

## HIV Treatment: Delivering Hope

It has been nearly four decades since HIV became a major threat to public health worldwide. Since then, researchers have developed highly effective treatments that are enabling people with HIV to live longer with a better quality of life.

In fact, studies have found that people who take antiretroviral therapy daily and achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load do not sexually transmit the virus to others. This concept (sometimes called “treatment as prevention”) has led to a global

### UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE



campaign: Undetectable = Untransmittable, or U=U. It is based on an overwhelming body of clinical evidence, according to officials at the National Institutes of Health, and has been endorsed by 872 government agencies and NGOs from 98 countries around the world.

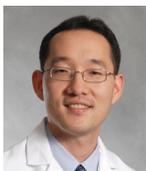
“U=U is important because it is a message of hope that is empowering to people living with HIV,”

explains Amy Althoff, MD, assistant professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, who provides specialized HIV care at Drexel’s Partnership Comprehensive Care Practice in Philadelphia. “It means people living with HIV can have a sexual relationship without fear of transmission and be open to the possibility of conceiving children without alternative means of insemination. That makes a huge difference in their lives, dramatically reducing the shame and stigma they feel and encouraging them to start and stay on treatment.”



Dr. Althoff

The Partnership, which celebrated 25 years last fall, follows about 1,600 patients living with HIV. The practice offers one-stop, multidisciplinary care that includes case managers, clinical research services, nutritional counseling, a behavioral health specialist, an on-site lab and assistance with pharmacy issues. Last year, the practice achieved viral suppression in 85 percent of its patient population; their next goal is 90 percent.



Dr. Lee

The Partnership also treats many patients who are co-infected with HIV and hepatitis C. “Screening for hepatitis C has become a standard of care for HIV-infected patients,” says Dong Heun Lee, MD, interim chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine. “We’ve found about 14 percent of our patients test positive for hepatitis C antibodies, significantly higher than the 2 percent found in the general population.”

Aggressive screening and treatment pay off: During the past two years, the clinic has treated hepatitis C virus successfully in 90 percent of its co-infected patients; about 10 percent are still to be treated. “Very soon we will have eradicated HCV in our clinic,” Lee says.

### Candidates for Kidney Transplant

Another challenge faced by about one-third of people living with HIV is kidney disease. “HIV-infected patients are three times more likely to develop kidney failure than the general population,” notes Lee.



Another great show at the Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert



Well-deserved awards honor standout students



Writing and playing music — it’s more than entertainment

# Contents

HIV Treatment: Delivering Hope . . . . . 1  
Destination Excellence . . . . . 3  
Kudos: Highly Cited Papers . . . . . 5  
Match Day . . . . . 9  
Music & Medicine . . . . . 19  
Back Story: Floral Anatomy . . . . . 28

## NEWS & EVENTS

VIP visit, Faculty Launch,  
Explore & Serve Day . . . . . 6-11

## WHAT WE'RE DOING

Publications, collaborations,  
awards and honors . . . . . 12-18

## ALUMNI NOTES

Class notes, neuroscience award . . . . . 20-26

Calendar . . . . . 13

In Memoriam . . . . . 27

# pulse

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1505 Race Street, MS 484  
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### Danielle Kane

Executive Director  
Marketing & Communications

### Jean Tracy

Editor

### Heidi Karl

Art Director

### Contributing writers:

Adrienne Hovey, Gina Myers, Nancy West

### Editorial Advisory Council:

Joris Beld, PhD, Danielle Kane,  
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](mailto: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](mailto:CoM_Pulse@drexel.edu)

[drexel.edu/medicine](http://drexel.edu/medicine)  
[drexelmedicine.org](http://drexelmedicine.org)



# On to the Future

We have just welcomed the medical students of the Class of 2023. The White Coat Ceremony, our initial bookend, once again took place at Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center, this time with our incoming Dean, Charles B. Cairns, MD, presiding. This wonderful site has served for

many years as the venue for the last bookend, the Commencement Ceremony. The journey now begins!

I am looking forward to a sabbatical year after I step down as Dean. I hope to sharpen my teaching skills, familiarize myself with new technologies and work towards a successful re-entry as a faculty member.

I won't have the opportunity to know the Class of 2023 the way I knew prior classes. However, I know that, like their 2019 counterparts, many are the first generation in their families to go to college or earn a professional degree. Our students come from all over the country and — following our tradition — from all kinds of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Several of our 2019 graduates were born outside the United States

and immigrated as children or teenagers. The College of Medicine's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies includes international students and U.S. residents who are citizens of other countries. We recognize that no human-made impediment will subdue purpose, strength of spirit and the yearning for opportunity. Our student body presents a beautiful portrait of America today.

I thanked the Class of 2019 at Commencement for sharing themselves with our College and University. As alumni, they will carry our name into new places and do us proud. To the Class of 2023, I say thank you for entrusting us with your education — you are our next step into the future.

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



Daniel V. Schidlow, MD

**Our student  
body presents a  
beautiful portrait  
of America today.**

## Recruit, Retain, Release

As a person who is underrepresented in medicine, I feel a responsibility to continue in an academic career so I have an opportunity to make an impact — to focus on programs that create opportunities for those who would otherwise not have them. I think of it as the three Rs at every level of medical education: there's recruitment, retention and then release (to the next level or goal after school).

The first step is creating an environment where you're able to recruit. That means increasing institutional awareness of the importance of efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion. Data show diverse groups are actually higher functioning. They have better outcomes, which are directly related to better results in patient care. One of the great things about Drexel's College of Medicine is that the spirit of its predecessor schools, Woman's Medical College and Hahnemann Medical College, continues in the commitment to access, community-based service, and leadership development for underrepresented groups.

You can't overstate the importance of optics. People make decisions based on nonverbal communication. People of color will decide where to apply based on what your website looks like. Are other people of color there? Does anything say there's a sense of belonging? I have African-American men in my residency program. But it's not a coincidence. I'm an African-American man. The optics say, "This will be a safe place for me to train."

### Being There

We do a number of things to support retention. The first is *presence*: being available, mentoring, offering shadowing opportunities, taking the time to form personal relationships. In the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, we connect students with physicians who are similar in some capacity. Creating an environment where students feel supported and encouraged is important because medical school can be incredibly isolating. The more ways we find for our students to engage and feel supported, the more likely they are to have better outcomes.

There are always going to be missteps. Another aspect of our job is supporting students so that a small misstep doesn't turn into something they can't recover from. That's where regular engagement becomes crucial. There are two phases to medical school: preclinical and clinical. It takes two very distinct skill sets to be successful in each. We focus on both areas because what it takes to succeed on a test isn't the same as what it takes to perform on the floor.

In terms of release, helping people achieve their goals not only helps with retention, it also puts them in a position to give back as they move ahead. Whether it's someone who wants to go into orthopedic surgery or someone who's looking for a new opportunity to

do research, it's our mission to make those connections and to prepare them for their next step. I feel like we have a network across the country that extends from this school. We're never more than a phone call or two away from connecting any student with a mentor, adviser or colleague who can help them achieve their next level of success.

A number of factors, both active and historic, contribute to the challenges African-American boys and men face in making it through all levels of school. Some of those challenges are well documented — the history of oppression, barriers to access, lack of early role models. They continue to haunt this specific subset going forward. Another challenge is that many of the things young men receive positive feedback for in the African-American community are not the things that go along with long-term academic success. They are lauded for achievements in athletics, performing arts, acquisition of material things. Being a physician is all about delayed gratification.

African-American males are not a monolith, though. There's complexity in how we define *African American* in our culture. There are African Americans who are descendants of slaves. There are African Americans who are first- and second-generation immigrants from the Caribbean and from Africa. Trying to bolster the representation of all those groups, our focus has to be multifactorial. When we talk about early identification programs, pipeline programs, the Drexel Pathway

• *continued on page 5*



**Leon McCrea, MD, MPH, program director, Family Medicine Residency, and associate professor, Family, Community & Preventive Medicine**

# HIV Treatment

• *continued from the cover*

Kidney transplantation for HIV-infected patients is an option. College of Medicine faculty providers have completed 120 transplants in which HIV-infected patients received an HIV-negative kidney, but the supply of organs from HIV-negative donors has been limited. However, transplantation of organs from HIV-positive donors to HIV-positive patients has been possible since 2015, when rules under the federal HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act went into effect.

"With HIV-positive organs available for transplant, HIV-infected patients don't have to wait as long for kidney transplants, and they will have a greater chance of living longer," Lee says. "The outcome for an HIV-infected patient receiving an HIV-positive organ appears to be similar to the outcome with an HIV-negative organ. We need to reach out to HIV-infected patients who develop kidney failure, so they can be evaluated and put on the active transplant list while there is still time to help them. Patients often wait too long to come for evaluation, sometimes because their provider thought HIV was a contraindication for transplant."

## Innovative Perinatal Programs

The Partnership also specializes in care for pregnant women with HIV, handling about one-third of all births to HIV-infected mothers in Philadelphia last year, according to Gregg Alleyne, MD, an associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and chief gynecologist at the practice.



Dr. Alleyne

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been a major public health success. With the institution of highly active antiretroviral therapy, physicians have been able to suppress viral loads and reduce transmission to 1 percent or less. In Philadelphia, outcomes have been even better, with zero mother-to-child transmissions in the past two years.

"Drexel started one of the few programs in the country with a multidisciplinary approach to this patient population that includes perinatal case management, mental health, infectious disease and ob-gyn high-risk specialists all working with the patient simultaneously," says Alleyne. "We focus first on finding out what's happening in our patients' lives — what barriers they face in getting to their appointments and taking their meds. We help them address those issues. Our patient satisfaction score exceeds 90 percent."

## Support Groups and Peer Mentors

To keep HIV-infected pregnant women engaged in care, the practice has been piloting a prenatal group program. During monthly facilitated sessions, HIV-infected mothers-to-be share experiences and develop a support system. The

current aim is to help patients maintain undetectable viral loads for at least one year after delivery. "The program is working really well, and we look forward to recruiting more patients," Alleyne says.

The Partnership is also participating in a peer mentor program that pairs HIV-infected mothers with HIV-infected expectant mothers. Alleyne is the principal investigator at Drexel for the multisite NIH study. "We hope that the intervention of peer mentors teaching and supporting expectant moms will keep them engaged in care," he notes.

After HIV-positive mothers deliver, the Partnership's perinatal case manager remains available to them for a full year. She ensures that postpartum moms set up an appointment with their primary HIV care provider before they even leave the hospital. She also accompanies them to pediatric visits and helps them deal with other needs, such as housing and mental health issues.

## Telemedicine Could Lower Barriers to Care

Some people infected with HIV feel a stigma about going to the doctor; others find a number of barriers to care.



Dr. Szep

Telemedicine could be a solution. Led by Zsofia Szep, MD, MSCE, medical director of the Partnership and an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, a telemedicine initiative in the Partnership will also serve as a pilot program for all of Drexel Medicine.

"Our patient population has a hard time keeping appointments," Szep says. "Some may not come in because they're not dealing well with their HIV diagnosis. Others work or live far away. Also, because of the effectiveness of antiretroviral drugs, our patients are aging. We have some in their 70s and 80s who have trouble coming to appointments for logistical reasons. Some of our patients are bed-bound. Some need to be seen more frequently because of difficulties with medication. For all of these reasons, I thought telemedicine might be a reasonable intervention."

For a telemedicine visit, the health care provider uses a laptop computer with a camera and HIPAA-compliant Zoom software. The patient participates by accessing Drexel's Zoom website on a computer or by downloading free Zoom software to their smartphone. When lab work is needed, patients can go to a nearby lab and have the test results sent to their Partnership provider.

During the three-month pilot, Szep hopes to increase engagement in care for Partnership patients.

"Our multidisciplinary clinic is uniquely suited to pilot telemedicine for Drexel," notes Szep. "All of our providers and staff can reach out to patients as needed. I hope this will translate into use in other Drexel practices as well and become part of routine care."

**"Our patient satisfaction score exceeds 90 percent."**

# Kudos to Authors of Highly Cited Papers

Their articles ranked in the top 1 percent by citations

Seven College of Medicine researchers published “highly cited” papers in 2018, according to Clarivate Analytics. These are papers that *rank in the top 1 percent by citations* for field and publication year in the company’s indexing platform, Web of Science. Here we recognize the College of Medicine authors and their highly cited journal articles:

**Mandy Binning, MD**, assistant professor and stroke director, Department of Neurosurgery: “TREVO Stent-Retriever Mechanical Thrombectomy for Acute Ischemic Stroke Secondary to Large Vessel Occlusion Registry,” *Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery*.

**Pragnya Das, PhD**, postdoctoral researcher, Department of Pediatrics: “Macrophages: Their Role, Activation and Polarization in Pulmonary Diseases,” *Immunobiology*.

**Jeffrey B. Hoag, MD**, associate professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine: “Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Pulmonary Guidelines: Use of Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator Modulator Therapy in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis,” *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*.

**Anthony P. Mannarino, PhD**, professor, Department of Psychiatry: “A Randomized Clinical Trial Comparing Individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Child-Centered Therapy for Child Anxiety Disorders,” *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*.

**Santiago Munoz, MD**, Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology: “Extracorporeal Cellular Therapy (ELAD) in Severe Alcoholic Hepatitis: A Multinational, Prospective, Controlled, Randomized Trial,” *Liver Transplantation*.

**David Reich, MD**, professor and vice chair, Department of Surgery: “Extracorporeal Cellular Therapy (ELAD) in Severe Alcoholic Hepatitis: A Multinational, Prospective, Controlled, Randomized Trial,” *Liver Transplantation*.

**Erol Veznedaroglu, MD**, professor and the Robert A. Groff Chair in Neurosurgery, Drexel Neurosciences Institute: “TREVO Stent-Retriever Mechanical Thrombectomy for Acute Ischemic Stroke Secondary to Large Vessel Occlusion Registry,” *Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery*.

## Destination Excellence

• *continued from page 3*

to Medical School, and STEM, then we also have to talk about the importance of encouraging African-American male medical students to commit to careers in academic medicine. Where are your role models coming from?

Those of us who have the opportunity need to give back. We have to say: *I’m going to serve on admissions committees. I’m going to allow folks to shadow me. I’m going to do community service.* We have to advocate to break down barriers that affect how applicants are selected. What bias is there in college and medical school admissions tests? Is there a correlation between how someone does on their MCATs and how good they’ll be as a physician? I’d say there’s zero correlation between who I consider to be a high-functioning resident and how well they scored on their board exams.

### Quality of Experience

Sometimes we equate underrepresented groups with poverty, inadequate education or lack of family support. I want to dispel those assumptions. Yes, it’s important not to overburden people who are financially disenfranchised, but I don’t want to

characterize people of color as a group who can only matriculate at your institution if you give them a scholarship. What’s more important is the quality of the educational opportunity.

Either way, we do need alumni support for our efforts! In addition to scholarships, financial resources can enhance what we offer in the form of pipeline programming, funded research opportunities, support for electives, and housing. How amazing would it be, for instance, if for every student going through our Drexel Pathway master’s program, that year of graduate school debt was forgiven? It’s harder to follow your passion when you’re concerned about your bottom line.

I want to underscore that students are looking for quality of educational experience. So it is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are offering the best experience we can. What the College of Medicine is doing in terms of community-based work, the strength of our pipeline program and our efforts in the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion are, to me, unparalleled.

— Leon McCrea II, MD, MPH  
Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

## New Principle for Cancer Therapy Presented by Franklin Institute Laureate

Distinguished immunologist James Allison, PhD, chair of immunology and executive director of the immunotherapy platform at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, presented the 2019 Franklin Institute Laureate Lecture, "Immune Checkpoint Blockade in Cancer Therapy: New Insights, Opportunities and Prospects for Cures," at the College of Medicine on April 10.

Allison was invited to speak in conjunction with receiving the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science from the Franklin Institute. In the months-long interval between the invitation and the lecture, the world learned that Allison had won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Japanese immunologist Tasuku Honjo, MD, PhD, for

**Laureate James Allison, PhD, spent the day at the College of Medicine, meeting with faculty and students in small groups: Noreen Robertson, PhD, associate vice dean for research; Dr. Allison; Bradford Jameson, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; and Kenny Simansky, vice dean for research. Jameson chairs the Life Science Subcommittee of The Franklin Institute's Committee on Science and the Arts, which selects candidates for the awards.**

their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation. "By stimulating the ability of our immune system to attack tumor cells, [they] have established an entirely new principle for cancer therapy," the Nobel Assembly noted in its announcement.

Read more at [nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2018/allison/](http://nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2018/allison/).



## Faculty Launch Takes Off

Faculty Launch, a new year-long leadership and mentoring program for mid-level College of Medicine faculty, got underway in January with the first of four two-day sessions. The inaugural class has 24 members — 16 women and eight men — representing the four basic science departments and nine clinical departments. A corollary goal of the program is to establish a robust interdisciplinary faculty network.

The curriculum includes institutional process improvement, teambuilding/leading teams, strategic finance/

resource management, bias and cultural competency, and more. Each participant carries out an individual FLIP [faculty leadership impact project] during the program. In addition to the January session, the group meets in March, June and October.

All eligible faculty are encouraged to apply for the next class by asking their chair to nominate them for the program. Once nominated, applicants will be asked to write a one-page statement describing their career goals, in particular what they hope to accomplish in the next three years at Drexel and what their FLIP project will focus on.

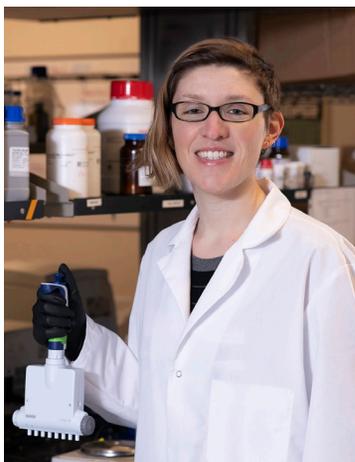


**The first class of Faculty Launch fellows met for their second in-person session in March at the Chubb Conference Center in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania.**

## Postdoctoral Researcher Receives Brody Fellowship

Stephanie Matt, PhD, a second-year postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, is one of two 2019 recipients of a Brody Family Medical Trust Fund fellowship for medical research in incurable diseases. The awardees were announced by the Philadelphia Foundation in May.

The prestigious fellowship, which averages \$70,000 per year, will fund two years of research for Matt, who studies the mechanisms of dopamine-mediated changes in HIV infection of macrophages. Dopamine changes the shape of CCR5, a protein that is often necessary for HIV to enter target cells. The use of illegal drugs — all of which act by



increasing dopamine in the brain — is disproportionately prevalent within the HIV-infected population and can exacerbate HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders. Understanding the relationship between drug-induced dopamine and progression of HIV

infection will generate new therapeutic targets

“For those who have been diagnosed with an incurable disease, these fellowships offer hope and a new perspective,” says Pedro A. Ramos, president and CEO of the Philadelphia Foundation. “We are giving the best and brightest minds in our region the tools they need to do cutting-edge work that will change lives.”

**Stephanie Matt, PhD, holds a multi-channel pipette tool used to test protein levels.**

## Dr. Lane Recognized for Significant Work in Neural Plasticity

The American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair presented the 2019 Molly and Bernard Sanberg Memorial Award to Michael Lane, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy. Given only periodically, the award recognizes significant contributions in the field of neural therapy and repair.

Lane focuses his research on spontaneous and therapeutically enhanced neural plasticity following cervical spinal cord injury. His research team works toward better defining the extent of functional and anatomical plasticity at spinal and supraspinal levels, and developing tests and therapeutic strategies to enhance spontaneous neuroplasticity (repair) and functional recovery.

“Dr. Lane embraces science with a passion and has a genuine commitment to improving the quality of life for those who have endured CNS trauma and disease,” says Paul J. Reier, PhD, Anne and Oscar Lackner Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Florida, where Lane served a postdoctoral fellowship. Giles Plant, PhD, associate professor of neurosurgery at Stanford, notes, “Michael is a true champion for spinal cord patients ... who constantly challenges himself to achieve the

impossible. His work has been truly influential in the treatment of cervical spinal injuries, particularly in the recovery of breathing circuits after injury.”

Lane received the award at the 26th annual meeting of the society, which was held April 25-27 in Clearwater Beach, Florida, where he was also elected the society’s treasurer for 2019-2021. At the meeting, he chaired the session “Spinal Cord Injury.”



**Michael Lane, PhD, and Lyandysha (Lana) Zholudeva, who graduated with her PhD in December 2018, both received awards at the annual meeting of the American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair. (Also see Zholudeva, page 18.)**



For future events, see the Calendar on page 13.

## AAALAC Awards Continued Full Accreditation

The Council on Accreditation of AAALAC International has continued the full accreditation of the Drexel University animal care and use program following a triennial site visit. The site visit was led by a council member emeritus, an honor limited to institutions that have demonstrated a

long-term commitment to achieving and maintaining high standards of laboratory animal care.

The accreditation letter recognizes University Laboratory Animal Resources for an excellent program of animal care. A dozen or more attributes are cited as noteworthy, including the administrative support for the program, and the knowledgeable and engaged veterinary and husbandry staff.

"I am especially proud of the commendation for the high level of animal care," says ULAR Executive Director Richard Huneke, DVM, MPH. "My staff takes pride in ensuring that

animals are maintained with high regard for their welfare."

Huneke himself serves as a council member emeritus for the Council on Accreditation. AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs.

**The ULAR team — their knowledge and engagement were specifically commended by AAALAC.**



## Playing Mind Games

Our own psychiatry residents beat a field of 125 teams from other programs to rank No. 1 in the qualifying round for the American Psychiatric Association's MindGames. Representing Drexel were third-year residents Prasad Joshi, MD, PhD; Aditya Pawar, MD; and Aarya Rajalakshmi, MD.

The participants completed a qualification exam online, and the highest-scoring teams were announced in February at the psychiatry program directors' annual meeting. The top three teams — Drexel University, the University of Arizona, and Stanford University — won places in the playoffs at the APA annual meeting on May 18 in San Francisco. It is reported that the Jeopardy-style quiz game packed the hall, and people were standing four and five deep outside the doors. Whether it was the pressure of live competition or a certain California something, the Drexel team gave way to Stanford, but they earn kudos for that first-round win!



## DUCOM Classical Spring Recital

Members of DUCOM Classical held their spring recital on March 14 at the Settlement Music School's Germantown branch. Solo and ensemble performances by students and faculty, including Dean Schidlow, ranged from pop/rock to opera. Students' paintings were also on display.

**Group leaders and supporters: William Raynor '21; Mark D. Codella, MD, HU'84, president of the Alumni Association; Pranav Konda '22; Marc Hem Lee '22; Kim Kahng, MD, faculty adviser and accompanist; Serim An '22; Ariya Mobaraki '21; and Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD**





## Match Day

When the clock struck noon on Friday, March 15, thousands of medical students around the country opened white envelopes to find out where they would spend the next three to seven years of their lives. There were 38,376 active applicants for a total of 34,950 positions. The PGY-1 match rate was 79.6 percent for all active applicants; 93.9 percent for all allopathic medical school seniors; and 96 percent for our own applicants.

Consistent with the previous two years, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics were the most sought after by Drexel seniors; adding in Family Medicine, the primary care specialties claimed 43.8 percent of our graduates. Anesthesiology and Obstetrics & Gynecology were next in matches, followed by General Surgery and Emergency Medicine.



**Dean Schidlow and friends**



**The envelope please ... Cheryll Hanau, MD, does the honors.**



**Drs. Michael Pasirstein, Valerie Weber (senior vice dean) and Janet Fitzpatrick**



**Class presidents Alex Valiga, Andrea Verghese, Emna Bakillah and Shukri Dualeh**

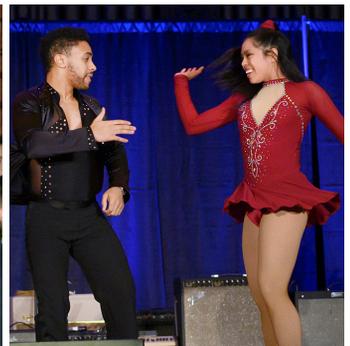
## 26th Annual Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert Raises \$29,000

The 26th Annual Drexel University College of Medicine Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert raised more than \$29,000 for children living with HIV and AIDS. Since its inception, the benefit has raised over \$603,000 for the patients of the Dorothy Mann Center for Pediatric and Adolescent HIV at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

The January 26 concert featured students, faculty and guests providing entertainment with a variety of performances, from classical music to dance, rock music and more. There was also a silent auction and dinner buffet with food donations from restaurants around Philadelphia. PABC is organized annually by Drexel University College of Medicine students.

Second-year medical students Christina Chen and Ryan Williams (below) co-chaired this year's event.

Chen, who also performed with Doctor's Note, the College of Medicine's a cappella group, says, "It's awesome to see your teachers and classmates bust out a hidden talent on stage." Her favorites of the night included Drexel Impulse's Indian dance performance and the student bands, but she adds, "You can't mention the concert without bringing up the Dennis Novack Experience." The perennial favorite, led by Associate Dean of Clinical Education Dennis Novack, MD — who has been known to crowd surf — closed out the night.



## 2019 Updates in Women's Health Talks Available Online

Each year, the Drexel Center for Women's Health selects a group of timely high-interest topics as the focus for its Updates in Women's Health, a half-day conference. "Updates" faculty are expert subspecialists drawn from Drexel and other schools.



Although the 2019 Updates in Women's Health took place in April, recordings of the following presentations are available online:

- *Protecting Women's Hearts: Changing the Script* by Jessica M. Peña, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine, Division of Cardiology
- *Diagnosis and Management of Pelvic Floor Dysfunction:*

*A Gastroenterology Perspective* by Asyia Ahmad, MD, Chief, Division of Gastroenterology

- *Gender Affirming Surgeries — Male to Female and Female to Male* by Kathy Rumer, DO, Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery
- *Latest Updates on Obesity and Nutrition — Panel Discussion* by Stella Volpe, PhD, RD, LDN, Chair, Nutrition Sciences Department, College of Nursing & Health Professions; Emily Levy, MD, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, Division of Sports Medicine; and Elizabeth Renza-Stingone, MD, Department of Surgery

Visit [drexel.edu/medicine/cme](http://drexel.edu/medicine/cme) and select "Seminars, Courses & Conferences" from the left-hand menu.



**Chelsi Nurse presents her poster, "The Impact of Religion on People Living With Chronic Illnesses," to Tenzing Lhamo.**

## Explore & Serve Day

Graduate students in the Division of Pre-medical and Pre-health Programs had the opportunity to showcase their projects in research and community service at the second annual Explore & Serve Day. Held on April 17 in the Bossone Research Center on the University City Campus, the event offered 11 oral presentations and a poster session that included 18 laboratory and clinical research posters, and 12 posters on community service, other volunteer service or independent research. Drexel Provost M. Brian Blake, PhD, gave the keynote address.



**Sam Sayed gives an oral presentation.**

## Al Día Honors Hispanic Top Doctors

Al Día News Media, the Philadelphia-based multi-platform news organization, honored the first Al Día Top Doctors at the Doctors Forum & Reception held last winter at the Union League of Philadelphia. College of Medicine Dean Daniel V. Schidlow, MD, chaired the event's advisory board.

More than 50 health institutions from across the Philadelphia region had been invited to nominate their Latino top physicians for the honor. Roughly half of them participated, and Al Día received some 30 nominations. The members of the advisory board selected four Al Día Top Doctors from the pool of nominees.

Al Día notes that this is the first time a media organization has collaborated with academic medicine to recognize physicians who are increasing diversity in our health care institutions.



## Dr. Hanau Receives National Teaching Award

The national Association of Pathology Chairs has honored Professor Cheryl A. Hanau, MD, the Richard Shuman, MD Chair of the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, with the 2019 Michele Raible Distinguished Teaching Award in Undergraduate Medical Education.

The award was made in recognition of Hanau's outstanding contributions to undergraduate medical education and her stature as a nationally recognized pathology educator. She was commended for her efforts to improve pathology and medical education at the local and national levels, and for the lasting impact her contributions will have not only in medical education, but also in the continuing legacy of her efforts in training individual physicians.

Hanau joined the College of Medicine as an assistant professor at MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine in 1995. Before her appointment as chair she served the College in a number of key positions, including director of education, associate dean for admissions, and program director of the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Residency.



## Student Elected to National Position in SNMA

Third-year medical student Rita Akumuo, MS, was elected national vice president of the Student National Medical Association at the organization's Annual Medical Education Conference in April. During the past year, Akumuo served as chair for the national conference and was responsible for planning the event, which was held in Philadelphia. In her second year of medical school, she was vice president of the Drexel SNMA chapter and also held the position of regional academic affairs liaison for Region VIII (Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Delaware).



In May, *Philadelphia* magazine published its annual list of the region's "Top Doctors" — the top physicians chosen by their peers. Congratulations to the 115 Drexel University College of Medicine faculty members who were named to this year's list: <http://bit.ly/2QOSjt6/>.





**Dr. Aggarwal** **Dr. Z. Ahmed**

**Maliha Ahmed, MD**, internal medicine resident; and **Sandeep Aggarwal, MD**, associate professor of medicine, and **Ziauddin Ahmed, MD**, professor of medicine, both in the

Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, are authors of "Utilization of Arteriovenous Grafts Secondary to Fistula Failure in Patients on Dialysis," published in *Nephrology News & Issues* as the September 2018 cover story.



**Neha Akella**, a PhD candidate in biochemistry, received first prize for best poster at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Breast Cancer Symposium in November 2018 for her presentation of her research "O-GlcNAc Transferase Regulates Breast Cancer Tumor-initiating Cells." She is

doing thesis work in the laboratory of Mauricio Reginato, PhD, professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.



**Peter Baas, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, won a 2018–2019 Drexel University Provost Award for Outstanding Scholarly Productivity.



**Douglas Baird, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, and director of curricular innovation and student success for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, and Larry Milliken, manager of learning partnerships, Drexel University

Libraries, delivered a platform presentation, "Supporting Student Success via Open Educational Resources," at the USciences & Northeast E-Learning Consortium 3.0 Conference on May 14 in Philadelphia. Baird had been awarded a Drexel Library Faculty Fellowship for the semester, and as a fellow, he encouraged faculty to consider the educational and financial benefits for students of open textbooks and other open educational resources.



**Jessica R. Barson, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, presented "Individual Differences in Ethanol Drinking: Role of PACAP in the Thalamic Paraventricular Nucleus" in a Pioneer Session at the Winter Conference on Brain Research 2019 in Snowmass,

Colorado, on January 29. Barson also chaired the session "But Can I Still Ski? — Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury on Emotion and Motivated Behavior," on January 30. Later, at the Experimental Biology 2019 Conference, April 6–9 in Orlando, Florida, Barson co-chaired the session "Effects of Diet on Emotion and Motivated Behavior."



**Sabrina Billings**, a third-year medical student, was awarded a scholarship over the winter from the United Health Foundation/National Medical Fellowships Diverse Medical Scholars Program. She was one of just 32 recipients nationwide.

Scholars must have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to serving medically underserved communities.



**Dr. Bennett**



**Ms. Borczon**

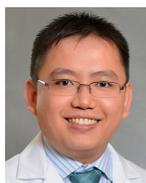
**David Bennett, PhD**, professor of psychiatry, and **Eileen Borczon, MS '18**, a second-year medical student, published "Does Gender Nonconforming Behavior in Early Childhood Predict

Adolescents' Depressive Symptoms?" in *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research* (online February 1).



**Noe Cabello**, now a third-year medical student, received a Hispanic Health Professional Student Scholarship from the National Hispanic Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the National Hispanic Medical Association. He was one of only 11 medical students who received the

award, which was presented at the organization's scholarship gala last fall. In the photo on the cover, Cabello is flanked by (left) Ana Núñez, MD, associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, and Issa DiSciullo, director of the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.



**Alan Chang, MD**, assistant professor of medicine, Division of Endocrinology, was elected to fellowship in the American College of Endocrinology at the annual meeting of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists in April in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of the Drexel/

Hahnemann Internal Medicine Residency and Endocrinology Fellowship programs.

**Soha Chhaya**, neuroscience graduate student, received the top prize for her research poster, "Peripheral Macrophage Recruitment to the Dorsal Root Ganglia Modulates Pain Development After Spinal Cord Injury" at the Gulf Coast Consortia Translational Pain Research Annual Symposia held in Houston, Texas, April 12.



**Michael R. Clancy, MBA, CFP®, CLU**, director of financial planning, Division of Medical Education, is the author of "Planning for Future College Expenses With 529 Accounts," published January 7, by *The New Gastroenterologist*, an e-newsletter for early-career gastroenterologists. (See *The New Gastroenterologist* on the website

*GI & Hepatology News* at [mledge.com/gihepnews](http://mledge.com/gihepnews).)



**Austin A. Coley**, a PhD candidate in the laboratory of Wen-Jun Gao, PhD, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received a 2019 fellowship from the U.S.-Canada Regional Committee of the International Brain Research Organization. The fellowship provides up to \$5,000 to attend national

or international workshops, courses or conferences. Coley presented a poster, "PSD-95 Deficiency Disrupts mPFC Function and Connectivity Leading to Sociability and Cognitive Deficits," at the Gordon Research Conference: Modulation of Neural Circuits and Behavior held May 26–31, in Les Diablerets, Switzerland.



**Dagan Coppock, MD**, assistant professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, received a pilot grant from the Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Center to research "Provider Documentation and Mild Cognitive Impairment in HIV-Infected Subjects."



**Christof J. Daetwyler, MD**, associate professor, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, and developer of online resources for medical education, is a co-author of "What Skills Really Improve After a Flipped Educational Intervention to Train Medical Students and Residents to Break Bad News?" published in the *Journal of Education and Learning*, Vol. 8, No. 3, 2019.



**Megan Detloff, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, was awarded a two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative to validate the role of macrophages in the alleviation of chronic spinal cord injury-

induced pain. Detloff gave an invited talk to the Department of Bioengineering at Clemson University, "Neuro-immune Mechanisms Underlying Exercise-induced Reduction in Neuropathic Pain After Spinal Cord Injury," on January 17, and to the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Louisville, "Early Neuro-immune Mechanisms in the Dorsal Root Ganglia Underlying Spinal Cord Injury-induced Neuropathic Pain," on February 7.



**Jill Farmer, DO, MPH**, assistant professor of neurology and director of the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder program, was elected president of the Philadelphia Neurological Society.



**Itzhak Fischer, PhD**, professor and chair, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, was invited to give a seminar at Emory University's Department of Physiology, "Using Neural Progenitors to Reconnect the Injured Spinal Cord: Past, Present and Future," on May 9.

# Calendar

## August

26 **Vision 2020's Toast to Tenacity**  
Independence Visitor Center, 12–1 p.m.  
Register (free): [vision2020.ficketleap.com/toasttotenacity2019](http://vision2020.ficketleap.com/toasttotenacity2019)

## September

2 **Labor Day**

27 **Women in Medicine & Science**  
New College Building, Geary, 12–1:30 p.m.  
Keynote: Nancy Spector, MD,  
"Achieving Leadership Gender Equity in Medicine"  
Presentation of Phyllis Marciano, MD  
Woman in Medicine Award to Sarah Long, MD  
Contact: Michele Taylor at [mt475@drexel.edu](mailto:mt475@drexel.edu)

## October

22 **New Faculty Orientation**  
New College Building, 3–4:30 p.m.  
Contact: Michele Taylor at [mt475@drexel.edu](mailto:mt475@drexel.edu)

### New Faculty Reception

Philadelphia 201 Hotel, 5:30–7 p.m.  
Contact: Michele Taylor at [mt475@drexel.edu](mailto:mt475@drexel.edu)

## November

7 **Discovery Day:**  
**Our Annual Day of Research**  
Pennsylvania Convention Center  
Contact: Stephanie Schleidt at [ss3946@drexel.edu](mailto:ss3946@drexel.edu)

28 **Thanksgiving**

## Ongoing

### Drexel Medicine Physician Refresher/Re-entry Course

Contact: Cynthia Johnson, 215.762.2580

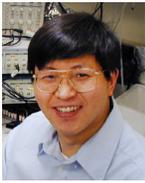
## Save the Date

### A Day With the Newborn, January 31, 2020

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children

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



**Wen-Jun Gao, MD, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, was invited to give a seminar, "Thalamic Control of Cognition and Social Behavior via Prefrontal Cortical Interneurons," at the University of Wyoming's Sensory Biology Center on May 2.

**Andrew Gargiulo**, doctoral student in the laboratory of Jessica R. Barson, PhD, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, won a Student Merit/Junior Investigator Award to present his work at the Research Society on Alcoholism 2019 Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



**Florence Gelo, DMin, NCPsya**, associate professor, Department of Family, Community & Preventive Medicine, is the author of the narrative "Over the Rhône and Into the Night: Just Be Graceful," a feature piece in *Ars Medica: A Journal of Medicine, the Arts, and Humanities*, Vol. 14, No. 1,

2019 ([ars-medica.ca/index.php/journal/article/view/755](http://ars-medica.ca/index.php/journal/article/view/755)).

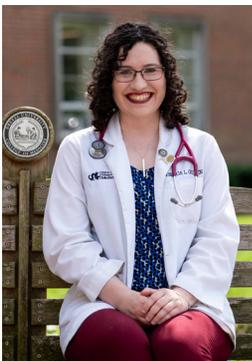


Dr. Giszter

**Simon Giszter, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy; former doctoral student **Qi Yang, PhD**; and postdoctoral fellow **David Logan, PhD**, published a paper, "Motor Primitives Are Determined in Early Development and Are Then Robustly Conserved Into Adulthood,"

in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*.

Giszter, postdoctoral fellow **Taeyo Kim, PhD**, and School of Biomedical Engineering faculty member Yinghui Zhong, PhD, published "Precise Tubular Braid Structures of Ultrafine Microwires as Neural Probes: Significantly Reduced Chronic Immune Response and Greater Local Neural Survival in Rat Cortex" in *IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems and Rehabilitation Engineering*. He was the invited discussant in the panel session "Complex Material Properties of Muscle: Artifacts or Features" at the 29th Annual Neural Control of Movement meeting, held in April 2019 in Toyama, Japan. Giszter also presented new data from doctoral student **Kendall Schmidt**: "Optogenetically Mediated Neuromodulation of Trunk Motor Cortex Paired With Exercise-based Rehabilitation."



**Rebecca Golden, MD '19**, won a 2019 Excellence in Public Health Award from the U.S. Public Health Service. Moreover, Golden was selected as the overall national winner among the nominees from 96 medical schools. Golden was notified in March and received the award during commencement week.



Dr. Dougherty

**Ngoc (Nesta) Ha**, neuroscience PhD candidate, and **Kimberly Dougherty, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published "Spinal Shox2 Interneuron Interconnectivity Related to Function and Development" in *eLife* 7:e42519 (December 31, 2018) and "The Rhythm Section: An Update on Spinal Interneurons Setting the Beat for Mammalian Locomotion" in *Current Opinion in Physiology*, 8:84-93 (April 2019). Dougherty delivered an invited talk, "Using Molecularly-Defined Spinal Interneurons to Gain Insight Into Locomotor Circuit Plasticity After SCI," at the Current Advances in Spinal Cord Injury Research Symposium at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School on May 8.



Dr. Harhay



Dr. Ranganna

**Meera Nair Harhay, MD, MSCE**, associate professor; **Karthik Ranganna, MD**, associate professor;

**Suzanne M. Boyle, MD, MSCE**, associate professor; **Antonia M. Brown, MD**, clinical research assistant;

**Lissa B. Levin Mizrahi, MD**, assistant professor, all in the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, Department of Medicine;

**Thalia Bajakian**, a third-year medical student; and **Drs. Gary Xiao**, assistant professor; **Stephen Guy**, associate professor; **Gregory Malat**, assistant professor; and **David Reich**, professor, division chief and



Dr. Boyle



Dr. Levin Mizrahi



Dr. Xiao

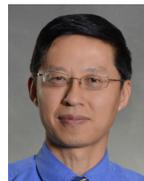


Dr. Guy



Dr. Reich

vice chair, all in the Division of Multiorgan Transplantation, Department of Surgery, published "Association Between Weight Loss Before Deceased Donor Kidney Transplantation and Posttransplantation Outcomes," an original investigation, in *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, in press (online May 21), which was included in a special collection of research published by the journal on the latest developments in kidney transplantation ([bit.ly/2wAeRlo](http://bit.ly/2wAeRlo)).



**J. Steve Hou, MD**, professor in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, is an author of "Flow Cytometric Criteria for Lymph Node Ratings and Staging of Mycosis Fungoides and Sézary Syndrome," published in *Annals of Clinical Pathology*, 6(5):1150, December 11, 2018.



**Ellie Kelepouris, MD**, professor of medicine; chief, Division of Nephrology & Hypertension; director, Nephrology Fellowship program; and associate vice dean for clinical research, received the AXIA Award from the Greek American

Heritage Society. Kelepouris was honored for “Excellence in Medicine and Mentoring” in the society’s celebration of “Extraordinary Greek American Women who have contributed to our rich Hellenic heritage.” The award was presented on March 16.



**J. Yasha Kresh, PhD**, professor and research director, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and professor of medicine, Division of Cardiology, co-authored the book chapter “Cardiophysiology Illustrated by Comparing Ventricular Volumes in Healthy Adult Males and

Females” in *Sex-Specific Analysis of Cardiovascular Function*, edited by Drs. Peter L. M. Kerkhof and Virginia M. Miller (Springer, 2018).

**Michael Lane, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, has received a new research grant from Wings for Life for “Repair of the Chronically Injured Spinal Cord With Cell Therapy.”

Lane, **Tim Himes, PhD**, research assistant professor; **Lana Zholudeva, PhD ’18**, postdoctoral fellow; **Eugene Mironets, PhD ’19**, postdoctoral fellow; **Theresa Connors, MS**, lab instructor; and **Jaki Di Finis, Margo Randelman** and **Cameron Trueblood**, graduate students in neuroscience, all members of the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, were invited to present at the Brain Health Fair at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on May 9. Their presentations introduced students and the general public to the structure and functions of the normal and diseased human brain and spinal cord. The fair was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology.



Dr. Legido



Dr. Goldenthal

**Agustin Legido, MD, PhD**, professor of pediatrics and neurology, and medical director of the Mitochondrial Disease Laboratory at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children; **Michael J.**

**Goldenthal, PhD**, research associate professor of pediatrics and scientific director of the Mitochondrial Disease Lab; **Joseph**

**Melvin, DO**, assistant professor of pediatrics;

**Ignacio Valencia, MD**, associate professor of pediatrics; **Divya Khurana,**

**MD**, professor of pediatrics and neurology; and **Mitzie Grant, PhD**, associate professor of pediatrics and



Dr. Melvin



Dr. Valencia



Dr. Khurana



Dr. Grant

psychiatry, and director of the Pediatric Neuropsychology Service for Drexel Psychiatry and Drexel Pediatrics at St. Christopher’s, presented their research poster “Effect of a Combination of Carnitine, Coenzyme Q10 and Alpha-Lipoic Acid on Mitochondrial Function and Neurobehavioral Performance in Children With Autism Spectrum

Disorder” at the 2018 International Society for Autism Research annual meeting, held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

**Stacia Lewandowski**, a PhD student in the laboratory of Ole Mortensen, PhD, received a pre-doctoral fellowship in pharmacology/toxicology from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation. The award includes a stipend of \$20,000 a year for two years. It is intended to provide support for students in advanced stages of training and thesis research, particularly those “whose research will attempt to integrate information on a drug or chemical’s mechanism of action at the molecular or cellular level with a drug’s effect in a human or laboratory animal.”

**Andrew Matamoros, PhD ’18**; **Veronica J. Tom, PhD**, associate professor; **Di Wu, PhD**, postdoctoral trainee in the Tom Lab; **Yash Rao**, graduate student; and **Peter W. Baas, PhD**, professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published “Knockdown of Fidgetin Improves Regeneration of Injured Axons by a Microtubule-based Mechanism” in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, March 13 (online January 15). Matamoros is now a postdoctoral fellow in the Raymond G. Perelman Center for Cellular & Molecular Therapeutics at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

**Sarita Metzger, MD, MPH**, then a second-year resident in the General Adult Psychiatry program, and **Donna Sudak, MD**, professor and vice chair for education in the Department of Psychiatry, are authors of “Pain Management Education and Training During Psychiatry Residency: A Report on National Progress,” a commentary, in *Pain Medicine*, pnz098 (online May 16). The first author, **Muhammad Hassan Majeed, MD, General Adult Psychiatry Residency ’13**, is an attending psychiatrist with Natchaug Hospital, Hartford HealthCare.



**Olimpia Meucci, MD, PhD**, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, was selected by the National Institute on Drug Abuse for a MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) award for the grant “Role of Chemokines in Neuronal Function and Survival.” The

NIH MERIT program comprises an initial award and the opportunity for a five-year extension, totaling up to 10 years of funding. MERIT awards are designed to provide long-term, stable support to investigators whose research competence and productivity are distinctly superior, and are awarded to fewer than 5 percent of NIH-funded investigators.

**Hemalatha Muralidharan, MS**, a PhD candidate in neuroscience in the laboratory of Peter Baas, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, presented a poster, “KIFC1, a Mitotic Motor Protein Crosslinks Microtubules in a Manner That Opposes Axon Retraction,” in May 2019 at the annual meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, where she tied for third prize in the poster competition. She also presented the poster at Emerging Concepts in

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Neuronal Cytoskeleton, an international meeting held in April 2019 in Villarrica, Chile, and at the American Society for Cell Biology meeting held in December 2018 in San Diego, California.



Dr. Mortensen Dr. Osei-Owusu

**Patrick Osei-Owusu, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Pharmacology & Physiology, is the lead author of "Anti-hypertensive Mechanisms of Cyclic Dipeptide Inhibitor

Ligands for Gq/11 Class G Proteins," published in *Pharmacological Research*, Vol. 141, March 2019 (online January 10). Other authors include **Matthew M. Meleka, DO**, former internal medicine resident; **Alethia Edwards** and **Shelby Dahlen**, doctoral students; **Jingsheng Xia, MD**, research associate; **Ipsita Mohanty, PhD**, and **Shaili Aggarwal, PhD**, postdoctoral fellows; and **Ole V. Mortensen, PhD**, associate professor, all in Pharmacology & Physiology, and collaborators Matthew Medcalf and Kevin D. Moeller, PhD, both in the Chemistry Department at Washington University in St. Louis. The project in the Osei-Owusu Lab was funded by a CURE grant.

**Surya Pandey**, neuroscience doctoral student in the laboratory of Jessica R. Barson, PhD, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, presented "Prevention and Treatment of Problematic Alcohol Drinking" at the third annual Drexel Emerging Graduate Scholars Conference on April 11.



Dr. Qiang Dr. Yu

**Liang Qiang, MD, PhD**, research assistant professor; **Emanuela Piermarini, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow; **Hemalatha Muralidharan**, a PhD candidate; **Wenqian Yu, MD**, research instructor;

**Lanfranco Leo, PhD '17**; **Silvia Fernandes**, a PhD candidate; **Theresa Connors**, lab instructor; **Philip Yates**,

an MD/PhD student; **Michelle Swift**, a PhD candidate; **Lyandysha (Lana) Zholudeva, PhD '18**, postdoctoral fellow; **Michael Lane, PhD**, associate professor; and **Peter Baas, PhD**, professor, all in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy; and **Guillermo Alexander, PhD**, professor of neurology, published "Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia: Gain-of-Function Mechanisms Revealed by New Transgenic Mouse" in *Human Molecular Genetics*, Vol. 28, Issue 7, April 1.



**Margo Randelman**, a PhD candidate in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received a travel award to attend the American Spinal Injury Association in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she received a presentation award for "Intermittent Hypercapnia Training to Improve Respiratory Plasticity Following Cervical Spinal Cord Injury." Randelman also received a travel award to attend and present her work at the 26th annual meeting of the American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair, held April 25–27 in Clearwater, Florida.



**Karthik M. Ranganna, MD**, associate professor of medicine, Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, was honored by the National Kidney Foundation with the Philadelphia NKF Excellence in Care Award. The award was presented March 13 at the Philadelphia NKF Honors Awards Benefit.



**Mauricio Reginato, PhD**, professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, participated in a special phone bank, "Progress and Promise Against Cancer," sponsored

by NBC10, Telemundo 62 and the American Association of Cancer Research. Researchers and physicians fielded calls from Philadelphia-area residents during the event last fall. Reginato was also interviewed by Telemundo 62 about new discoveries in breast cancer treatments.

## Incontinence Research Taps Medicine and Engineering

To study a novel approach to urinary stress incontinence, a cross-campus research team blended the expertise of an interdisciplinary group from the College of Medicine with that of faculty and PhD candidates from the College of Engineering. The investigators included Drs. Natasha Ginzburg and Nima Shah, former fellows in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery; Richard B. Huneke, VMD, director, ULAR; Emily Reimold, MLAS, veterinary technician, ULAR; Owen Montgomery, MD, professor and chair, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology; J. Steve Hou,

MD, professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; and colleagues in Drexel's Department of Materials Science & Engineering — Drs. Alicia S. Kriete (first author), Katsiaryna Prudnikova, Evan R. Phillips, and Michele S. Marcolongo (department head).

Their original research report, "In Vivo Molecular Engineering of the Urethra for Treatment of Stress Incontinence Using Novel Biomimetic Proteoglycans," was published in the *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research Part B: Applied Biomaterials* (online February 19).

**Nimerta K. Sandhu** and **Luke J. Pasick**, both medical students in the Class of 2020, are the lead authors of "Closing the Loop: Strategies and Key Approaches to Initiate, Evaluate, and Expand Student-Run Free Clinics," published in *Free Clinic Research Collective*, Volume 4 (December 2018). Sandhu and Pasick are former board chairs of the Health Outreach Project at Drexel University College of Medicine, one of the largest student-run health outreach programs in the country. The other authors are **Steven Rosenzweig, MD**, director of the Office of Community Experience; **Annette Gadegbeku, MD**, clinical faculty advisor for the Health Outreach Project; and **Caitlin Croke, MA**, project coordinator, and **Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW**, program director, Office of Community Experience.



**Robert T. Sataloff, MD, DMA**, professor and chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, is included in the documentary "Teddy Pendergrass: If You Don't Know Me" (Storyvault Films, available on Showtime). Sataloff gave a talk on "Voice Surgery" as a visiting

professor for the Greater Jacksonville ENT Society on March 14 in Jacksonville, Florida. He was the co-director of the 21st International Workshop on Laser Voice Surgery and Voice Care, held May 17-18 in Paris, France.



**Allan B. Schwartz, MD**, professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension, published two new articles in the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Medical Mystery series. "A President, an Epidemic, and Grand Tour Cut Short" focuses on President James K. Polk, who became ill

on a grand tour of the Southern states, right after leaving the presidency in 1849, and died three months later (December 21, 2018). "Could Supreme Court Justice's Death Have Been Prevented?" is about Justice Antonin Scalia, who died at a Texas resort while on a hunting trip (March 8).



**Aleesha Shaik, MD '19**, who also earned her MPH in Drexel's dual degree program, served as vice chair of the Medical Student Section Governing Council of the AMA for the 2018-2019 term. She is an intern in the Internal Medicine/Primary Care Residency at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

**Melissa Snyder, PhD**, a former postdoctoral fellow, and **Wen-Jun Gao, MD, PhD**, professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, published an invited review, "NMDA Receptor Hypofunction for Schizophrenia Revisited: Perspectives From Epigenetic Mechanisms" in *Schizophrenia Research*, in press (online April 9).

**Kayla Socarras**, a PhD candidate in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, presented her research on Lyme disease to the PA Lyme Resource Network of Montgomery County on January 28.

**Sitara Soundararajan**, now a third-year medical student, is the author of "A Highlight of My Medical School Career," an article about her experience in the Women's Health Education Program that was published in the Winter 2019 issue of *Bucks/Montgomery Physician*, the official publication of the Bucks and Montgomery County Medical Societies.



Dr. Spector



Dr. Thompson

**Nancy D. Spector, MD**, professor of pediatrics, associate dean for faculty development and executive director of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program; and

colleagues in the Department of Pediatrics, **Drs. Sharon Calaman**, professor; **Nicholas Kuzma**, assistant professor; **Kheyandra Lewis**, assistant professor; and **E. Douglas Thompson**, associate professor, in conjunction with the IPASS Study Group, are authors of "Patient Safety After Implementation of a Coproduced Family Centered Communication Programme: Multicenter Before and After Intervention Study" published in the *British Medical Journal* December 5, 2018. The study included all patients admitted to pediatric inpatient units at seven North American hospitals between December 17, 2014, and January 3, 2017.



**Donna Sudak, MD**, professor and vice chair for education in the Department of Psychiatry, was commended by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and the Organization of Program Director Associations for her contributions to the first Program Directors

Competency Summit, a two-day meeting of program directors across the country and across all specialties, to begin the work of creating competencies for successful future program directors. (See also Metzger.)



**Loice Anne Swisher, MD**, clinical associate professor of emergency medicine, was honored by the American Association of Emergency Medicine with the James Keane Award. Named after the association's founder, the award recognizes an individual who has made

an outstanding contribution to the organization. Nominees must have 10 or more years' experience in the clinical practice of emergency medicine. The award was presented at the AAEM's 25th Annual Scientific Assembly, held March 9-13 in Las Vegas.

**Abigail Tami**, a fourth-year medical student, won one of two \$5,000 LGBTQ Leadership Scholarships for female medical students from Women in Medicine for 2019. The scholarship was awarded at the 36th annual Women in Medicine Conference, held August 8-11 in Philadelphia.

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**Daniel Taylor, DO**, associate professor of pediatrics, added two stories to the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Medical Mystery series: "What Caused Baby's Shallow Breathing, Unconsciousness?" (February 1) and "A Baby With Recurring Fevers and a Persistent Mom" (March 29).

He is also the author of two *Inquirer* articles: "ADHD Rates Are Soaring: A Pediatrician Explains What We Should Be Doing About It" (February 6) and "This Philly Pediatrician Always Prescribes Reading to Patients and Parents: Here's Why" (March 19).



**Veronica Tom, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, was a member of the external steering committee for SCI 2020: Launching a Decade for Disruption in Spinal Cord Injury Research, sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and

Stroke and the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, held February 12–13 on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, Maryland. Tom was the Q&A facilitator for the session "Innovating Repair, Plasticity and Regeneration in the Subacute and Chronic Periods."

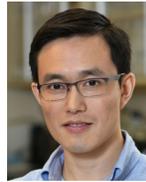


**Thomas Trojjan, MD**, professor of family medicine and chief of the Division of Sports Medicine, has been elected to the board of trustees of the American College of Sports Medicine. Trojjan is the chief medical officer for Drexel Athletics.



**Laura Vearrier, MD, DBioethics**, associate professor of emergency medicine, authored "The Value of Harm Reduction for Injection Drug Use: A Clinical Ethics Analysis," published in the May 2019 issue of the journal *Disease-a-Month*. In addition, she published "What

Are the Ethical Considerations When Prescribing Patients Opioid Medications for Acute Dental Pain?" in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, Vol. 150, Issue 5, May 2019. Also in May, Vearrier presented a webinar, "Understanding the Clinical Ethics of Harm Reduction from a Principlist Perspective," on Loyola Bioethics Live.



**Dong Wang, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, has been awarded an R01 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for "A Raphe-Hippocampus Pathway for Regulation of Memory Specificity During Consolidation."



**Lynn H. Yeakel, MSM**, director of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at the College of Medicine, and founder and president of Vision 2020, received the 2018 Integrity Award from the Philadelphia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Yeakel was honored for her

career of advocacy for women, including the founding of Vision 2020, a national coalition of individuals and organizations in all 50 states working for women's economic, political and social equality in the United States.

**Pablo Huang Zhang, PhD**, research fellow, and **J. Yasha Kresh, PhD**, professor and research director, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and professor of medicine, Division of Cardiology, published "Circulatory Mechanotherapeutics: Moving With the Force" in *Current Cardiology Reports*, October 2018, 20:94. (Describes the current state of advancements in mechanical circulatory support devices. Novel considerations for future MCS designs that impart spiral flow regimes are detailed.)



**Lyandysha (Lana) Zholudeva, PhD '18**, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, received a travel award to attend the American Spinal Injury Association's annual scientific meeting, held April 2–5, in Hawaii. There, she presented a short oral research update,

as well as her poster "Combining Neural Transplantation With Therapeutic Intermittent Hypoxia to Treat the Injured Spinal Cord."

Zholudeva was an invited speaker at the 26th annual meeting of the American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair, held April 25–27 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. She received the inaugural Paul J. Reier Award for Research Excellence in Neurotrauma for her talk, "Combining Neural Transplantation With Therapeutic Intermittent Hypoxia." She also chaired the session "Stroke, Ischemia and TBI." During the meeting, Zholudeva was elected to the society's council for 2019–2022. (Also see page 7.)



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# Music & Medicine: A Band Is Born

Alex Benson, MD '19, and Jared Weiss, MD '19, met during medical school orientation. During their very first conversation, they began talking about their musical interests, a conversation that continued throughout their first year. Finally, Benson asked Weiss, "Do you want to start a band?"

"I looked at him like he had three heads," recalls Weiss. "We were medical students. Who had time for that stuff? But Alex convinced me that it would be a good idea."

They would have a larger goal: to help medical students, physicians, health professionals and patients navigate the medical field and deal with their frustrations and challenges.

"Music has always been a creative outlet and emotional release for me," says Weiss. "I hoped that others might find an outlet for their stress and burnout through our music. We named the band 'Medical Student Survival Guide,' and we set about recruiting members."

They found Wesley Goodman-Levy, Class of 2020, through a Facebook ad. Coincidentally, Weiss had been tutoring Goodman-Levy in anatomy prior to interviewing him as a potential band mate. "I was dumbfounded that two worlds could collide like that at medical school," says Goodman-Levy.

The group added a fourth member, Mitchell Parker, an MD/PhD student, and performed for the first time in 2017 at the College of Medicine's annual Pediatric AIDS Benefit Concert. Since then, the band has performed each year at the benefit — with musicians rotating in and out in sync with their clinical rotations. Other members have included Brendan McCreath, Class of 2021, and Orchideh Abar, William Foes, Vinesh Anandarajan and Dave Fitzgerald, all Class of 2020.

This year, Benson and Weiss returned from away rotations to reunite with Goodman-Levy in January for the Pediatric AIDS Benefit. In April, the three played at Rockin' Docs for Diabetes Cure, a fundraiser featuring physician-led bands, held at World Café Live in Philadelphia.

The trio describe their original music as classic rock influenced by Fleetwood Mac, Talking Heads and Jethro Tull. The lyrics come straight from their experience. Among the songs written by Weiss is "Numbers," which, he explains, "talks about the fact that we often have to focus on data rather than patients in order to keep up with the pace of hospital work, and that can become very frustrating":



**Med School Survival Guide (l-r): Jared Weiss, Wesley Goodman-Levy, Alexander Benson**



**On stage at Rockin' Docs for Diabetes Cure**

*"I'll listen to your heart if it speaks to me in lines  
Twelve conversations plotted on a chart  
And when you zigzag I can keep it all straight  
Just doing what I can to play my part.  
But please don't tell me how you feel  
Cause there's a lot of you and only one of me  
And I will do what I can do  
But there are so many numbers that I have to see."*

In "Face the Fire," Benson talks about the challenges faced by medical students, especially when they first start clinical rotations:

*"Remember when you used to fear  
But you took the plunge when you came here  
No time to panic, don't second guess  
Or you'll wind up burning like all the rest  
And the fire grows  
Face the fire  
There's no turning back  
Face the fire  
It's time to let it grow."*

In "Patient Man," Goodman-Levy addresses the relationships that are often left behind when a person jumps into the rigors of medical school or the medical profession:

*"I don't know what I see in your eyes  
Is everything gonna be alright?  
Oh it's a cold world when I'm alone  
Sky turns gray on that airport drive  
I feel your hand pull away from mine  
When will we know? If it's time to let go.  
You know that I'm a patient man  
Still hold a candle for you,  
But my flame is burning low  
And I'm going from red to blue."*

Benson and Weiss survived medical school, and have moved on to residency programs, both in psychiatry, at Cambridge Health Alliance in Massachusetts and Zucker Hillside Hospital, Queens, respectively. "We hope the band continues in some way," says Benson. "Studies show that physicians who escape burnout make better choices clinically and ethically. Music is a great way to do that."

Goodman-Levy is currently working on his master's in public health at Drexel, after which he will finish medical school and graduate with a dual MD/MPH degree. "I'm not sure if Med School Survival Guide will make an appearance at any events this year or next, but the growth I've experienced in doing it these last three years has been astronomical," he says. He's also working on another band — The Wellies.

## '40s

**Jerome Weiss, MD, HU '43**, celebrated 100 years on August 6. Happy birthday, Dr. Weiss!



1943 yearbook photo

## '60s

**Murray Ettinger, PhD Pharmacology HU '65**, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Biochemistry, has retired after a 48-year career at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo. In his honor, the school established the Murray J. Ettinger PhD Student Emergency Fund to provide assistance to students who are experiencing an unforeseen hardship.

**Elissa Jeanne Santoro, MD, WMC '65**, founder of the Breast Care and Treatment Center in Livingston, New Jersey, was awarded "Woman of the Year" by the *Italian Tribune's* annual Columbus Award Gala. She was also recognized by *Continental Who's Who* as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member in the field of medicine, in recognition of her role as a breast surgical oncologist at the RWJSBarnabas Health Center for Breast Health and Disease Management.

**Rollin Hawley, MD, HU '67**, a neurologist, was named a Top Doctor by *Marquis Who's Who*. He currently serves as a consultant at the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in Christiansburg, Virginia, and as director of the Sleep Laboratory and Clinic at the Twin County Regional Hospital, Galax, Virginia.

**Steven Kafrisen, MD, HU '67; Psychiatry Residency, HU '71**, was honored with the Community Wellbeing award by the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. Kafrisen is a psychiatrist located in Kingston, Pennsylvania.

**Ronald Kamm, MD, HU '68**, a psychiatrist at Monmouth Medical Center, is the author of "A Sport Psychiatrist's View of Boxing and Retirement From It" in *The ISSP Manual of Sports Psychiatry*. Kamm also has a private practice in Oakhurst, New Jersey.

**Joseph A. Ritsick, MD, HU '69**, has retired from the practice of medicine (physical medicine and rehabilitation). He has been living and practicing in the San Francisco Bay area (Napa) for 20 years after moving there from Denver in 1998.

## '70s

**Marylou Buyse, MD, WMC '70**, joined Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island as chief medical officer and senior vice president. Previously, she was vice president for integrated health solutions at Precision for Value in New York.

**Martha Grout, MD, HU '71; Surgery/Internal Medicine Residency, MCPHU '73**, published a book, *Alphabet of Good Health*. Grout is the medical director of Arizona Center for Advanced Medicine in Scottsdale, Arizona, and is the author of numerous articles in various medical journals as well as a co-author of the award-winning book *An Alphabet of Good Health in a Sick World* (New Medicine Press, 2010).

**Paula Amar Schwartz, PhD Psychiatry MCP '72**, was presented with an Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from *Marquis Who's Who*, publisher of biographical profiles. Among her recent accomplishments, she produced a documentary film, "Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico" ([challahrising.com](http://challahrising.com)), which has been shown on PBS, and she is working on a second film, "A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest."

**Benjamin Rubin, MD, HU '74**, was recognized by *Becker's Spine Review*. He is a founding member of the Orthopedic Specialty Institute in Orange, California, and an orthopedic surgeon at Irvine, California-based Hoag Orthopedic Institute. Previously, he served as team physician for the U.S. Diving team as well as for the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games.

**Gary K. Michelson, MD, HU '75**, was profiled as a visionary in the cover story "Dr. Gary K. Michelson: The Benevolent Catalyst" in *CSQ [C-Suite Quarterly]* magazine (December 2018). The article discussed his career as an orthopedic surgeon and inventor whose contributions revolutionized spinal surgery; his views on obstacles to meaningful research; and his philanthropy.

**Robert Figlin, MD, HU '76**, received this year's "Educator of the Year" award from *Physicians' Education Resource*, the nation's leading resource for oncology and hematology continuing medical education.

**William Bell, MD, HU '77**, joined the newly opened Novant Health Brain and Spine Surgery in Bermuda Run, North Carolina.

**Joseph Hancock, MD, HU '77**, a gastroenterologist, joined Barton Health at Barton's General Surgery and Gastroenterology office in South Lake Tahoe, California. Most recently he was with Texas Tech University Medical Center and Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas.

**Lawrence Goren, MD, HU '78**, founder of OnSite Innovations in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, a nationwide provider of occupational health services, has completed the sale of the company to Pivot Health Solutions.

**William Hait, MD, MCP '78; PhD, MCP '78**, global head for external innovation at Johnson & Johnson, has been named the winner of the 2019 Dr. Sol J. Barer Award for Vision, Innovation and Leadership by BioNJ, a life sciences association of 400 member companies.

**Thomas J. Zaydon Jr., MD, HU '78**, chief of plastic surgery at Mercy Hospital in Miami, Florida, was an invited speaker at the American Society of Plastic Surgeons meeting, held September 28-October 1, 2018, in Chicago. He presented "Recognition & Treatment of Cosmetic Filler Emergencies," a state-of-the-art talk related to his research. This paper had been voted "Best Member Paper" at the Southeastern Society of Plastic Surgery meeting held earlier in the year.



**Herbert Kunkle Jr., MD, HU '79**, joined the medical staff at Hackensack Meridian Health in Manahawkin, New Jersey.

**John Seedor, MD, HU '79**, joined the medical team at Crozer-Keystone Gastroenterology Associates.

## '80s

**Hal S. Blatman, MD, MCP '80**, was a guest on the *Health Matters* radio show on the United Intentions Radio Network. A nationally recognized specialist in myofascial pain, Blatman is the founder and medical director of the Blatman Health and Wellness Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Annette Osher, MD, HU '80**, established a concierge practice in collaboration with Castle Connolly Private Health Partners, LLC.

**James I. Stubblefield, MD, HU '82**, an emergency physician, was recently featured in *Leading Physicians of the World*. Over the past 25 years, he has run three emergency departments, including his current emergency department at Mee Memorial Hospital in King City, California. He has also served as EMS medical director of Monterey County for over 21 years and has overseen the development of two STEMI/stroke hospitals and a Level II trauma center.

**Salvatore Lawrence Jr., MD, HU '83**, and his primary care/internal medicine practice joined Geisinger Health System. The practice will move from its current location in Dunmore to the Geisinger Moosic office.

**Bob Mittleman, MD, MCP '83**, founded and became president of his own pharmaceutical consulting firm called Mittleman Consulting, according to a LinkedIn update.

**Scott Schaffer, MD, MCP '83**, a board-certified otolaryngologist at Advocare ENT Specialty Center in Marlton, New Jersey, was named in "Top Physicians 2018: 313 of South Jersey's Leading Medical Minds" in *South Jersey Magazine*.

**Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, HU '84**, was named executive vice president, Clinical & Network Services, at Ascension, a national faith-based health system. He joined Ascension from the Cleveland Clinic in 2017 to lead Ascension Medical Group.

**Thomas Connolly, MD, HU '84; Orthopaedic Surgery Residency, HU '89**, joined Geisinger Jersey Shore Hospital as an orthopedic surgeon.

**Richard Malamut, MD, HU '85**, joined Collegium Pharmaceutical, in Stoughton, Massachusetts, as the company's first chief medical officer. In this new role, he leads Collegium's clinical, medical affairs, regulatory and scientific affairs functions.

**Erica D. Collins, MD, HU '86; Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency, HU '91**, was recognized by *Continental Who's Who* as a Lifetime Achiever in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. She practiced most recently as an ob/gyn physician/locum tenens at Mercy Medical Clinic, Centerville, Iowa.



**Joe Hulihan Jr., MD, HU '86; Neurology Residency, HU '90**, was appointed medical and scientific adviser to the Finn Health Practice, a marketing, advertising and public relations company based in New York City. Prior to establishing his consulting practice, in 2015, he was head of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Neuroscience Medical Affairs.

**John M. Prater, MD, HU '86**, was honored by Geisinger for ranking in the top 10 percent in patient experience nationally. Geisinger clinicians were identified for the honor by comparing their results on patient satisfaction surveys to the results for more than 80,000 providers throughout the country that use the same survey. Prater is a family physician; he practices at Geisinger Dallas, in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

**David Shulkin, MD, MCP '86**, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, joined Sanford Health as chief innovation officer last fall. He has also joined the boards of AbleTo, Inc., a provider of virtual behavioral health care, and ControlRad, a privately held medical technology company. He is an adviser for strategic planning and technology development at the Safety Net Connect, a provider of innovative health care technology solutions, and a member of the ArmadaHealth Clinical Advisory Board.

**Sean P. Harney, MD, HU '87**, joined Lewis County General Hospital in Loweville, New York, as the chief medical officer for Employed Medical Practices.

**Cory M. Lessner, MD, HU '87**, an ophthalmologist, has joined the Haute Beauty network, an invitation-only collective of leading physicians from the top markets in the United States. A laser vision correction provider, Lessner is in private practice at Millennium Laser Eye Centers in Sunrise, Florida. He is the official laser vision correction provider for the Miami Dolphins, Miami Heat, Miami Marlins and Florida Panthers.



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**James Winkler, PhD, MCP '87**, joined Prescient Therapeutics Limited, a clinical-stage oncology company, as vice president of business development. Most recently Winkler served as vice president of Discovery and Translational Biology with drug discovery and development company FORMA Therapeutics, and chief scientific officer with Arvinas, Inc.

**Matthew Finnegan, MD, HU '88**, joined the medical advisory board of Reliq Health Technologies, a company that develops innovative mobile health and telemedicine solutions for the health care market. He is chief of the Division of General Surgery at Lourdes Health Systems and serves as a clinical associate professor of surgery at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Andrew W. Dahlke, MD, HU '89**, a radiologist with Southern Delaware Imaging Associates in Lewes, Delaware, was elected the president of the Medical Society of Delaware for 2019 during the professional organization's 229th annual meeting on November 17.

**Michele LeMay-Pace, MD, HU '89**, was recognized by *Continental Who's Who* as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of medicine in recognition of her role as an ob-gyn. She has practiced with West Coast Obstetrics & Gynecology in Bradenton, Florida, for more than 20 years.



**Mark A. Testaiuti, MD, HU '89**, a neurosurgeon in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, was named to the "America's Best Physicians" registry for 2019. Selections were made by the National Consumer Advisory Board.

## '90s

**Lieping Chen, MD; PhD Experimental Pathology HU '90**, was appointed to the scientific advisory board of Zai Lab Limited, a China- and U.S.- based biopharmaceutical company. Chen is the United Technologies Corporation Professor in Cancer Research, co-director of the Cancer Immunology Program at the Yale Cancer Center and a professor of immunobiology, dermatology and medicine (medical oncology) at Yale University School of Medicine.

**Lily Ying Loo Higgins, MD, HU '90; MBA**, market chief medical officer at Keystone First, was among the candidates chosen for the Leadership Philadelphia 2019 Core program. The program seeks to enhance participants' civic awareness and enrich their leadership skills, and then connect their talents in service to the region as nonprofit board members and civic leaders.



**Sally Kirkpatrick, MD, MCP '90**, joined the medical team at Pen Bay Neurology in Rockport, Maine.

**Wendye Robbins, MD, MCP '90**, joined the board of directors of the California Life Sciences Association. A serial biopharmaceutical entrepreneur and physician scientist, Robbins is president and CEO of Blade Therapeutics, in San Francisco.

**Judith A. Kirby, MD, HU '91**, was featured in *D—The Magazine of Dallas's* list of the "Best Doctors in Dallas."

**Stuart J. Feldman, MD, MCP '92**, an anesthesiologist and pain management specialist, was recognized as a top pain medicine doctor in Top Doctors 2019 in *Palm Beach Illustrated*. He practices at Resolute Pain Solutions in Boca Raton, Florida.

**Tracey Galardi, MD, HU '92**, an internist, joined the Medical Associates of Northeast Pennsylvania physician network. She will see patients at the Scranton office and at Commonwealth Health Regional Hospital of Scranton and Moses Taylor Hospital.

**Miguel Regueiro, MD, HU '92**, was featured in *Becker's GI & Endoscopy* as a "GI Leader to Know." He is chair of the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, and vice chair of the Digestive Disease and Surgery Institute at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. He also holds the Pier C. and Renee A. Borra Family Endowed Chair in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the institute.

**Jenny Weyler, MD, MCP '92**, joined the board of trustees of The Reliant Foundation. She is the owner and medical director of a medical aesthetics practice, Aponi Aesthetics, in Worcester, Massachusetts. Previously, she practiced primary care medicine for 16 years.

**Sonny Goel, MD, MCP '93**, ophthalmologist and Lasik surgeon at the LasikPlus Vision Center in Towson, Maryland, was recognized in *Baltimore* magazine's list of "Top Doctors."

**Eric Pifer, MD, MCP '93**, became chief medical information officer at Marin General Hospital, according to a LinkedIn update.

**Noah Rosenberg, MD, MCP '93**, became chief medical officer at Retrophin, a biopharmaceutical company, according to a LinkedIn update.

**Andrew G. Summers, MD, HU '93**, of Orlando Health Physician Associates, Maitland Pediatrics, in Maitland, Florida, was recognized as a Top Doctor by *Orlando* magazine.

**Dhaval Parikh, MD, HU '94**, was named director of radiation oncology at New Wood County Hospital.

**Karen A. Goldberg, MD, MCP '95**, joined eQHealth Solutions in Tampa as the Florida state medical director of Behavioral Health Services. Prior to joining eQHealth, Goldberg served in a variety of professional appointments at the University of South Florida from 2009 to 2018.

**Charlene Ives, MD, MCP '95**, a longtime member of the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, became medical director of the Southwestern Vermont Regional Cancer Center.

**Jonathan Kroser, MD, MCP '95**, a general surgeon, was a speaker at the Medtronic 5th annual Nashville GI Symposium. He spoke on the treatment of grade 1 and 2 internal hemorrhoids using bipolar energy therapy. He practices with the Surgical Alliance of Middle Tennessee.

**Lance Mays, MD, MCP '95**, a diagnostic radiologist, was elected vice president of the medical staff at Western Arizona Regional Medical Center in Bullhead City, Arizona.

**Charles Chen, MD, MCP '96**, senior medical director of Beaver Medical Group, Redlands, California, was featured in the list of *Who's Who in Inland Empire Healthcare*.

**Lisa Bhimani, MD, HU '97**, announced her plans to run in the June 2019 primary election for an Assembly seat in the 25th Legislative District in New Jersey. Bhimani is an ob-gyn in Summit, New Jersey.

**Daniel Eisen, MD, HU '97**, joined the board of directors at the American College of Mohs Surgery. He is a professor of clinical dermatology, director of dermatologic surgery and head of the Micrographic and Dermatologic Oncology Fellowship program at the University of California Davis Medical Center.

**Dennis R. Gesker, BS, HU '97**, became chief technology officer at Alamon, a telecommunications installation company, according to a LinkedIn update.

**Samantha B. Hickman, MD, MCP '97** (Samantha Pozner professionally), started her term as the president of the medical staff of Overlook Medical Center in Summit, New Jersey, in January. She is the first woman and only the fourth family physician to serve as medical staff president in the hospital's 113-year history.

**Robert J. Campanile, MS, MCPHU '98**, became managing director, CFO and enterprise value senior strategy executive at Accenture, a professional services company, according to a LinkedIn update.

**Il Jun Chon, MD, MCP '98**, was promoted to vice president of medical affairs at WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital. Chon previously served as medical director of hospitalist services and president of the hospital's medical staff.

**Paula Seth, MD, MCP '98**, a cardiologist, joined the medical team at Deborah Specialty Physicians at Whiting in Whiting, New Jersey, after practicing for 15 years in Mercer County and in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

**Aly Cohen, MD, MCPHU '99**, founder and medical director of Integrative Rheumatology Associates, Princeton, New Jersey, is the founder of The Smart Human, a platform for health and disease prevention that ties in the effects of environmental exposures on human health (TheSmartHuman.com). Cohen is creating a related curriculum for high school students and lectures internationally on those topics. She also posts regularly for The Smart Human on social media.



Cohen has a new book, due out in 2020, *Non-Toxic: Guide to Living Healthy in a Chemical World*, a consumer version of a textbook she co-edited, *Integrative Environmental Medicine* (Oxford University Press, 2017). She is a Jones/Lovell Fellow at the Arizona Center for Integrated Medicine and a faculty member at the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine.

**Andrew Figura, MD, MCPHU '99**, will join the AHN Cancer Institute at Saint Vincent in late 2019. He is board certified in radiation oncology and holds memberships in the American Society of Therapeutic Radiologists, the American College of Radiation Oncology, the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

**Kela Henry, MD, MCPHU '99**, a family medicine physician, was selected to be a featured panelist for the Authors Showcase at the 2019 National Association of Black Journalists Annual Convention & Career Fair, held August 7-11 in Miami. She is the author of the book *Nia & The Numbers Game: A Teenager's Guide to Education, Relationships & Sex* (BTH Creations, 2018), described as a combination of fact and fiction.

### 3 x 40 < 40

The annual "40 Under 40" issue of *Drexel Magazine* included three alumni of the College of Medicine. In case you missed it, they are:

Nahreen Husna Ahmed, MD '10, MPH (University of Illinois), age 34, clinical instructor and Center for Global Health scholar, University of Pennsylvania.

Quin Y. Liu, MD '04, age 39, interventional gastroenterologist, assistant clinical professor of medicine and pediatrics, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center/David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and adjunct assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Dennis Salotti, MS Clinical Research Organization & Management '08, age 39, chief operating officer, The Avoca Group, a life sciences consulting firm in Princeton, New Jersey.

Read more about them at [drexelmagazine.org/2019/40-under-40-2/](http://drexelmagazine.org/2019/40-under-40-2/).

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## '00s

**Brian Coleman Carey, MD, MCPHU '00**, a cardiologist, joined Butler Health System Cardiovascular Consultants in Butler and Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

**Gregory Dobash, MD, MCPHU '00**, a family physician, formed St. Luke's Ashland Family Practice in Ashland, Pennsylvania. Since joining St. Luke's Health Network in 2012, he has seen patients at Ringtown Family Practice in Ringtown and Coaldale. He is also the director of the Rural Health Centers at the Miner's Campus of St. Luke's. He serves on the Resident & Student Affairs Committee of the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.

**David J. Lesnik, MD, MCPHU '00**, joined Tufts Medical Center Community Care in Melrose, Massachusetts, as director of thyroid surgery.

**Joseph Mattern, MD, MCPHU '00**, chief medical officer and primary care physician at Jefferson Healthcare in Port Townsend, Washington, was awarded the 2019 Dr. John Anderson Memorial Award for Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner by the Washington Rural Health Association.

**Manish Patel, MD, MCPHU '00**, an orthopedic surgeon, joined the medical team at the Southern Virginia Regional Medical Center in Emporia, Virginia.

**Tony Reed, MD, MCPHU '00**, a family medicine and sports medicine physician, was named chief medical officer at Temple University Hospital in February. He had served as associate chief since 2016.

**Gary W. Stewart, MD, MCPHU '00; Drexel/Hahnemann Orthopaedic Surgery Residency '05; Foot & Ankle Surgery Fellowship**, has completed the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Leadership Fellows program, which develops future leaders of the organization, and was appointed to its Communications Cabinet. Stewart is a foot and ankle



specialist at Resurgens Orthopaedics in Atlanta. He has also been a part of the Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center Department of Orthopaedic Surgery since 2013.

**Jason Vanatta, MD, MCPHU '00**, was named surgical director of abdominal transplantation at Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston. Previously, he was director of liver transplantation at the Methodist University Transplant Institute in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Brian Holzer, MD, MCPHU '01**, was named Health Entrepreneur in *Louisville Business First's* 2019 Healthcare Heroes awards. He was cited for seeing the potential to commercialize a call center by spinning it off into a new company: Lacuna Health. He is the CEO of Lacuna Health and president of Kindred Innovations.

**Asif Ilyas, MD, MCPHU '01**, was selected as the 63rd president of the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society. He practices with Rothman Orthopaedic Institute and serves as the consulting hand surgeon to both the Philadelphia 76ers and the Philadelphia Eagles.

**Kelli Nayak, MD '02**, joined the board of directors of Community Services for Children. Nayak is a pediatrician with Lehigh Valley Health Network and has served as the medical director of the Lehigh Valley Physicians Group pediatric clinic in Allentown, Pennsylvania, since 2016.

**Laurie S. Novasad, MD '02**, was featured in *D-The Magazine of Dallas's* list of the "Best Doctors in Dallas."

**Annette F. Okai, MD '02**, was featured in *D-The Magazine of Dallas's* list of the "Best Doctors in Dallas."

**Barbara Eisenberg, MD '03**, joined St. Luke's Caring for Women ob-gyn practice in Easton, Pennsylvania.

**Kurt Miceli, MD, MBA '03**, has been named senior vice president and the first-ever chief medical officer at Elwyn, a multi-state organization headquartered in Media, Pennsylvania, that provides behavioral health and developmental disabilities services. He was previously the chief medical officer at Bancroft and president of Marcroft Medical Associates, Bancroft's affiliated medical practice.



## Vanessa Boyce Honored as Distinguished Alumna

Vanessa Boyce, PhD '07, received the 2018 Dean's Distinguished Alumna/us award from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies at the College of Medicine. The award was presented by Dean Elisabeth Van Bockstaele, PhD, at a reception held during Neuroscience 2018, last fall in San Diego.

Boyce is currently a scientific review officer at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. She joined the National Institutes of Health as a scientific review officer at the Center for Scientific Review in early 2015. Previously, she was a research assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology & Behavior at SUNY Stony Brook, where she conducted her postdoctoral work. She was also an associate of the International Research Consortium on Spinal Cord Injury of the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation during that time.

The award, established by Dean Van Bockstaele, was given to Paul A. Calvo, PhD '97, in 2017, and to Robert Rissman, PhD '02, in 2016.

**Michele Scott, MD '04**, an ophthalmologist with Coastal Eye Clinic, New Bern, North Carolina, volunteers for the American Belarussian Relief Organization, providing free eye exams and glasses, if needed, to children from Belarus. Residents of the area are still affected by the radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

**Jennifer Episcopo, MD '05**, an obstetrician/gynecologist, joined Sacred Heart Ob/Gyn Services in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She sees patients at Sigal Center for Family Medicine and Sacred Heart Primary Care Walbert & Women's Health.

**Heidi Harrington, MD '05**, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, joined the medical staff of Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover, New Hampshire.

**Stephanie Muh, MD '06**, an orthopedic surgeon, visited Khorfakkan Hospital from November 25 to 29, 2018, as part of the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Health and Prevention's Visiting Doctors program. Under the program, the ministry brings visiting doctors to provide their expertise to the benefit of citizens and residents in the UAE. Muh is currently a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Hand and Upper Extremity division of the Henry Ford Health Systems, where she completed her residency.

**Richard Redlinger, MD '06**, a board-certified vascular surgeon, joined The Heart Institute at Western Maryland Health System last fall. He practices at UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute's Division of Vascular Surgery, UPMC Passavant-McCandless in Pittsburgh and UPMC Jameson in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

**Alice Ulhoa-Cintra, MD '06**, joined the medical oncologist team at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital's Scully-Welsh Cancer Center in Vero Beach, Florida. She earned her MPH at Drexel in 2002.

**Casey Yossa, MD, '06**, a vascular surgeon, joined the Heart and Vascular Institute of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Susquehanna. She was previously in practice at Trumbull Regional Medical Center in Warren, Ohio.

## '10s

**Kathryn E. Bowser, MD '11**, a vascular surgeon, joined Christiana Care Health System's Center for Heart and Vascular Health in Newark, Delaware. She completed her general surgery residency at Christiana Care and a fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She earned her BS from Drexel in biological sciences.

**Andrew Gambone, MD '11**, has joined Bayhealth Orthopaedics, based in Dover, Delaware. Following his residency in orthopedic surgery at Wayne State School of Medicine, he completed fellowships in pediatric orthopedic surgery, at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and orthopedic sports medicine, at Penn State. He earned his MS in medical science from the College of Medicine in 2007.

**Michael Giunta, MD '11**, an internal medicine specialist, joined the Shore Physicians Group's primary care offices in Somers Point and Marmora, New Jersey.

**Ming Jang, MD '11**, a geriatrician, recently joined the staff of Geisinger Holy Spirit Primary Care in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He completed a residency in family medicine and a fellowship in geriatric medicine, both at the University of Pennsylvania, and then served as a clinical assistant professor of medicine in the geriatric division at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine.

**Rammurti McKenzie, MD '11; Drexel/Hahnemann Anesthesiology Residency '15**, completed the pain management fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University and has joined St. Luke's Spine & Pain Medicine Associates in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania.

**Robert N. Abood, MD '12**, joined Akron Children's Hospital as a pediatric pulmonologist in the Robert T. Stone, MD, Respiratory Center.

**Sameep Kadakia, MD '12**, has joined Premier ENT Associates in Middletown and Dayton, Ohio, and is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Surgery at Wright State University. Kadakia completed his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, followed by a fellowship in head and neck oncology/facial plastic and reconstructive surgery at Baylor Medical Center. Recently, Kadakia was the guest editor for *Seminars in Plastic Surgery*, Volume 33, Issue 2, "Orbital Reconstruction" (May 2019).

**Talha Shaikh, MD '12**, a radiation oncologist, was recently appointed medical director of radiation oncology at Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County (New Jersey). He completed his residency in radiation oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center, where he served as chief resident and as a member of the Graduate Medical Education Committee.



**Justin Sirianni, MD '12**, is a pain management specialist at Coastal Orthopedics Sports Medicine & Pain Management in Bradenton, Florida. He completed a fellowship in pain medicine at Wake Forest University and the Carolinas Pain Institute, following his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Arizona.



**Natalee Stone, MD '12**, joined Riverside Surgical & Weight Loss Center and Steward Medical Group in Sebastian, Florida, as a bariatric and general surgeon. She completed her surgical residency at WellSpan York Hospital in York, Pennsylvania, and a fellowship in bariatric surgery at Thomas Jefferson University. She is a 2008 alumna of the Drexel Pathway to Medical School program.



**Kenneth Ka Shun Lau, MD '13**, is a co-inventor of the patent Patterned Polymers and Directed Polymer Growth by Initiated Chemical Vapor Deposition, which is assigned to Drexel University. The other co-inventors are Sruthi Janakiraman, MS Material Science & Engineering, and Chia-Yun Hsieh, PhD Chemical & Biological Engineering '15. Lau earned his BS in biological science from Drexel in 2011.

**Kate A. Beishline, PhD Biochemistry '14**, was awarded a Jessica S. and Stephen R. Kozloff Faculty Fellowship at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She is an assistant professor in Bloomsburg's Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences.

**Angela Curcio, MD '15**, was named to the 10-member Residents and Fellows Board of the *Journal of Child Neurology*. Board members review articles for the journal and generate ideas for both the journal and *Child Neurology Open*. Curcio is a resident in the Child Neurology Residency Program at Columbia University, practicing at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

**Ashley Landicho, MD '15**, a graduate of the joint MD/MBA program, has joined Crozer-Chester Medical Center. She completed her residency in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in Bronx, New York. Her recent research and advocacy topics have included gun ownership, cyberbullying and early literacy. Landicho also earned her BS in biological science at Drexel.

**Ryan Planer, MD '15**, a family physician, joined St. Joseph's Physicians Primary Care, in Baldwinsville, New York. He completed his residency with the St. Joseph's Health Family Medicine Residency program and served as chief resident for one year. He also holds a master's degree in public health.

**Justin Y. Shin, MS Drug Discovery and Development '16**, a licensed acupuncturist, is currently an integrative medicine resident at Highland Hospital in Oakland, California, where he is being trained in applying acupuncture for patients in pain in the emergency room and inpatient settings. He was previously an acupuncture intern at UCSF Osher Center of Integrative Medicine. Shin earned the degree Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine at the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine in 2018.

**Alexander Zygmunt, MD '16**, was named to the 10-person Residents and Fellows Board of the *Journal of Child Neurology*, a peer-reviewed clinical studies publication. Board members review articles for the journal and generate ideas for both the journal and *Child Neurology Open*. Zygmunt is in the third year of his residency in child neurology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

**Andrew J. Matamoros, PhD Molecular and Cellular Biology and Genetics '18**, see page 16.

## Former Residents and Fellows

(alphabetical)

**Heatherlee Bailey, MD; Emergency Medicine Residency, MCP '97; Critical Care Faculty Fellowship, MCP**, a former MCP faculty member, was elected president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine. She is the first emergency physician to head the society.



**Alan Chang, MD; Drexel/Hahnemann Internal Medicine Residency '12; Endocrinology Fellowship '14**, and **Paul Tejera, MD; Drexel/Hahnemann Internal Medicine Residency '13; Endocrinology Fellowship '15**, were inducted as fellows of

the American College of Endocrinology during the annual meeting of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, held in April in Los Angeles.

**Irakli Mania, MD, Drexel/Hahnemann Psychiatry Residency '08**, an addiction psychiatrist, received the January Everyday Hero Award from the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Mania has spent the past 10 years as medical director at Keystone Behavioral Health.

**Steven A. Maser, MD; Orthopaedic Surgery Residency, HU '92**, has been named vice president and medical director of the Regional Health Orthopedic & Specialty Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota. He will also provide leadership for musculoskeletal services throughout the Regional Health enterprise.

**Rathna Nuti, MD; Drexel/Hahnemann Sports Medicine Fellowship '17**, was featured in *D-The Magazine of Dallas's* list of the "Best Doctors in Dallas."

**Mark Stacy, MD; Neurology Residency, HU '90**, was appointed vice chancellor of health sciences at East Carolina University, after serving as interim. He will continue as dean of the Brody School of Medicine as well as senior associate vice chancellor of medical affairs.

**Jennifer Wiler, MD; Drexel/Hahnemann Emergency Medicine Residency '06**, was appointed to the Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Wiler is a professor and the executive vice chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.



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# In Memoriam

**David Aldinger, MD, HU '74**, January 31, 2019  
**Barbara E. Averett, MD, HU '86**, February 17, 2018  
**Philip L. Bonnet, MD, HU '69**, February 9, 2019  
**Evelyn S. Bouden, MD, WMC '55**, March 14, 2019  
**Eileen Catterson, MD, MCP '74**, January 15, 2019  
**Mark J. Cerciello, MD, HU '64**, March 4, 2019  
**Honie B. Crandall, MD, WMC '67**, 2019  
**Thomas E. Creamer, MD, HU '62**, March 21, 2019  
**Peter P. Cupple, MD, HU '54**, January 6, 2019  
**John S. Dobrota, MD, HU '65**, 2018  
**Joseph H. Entine, MD, HU '49**, April 1, 2018  
**Frank A. Franco, MD, HU '53**, February 3, 2019  
**Doris T. Freudenberg, MD, WMC '60**, 2018  
**Maria Geczy, MD, WMC '60**, March 13, 2019  
**Patrick J. Hagan, MD, HU '56**, April 9, 2019  
**Sybil D. Haire, MD, WMC '48**, June 23, 2018  
**Elmer G. Hamme, MD, HU '52**, January 3, 2019  
**Mary Ann Healey, MD, WMC '63**, March 20, 2019  
**Paul J. Hughes, MD, HU '84**, March 29, 2019  
**Joseph L. Izzo, MD, HU '67**, August 20, 2018  
**Paul B. Jarrett, MD, HU '43**, January 1, 2019  
**George M. Johnson, MD, HU '63**, January 28, 2019  
**Gerard D. Kaiser, MD, HU '58**, November 26, 2018

**Marion R. Kramer, MD, WMC '67**, July 21, 2018  
**Lisa Jane Krenzler, MD, MCP '87**, January 1, 2018  
**Peter G. Lavine, MD, HU '66**, April 30, 2019  
**Steven E. Lichtenstein, MD, MCP '84**, February 23, 2019  
**Michael Robert MacNeel, MD, MCP '94**, December 4, 2018  
**Joseph J. Matunis, MD, HU '57**, January 9, 2019  
**Olga E. Mohan, MD, HU '82**, January 15, 2019  
**Eleanor D. Montague, MD, WMC '50**, November 9, 2018  
**William Lee Moore, MD, HU '61**, March 19, 2019  
**Charles J. Olney, MD, HU '70**, November 26, 2018  
**Peter W. Pratt, MD, HU '61**, February 2, 2019  
**George P. Rowan, MD, HU '58**, December 7, 2018  
**Alan D. Russakov, MD, HU '64**, December 30, 2018  
**Robert Pattison Sabo, MD, HU '81**, March 13, 2019  
**Edward V. Saradarian, MD, HU '55**, January 8, 2019  
**Robert L. Scheer, MD, HU '53**, March 15, 2019  
**Nancy Shanahan, MD, WMC '57**, November 26, 2018  
**Kasiel Steinhardt, MD, HU '49**, February 22, 2019  
**John H. Tinker, MD, HU '69**, April 19, 2019  
**Charles N. Wilkins Jr., MD, HU '56**, January 13, 2018

**Paul Allan Ironside Jr., MD, HU '62**, a well-known cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, passed away May 26 in Valencia, California, at the age of 83. After graduating from Washington and Lee University, he entered Hahnemann Medical College, following in the footsteps of his father, **Paul Allan Ironside Sr., MD, 1930**, and grandfather, **Allan Smith Ironside, MD, 1887**. He completed his residency in general surgery in Philadelphia before pursuing his training in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the Hospital of the Good Samaritan in Los Angeles. In a brush with history, in 1968 when Sen. Robert Kennedy was shot and brought to Good Samaritan, Ironside was called in to perform a tracheotomy. He and his wife, Faith Ann Slevin, who later divorced but remained good friends, settled in a suburb of Los Angeles, where he opened a private practice. He is survived by his former wife; their children — Sabrina Ironside, Isabella Christine "Chrissey" Slay, and Paul Ironside — and four grandchildren.

**Lynette Hammond McNeal, MD, WMC '61**, a noted psychiatrist, passed away on March 21 at the age of 87. After graduating from high school, she enlisted in the U.S. Army, beginning her service in one of the last remaining all-black female segregated units. She spent two years in Japan during the Korean War as a lab technician in an army hospital, and was honorably discharged in 1953. She then earned a degree from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (now University of the Sciences in Philadelphia) before attending medical school. She completed her residency in psychiatry at Norristown State Hospital and became director of the hospital's adolescent unit. Later in her career, she was a research physician at Merck Sharp & Dohme (now Merck & Co.) and practiced

at Haverford State Hospital. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, George Edward McNeal Jr., MD; their four daughters, Frances, Nancy, Jacqueline and Marilyn; and two grandchildren.



**The McNeals in 2014 at a College of Medicine alumni event**

**Bernice (Bunny) Resnick Sandler, EdD**, an adjunct associate professor of medicine, also known as "the godmother of Title IX," died January 5. She was 90. Her affiliation with the College of Medicine began with Medical College of Pennsylvania, where she worked on projects related to the Women's Health Education Program and a grant through the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, and was a frequent lecturer and adviser. Sandler was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters in 2013 as part of the activities celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership.



## Floral Anatomy



Kristen Kelly, MD '19, painted "Floral Anatomy" (acrylic on canvas, 24 x 30") for her final project in the Medical Humanities Scholar program. "The styling inspiration is taken from works by Georgia O'Keeffe, who often painted flowers that were theorized by the media to represent female anatomy," Kelly says. "Her legacy helped transcend barriers for females by furthering the feminist movement, and her works now exemplify female empowerment." The painting was accepted for publication in *Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*. Kelly matched to the University of Connecticut Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency program.