

'80s

Stephanie Durruthy, MD, HU '81, has developed an educational resource called "She Is Not Mentally Ill: Tools for Supporters Navigating Stigma." The audio program addresses the misperception that being successful and high functioning provides a natural immunity from acquiring a mental illness. Durruthy, a board-certified psychiatrist and distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, is the owner of Mindsupport, LLC (mindsupport.com).



Christine Petti, MD, MCP '81; General Surgery Residency, MCP '86, and her medical day spa, Spa Bella, in the South Bay area of Los Angeles, were both honored for the fifth year in a row with *Daily Breeze* Readers Choice Awards. She was named "South Bay's Best Cosmetic Surgeon," and Spa Bella was named "South Bay's Best Medical Spa" and "South Bay's Favorite Day Spa."

David G. Kann, MD, HU '84, joined the medical team at Geisinger Holy Spirit Cardiology in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He is the director of the Lipid Clinic at Geisinger.



Ronald Lakatos, MD, HU '84, was featured in *Becker's Spine Review's* "Orthopedic Surgeons to Know." He is affiliated with OhioHealth Orthopedic Surgeons in Columbus, Ohio.

A. Keith Levinson, MD, MCP '84, a urologist, was recognized as one of Atlanta's Top Doctors in *Atlanta* magazine's July 2018 issue. He practices with Georgia Urology in the Decatur office.

Joseph J. (JJ) Morgan, MD, HU '84, is a professor and member of the medical cannabis education faculty at University of the Sciences, a guest scientist at William Paterson University, and a cannabis industry and cannabinoid biotech consultant, following a 30-year career in pharma. He has a U.S. patent pending for cannabinoids and terpenes to treat organophosphate toxicity, including from nerve agents sarin and VX, which is licensed to Nexien. He is a member of the American Academy of Cannabinoid Medicine. He credits his Hahnemann pathology mentor, Sheila M. Katz, MD, for his love of original research.

Frank Lamm, MD, HU '85; Radiation Oncology Residency, HU, has joined the radiation oncology team at Frontier Cancer Center in Billings, Montana, after 13 years of practice in Seattle.



Ronald Poropatich, MD, HU '85, was profiled in *Pittsburgh Magazine*. He is the executive director of the Center for Military Medicine Research at the University of Pittsburgh, the first center of its kind dedicated to seeking breakthroughs in medicine for wounded service members. He also serves as a professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and senior adviser for telemedicine at UPMC.

Joanne B. Dragun, MD, HU '88, a radiation oncologist and former cancer nutritionist, is the author of a new book, *Listening to Cancer* (Dorrance, 2018). She received her undergraduate degree in home economics from Drexel in 1972.

Kathleen Ann Shelton, PhD Microbiology and Immunology, HU '89, was appointed vice president and chief technology officer of FMC Corporation.

'90s

James P. Tursi, MD, MCP '90, joined Antares Pharma as executive vice president, head of research and development, and chief medical officer. Previously, he was the CMO of Aralez Pharmaceuticals and its predecessor POZEN.

Noah L. Rosenberg, MD, MCP '93, was appointed chief medical officer at Retrophin, Inc., where he will oversee the clinical development of the company's product pipeline. He joined Retrophin, headquartered in San Diego, from Medimetriks Pharmaceuticals.

John Whyte, MD, HU '93, MPH, has been appointed chief medical officer at WebMD. He joined WebMD in August from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where he was the director of professional affairs and stakeholder engagement at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. He previously served as the chief medical expert and vice president for health and medical education at the Discovery Channel.



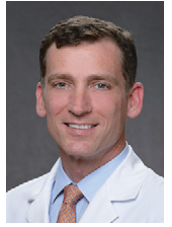
Samina Wahhab, MD, HU '95, and her plastic and reconstructive surgery practice were highlighted in *Lehigh Valley Style*. She was named the leading aesthetic physician and the leading cosmetic surgeon in the 2018 Who's Who in Business guide to the Lehigh Valley.

Sandra Lee, MD, HU '98, a dermatologist, was featured in an article on PhillyVoice.com about her show, "Dr. Pimple Popper," which debuted its new season July 11 on TLC.

Todd Perkins, MD, HU '98, a partner with Integrated Dermatology, joined Foxhall Dermatology, a new addition to Integrated Dermatology in Washington, D.C.

'00s

David J. Lesnik, MD, MCPHU '00, has joined Tufts Medical Center Community Care in Melrose, Massachusetts, as director of thyroid surgery. He was previously with Massachusetts Eye and Ear Associates in Stoneham.



Erum N. Ilyas, MD, MCPHU '01, a dermatologist, has developed a sun-protective clothing line for women, AmberNoon.

Robert Hyun Cho, MD '04; Orthopedic Surgery Residency '09, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon and chief of staff of Shriners for Children Medical Center Pasadena, has been named to the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America board of directors as Communications Council chair. Cho completed his fellowship training at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine in conjunction with Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego. He served as the chief of staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children Los Angeles prior to its move to a brand new medical center in Pasadena.



Christopher Drumm, MD '06, a family physician, has started a humorous podcast, "Doc and the Deacon," with a friend who is a deacon at a local church (docandthedeacon.com). The idea is to "show that the people behind the collar and the white coat are human. That you are not alone in questioning religion and googling medical questions weeks before making a doctor's appointment." Drumm practices with Norristown Family Physicians, an affiliate of the Einstein Healthcare Network. He was named a Top Doc in 2018 by *Philadelphia* magazine.



Philip J. Brondon, MD; MS Biological Science '07, a gastroenterologist, joined the medical staff at Central Carolina Hospital and the practice of Mid-Carolina Gastroenterology in Sanford, North Carolina.

United in Fandom

A quartet of Hahnemann University graduates from the classes of 1993 and 1994 reunited in Nashville to watch the Florida Gators in a thrilling comeback victory over the Vanderbilt Commodores, 37-27. The group included **Elmer G. Pinzon, MD, HU '94, MPH** (center), and **Drs. Mike Addonizio** (second from left), **Jack Lee** (far right) and **Baktash Bootorabi** (inset), all **HU '93**, as well as some non-alumni friends who wanted in on the fun. Next year? Gators vs. LSU in Baton Rouge. Stay tuned.



Frank J. Pompo, MD '07, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in joint replacement surgery, has joined Litchfield Hills Orthopedic Associates in Torrington and Bristol, Connecticut. He completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Toledo Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio.

Nicole Tyer, MD '07, joined Greenwich Hospital in Greenwich, Connecticut, as the assistant program director for the Internal Medicine Residency program. She completed her residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where she served as chief resident, followed by one year of clinical endocrinology at UCLA Medical Center. Before joining Greenwich Hospital, Tyer held an academic appointment at Weill Cornell College of Medicine in New York City and worked as a general internist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical Associates.

'10s

Sandy Baker, MLAS '10, senior compliance administrator, Research Integrity & Assurance, Princeton University, received the Dr. Harry Rozmiarek Award from the Delaware Valley Branch of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science. The purpose of the award, which is to be used for a trip to the AALAS national meeting, is to promote technician authorship. (See photo on page 14.)

Carlton Fenzl, MD '10, an ophthalmologist, has joined the medical staff at OSF HealthCare Holy Family Medical Center in Monmouth, Illinois. He practices with Eye Surgeons Associates in Rock Island. He completed his fellowship in cornea and refractive surgery at the University of Utah Moran Eye Center in Salt Lake City.

Emily Reimold, MLAS '10, see page 14.

Tanvi Khurana, MD '12, a gastroenterologist, joined the medical staff at Attleboro Gastroenterology Associates in Attleboro, Massachusetts. She completed her internal medicine residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and a fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at Norwalk Hospital-Yale University.

Steven Morales, MD '12, joined Lancaster Radiology Associates in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as a diagnostic radiologist. He specializes in interventional radiology. He completed his residency at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and his fellowship at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Justin R. Overcash, MD '12, joined Lancaster Radiology Associates in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as a diagnostic radiologist. He specializes in breast imaging radiology. He completed his residency at Einstein Medical Center and his fellowship at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University.

Kristen Whitaker, MD '12, has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Genetics at Fox Chase Cancer Center. She completed her residency in internal medicine at George Washington University Hospital and a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of Chicago, with a focus in breast cancer and clinical genetics. She is a 2008 graduate of the Drexel Pathway to Medical School program.

Collin Hair, MD '13, joined the medical staff of Geisinger as a pediatric ophthalmologist and will be seeing patients in Wilkes-Barre and Forty Fort, Pennsylvania. Following his ophthalmology residency at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, he completed a pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Hair earned his BS from Drexel's School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems in 2009.

Kelli R. Braightmeyer, MD '14; Drexel/Hahnemann OB/GYN Residency '18, has joined the medical staff at the Women's Health Center of Lebanon, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Anne Verlangieri, MD '14, wrote an article, "Anaphylaxis: The Most Severe and Life-Threatening Allergic Reaction," for the *Wilmington Star News*. She is an emergency medicine physician at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina, and Pender Memorial Hospital in Burgaw, North Carolina.

Continued...

Plastic Surgery: The Future

Recent alumni, all plastic surgery residents, met up at Plastic Surgery The Meeting 2018, the annual meeting of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, held September 28-October 1 in Chicago. From left to right, **Drs. Nathan Miller '13, Michael Mirmanesh '14, Sameer Massand '17 and Demetrius Coombs '17**. Miller is at Lehigh Valley Network; Mirmanesh is at UC Davis; Massand is at Penn State; and Coombs is at the Cleveland Clinic.



She completed her residency training in emergency medicine at East Carolina University/Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, where she was chief resident.

Maurice Hinson, MD '15, is an attending physician in the observation unit at NYU Emergency Medicine and an instructor in the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Emergency Medicine at NYU School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. During residency, Hinson founded the Black and Latino Men in Medicine at NYP/Weill Cornell, which has continued after his departure, as has the Drexel Mentoring and Pipeline Program he founded during medical school. He is a 2011 graduate of the Drexel Pathway to Medical School.

Omoyemi Idowu, MS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences '15, is a third-year student at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Lauren Hollifield, MS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences '16, a medical student at the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Medicine, was one of three women interviewed by *Las Vegas Woman* magazine about their diverse paths to membership in UNLV School of Medicine's inaugural class.

Sherice Simpson, MS '17, see pages 11 (Erinle), 15.

Tanu Singh, PhD Molecular & Cell Biology & Genetics '17, is first author of "Opposing Action of Hedgehog and Insulin Signaling Balances Proliferation and Autophagy to Determine Follicle Stem Cell Lifetime," published in *Developmental Cell* (September 6 online ahead of print). The senior author is **Alana O'Reilly, PhD**, adjunct faculty in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. Singh is a postdoctoral fellow at Fox Chase Cancer Center in the laboratory of Jeffrey Peterson, PhD, who is also an adjunct faculty member.

Faith Witherspoon, MLAS '17, see page 17.



We want to hear from you. Email medical.alumni@drexel.edu or call toll-free 888.384.7237. Website: drexel.edu/medicine/alumni

Former Residents and Fellows

(alphabetical)

Anjan Chatterjee, MD; Neurology Residency, MCP '86, was tapped to lead the Penn Center for Neuroaesthetics, launched in June. He is chair of neurology at Pennsylvania Hospital and the Elliott Professor of Neurology in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Emilie Cheung, MD; Drexel/Hahnemann Orthopedic Surgery Residency '05, an orthopedic surgeon at Stanford Medicine in Redwood City, California, was featured in the article "Orthopedic Surgeon to Know: Emilie Cheung of Stanford Medicine" in *Becker's Spine Review*. She is an associate professor of orthopedic surgery, and shoulder and elbow service chief at Stanford University.

Marla Gold, MD; Internal Medicine Residency, MCP '86; Infectious Diseases Fellowship, MCP '88, dean emerita of Drexel's Dornsife School of Public Health, was named chair of the board of directors of MANNA. She has served as board vice chair and as co-chair of the organization's Strategic Initiatives Committee.

Gela Mchedlishvili, MD; Internal Medicine Residency, MCP '96, a nephrologist, has received his MBA with a concentration in health care management from York College of Pennsylvania. He practices with WellSpan Health in York and is the site director of WellSpan Nephrology, as well as director of the DaVita dialysis unit and York Hospital acute dialysis unit.

Anil Nanda, MD; Neurosurgery Residency, HU, was appointed joint chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and New Jersey Medical School, both part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He will also serve as the senior vice president for neurosurgical services at RWJBarnabas Health.

Alison Schneider, MD; Drexel/Hahnemann Gastroenterology Fellowship '07, a gastroenterologist at the Cleveland Clinic Florida – Weston, was named a "GI Leader to Know" by *Becker's GI & Endoscopy*.

Nominate an Outstanding DUCOM Dragon for an Alumni Award

Each year, the Drexel University College of Medicine Alumni Awards program recognizes exceptional alumni who go above and beyond in their professions, the community and within the University. The DUCOM Alumni Association is asking for your help in nominating a classmate, friend or colleague. If you know someone who would make a great candidate, nominate them by **Friday, January 18, 2019**. And don't forget — you can also nominate yourself! Make your nominations online at <http://bit.ly/DucomAlumniAward> (case sensitive).

In Memoriam

Doris M. Benzenhoefer-Tobin, MD, WMC '56,

January 3, 2018

Francis L. Buono, MD, HU '62, September 24, 2018

Frances S. Campbell, MD, WMC '61, August 24, 2017

Emily Jean Paul Carson, MD, HU '57, April 17, 2018

Fred W. Cook, Jr., MD, HU '44, October 11, 2018

Edward G. Dailey, MD, HU '58, July 2, 2018

Nicholas V. Diaco, MD, HU '64, September 21, 2018

Roy C. Green Jr., MD, HU '61, August 19, 2018

Raymond A. Hansen, MD, HU '63, July 3, 2018

Trevor J.S. Hodge, MD, HU '85, June 22, 2018

Moira Rose Hurley, MD, WMC '69, October 1, 2018

Basil J. Ingemi, MD, HU '57, August 12, 2018

Rosaline Joseph, MD, WMC '53, March 1, 2018

James B. Kahl, MD, HU '58, December 25, 2017

Robert E. Leber, MD, HU '61, September 25, 2018

David Eli Lessin, MD, HU '64, August 28, 2018

Ruth L. Marcucci, MD, WMC '55, September 17, 2018

Shirley Neal-Parker, MD, HU '79, April 20, 2018

Peter H. Neumann, MD, HU '58, September 20, 2018

Ann Louise Ramage-Berkoski, MD, MCP '81,

September 30, 2018

Jonathan Y. Richmond, PhD, HU '68, June 27, 2018

Marvin E. Rosenthale, PhD, HU '60, August 13, 2018

Herman D. Rudnick, MD, HU '43, August 19, 2018

Mark Singer, MS, HU '78, November 2018

Peggy-Jeanne St. Clair, MD, WMC '53, October 22, 2018

John D. Sten, MD, HU '71, June 12, 2018

H. Randolph Tatem III, MD, HU '63

Ariadne Eros Toczek, MD, WMC '55, September 16, 2017

Adam G. Trybus, MD, HU '66, May 22, 2018

Thomas Brooks Wheeler, MD, MCP '87,

September 18, 2018



Perry Black, MD, former chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Hahnemann University, and professor of neurosurgery at Drexel University College of Medicine, died on October 28. He was 88. Born in Montreal, he attended

medical school at McGill University and trained in neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins. He was appointed to the neurosurgery faculty at Hopkins until he was recruited to Hahnemann in 1979. His research focused on malignant brain tumors and spinal cord injuries. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in recognition of his many contributions to the organization. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Phyllis; their children, Daniel, Julie and Amy; and their families.



Edwin (Ned) N. Freeman, MD, HU '55, passed away on June 29 at his home in South Hadley, Massachusetts. He was 88. After completing his residency in psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center, he joined

the faculty there, as well as at Strong Memorial Hospital. He completed his training in psychoanalytic medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in 1971. He was passionate about teaching psychiatry residents and received several teaching awards. He also worked in private practice until his retirement in 2009. In 2016, he was appointed professor emeritus of psychiatry at the University of Rochester. He is survived by his wife, Arden Freeman; their children, James Freeman, MD, HU '88, Laurie Freeman Boccaccio, David Freeman and Amy Freeman; and their families.

Kenneth Friedberg, MD, HU '61, of Atlanta, formerly of Philadelphia and Harrington Park, New Jersey, died on August 9 at the age of 83. He practiced as an internist in Englewood, New Jersey, for 47 years and taught medical students at Columbia University and later in Atlanta. He served as a physician in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gloria Gelfond Friedberg; their children, Eric Friedberg, MD, HU '93; Marc Friedberg, MD; Lisa Rubin, PhD; and Curt Friedberg; and their families; and his brother, Bernard Friedberg, MD, HU '62.



Burton J. Landau, PhD, emeritus professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology and former associate dean for medical education, passed away on October 23. He joined Hahnemann Medical College in 1967, after

earning his PhD at the University of Michigan, and retired from Drexel College of Medicine in 2013. In the interim, he taught and mentored graduate students, medical students and postdocs, and created a broad array of courses and workshops. A member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, he received many awards, such as the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Elias Abrutyn mentoring award from his peers. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ellen Segal Landau, their sons Jim and Richard, five grandchildren and a great-grandson.



Anna C. O'Riordan, MD, HU '57, died on August 22 at the age of 86. She retired in 2017 as associate professor of pediatrics at the College of Medicine and attending cardiologist at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, where she completed her residency and fellowship. She and her late husband, Joseph P. O'Riordan, MD, HU '57, met and married in medical school. From 1964 to 1967, she served as chief for maternal and child health at the Naval Hospital on Guam, where he was stationed, and acting director of the Guam Department of Public Health. A member of Alpha Omega Alpha, she received many other honors and served on several boards. She is survived by their children, John F. O'Riordan, Joseph P. O'Riordan, Catherine A. O'Riordan, Patricia Singer, Mary Margaret Millhouse, and Michael D. O'Riordan, and their families.

Memorial donations may be made to the Joseph P. and Anna C. O'Riordan Scholarship Fund at Drexel University Office of Institutional Advancement, Box 8215, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Barbara Williams, former archivist at the College and a historian of homeopathy, passed away on September 28. She joined the staff of Hahnemann Medical College as a librarian in 1958 and became the first archivist for the Hahnemann collection in 1977. She continued as an archivist for the medical school under the name MCP-HU and then Drexel.



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

College of
Medicine

1505 Race Street, MS 484
Philadelphia, PA 19102

drexel.edu/medicine

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage

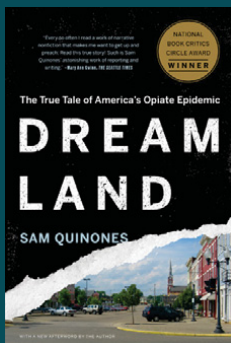
PAID

Philadelphia, PA

Permit # 5600

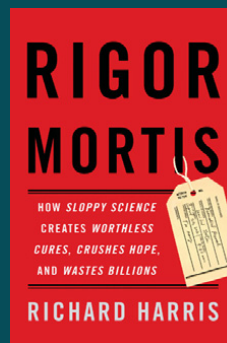
BACK STORY

Here are three books recommended by Michael Lauer, MD, director for extramural research at the National Institutes of Health, during his address as the Discovery Day keynote speaker.



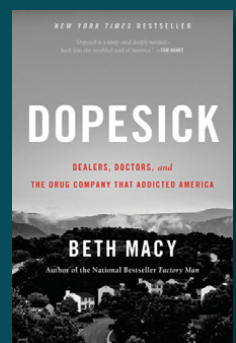
"Dreamland will give you a sense of why we are all so alarmed."

Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quinones (Bloomsbury Press, 2016).



"I almost think this book should be required reading."

Rigor Mortis: How Sloppy Science Creates Worthless Cures, Crushes Hope, and Wastes Billions by Richard Harris (Basic Books, 2017)



Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America by Beth Macy (Little, Brown, August 2018)