



CMS NEWS

The Chicago Medical School Newsletter

FALL 2020
ISSUE 18



HERSTORY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The 5th annual WiSH Symposium examined the past and future of women in STEM careers.

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NMF CHAMPIONS OF HEALTH AWARDS

Five CMS students received National Medical Fellowship awards for their community service projects.

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Leslie J. Sandlow, MD '60; Sabrina Kendrick, MD '90; Mitchell Goldflies, MD '75; and Sara J. Pavitt, MD '15, received awards during a virtual ceremony.

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Celebrating Chicago Medical School Faculty: A Virtual Recognition Event

CMS showed its gratitude and appreciation for its phenomenal faculty and alumni during this annual awards ceremony.

The Office of Academic Environment hosted its annual faculty recognition event on November 12, with a virtual celebration and awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding achievements of current and recently retired faculty. The event celebrated the dedication, innovation, and selflessness of faculty who have worked tirelessly to support the mission of Chicago Medical

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Dean's Message

Dear CMS Community,

November has always been a special month for me. It is a time for reflection and a marvelous opportunity to think about all that we are thankful for and demonstrate our gratitude in various ways. Gratitude compels us to look beyond ourselves, count our blessings, and contemplate our connections to family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, nature, spiritual support, etc. The medical literature indicates that “gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships”.

I am grateful for the many gifts that I am blessed with, including the dedicated and passionate people that are part of the Chicago Medical School family. Last week, during our first ever virtual Faculty Recognition Celebration (attended by over 120 guests!), we recognized our wonderful faculty for their unique contributions to CMS, recent retirees whose combined years of service to CMS exceeded 150, as well as distinguished alumni from across the nation, including our outstanding keynote speaker, Erica Brownfield, MD '96, MBA. It was a fabulous tribute to faculty members who have dedicated their careers to our medical school, and I hope you will join me in congratulating Dr. Nutan Vaidya and her team for leading this effort.

This fall has been packed with many events celebrating our learners, faculty, and staff, as you will see on the following pages. From seminars and journal clubs focused on health disparities to a special year-long series commemorating our namesake Dr. Rosalind Franklin and the impressive Women in Science & Healthcare (WiSH) Symposium sponsored by RFUMS, we are fortunate to be able to enjoy many prestigious and informative presentations. I am proud to be leading an institution that is offering state-of-the-art continuing educational opportunities for diverse audiences including our clinical partners, the RFUMS community, and beyond.

As the COVID pandemic progresses and continues to disrupt millions of lives, I hope that you will join me in reflecting for a few minutes on the people and things in each of our lives that we are truly grateful for. Thanksgiving will likely be a difficult time for many this year, but let's remain steadfast in being safe in order to stay healthy for the greater good, and hope for a much different celebration next year. I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Archana Chatterjee".

Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD
Dean, Chicago Medical School

Celebrating Chicago Medical School Faculty: A Virtual Recognition Event

continued from cover

School, especially in light of the unique challenges of teaching remotely during a period of high stress and uncertainty.

We thank all CMS faculty for their invaluable contributions to the school, the university, and the community, and we congratulate each of the award recipients.

To begin the ceremony, keynote speaker **Erica D. Brownfield**, MD '96, MBA, assistant dean of medical education at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, reflected on her time at CMS and recalled many of the faculty members who made a positive impact on her. She also discussed the vital role faculty play, not only imparting knowledge but also shaping students' behaviors and attitudes.

"Faculty lend their passion and skills to educate, encourage, and support scholars and learners,"



During the ceremony, CMS alumna Erica D. Brownfield, MD '96, MBA, mentioned several CMS faculty whom she still remembers fondly for the lessons they instilled in her during her time as a medical student — including Orhan Arslan, PhD, former director of medical gross anatomy; Theodore Booden, PhD, then-dean of CMS who also taught in the microbiology course; and Lori Siegel, MD, who is still a current professor of medicine at CMS.

she said. "They spend countless hours dedicating their lives to transforming students to become professionals. They are the backbone of a medical school."

The first award, the **CMS Dean's Award for Excellence in Clinical Education**, was given to **Terrence Li**, MD, assistant professor, discipline chair, and education director of neurology. This award is given to a clinician-educator who demonstrates empathy and respect for students, creates a culture that encourages student expression of ideas, and stimulates student intellectual achievement through superior communication skills and interpersonal rapport.

While presenting the award to Dr. Li, **Jordan Newman**, CMS '21, recalled several encounters he has had over the years that demonstrated Dr. Li's selfless dedication to helping students — starting

from when Jordan was an M1 and Dr. Li took time out of his busy schedule to meet with him for an hour because Jordan had emailed him to say that he was interested in going into neurology; to the time during third-year clerkships when Dr. Li voluntarily spent four extra hours going over questions with Jordan and his classmates to help them prepare for an exam; and concluding with a recent experience, shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted all clerkships, when Dr. Li worked with each CMS neurology applicant to make sure they could get the clerkship experience they needed to apply to a residency in neurology.

"All of this together demonstrates what a superior person he is, beyond just being an excellent educator," Jordan said. "I think that Dr. Li is the most phenomenal educator I've ever had, and the most impactful person to my professional development. We all are very indebted to Dr. Li and his fantastic teaching and mentoring."

Ana LoDuca, MD, associate professor of surgery, received the **Dean's Award for Excellence in Educational Innovation**, awarded to an individual who demonstrates innovation in teaching and learning approaches, with a focus on significant accomplishments in curriculum and instructional development. As course director for the Essential of Clinical Reasoning (ECR) course — a two-year course for first- and second-year medical students and podiatry students — Dr. LoDuca handles the education of 600 students a year.

"Ana and I work together many late nights and weekends, so I have seen firsthand how much she

cares about the students. Her desire to ensure that the students not only learn but understand the material has fueled her motivation to create innovative teaching materials that meet the needs of a wide range of learners," said **Rosanne Oggioian**, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics and director of the clinical skills lab and course. "She's creative and resourceful, but most importantly, she desires to shape the students to become the best versions of themselves for their future patients and for humanity."

Stuart Kiken, MD, associate professor and education director of internal medicine, received the **CMS Champion Award**. This award is given to a faculty member who exemplifies the values of the CMS mission statement with an emphasis on leadership-driven, knowledge-focused inquiry and proven outcomes. The recipient must also embody the core values of RFU (civility, diversity, excellence, innovation, integrity, scholarship, and teamwork) in all aspects of their professional life.

DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL EDUCATION

This clinician-educator demonstrates empathy and respect for students and creates a culture that encourages student expression of ideas. This person acts as an exemplary role model and exhibits professional values and standards. This individual is an exceptional teacher who stimulates student intellectual achievement through superior communication skills and interpersonal rapport.



Terrence Li, MD

DEAN'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

This individual demonstrates innovation in teaching and learning approaches, focusing on significant accomplishments in curriculum and instructional development.



Ana LoDuca, MD

"As a mentor, Stu has embodied many of the core values at our institution, including teamwork, civility, and innovation," said **Ari Katz**, MD, associate professor of medicine. "I cannot describe how truly appreciative I am of him and the friendship he has offered over the past four years. I can't think of anyone more deserving of the CMS Champion Award."

"Coming to work for me is more like going to summer camp than going to the office, because I really love everybody that I'm with," said Dr. Kiken while accepting the award. "We do great things in great ways – research, community outreach, and medical education and innovation – but we do it with humility, warmth and concern for each other. And that's what makes this such a special place to work."

The **Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award** — one of several new awards this year — was awarded to **Kenneth D. Beaman**, PhD, professor of microbiology

and immunology, and **Svetlana Dambaeva**, MD, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology. This award is given to individuals who have served the underserved population at Chicago Medical School, its surrounding communities, and its clinical affiliates. The award also recognizes the process by which faculty serve as role models for each other, students, and staff.

Dr. Beaman is the founding director of the Clinical Immunology Laboratory at RFU. Dr. Dambaeva, as the associate director of this laboratory, is responsible for the overall operation of the lab. The laboratory specializes in cutting-edge immunology tests, performs over 1.3 million diagnostic tests each year, and was one of the first to provide an immunological test for the diagnosis of recurrent pregnancy losses and unexplained fertility.

More recently, during the ongoing pandemic, the laboratory has taken on an additional role in the university and the surrounding community. Under



Stuart Kiken, MD

CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL CHAMPION AWARD

This individual exemplifies the values of the CMS mission statement with emphasis on leadership-driven, knowledge-focused inquiry, and proven outcomes. This person is an exemplary contributor to the mission and embodies the core values of the institution.



Kenneth D. Beaman, PhD



**Svetlana Dambaeva,
MD, PhD**

OUTSTANDING FACULTY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

These individuals have served the underserved population at the Chicago Medical School, its surrounding communities, and its clinical affiliates. The award also recognizes the process by which faculty serve as role models for each other, students, and staff.

the leadership of Drs. Beaman and Dambaeva, the laboratory has implemented both PCR-based testing for COVID-19 as well as COVID-19 antibody testing. Currently, the clinic processes approximately 150 to 200 samples per day, often with 24-hour turnaround.

“To date, the laboratory has tested thousands of patients’ samples and has become the go-to destination, both for RFU faculty, staff, and students, and for many residents in our underserved local communities,” said **Ron Kaplan**, PhD, executive vice president for research at RFU and vice dean for research at CMS. “It is with great honor that I present the Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award for the leadership that these two individuals have demonstrated.”

“There are a lot of us that are doing a lot of work,” Dr. Beaman said while accepting the award, explaining that the COVID-19 testing wouldn’t be possible without the lab’s 10 technicians, some of whom come in at 4:00 AM to make sure the test results are

ready within 24 hours. “I accept the award on behalf of all of these really terrific people that I’m lucky enough to work with.”

Dr. Dambaeva echoed this sentiment in her remarks, saying, “I want to emphasize that without our clinical lab personnel and administrative staff, we wouldn’t be able to do anything. This is a really great opportunity for all of us to do what we can do and serve the school and the community.”

In keeping with Drs. Beaman and Dambaeva’s comments, the next award, the Outstanding Community Service Award, went to the clinical immunology lab members who have been working tirelessly to process the high volumes of patient samples for COVID-19 testing: **Sandra Campbell, Rita Gabrielsen, Dimantha Katukurundage, Irma Mattner, Valeria Morozan, Cynthia Otterson, Valerie Riehl, Sylvia Schneiderman, Meenal Tamhane, Ghislaine Wohlgemuth, Gail Hoppe, Lorraine Perks, and Gajendra Katara**.



**Victor Marinescu, MD '08,
PhD '07, MS '11**

JUNIOR FACULTY INVESTIGATOR AWARD

This researcher has made substantial contributions to research that promotes a vibrant, collaborative, and interprofessional community.



Fabio Re, PhD

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

This individual has served as an outstanding mentor to other faculty members at the Chicago Medical School and its affiliates. The award recognizes the process by which faculty serve as role models for each other, promoting the professional development of others, and creating a supportive, positive working environment.

"These are the individuals who through their tireless, brave frontline efforts have enabled RFU to offer this much-needed service to our community," Dr. Kaplan said. "During this once-in-a-century pandemic, they have made us all proud and are making an outstanding contribution to the health of this region."

Victor Marinescu, MD '08, PhD '07, MS '11, CMS site director at Edward-Elmhurst Heart Hospital, received the **CMS Junior Faculty Investigator Award**, given to a researcher who has made substantial contributions to research that promotes a vibrant, collaborative, and interprofessional community.

"I'm very proud of my former student," said **Judy Potashkin**, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology and director of faculty affairs, noting that Dr. Marinescu got his PhD from her laboratory. "Since beginning his career as a cardiologist, he has actively participated in clinical research, and his research path has been quite remarkable."

Dr. Marinescu began his PhD work on molecular aspects of drug addiction, and his research focus is now cardiology. In 2019, he became the principal investigator of a clinical trial entitled "Prospective Randomized Trial of Optimal Evaluation of Cardiac Symptoms and Revascularization," which will compare the effectiveness of diagnostic evaluation strategies for stable coronary artery disease performed in an outpatient setting.

Fabio Re, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunology, received the **Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award**, given to an individual who has served as an outstanding mentor to other faculty members at CMS and its affiliates. The award honors the process by which faculty serve as role models for each other, promoting the professional development of others, and creating a supportive, positive working environment.

"This award recognizes selflessness, dedication and commitment to others, and a constant desire

DEAN'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

This special award recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond in their hard work and dedication to CMS. Recipients were selected by the Dean of Chicago Medical School.



Brenda Affinati, MD



Ronald Kaplan, PhD



Mildred MG Olivier, MD '88



Nutan Vaidya, MD

for others to succeed in their careers," **Gustavo Martinez**, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, said in his introductory remarks. "It is my pleasure to present this award to my colleague, friend, and mentor."

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of four **Dean's Special Recognition Awards**. "These four individuals are those who I believe have gone above and beyond in their dedication to our medical school," said **Archana Chatterjee**, MD, PhD, dean of CMS and vice president for medical affairs at RFU, when introducing the new award. "We wanted to make sure that their hard work and dedication during this very difficult year does not go unrecognized."

The first recipient of this award was **Brenda Affinati**, MD, vice chair of the Clinical Sciences Department, assistant dean of clinical education, and assistant professor and discipline chair of internal medicine. "Dr. Affinati is an individual who works tirelessly day and night to ensure that our students are safe," Dr. Chatterjee said, noting that Dr. Affinati has worked throughout the pandemic to make sure students have the necessary PPE and make sure they stay on track with their clinical rotations, often finding additional clinical rotation locations at short notice.

Dr. Ron Kaplan, RFU executive vice president for research and CMS vice dean for research, who is also serving as the interim vice dean for Chicago Medical School, was the second recipient of the Dean's Special Recognition Award. Dr. Kaplan was chosen for this award in part because he recently stepped in to serve as interim dean of Chicago Medical School in a critical time, as the school was preparing for its LCME site visit. "Your leadership during this very difficult time for the medical school was just amazing," Dr. Chatterjee said.

Mildred MG Olivier, MD '88, assistant dean for diversity and inclusion, also received the Dean's Special Recognition Award for her ongoing efforts to increase diversity and inclusion efforts at CMS,

especially in the wake of nationwide protests in response to continued structural racism, and as the coronavirus pandemic exacerbated disparities already present in the nation's healthcare system.

"Dr. Olivier worked day and night, sometimes into the wee hours of the morning, to increase our diversity and inclusion efforts over these past several months," Dr. Chatterjee said. "We would often spend nights talking late into the evening and early morning hours, figuring out how to address these disparities, these issues of racism, and what we could do to make a difference to our school, to our institution, to our community."

"I always say that I don't do this in a bubble," said Dr. Olivier when accepting the award. "I have a great team of people, great leadership, and I really love Chicago Medical School."

Nutan Vaidya, MD, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and senior associate dean for academic learning environment, was the final recipient of the Dean's Special Recognition Award. Dr. Vaidya oversees the school's academic learning environment initiatives, which include diversity programs as well as faculty development efforts. She has worked to address the many new faculty development needs that have arisen during the pandemic.

"I often say that I dream of ideas and then I talk to Nutan to make them happen," said Dr. Chatterjee. "Nutan has demonstrated tireless dedication to providing guidance for numerous diversity and inclusion initiatives. And she stepped in to address mental health needs of faculty, students, and staff at this critical time, through innovative programming and resource development."

The ceremony also acknowledged the service of four retiring CMS faculty members, who collectively gave more than 150 years of their professional lives to Chicago Medical School. **Alice Gilman-Sachs**,

PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, retired after 35 years; **Richard Hawkins**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, retired after 32 years; **Aron D. Mosnaim**, PharmD, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, retired after 49 years; and **Darryl Peterson**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, retired after 37 years.

Stuart Goldman, MD, was also recognized for his 14 years of leadership at Chicago Medical School. In December, Dr. Goldman will be going into semi-retirement, maintaining his role as discipline chair

of family medicine but retiring from his leadership positions of Executive Chair of the Clinical Sciences Department and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. In his semi-retirement, Dr. Goldman plans to learn how to cook, take walks with his wife, read great classics he's never had time for, play the French horn again, and spend as much time as he can with his 12 grandchildren. ■

To read about the CMS alumni who received awards during this ceremony, see page 30.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO OUR RETIRING FACULTY MEMBERS!



Alice Gilman-Sachs, PhD



Richard Hawkins, PhD



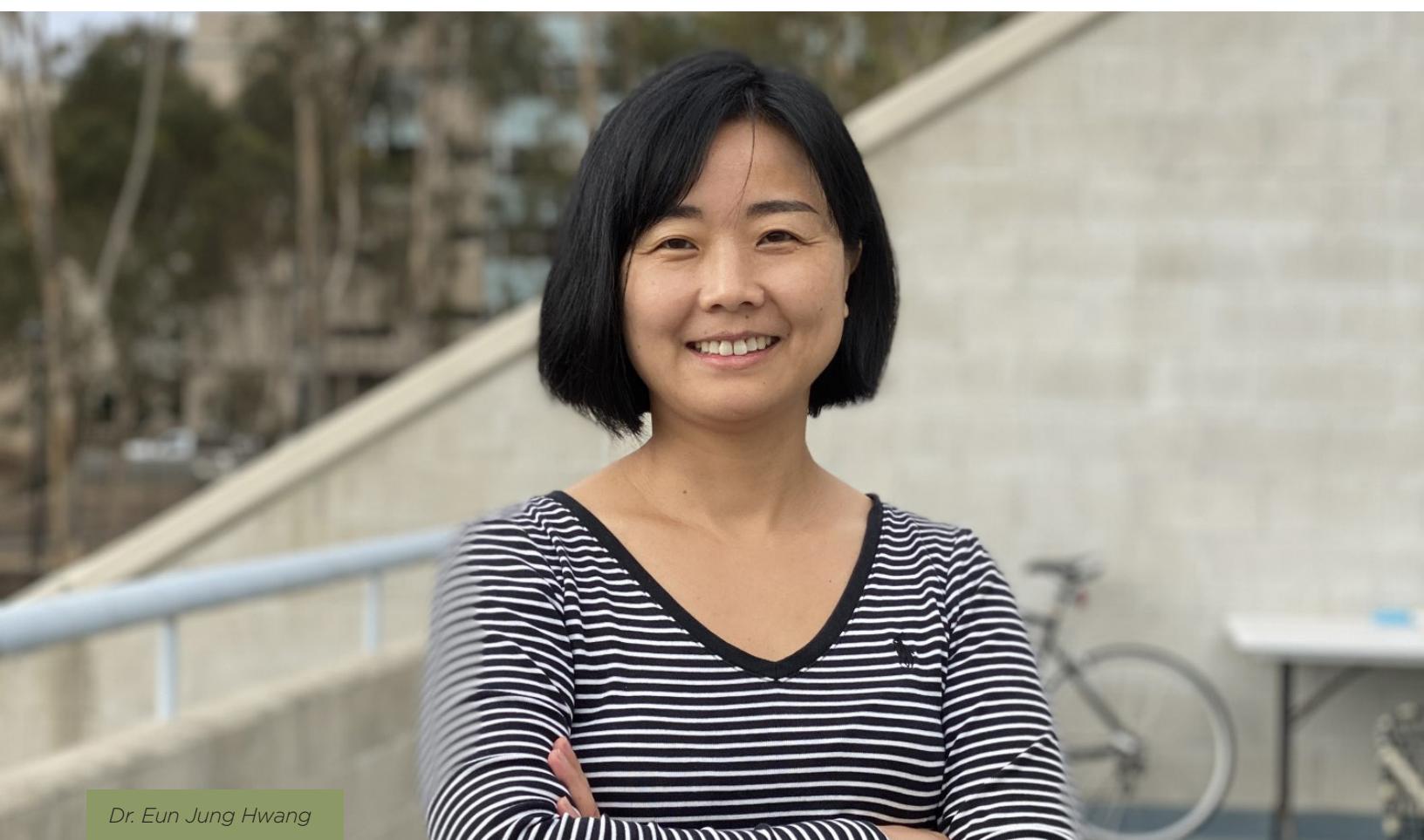
Aron D. Mosnaim, PharmD, PhD



Darryl Peterson, PhD

Welcoming Two New Faculty to the Brain Science Institute

Dr. Eun Jung Hwang and Dr. Sarah Johnson joined CMS in recent months as tenure track assistant professors in the CMS Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities.



Dr. Eun Jung Hwang

Eun Jung Hwang, PhD

Biomedical engineer/neuroscientist **Eun Jung Hwang**, PhD, who joined the Stanson Toshok Center for Brain Function and Repair from the University of California, San Diego, uses state-of-the-art technologies to investigate the function of healthy brain networks and how they break down in aging and neurological disorders.

Dr. Hwang brings a cutting-edge multiphoton calcium imaging technique that allows her to record

hundreds of neurons simultaneously. She is also an expert in the use of optogenetics to control genetically-specified subsets of neurons with light in behaving animal models to observe how networks are affected by decision-making and learning.

“My main strategy is to decompose neural processing in these circuits into distinct computational processes — e.g., internal action bias, stimulus-action association, motor plans of actions — and identify subcircuits specialized in each process

and information flows between the subcircuits,” Dr. Hwang said. “I also aim to investigate changes in the identified circuits associated with aging and neurological disorders to discover causes of and treatments for disadvantageous action patterns in those conditions.”

Last year, Dr. Hwang made the remarkable finding, published in *Science Advances*, that the motor cortex stores motor memories early in learning, but as learning becomes rote with repetition, the memory leaves and settles elsewhere in the brain, freeing up space for new memories in the original space.

“Dr. Hwang is an outstanding scientist and the top-ranked applicant in our search for an investigator using innovative brain imaging tools to dissect principles of normal and abnormal brain function,” said **William Frost**, PhD, center director. “She brings something we don’t have here and many labs could use: large-scale imaging of network activity in the vertebrate brain with single-neuron resolution. In addition, her biomedical engineering background provides a much needed computational component to the training of our graduate students.”

The Stanson Toshok Center for Brain Function and Repair focuses on discovery of the principles of normal brain function, with the goal of developing improved methods for repair. Dr. Hwang was drawn to RFU in part because of its large number of mouse labs studying various clinically-relevant types of brain dysfunction, including injury, aging, stress, addiction and various models of neurodegenerative disease. The Innovation and Research Park offers fertile ground for potential collaborations aimed at studying how these conditions affect network function, and potentially how therapeutic treatments may act to restore normal function.

“The fundamental function of the brain is to choose and execute the right action at the right moment,”

said Dr. Hwang in describing her investigations. “Neurological diseases and aging often impair this essential function, interfering with many daily activities. My long-term research goal is to elucidate the neural circuits underlying action selection and execution.”

Dr. Hwang earned a BS and MS in electrical engineering at Seoul National University. She completed her PhD in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University followed by postdoctoral positions at California Institute of Technology and the UCSD.

Sarah A. Johnson, PhD

Sarah A. Johnson, PhD, joined the Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics from the University of Florida, where she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Neuroscience. As a member of the NIH-funded Neuroscience of Cognitive Aging Lab and the prestigious Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute, she collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to investigate how changes in neural activity across brain circuits contribute to memory impairments in advanced age.

“One challenge we face in studying cognitive aging is in finding memory tests sensitive enough to pick up subtle changes in performance,” Dr. Johnson said. “An approach developed in cognitive neuroscience and now increasingly adopted in clinical neuropsychology is to measure what we call ‘mnemonic discrimination.’ This reflects the ability to distinguish similar events from memory — for instance, where you parked your car at the grocery store today as opposed to last week.”

Dr. Johnson’s highly innovative and translationally relevant approach to investigating aging-related decline in memory systems has garnered recognition in the field. As a postdoc, she independently developed new techniques that tap into this memory network in rodents in a testable

manner, including touchscreen monitors that mirror the human condition and screening protocols.

Grace “Beth” Stutzmann, PhD, center director, called the novel memory assessment screen, coupled with simultaneous in vivo probes of memory circuits in the behaving brain, “a significant breakthrough in a field that’s been relying on the same tasks with limited advances for decades.”

In 2018, Dr. Johnson was awarded an NIH Pathway to Independence (K99) Award to study hippocampal and dopaminergic mechanisms that support mnemonic discrimination abilities in aging. In this work, she combines behavioral tasks she previously developed with multichannel in

vivo neurophysiological recordings and targeted manipulation of neural activity. Dr. Johnson also received funding from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to support this work.

“By testing rodents in the same tasks used in humans, we can better translate our neurobiological findings across species and gain understanding relevant to treating memory loss in aging and dementia,” Dr. Johnson said.

The Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics works to identify mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and brain injury, and to advance new approaches for diagnosis, detection and treatment.

“Dr. Johnson’s model toolkit provides a critical addition to our ongoing work in neurodegenerative diseases and related fields in which aging is the greatest risk factor,” Dr. Stutzmann said. “We are thrilled to have recruited such an outstanding young scientist, educator and mentor who exemplifies the collegiality we value so highly among our faculty.”

“We each experience cognitive effects of aging differently,” Dr. Johnson said. “I want to determine what aspects of brain function underlie these individual differences, conferring risk versus resilience to memory loss and neurodegeneration. I hope to identify interventions that tilt the scales toward resilience.”

Dr. Johnson earned a BSc at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She completed her MSc in Neuroscience and PhD in Psychology at the University of Toronto. ■

This article was originally published in the Summer 2020 issue of Helix.



NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS!

SYNAPSES

A Creative Journal of Chicago Medical School

ALMOST ALL ART FORMS ACCEPTED:

NON-FICTION ESSAYS & REFLECTIONS

FICTION • POETRY • PLAYS

FINE ART • PHOTOGRAPHY

DIGITAL ART • SCULPTURE • COLLAGE

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021**

Visit <http://rfu.ms/synapses>
for more information

Synapses is published once per year in the spring. We will consider all submissions but are especially interested in works that explore experiences in medicine and expressions of the human condition. This year, we're particularly encouraging reflections and other submissions in response to the current events challenging humanity.



Student Dean Corner

Each quarter, student dean Courtney Harris will give updates on the projects she will be working on throughout the year.

To my classmates and colleagues,

I would first like to congratulate our M4 peers on their submission of their ERAS applications at the end of last month! Applying to residency this cycle is certainly posing new challenges on top of the already existing stress that surrounds entering the match. With virtual interviews on the horizon, I have been amazed by the creativity utilized by those individuals applying to personalize their in-home interview spaces and strive to stand out amidst these unique challenges. Their flexibility and willingness to adapt to these circumstances may even spark longstanding innovation and change in the path to residency, for which countless classes to come would be grateful for. While we may not see the countdown clock on campus regularly in the age of remote learning, we can all look forward to counting down the days with our friends and colleagues that will shortly learn where they will continue their training as compassionate and competent physicians.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the challenges we are each facing as we approach our training as a medical student in the midst of the pandemic. Though our communities have been facing challenges related to COVID-19 now for around 9 months, the fall quarter brought new challenges to the table for us students, including

welcoming the Class of 2024 without our typical in-person celebrations and networking events. Medical school can often be isolating, as the experience is vastly different compared to what our friends and family may have experienced in their lives. Remote learning, combined with the inability to meet classmates and socialize normally with friends, adds a level of complexity and stress to our day to day lives that couldn't have been predicted. If you are feeling really down, I encourage you to think of the service you are already providing to future patients by setting a good example and keeping others safe, both tenants of our profession. This perspective has greatly helped me when I am struggling. There are also plenty of resources available to reach out to for help during these times, including your peer mentors and the free services at the Student Counseling Center.

[\(https://www.rfuclinics.com/services/student-health/student-counseling-service/\)](https://www.rfuclinics.com/services/student-health/student-counseling-service/)

Finally, I wanted to provide a brief update on some exciting things that have happened within Chicago Medical School over the last quarter. After months of delay and anticipation, the LCME Site Visit finally occurred virtually, including a visit with students at the end of August. This provided the time for students to share our valuable perspective on experiences at Chicago Medical School. Now we await the site review report to

make it onto the agenda of the LCME within the next few months. Additionally, students are giving valuable input on current search committees underway for both the Assistant/Associate Dean of Admissions and the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs. While these searches do operate under confidential practices, you can provide feedback for the student perspective if you wish by reaching out to the students on the committees. You can contact myself and Alfonso Gomez for the Assistant/Associate Dean of Admissions, or Ashley Schaefer for the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs. Outside of these organizational commitments, I am currently continuing work our immediate-past

Student Dean initiated to help streamline email communication from university channels that may overload the email burden on students. As always, if you have any ideas I could assist with, please reach out to student.deancms@rfums.org.

All the best,



Courtney Harris
CMS Student Dean
CMS Class of 2022

2021 ICI Executive Board Officers

Congratulations to the twelve Chicago Medical School students who were elected as 2021 Interprofessional Clinic Initiative (ICI) Executive Officers! Together with their interprofessional peers, these students will continue to lead the efforts of the Interprofessional Community Clinic in 2021.



President: **Anant Amar**, CMS '24

Vice President: **Jamie Mara**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Archives: **Melissa Kulon**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Clinical Operations: **Jennifer Vu**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Quality Improvement: **Varsha John**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Standards and Safety: **Alexandra Williams**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Medical Informatics: Jay Patel, SCPM '24

Executive Officer of Care Coordination: Anna Sandler, COP '23

Executive Officer of Telehealth: **Farhana Ikmal Hisham**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Community Outreach & Advocacy: **Aashka Patel**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Patient Education & Resource Development: **Anisa Hakim**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Scheduling and Training: **Jonathan Tung**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Multicultural Affairs: Claudia Moreno Romero, SCPM '24

Executive Officer of Public Relations: **Tiffany Shu**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Finance: **Eric Gehrke**, CMS '24

Executive Officer of Research: Carol Kurth, SCPM '24 ■



HERSTORY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

5th ANNUAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND HEALTHCARE SYMPOSIUM

On September 10, RFU held its 5th annual — and first virtual — Women in Science and Healthcare (WiSH) Symposium. The theme of this year's symposium, held in the centennial year of Dr. Rosalind Franklin's birth, was "HERSTORY Under the Microscope: Celebrating Rosalind Franklin's 100 Year Legacy." The symposium brought together experts from academia, medical research and technology to discuss new perspectives on Dr. Rosalind Franklin's contributions to science and posthumous treatment by the field.

RFU President and CEO **Wendy Rheault**, PT, PhD, FASAHP, FNAP, DipACLM, welcomed attendees to the event and praised the spirit and purpose of the WiSH Symposium. "Our commitment to advancing the cause of women in the biomedical sciences is unwavering," she said. "We must constantly support our female leaders, scientists, and healthcare professionals and remain vigilant against any kind of bias."

Rosalind Franklin, CPCC, ACC, niece of the university's namesake and a member of the RFU Board of Trustees since 2004, delivered the opening remarks. She shared reflections on her aunt's life and legacy, including how the story of Dr. Franklin's discoveries have been framed over the years, and she emphasized the power of language.

Robin E. Jensen, PhD, professor of communication at the University of Utah, delivered the keynote address, titled "Rosalind Franklin and *Nature's* Scientist," in which she analyzed how the journal *Nature* has portrayed Dr. Franklin and her work in the years since her death. Although most of the RFU community is familiar with the story of Dr. Rosalind Franklin — how her pioneering work in X-ray crystallography led to the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA, how her male colleagues at King's College London shared her "Photo 51" X-ray image with James Watson and Francis Crick without her knowledge or consent, and how Watson and Crick then went on to publish an article in *Nature* on the structure of DNA without giving any acknowledgement or credit to Dr. Franklin — Dr. Jensen provided a new perspective on Dr. Franklin's treatment by the scientific community and in particular by *Nature*, which continued to trivialize her scientific achievements and her merit as a scientist in the decades after her death.

Summarizing her findings from an analysis of the 68 *Nature* publications discussing Dr. Franklin and DNA from 1958 (the year of Dr. Franklin's death) to 2015, Dr. Jensen explained that these articles framed Dr. Franklin and her work as being just outside the borders of elite science, creating a barrier between her and what is considered to be truly scientific. Dr. Jensen discussed examples of this treatment, which

included framing Dr. Franklin's achievements as an emotional drama rather than as a serious scientific pursuit, portraying her as being unwilling to collaborate and therefore behaving in an unscientific way, and referring to her crystallography work as "beautiful" and "artistic" instead of scientific.

Dr. Jensen concluded by highlighting the importance of learning from the example of Rosalind Franklin and changing the way women and minorities in STEM fields are portrayed, both in the scientific community and the mainstream media. "Part of Rosalind Franklin's legacy is a call to attend to these narratives about her and those like her, and consider what they teach their readers about the scientific enterprise as a whole," she said. "We have a responsibility to understand how these stories are functioning."

Dr. Jensen also participated in a panel discussion titled "Gender, STEM and Healthcare: Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future," moderated by **Heather Kind-Keppel**, EdD, instructor of medical education at CMS and executive director of diversity and inclusion at RFU. Other panelists were **Archana Chatterjee**, MD, PhD, dean of Chicago Medical School and vice president for medical affairs at RFU; **Elizabeth L. Travis**, PhD, FASTRO, associate vice president, women and minority faculty inclusion and the Mattie Allen Fair Professor in Cancer Research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; and **Lise Loberg**, PhD, DABT, PMP, scientific director in an Emerging Technology Platforms group at AbbVie Inc. The panelists discussed the lessons women in science and health care have learned from Dr. Franklin's experiences, their own experiences as women working in science, and the ongoing need to improve representation of women in STEM leadership. ■

HERSTORY to YOURSTORY:

Dr. Rosalind Franklin Centennial Series



Carl Correll, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, gave a presentation on Oct. 29 titled "From DNA to Viruses: How Dr. Franklin Shaped Our Views" as part of the Dr. Rosalind Franklin Centennial Seminar Series. Throughout Dr. Franklin's centennial year, **HERSTORY to YOURSTORY** will connect all of us through the celebration of discovery and advancements for women in science and health care.

Dr. Correll's presentation gave an overview of Dr. Franklin's career and her contributions to science, from revealing the structure of coal to determining the structure of DNA and the tobacco mosaic virus.

"Rosalind Franklin fundamentally increased our knowledge about carbon compounds, DNA, and viruses," said Dr. Correll. "These accomplishments were even more extraordinary because of her intersectionality. She was unmarried, Jewish, and was working as a physical chemist in a sea of men." ■

M3 Poster Day

On August 21, the annual M3 Clinical Poster Day was held. This was a virtual event and we thank all of the student authors, faculty judges, and clinical mentors who made this a success!

Members of the CMS Class of 2021 submitted 65 total posters demonstrating a wide range of clinical experiences, research, and community service. Faculty judges reviewed the posters and accompanying video presentations and selected the following posters for recognition.

Top 5 Posters Based on a Clinical Case from the M3 Year:



Johanna Stecher



Mary Lewis

“Delayed Myocardial Infarction after Gunshot Wound to the Chest” — Johanna Stecher & Mary Lewis



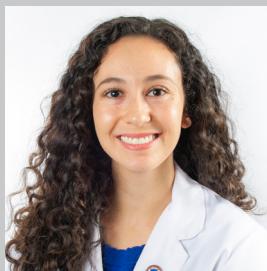
S. Isabel Coronel

“A Case of Hereditary Cerebellar Ataxia in Two Brothers” — S. Isabel Coronel

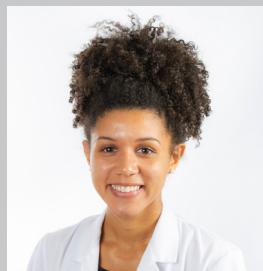


Lauren Logan

“Complete Kawasaki Presentation Amidst Multiple Leading Differential Diagnoses” — Lauren Logan



Briena Heller



Natalie Shovlin-Bankole

“Patient Safety Considerations With Contrast Use” — Briena Heller & Natalie Shovlin-Bankole



Shiva Barforoshi



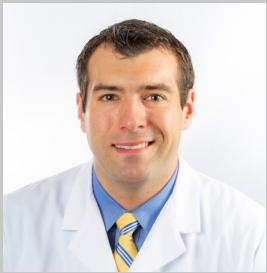
Nikhil A. Patel



Alvin P. Singh

“A Rare Case of Treatment-Resistant Neurosarcoidosis of the Cavernous Sinus” — Shiva Barforoshi, Nikhil A. Patel, & Alvin P. Singh

Top 3 Posters Not Based on a Clinical Case from the M3 Year:



Alex Clos



Ashley Cohen

“Do-It-Yourself Personal Protective Equipment”
— Alex Clos & Ashley Cohen



Alvin P. Singh

“Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Neurology Education: A SIGN Needs Assessment” — Alvin P. Singh



Cassandra M. Gee

“Utility of a Hymenal Exam: A Literature Review”
— Cassandra M. Gee



Stephanie Puga-Bernaldo

“Improving Mental Health Services for Second General Latinx Immigrant Youth” — Stephanie Puga-Bernaldo

CMS Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives



Medical Student Enrichment

- Individualized Student Support: ISEP Program, Peer to Peer Tutoring, Outreach and Success, UiM Welcome, Kaplan Educational Support, Zoom Interviewing and Speaker Training
- Communication: Town Hall Meetings and Other Communications
- Financial support: ERAS Applications, Interviews, Travel, Conferences, Educating on Debt Management
- “Emerging Global Health” Course content includes working in and discussing under-resourced communities
- Students’ Service Award for Under-Represented Communities



Faculty Support & Overall Education

- Diversity Advisory Council: Monitoring CMS efforts e.g. search committee diversity advocates
- Journal Club: Highlighting key articles on inequities, disparities, and inclusivity in medical education
- HDEME Task Force: Recommendations for changes throughout the curriculum to enhance understanding of health inequities and disparities
- Spotlight: Minority Faculty & Women
- Establishing Awards for Minority Faculty of Excellence
- Human Resources — Expanding networks to advertise CMS positions to UiM candidates

Recent Diversity & Inclusion Events



Local, Regional, & National Engagement

- Diversity through Music: Daniel Bernard Roumain, PhD with Hector Rasgado-Flores, PhD
- Health Care Disparities: Lecture series focusing on Black, Latinx, Native American and Veteran populations
- Community Outreach: CCPA and MOLA, DOCS program
- High Impact Speakers: e.g. Patrice Harris, MD, Capt. Kenneth Domingues, MD, MPH, & Donovan Williams, MD
- Collaborating with RFU on diversity initiatives including outreach
- Institutional Advancement: Develop a roster of UiM alum for future development opportunities e.g. Kevin Watkins, MD, & Evelyn Lewis, MD

“A Symposium on Race in Medicine: Genetic Validity or Racist Legacy?”

August 31, 2020

Sponsored by the Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI)

Latinx Heritage Month Event: “Hispanic/Latinx Health Issues and Disparities in the United States”

October 19, 2020

Sponsored by OEDI, the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), and the CPASS Foundation

“Reflections on Race and Medicine in the Year of COVID-19 and Nationwide Protests”

October 26, 2020

Presented by Damon Tweedy, MD, author of *Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor’s Reflections on Race and Medicine*
Sponsored by OEDI

Native American Heritage Month Event: “Native American Well-Being: Health Disparities and Solutions”

November 18, 2020

Sponsored by OEDI

National Medical Fellowships Champions of Health Awards



Several CMS students were featured during the virtual program on Oct. 15. (photo provided by Mildred MG Olivier, MD '88.)

Several CMS students received awards during the National Medical Fellowships (NMF) 2020 Champions of Health Awards, held virtually on October 15. NMF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the number of underrepresented minority physicians and other professionals in the healthcare workforce, in order to improve access to quality healthcare in medically underserved communities.

Laurine Tiema-Benson and **Lisandra Ochoa**, both CMS '22, received NMF scholarships for their service projects as recipients of the United Health Foundation/NMF Diverse Medical Scholars

Program. Scholars in this program must demonstrate leadership and a commitment to underserved communities. At the end of each program year, Scholars attend a national conference with other students in the United Health Foundation Diverse Scholars Program to discuss the outcomes of their projects.

Laurine's service learning project, titled "Assessing Barriers to African American Healthcare Utilization at a Student-Led Pro Bono Clinic," examined the barriers faced by uninsured African Americans that may have prevented them from taking advantages



Laurine Tiema-Benson



Lisandra Ochoa

of the services offered by the university's Interprofessional Community Clinic (ICC). Although African Americans make up approximately 42% of the population of North Chicago, they represented only 3.5% of the ICC's patient population in 2018 and only 2.75% in 2019. Laurine interviewed 25 community leaders to discuss perceptions of health issues in North Chicago, Waukegan, and Zion; general knowledge of the ICC; and perceptions of barriers such as lack of transportation and lack of awareness of the ICC and its services.

Laurine's findings will be used to increase outreach and service to the local African American population in order to improve how the ICC serves the local area.

Lisandra's project, titled "Reducing Teen Pregnancy Among Teens of Round Lake School District," will focus on decreasing teen pregnancies in Round Lake, a local community which has one of the highest rates of Latinx teen pregnancies in Lake County. She will also address awareness of and knowledge about post-high school opportunities with the goal of fueling a greater desire to pursue higher education.

During the course of her project, Lisandra will lead virtual workshops and interactive presentations with

Round Lake students, with information about birth control and post-high school opportunities, with a focus on STEM careers.

Three CMS students also received awards from the NMF Primary Care Leadership Program (PCLP): **Janayah McClellan**, **Alexander Papadogiannis**, and **Azieb Zemed**, all CMS'23. The PCLP, which provides community service scholarships for medical students and graduate nursing and physician assistant students, places an emphasis on primary care leadership and practice within the community health context. PCLP Scholars actively engage in leadership training, site-based service-learning projects, and healthcare delivery. ■



Janayah McClellan



Alexander Papadogiannis



Azieb Zemed

Racism and Medicine

Shining Light on the Impact of Health Disparities on Marginalized Communities

The Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI) has hosted a series of symposia to examine how systematic racism in the United States, especially in medical education and health care, have negatively impacted marginalized populations. Each symposium brought together experts from across the country, as well as patients who gave testimonials about their healthcare experiences.

The first event was **“A Symposium on Race in Medicine: Genetic Validity or Racist Legacy?”** held on Aug. 31. Experts in nutrition, medical education, and community health, including CMS alumna **Deborah Willis-Fillinger**, MD ’79, former director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity within the Health Resources and Services Administration, talked about the myriad factors — genetic, institutional, individual, and governmental — which have led to health disparities in both clinical and research medicine. The guest speakers covered topics such as food deserts, institutional racism in healthcare institutions, and the dangers of using racial data in biomedical research.

The symposium also featured Jocelyn Willis McClelland, a Black woman who recounted her personal experiences with implicit bias in her patient testimonial “When Assumptions Can Be Deadly.” After experiencing persistent symptoms of heart problems and being diagnosed with cardiomyopathy in 2007, Ms. McClelland was told that this thickening of her heart wall had been caused by her high blood pressure — even though she didn’t have and had never had high blood pressure. When she was still experiencing pain and being ignored, she decided to become her own advocate and do

her own research. After seeing another physician, she was finally diagnosed with cardiac amyloidosis. “Had I not advocated on my own behalf, I would undoubtedly be long dead by now,” she said.

When summarizing the lessons she wants healthcare professionals to take away from her experiences, Ms. McClelland emphasized the importance of making a conscious effort to combat stereotypes and bias. “Do not make cultural assumptions,” she said. “Listen to and believe your patients.”

“Hispanic/Latinx Health Issues and Disparities in the United States” was held Oct. 19 in honor of Latinx Heritage Month. Experts from the CDC, the University of Mexico, and the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) National gathered to talk about healthcare disparities that affect Hispanic and Latinx populations, leading causes of death among Hispanics, and Latinx mental health considerations.

The most recent symposium was **“Native American Well-Being: Health Disparities and Solutions,”** held Nov. 18 in honor of Native American Heritage Month. Experts in healthcare and education, including representatives from the Navajo Nation and the Akimel O’odham tribe in Arizona, discussed healthcare disparities faced by Native Americans, the prejudices encountered by Native patients when seeking healthcare, and the importance of increasing Native American representation in the fields of healthcare and medical education.

Upcoming events planned by the OEDI will continue to focus on the health and wellness of different communities, such as veterans. ■

Dean Chatterjee Establishes New Scholarship in Honor of Agnes D. Lattimer, MD '54



Agnes Lattimer, MD '54

Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD, Dean of Chicago Medical School and RFU Vice President for Medical Affairs, recently established the **Agnes D. Lattimer, MD '54 Memorial Endowed Scholarship**. Named for a CMS alumna who was a pioneer among African-American physicians in

the Chicago region, the Lattimer Scholarship will support the ongoing financial needs of students from groups underrepresented in medicine who are enrolled at the Chicago Medical School.

Dr. Chatterjee, who established the scholarship with her family, said that a vast array of research into healthcare outcomes supports the need for diversity in the physician workforce. Because equity in health professions must start with equity in education, Dr. Chatterjee added that she was proud to honor a CMS alumna who rose from poverty to prominence in her vocation.

"Soon after I arrived at CMS, I began to seek opportunities to support our students in a meaningful way," Dr. Chatterjee said. "In discussions with our Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion, I learned about Dr. Agnes Lattimer and her legacy. As a fellow pediatrician, I thought it would be great to honor her achievements through this scholarship."

The perpetual Lattimer Scholarship offers an opportunity for others to contribute to the endowed fund, with the aim of increasing the yearly student scholarship award.

Dr. Lattimer, who passed away in 2019, entered CMS in 1950 as one of only two women and the only African American in her class. Lack of financial resources had forced her to turn down acceptance at a medical college in her home state of Tennessee, and she then worked as a housekeeper in Chicago for 18 months to earn enough money to attend CMS.

A lengthy career in pediatrics culminated for Dr. Lattimer with her appointment as medical director of Cook County Hospital in 1986. In 1971, she became the first female and first African American recipient of the CMS Distinguished Alumnus Award. RFU also features an Agnes D. Lattimer, MD Professorship, which was awarded in 2019 to Joanne Kwak-Kim, MD, MPH.

Other new scholarships designed to remove barriers to education, promote diversity in our classrooms, and advance the cause of equity in health professions include the **Fannie H. Emanuel, MD, 1915 Memorial Endowed Scholarship** and the **Presidential Diversity Scholarship**. All three endowed scholarships will be awarded in perpetuity beginning in the 2021-22 academic year. ■



Dr. Lattimer (left) graduated in 1954 as one of only two women, and the only African American, in her class.

THE ARNOLD P.
GOLD
FOUNDATION

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Each year the M4 class nominates their peers for membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). The GHHS is an organization, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, that recognizes students, residents, and faculty who are exemplars of compassionate patient care, and who serve as role models, mentors, and leaders in medicine. The mission of the GHHS is to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and to integrate those values into the educational environment of the future.

Congratulations to the
CMS Class of 2021 Honorees!



Zahra
Abbas



Erika
Belmont



Laura
Billstein



Leah
Bolden



Alex
Clos



Ashley
Cohen



Chantal
Creighton



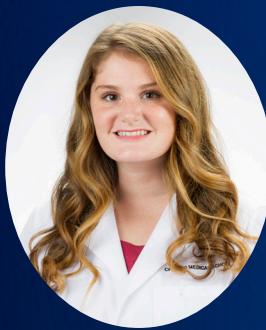
Brandon
Flock



Kenneth
Furlough



Cassandra
Gee



Leah
Getsov



Ari
Hadar



Jennifer
Jung



Diana
Kantarovich



Stephanie
Kaszuba



Alyssa
Kessel



Sara
Khan



Theresa
Kunnel



Lauren
Logan



Douglas
Moss



Karan
Pandher



Akshay
Patel



John
Pierce



Natasha
Scaria



Alvin
Singh



Janki
Thakkar



Shayna
Waldbaum



Drew
Weinstein



Jonathan
Winegarden

The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Nutrition

Article submitted by Joana Abed Elahad, CMS '21

In the past, there have been a lot of studies that concluded that socioeconomic status (SES) affects nutrition intake of an individual. It is seen that “whole grains, lean meats, fish, low-fat dairy products, and fresh vegetables” tend to be consumed by individuals with high SES. Rather, low SES individuals are seen to consume “refined grains and fats.” The difference in consumption between the two groups plays a role in a person’s mood and daily energy. Individuals with a low SES background usually suffer from other comorbidities related to nutrition intake. This includes cardiovascular disease, bone disease, diabetes, and many more. Nutrition, diet, and physical activity can be impacted by a person’s occupation, education, and even income level. Healthcare professionals should take these factors into consideration when treating and managing patients.

There is significant evidence that indicates that the consumption of unhealthy diets is associated with

low SES. As healthcare professionals, we owe it to our patients to discuss and educate them about their nutrition intake. In addition, it is significantly important to learn about their background and SES, by building a strong and trusting relationship with them. Discussing one’s SES and background can be a sensitive but extremely important topic to discuss. Various research studies have concluded that foods high in fat and calories can predispose individuals to overeating due to tasting better. This can lead to obesity and eventually result in diseases that are difficult to manage. Having early discussions regarding diet and physical activity can help prevent our patients from acquiring these diseases.

Less nutritious and energy-dense foods tend to be a lot cheaper. Food costs are probably the most important contributor to socioeconomic inequalities in healthiness of consumption of food and beverages.

Over the past few decades, the rate of obesity has dramatically increased in the United States. Specifically, in young adults, the prevalence of obesity is 34 percent. Throughout the years, there has been a decrease in food being prepared at home by individuals, and instead, an increase of fast food purchases. In addition, this results in a significant decrease of the consumption of fruits and vegetables. These dramatic changes are due to the fact that it is cheaper to purchase your food at a fast food restaurant, rather than prepare it yourself at home.

There is a significant discrepancy in nutritional intake based on racial and ethnical backgrounds. Specifically, it was seen that Mexican-origin children have the highest obesity prevalence. It is important as healthcare professional to address these discrepancies and cater proper care towards our patients. It is seen that Mexican-origin children are at a greater risk for obesity when coming from a low SES.

Building a strong and trusting relationship with our patients is important to better care for our patients. It is important to create a safe and comforting environment for our patients, in order for them to be able to freely discuss their SES backgrounds

with us. Knowing their SES background will allow us, healthcare professionals, to help manage any preventable diseases. Interprofessional care will also benefit the patient and allow the patient to receive the best care.

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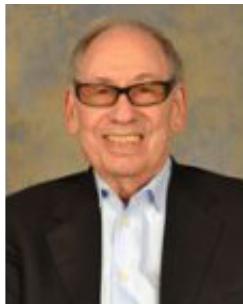
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Distinguished Alumni Awards

At the virtual faculty recognition event held on November 12 (see page 1), several alumni of Chicago Medical School were recognized for their outstanding impact on CMS, their community, and the medical field. Congratulations to the alumni who received 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards!



Leslie J. Sandlow, MD '60, professor emeritus of medical education and internal medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement. This award is bestowed upon

CMS alumni who have made a significant impact in the field of medicine and whose efforts have brought distinction to the Chicago Medical School.

"A medical career as long and distinguished as that of Dr. Leslie J. Sandlow gives cause for our deepest gratitude and admiration," **Mildred MG Olivier**, MD '88, assistant professor of ophthalmology and assistant dean of diversity and inclusion said when presenting the award. "Dr. Sandler's influence on all aspects of healthcare has been exemplary and has impacted so many lives."

Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Sandlow is a fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and the American College of Physician Executives. His professional excellence and commitment to the advancement of medicine is also evidenced by his long record of academic and administrative appointments. In addition to being a professor emeritus of medical education and internal medicine

at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, he also served as a high-level administrator at Michael Reese Hospital. He has been recognized as an innovator of curricular change, professionalism, student assessment, and faculty development, as well as an innovator in the use of adult education teaching and learning methods.

Dr. Sandlow has co-authored dozens of original publications, abstracts, books, and chapters. He has lectured widely, and has lent his experience and expertise in numerous other professional activities as an advisor, advocate, and trustee. He has toured the world as a highly sought-after visiting professor, and in the process of documenting his exotic travels, he's now an accomplished blogger and photographer.

In accepting the award, Dr. Sandlow noted that his most important accomplishments were not his academic or career achievements, but rather his efforts to make a difference in people's lives. "My CV didn't really tell you what I do, or what I've done," he said. "It just deals with the academic parts. But what I want to emphasize is that my real efforts have been helping people, individuals, and groups and communities in achieving health and moving up in whatever profession they're in. In other words, my role was not only caring for patients, but at the same time mentoring. And that's what I am really proud of."



Sabrina R. Kendrick, MD '90, FACP, director of the STD Screening Clinic at the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center in Chicago, also received the Distinguished Alumni Award

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for Achievement, in recognition of her strong record of leadership and her commitment to patient care, research, and teaching.

In her 30 years in medicine, Dr. Kendrick has put the health needs and concerns of patients and communities first. As the director of the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center STD Screening Clinic, one of the largest HIV/AIDS clinics in the United States (and named after the former chair of the RFU Board of Trustees), she has focused on the prevention, care, and research of HIV, AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections. Dr. Kendrick has championed the highest quality care for people and families affected with infectious diseases, treating them with respect, dignity, compassion, and without regard to ability to pay. She has sought to expand initiatives to routinize and optimize screenings for STDs, linking and reengaging people living with HIV to care, working to decrease stigma, and putting services and supports in place to help those patients stay retained in care and achieve viral suppression.

Dr. Kendrick has championed a patient-centered environment by seeking to better understand and to prevent disease through education and research. As a principal investigator, she has also contributed to the rich vein of research in her field, much of it delving into rapid HIV testing, standard sexually transmitted infections, and antiviral drugs. She has also authored manuscripts and many abstracts.

She also helps to shape the next generation of physicians, serving as an assistant professor of internal medicine at Rush University Medical Center. Generous with her time and talent, Dr. Kendrick has served on many advisory boards and as a mentor, leader, and educator. Above all, she is a healer and a champion of the underserved.

"I knew I was destined to work as a physician in underserved communities. Most of my clinical experiences as a medical student were completed at Cook County Hospital. The diversity of the patient population and their medical problems, I find fascinating and challenging, which is why I returned to work as an attending at the place where it all began for me," said Dr. Kendrick, who works as an attending in the Division of Infectious Diseases at John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County. "I am proud to be my patients' advocate through their healthcare journey over the years. I'm also proud to be a Chicago Medical School alumna."



The next award, the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service, went to **Mitchell Goldflies**, MD '75, chief of the Section of Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical Director of Rehabilitation Services, and lead preceptor of surgical education at Saint Anthony Hospital in Chicago. This award is bestowed upon CMS alumni for unselfish devotion of time and service in a professional capacity or in the broader community that have brought distinction to Chicago Medical School.

"You have given back to your community and profession so generously, using your gifts to help underserved populations and giving from your heart, without ever asking anything in return," Dr. Olivier said when presenting the award. "We're truly grateful and humbled by your selfless example, your distinguished service, and your spirit."

The son of **Dr. Jerome Goldflies**, from the CMS Class of 1945, Dr. Goldflies is renowned in the fields of orthopedic surgery and sports medicine. Throughout

Alumni News

his noteworthy career, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment to his practice and his patients, affording him several leadership positions at Saint Anthony Hospital, Norwegian American Hospital, and Thorek Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Goldflies' career and service are deeply rooted in his dedication to professional medical education, to Chicago Medical School, and to future physicians who will carry forward his legacy of commitment. Since 1985, he has served as a clinical assistant professor of surgery, training RFU students from both CMS and the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine. He joined the CMS Alumni Association Board of Governors in 2001, and he has worked over the years to support Chicago Medical School students by sharing his expertise and passion as a clinical exposure host, alumni mentor, and specialty consultant.

While accepting the award, Dr. Goldflies recalled that when he received the letter informing him that he had won the award, "I was shocked, surprised, and humbled. The last time I remember that reaction to a letter was in March of 1971, when I received my acceptance letter to Chicago Medical School!"



Sara J. Pavitt, MD '15, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Early Career Achievement, bestowed upon CMS alumni of the past 15 years who have achieved early distinction that proudly reflects the power of a Chicago Medical School

education. Dr. Pavitt is a pediatric headache fellow at Benioff Children's Hospital at the University of California, San Francisco. She completed her pediatric residency at Lucile Packard Children's

Hospital at Stanford, where she served as chief resident in her child neurology residency at Stanford Healthcare.

Dr. Pavitt is a medical educator, and interested in quality improvement. She has conducted research on the development of innovative educational practices and improving communication in the complex U.S. healthcare system that has led to publications in peer-reviewed journals, as well as award-winning poster presentations.

She has been repeatedly recognized by both her peers and students alike. This year alone, she was chosen as one of the 15 residents in the country for the 2020 American Academy of Neurology's Enhanced Resident Leadership Program; she was presented with the Christine Wijman Humanism in Medicine Award at Stanford for demonstrating that concern for human interest, values, and dignity is of the utmost importance in her care of the sick; and she received the Arnold P. Gold Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award for her exceptional teaching skills and compassionate treatments of patients, families, students, and colleagues.

Reflecting on everything she's achieved just five years after graduating, Dr. Pavitt said, "I truly think I can all pinpoint it back to my time at CMS. I, too, remember receiving my acceptance to CMS and being so excited to start my medical journey. The education, the mentorship, the opportunities that I received at CMS truly propelled me to hit the ground running in my child neurology residency and now my fellowship." ■

Alumni News

Other Alumni News

David S. Boyer, MD '72, was appointed to the scientific advisory board of Graybug Vision, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing transformative medicines to treat chronic diseases of the retina and optic nerve.

Jeffrey W. Sherman, MD '81, chief medical officer and executive vice president at Horizon Therapeutics, was named one of PharmaVoice Magazine's "100 Most Inspiring People" for leading his company's efforts to register and approve new treatments for people living with rare disorders.

Michael R. Foley, MD '84, was appointed chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Arizona's College of Medicine – Phoenix. Dr. Foley is also chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix.

Martin Lanoff, MD '85, was named on the Fall 2020 "Top Sports Doctors" list in the Chicago Magazine Special Orthopedic Edition.

Debby Hamilton, MD '92, MPH, served on a virtual panel titled "Emerging Treatments and Clinical Pearls" at the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society's Annual Scientific Conference.

Trevor Lewis, MD '92, FACEP, was named chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. Dr. Lewis is also president of the executive medical staff at Stroger/Cook County Health.

Vimesh Akotia, MD '96, gave a virtual presentation to CMS students, talking about his career as a gastroenterologist, maintaining work/life balance, and the differences between hospitalist and outpatient gastroenterology.

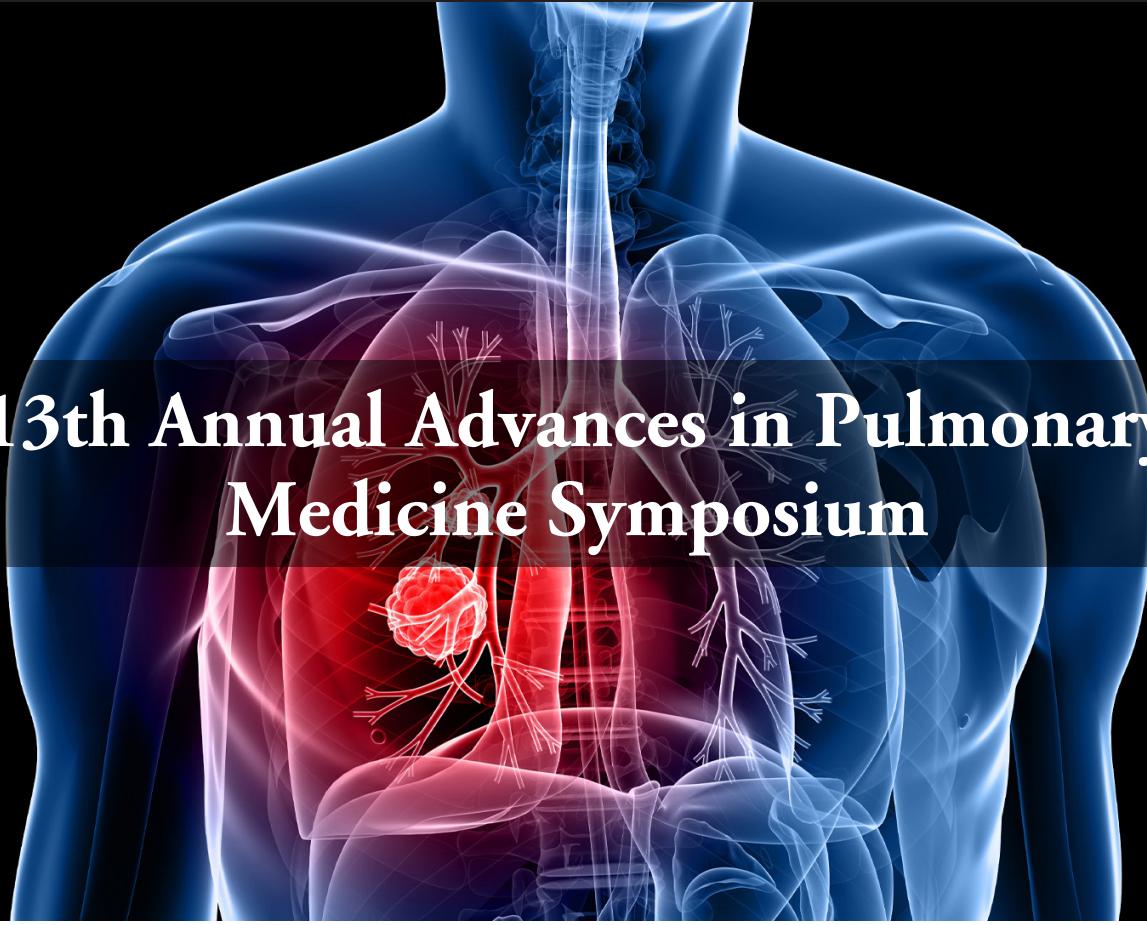
Rukhsana G. Mirza, MD '01, met with CMS students in a virtual event to offer advice to students interested in the field of ophthalmology. Dr. Mirza is a professor of ophthalmology and medical education at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

William Hartman, MD '03, PhD '99, was interviewed for the article "Containing the Crisis: A Look into UW Figures Predicting the Pandemic, and Those Searching for the End," published in the Badger Herald. Dr. Hartman is director of the AstraZeneca phase III vaccine trials at the University of Wisconsin.

Jordan Tasse, MD '07, an interventional radiologist and assistant professor of diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine at Rush Medical College, met with students via Zoom to talk about his career path and give a glimpse into the daily life of a radiologist. Dr. Tasse, who is also the assistant director of Rush's Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program, gave advice about applying to residency programs.

Amy E. Falk, MD '13, received the Marvin Wagner Preceptor Award from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). The Wagner Award recognizes the important contributions and valuable service provided by volunteer instructors and clinical faculty members in helping to educate MCW students, residents and fellows.

Hannah Samuelson, MD '19, held a virtual Q & A session with students in the Urology Interest Group. Dr. Samuelson is a first-year urology resident at University of Texas San Antonio's Long School of Medicine. She talked to students about the field of urology and also gave advice about matching in urology and what it takes to be a successful urology applicant. ■



13th Annual Advances in Pulmonary Medicine Symposium

The Clinical Sciences Department recently held its 13th Annual Advances in Pulmonary Medicine Symposium (formerly known as the COPD Symposium). Adapting to the virtual environment, the symposium was broken into three sessions, with one presentation being given monthly from August through October. All sessions were moderated by **Ashok Fulambarker**, MD, professor of medicine.

Ayodeji Adegunsoye, MD, MS, FACP, FCCP, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago, launched the event with his presentation “Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of COVID-19” on August 26. Dr. Adegunsoye, who specializes in pulmonary and critical medicine, gave an overview of current treatments of the virus. His presentation covered the demographic distribution of COVID-19 and how to recognize and manage a patient with COVID-19.

Ankit Bharat, MD, Harold L. and Margaret N. Method Research Professor of Surgery and chief of thoracic surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of

Medicine, delivered the second part of the symposium on September 23. In his presentation, titled “Lessons Learned from the First Lung Transplantation in COVID-19,” Dr. Bharat discussed his first case of double lung transplantation following irreversible lung disease caused by COVID-19. At the time of his presentation, Dr. Bharat’s team had performed double lung transplants on four COVID-19 patients.

Sunita Kumar, MD, FCCP, professor of medicine and director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship program at Loyola University, and co-director of the Loyola Center for Sleep Disorders, concluded the symposium with her presentation “Obstructive Sleep Apnea in 2020” on October 28. Dr. Kumar reviewed treatment options and personalized therapy for patients with obstructive sleep apnea.

The Clinical Sciences Department thanks everyone who worked to make this year’s symposium a success! ■

Get to know the people who make CMS a great place to study and work!

Nichole Ulibarri

Coordinator, Educational Technology

Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities

Time at CMS: 3 1/2 years



As Coordinator of Educational Technology, Nichole Ulibarri fulfills many vital roles within Chicago Medical School. Her skills have become even more in demand in recent months, as CMS has transitioned to mostly remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Luckily, Nichole has plenty of experience juggling multiple responsibilities. Before coming to CMS, she spent over a decade working as an office manager for a small business, where she was responsible for human resources, information technology, finance, purchasing, and marketing.

Nichole joined CMS in March of 2017, working as an administrative assistant in the Department of Neuroscience. When all of the medical school's basic science departments were restructured into the new Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities (FSH) in 2018, Nichole moved to FSH as a research center administrator, before assuming her current role of coordinator of educational technology. "My favorite things about CMS are the remarkable people I work with and the opportunities for growth," Nichole said. She also likes the idea that she is helping facilitate the education of future doctors.

Nichole's job duties include coordinating the weekly schema cases, which involves scheduling the small-group case sessions, holding orientations for faculty and students, performing data analysis, and building the InSite pages for the schema cases using InfoPath and SharePoint. She also does the HTML coding for Dr. Barbara Vertel's online Histology Lab Guide, and she provides tech support for faculty and others in CMS, including Zoom, Google Suite, and general computer support. The switch to remote learning has brought novel challenges, and Nichole has taken on additional roles to help students, faculty, and staff function successfully in this new environment. Since March, she has prepared her team to work remotely, created training materials to help faculty use Zoom and Google Meet, served as chief proctor for remote exams, and provided tech and administrative support for remote lectures.

"Nichole is the first person to fill the role of Technical Coordinator for FSH and boy, was her help needed, especially in this era of remote learning!" said Nichole's supervisor. "Between running the schema case small-group sessions, overseeing remote examinations, and trouble-shooting a million other technology issues, Nichole is indispensable for keeping our pre-clinical curriculum running."

In addition to her duties within the FSH department, Nichole is also co-coordinator of the annual Women in Science and Healthcare (WiSH) Symposium (see page 16). Together with Jay Mote, executive administrative assistant in the RFU Office of Academic Affairs, Nichole coordinates stage management, production scheduling, marketing, and logistics for the event and serves as the liaison between the faculty planners, the guest speakers, the panelists, and any staff and student volunteers. She also builds and maintains the website for the event and coordinates details for the WiSH reception.

Outside of work, Nichole enjoys knitting, crocheting, and playing tabletop role-playing games. She recently bought a ukulele and is teaching herself how to play it. ■

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Awards & Accomplishments



Shiva Barforoshi

Shiva Barforoshi, CMS '21, won first place in the Medical Student Clinical Vignette competition at the 2020 American College of Physicians Northern California Chapter conference on November 7 after presenting a case titled "A Rare Case of Treatment-Resistant Neurosarcoidosis of the Cavernous Sinus." Fellow M4s **Nikhil A. Patel** and **Alvin P. Singh** were co-first authors on this case. **Terrence Li**, MD, assistant professor, discipline chair, and education director of neurology, and Benjamin Mba, MD, of John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, also contributed to the case.

Shiva's presentation featured a rare case of neurosarcoidosis of the cavernous sinus refractory to both first and second-line high-dose immunosuppressive agents. In this case, the students highlighted the need for (1) early, aggressive treatment in cases of neurosarcoidosis of the cavernous sinus, and (2) the need to develop criteria to guide treatment strategy based on neurolocalization and the degree of neurological disability.

The group's abstract for this case was also accepted to the 2020 American Medical Association (AMA) Research Symposium poster gallery. The AMA will host the event virtually from Thursday, Dec. 3 – Sunday, Dec. 6.

At its annual national meeting on September 22nd, the organization "Stand SAFE" announced the release of its self-paced online course titled "Physicians and Firearms," in partnership with Stanford University. Fourth-year

medical students **Ashley Cohen** and **Emily Root** constructed the content for the course and its three modules, while a second team of students has worked to edit, narrate, and digitize the content. The modules are applicable and available to all health professionals and health professions students, and address topics like the epidemiology of firearms injuries and how to approach firearms conversations with different patient populations. To access the modules, please visit: <https://mededucation.stanford.edu/courses/physicians-and-firearms2020/> where visitors can make a free account. To learn more about SAFE, visit: <https://www.standsafe.org/>.



Ashley Cohen



Emily Root



Joanna Dabrowska, PhD, associate professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, Center for the Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, received \$77,998 of supplemental funds to her parent R01 award from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Kimberly Fasula, RDH, MS, MPH, director of interprofessional education was appointed to serve on the Illinois Board of Dentistry. The Board of Dentistry

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is an entity of the Illinois Department of Federal and Professional Regulation and consists of eleven members appointed for a 4-year term, with a maximum eligibility of two terms. The Board is charged with establishing guidelines for

professional conduct, conducting formal disciplinary proceedings brought under the Illinois Dental Practice Act, and establishing guidelines for qualifications of applicants.

Although Kimberly's term has officially begun, the ceremonial "swearing-in" by Governor Pritzker was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Johnny He, PhD, professor and discipline chair of microbiology and immunology and director of the Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection, and **Amiel Rosenkranz**, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology and director of the Brain Science Institute, were recognized as “Researchers to Know” by the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition during a virtual event on Sept. 16. This honor spotlights university researchers throughout Illinois who are driving innovation and making a positive impact on their respective fields.



Dr. Johnny He



Dr. Amiel Rosenkranz

Dr. He also recently served on several NIH Study Section Panels as a member or as a co-chair for grant reviews:

- Mentored Clinical Scientists Research Career Development Award (K08), AARR-B (02), April, 7, 2020, panel member
- AIDS and AIDS-related F30, F31, and F32 Fellowships, ZRG1-F17, July 10, 2020, panel co-chair
- Single-cell opioid response and HIV infection (SCORCH, U01), ZDA1-YXF, October 26, 2020, panel co-chair



Lauren Gard



Yazan Issa

BMS assistant professor and ICC administrative officer, Yovanna Pomarico, MBA,CMA; Maureen Domerchie RN, ICC faculty advisor for Grants; and Varsha Chandramouli MD, Family Practice faculty champion.

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Robert Marr, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience, Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics, received a one-year, \$2,000 grant from the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness for the research study “Exploring

the Relationship Between Complex Multi-layered Choroidal Neovascular Membranes and Choriocapillaris Nonperfusion in Age-related Macular Degeneration.”



Alvin Singh, CMS '21, wrote an abstract titled “Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Neurology Education: A SIGN Needs Assessment” that was selected for an ISNS Honors Presentation at the virtual 4th Annual Illinois State Neurological Society Meeting

on September 12. The abstract was one of the two highest-scored abstracts and Alvin was selected to give a 10-minute oral presentation during the Annual Meeting.

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Jordan Newman, CMS '21, was awarded the Medical Student Prize for Excellence by the American Academy of Neurology. This prize is given to graduating medical students who have promising career potential in neurology as seen by their institution's faculty and residents.



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Katie Stanutz, director of curriculum management, and **Karen Quintana**, internal medicine residency program administrator, Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital, both received Summer 2020 GEM Awards. GEM Awards are quarterly awards that recognize RFU staff members who “Go the Extra Mile” to make RFU a better place.



Katie Stanutz



Karen Quintana



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Fabio Re, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunology, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection, received a three-year, \$429,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health for the research study “Inflammatory Cytokines and Pyroptosis in Coronavirus Infection.”

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Grace “Beth” Stutzmann, PhD, director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics and professor of neuroscience, received a four-year, \$1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for her research project “Intracellular Organelle Deficits Driving Alzheimer’s Disease.”

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Presentations & Publications

Archana Chatterjee, MD,

PhD, dean of Chicago Medical School and RFU Vice President for Medical Affairs, is co-editor of the Journal of Infectious Diseases' 2020 supplement titled "Inclusion, Diversity, Access and Equity in Infectious Diseases: Nurturing the Next Generation of Clinicians, Scientists and Leaders." She was also interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Politico* for articles about the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Chatterjee serves on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee.



Melissa Chen, MD, assistant professor of medicine and clinical director of the Interprofessional Community Clinic (ICC), presented a poster titled "Intentional Design of an Online Lifestyle Medicine Course" at the National Center

for Interprofessional Practice and Education (Nexus) Summit 2020 Virtual Professional Poster Session, along with CHP colleagues Dr. Ziemowit Mazur and Dr. Sneha Srivastava.

Dr. Chen also contributed to an article about the ICC titled "Pharmacy and Telehealth: An Interprofessional Model at a Student-Led Free Clinic," recently published in the *Pharmacy Times*. The article explored the ICC's innovations in incorporating pharmacy counseling into telehealth care.



Dr. Joanna Dabrowska

Joanna Dabrowska, PhD,

associate professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, and **Valentina Olivera**, MSc, graduate student, both from the Center for the Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, authored a review article in *Frontiers in Neuroscience* entitled "Oxytocin Promotes Accurate Fear Discrimination and Adaptive Defensive Behaviors."



Raúl J. Gazmuri, MD, PhD,

FCCM, director of the Resuscitation Institute and professor of medicine and physiology and biophysics, published an article titled "Development of a Work of Breathing Scale and Monitoring Need of Intubation in COVID-19 Pneumonia" in *Critical Care*.



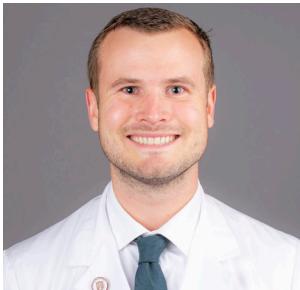
Dr. Michelle Hastings

Michelle Hastings, PhD,

director, and **Anthony Hinrich**, research associate, Center for Genetic Diseases, in collaboration with researchers at Harvard Medical School, co-authored the article "Splice-Switching Antisense Oligonucleotides Reduce LRRK2 Kinase Activity in Human LRRK2 Transgenic Mice," published in *Molecular Therapy Nucleic Acids*.

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Dr. Hastings also presented “Splice-Switching Antisense Oligo-Nucleotides for the Treatment of Disease” at a virtual event held by the University of Michigan’s Center for RNA Biomedicine on November 16. The presentation was part of the center’s RNA Innovation Seminar Series.



Daniel Hivick, CMS '22, authored an article titled “Pain Symptomatology and Management in Pediatric Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome: A Review,” published in the journal *Children*.

interest group and the CMS Wellness Committee, covered how to manage anxiety in difficult times and other mental health topics.

On September 22, **Heather Kind-Keppel**, EdD, CMS instructor of medical education and RFU Executive Director of Diversity and Inclusion, gave a presentation titled “The Intersections of History, Systematic Racism, and Medicine” as part of the Interprofessional Community Clinic (ICC) “Lunch and Learn” series.



Biana Kotlyar, MD, education director and assistant professor of psychiatry, participated in a virtual Mental Health Open Forum, along with CHP professor Dr. John Calamari. The forum, which was hosted by the Students Interested in Psychiatry

Ricardo Lopez-Betancourt, CMS '23, virtually presented a poster at the Evidence Based Perioperative Medicine (EBPOM) Autumn Congress, held October 7-9 in Ireland. The poster was based on research Ricardo conducted at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.



Alex Luke, CMS '21, presented a poster titled “Efficacy of Office-Based Intralesional Steroid Injections as Measured by Surgery Free Interval in the Management of Subglottic Stenosis: A Systematic Review” at the Fall Voice Conference (Virtual), held virtually October 23-24.

David Mueller, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, Center for Genetic Diseases, collaborated on a study of novel neurological phenotypes in the gene ATP1A3, which encodes a subunit of the sodium/potassium ATPase. The study, “D-DEMØ, a Distinct Phenotype Caused by ATP1A3 Mutations,” was published in *Neurology Genetics*.



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Dr. Mueller also published an article titled “Bedaquiline Inhibits the Yeast and Human Mitochondrial ATP Synthases” — on the new antibiotic against tuberculosis, Sirturo (BDQ) — in the *Nature* journal *Communications Biology*. Dr. Mueller led the study in collaboration with investigators from Harvard Medical School and the National Institutes of Health.

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James O'Donnell III, PhD, assistant professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, recently published two book chapters: “Drug Induced Falls” in *Slips, Trips, Missteps and Their Consequences* (L&J Publishing, 2020), and “Introduction to Drug Discovery and Development” in *Drug Discovery and Development* (Taylor & Francis Publishing, 2020), which he also edited.

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Favour Oladipupo, CMS '24, published her research project entitled “STAT3 Deficiency in B Cells Exacerbates Uveitis by Promoting Expansion of Pathogenic Lymphocytes and Suppressing Regulatory B Cells (Bregs) and Tregs” in *Scientific Reports* on October 1. Favour conducted this project during

her time as an IRTA Post-baccalaureate Research Fellow at the National Institutes of Health from 2017-2019. She is the co-first author of the paper with the guidance of her mentor, Dr. Cheng-Rong Yu, and her principal investigator, Dr. Charles Egwuagu.

Two CMS students presented works at the 10th annual Integrative Medicine for the Underserved (IM4US) conference, held virtually August 27-29. The theme of the conference was “Pathways to Health Equity: Dismantling Barriers and Creating Solutions through Integrative Health.”



Pavithra Ramanathan

Pavithra Ramanathan, CMS '23, presented a video titled “Ayurvedic Tips for Pandemic Times,” which was featured in the Words of Wisdom section of conference.



Alex Clos

Alex Clos, CMS '21, presented a poster titled “Do-It-Yourself Personal Protective Equipment GetMePPE Chicago: Engaging the Maker Community to Combat the PPE Shortage.” Alex co-presented with Tazim Samir Merchant, a second-year medical student at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Their presentation discussed how the student-led group GetMePPE Chicago leveraged technology and the maker community to fabricate PPE for donation to Chicago hospitals when established commercial supply lines collapsed during the first wave of the pandemic.

Events and Other News

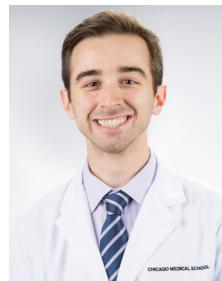
Recognizing the need to enhance access to quality eye care for the lower socioeconomic patients in the Lake County area, the ICC Eye Screening team — consisting of **Jennifer Kim**, CMS '23; **Avni Dervishi**, CMS '21; and **Rachel To**, CMS '23 — has started an initiative to establish a new eye clinic at the Interprofessional Community Clinic. This

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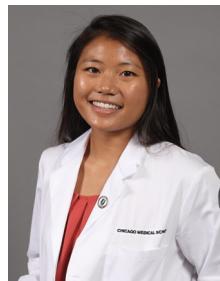
specialty clinic seeks to improve vision health equity among underserved populations and serve those at high-risk for diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataracts, and many other preventable eye diseases. Additionally, this clinic will be an educational opportunity for RFUMS students by providing them with an early exposure to ophthalmology in a clinical setting. With the support of **Dr. Mildred MG Olivier**, **Dr. Bruce Kaplan**, and **Dr. Ana LoDuca** as faculty advisors and **Dr. Mitchell Warren** as faculty champion, the eye clinic is projected to open in fall 2021.



Jennifer Kim



Avni Dervishi



Rachel To

participates in the Family Medicine Clerkship didactics and mentors students interested in pursuing Family Medicine as a career. Dr. Dahlem also serves on the Family Medicine Grading Committee.

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Dr. Arthur Levine

The Brain Science Institute's (BSI) inaugural conference, "Investing in Brain Disease Research," was held virtually Sept. 16-17. Keynote speakers included **Arthur Levine**, MD '64, executive director of the Brain Institute, University of Pittsburgh; **Amiel Rosenkranz**, PhD, director, BSI; and **Michelle Hastings**, PhD, director, RFU's Center for Genetic Diseases.



Dr. Amiel Rosenkranz



Dr. Michelle Hastings

Other CMS faculty who participated in the conference included **Grace Stutzmann**, PhD, director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics and associate professor of neuroscience; **Robert Marr**, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and assistant dean for research;

Sarah Johnson, PhD, assistant professor of neuroscience; **Janice Urban**, PhD, director of the Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and

Psychiatric Disorders and professor and discipline chair of physiology and biophysics; **Joanna Dabrowska**, PhD, PharmD, associate professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology; **William Frost**, PhD, director of the



Andrew Dahlem Jr., MD '13, took on a new role in the Clinical Sciences Department on Oct. 5 as Education Director in Family Medicine.

After graduating from CMS, Dr. Dahlem completed his residency training in Family Medicine at

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in 2016 and served as Chief Resident in Family Medicine during his third year. As a new attending physician, he continued his affiliation with Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and began practicing family medicine at Oak Mill Medical Associates in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Dr. Dahlem has been a part of the RFU teaching faculty since 2016. His primary goal throughout his career has been student education and mentorship. He actively

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Stanson Toshok Center for Brain Function and Repair and professor and discipline chair of cell biology and anatomy; and **Eun Jung Hwang**, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy.

The RFU faculty researchers were joined by scientists and representatives from academia, disease-based foundations, venture capital firms and biopharma companies involved in brain disease for panel discussions and presentations on topics such as Alzheimer's disease, psychiatric disorders, therapies for central nervous system diseases, and funding for neuroscience research.

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The Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion and the CMS Health Disparities and Equity in Medical

Health Disparities and Equity in Healthcare & Medical

Education Journal Club. The purpose of this journal club is for CMS faculty, researchers, staff and learners to become more knowledgeable about the causes and impacts of health disparities, biases in medical education, racism in medicine, and other related issues, in order to become better equipped to engage in clinical, research, and educational activities that bring us closer to eliminating health disparities and inequities in healthcare and medical education.

So far, members of the club have discussed two articles: "Hidden in Plain Sight — Reconsidering the Use of Race Correction in Clinical Algorithms," published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and "Identification of Racial Inequities in Access to Specialized Inpatient Heart Failure Care at an Academic Medical Center," published in *Circulation: Heart Failure*, a journal of the American Heart Association.

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The Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion virtually hosted Damon Tweedy, MD, an associate professor of psychiatry at Duke University School of Medicine, who gave a presentation titled "**Reflections on Race and Medicine in the Year of COVID-19 and Nationwide Protests**" on October 26

Dr. Tweedy has written extensively about the intersection of race and medicine, both in academic journals and popular print publications. His 2015 book, *Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine*, made the New York Times bestseller list and was selected by TIME Magazine as a top non-fiction book that year.

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The CMS Office of Academic Learning Environment hosted two faculty development events aimed at helping faculty to be supportive in an academic and in a clinical setting. The panelists and participants engaged in great discussions that offered many insights and recommendations for supporting students, residents, and others amidst a global pandemic, a high-stakes U.S. election, and a national movement for racial justice.

The sessions, titled "How to be a Supportive Faculty Member to Students During Difficult Times" and "How to Be a Supportive Faculty Member in the Clinical Setting During Difficult Times," featured panels consisting of CMS faculty, residents, students, and residency program directors. ■

Upcoming Events

“Health Inequities in the Ranks:

The Impact of Healthcare Disparities on Those Serving Our Country”

Evelyn Lewis, MD '83, MA, FAAFP, DABDA — Chicago Medical School

Monday, November 30, 2020 | 6:00-7:00 PM

“Global Health and Medical Volunteering”

Kwan Kew Lai, MD '79, DMD, FACP — Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 | 12:00-1:00 PM

“From Concept to Action: Chasing Equity in Medicine”

Esther K. Choo, MD, MPH — Oregon Health & Science University

Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 6:00-7:00 PM

“How Racism and Sexism Squash Talent and Slow Progress in STEM”

Namandjé N. Bumpus, PhD — Johns Hopkins University

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 | 12:00-1:00 PM

“Alternative RNA Splicing Defects in Cancer:

Molecular and Therapeutic Insights from Model Systems”

Olga Ancuzukow-Camarda, PhD — The Jackson Laboratory

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 | 3:00-4:00 PM

We want to hear from you!

To submit information or news for upcoming issues, contact
Candice Kosanke at candice.kosanke@rosalindfranklin.edu.



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