



# CMS NEWS

## The Chicago Medical School Newsletter

FALL 2021  
ISSUE 22

### WHITE COAT CEREMONY

*Students celebrate a rite of passage to mark their entrance into medical school.*

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### SCIENCE SATURDAYS

*A program run by CMS students introduces science and medicine topics to local high school students who are interested in STEM careers.*

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### WISH SYMPOSIUM

*The 6th annual Women in Science and Healthcare Symposium explored how the intersection of racism and sexism impacts women in the science and healthcare fields.*

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## Welcoming New CMS Leadership

Over the last several months, CMS has welcomed three new deans and one executive department chair to the school, and promoted seven more faculty members to new leadership roles. We take this opportunity to introduce the community to these new members of the CMS leadership team.

### Recently Appointed Leadership

**Michael Allswede**, DO, joined CMS earlier this month as the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education. Dr. Allswede is part of the Office of Medical Education and will be working with CMS students on campus and also at our clinical affiliate partner sites. He is also an associate professor of emergency medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences.

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## Dean's Message

Greetings from the Dean's Office!

With the recent ending of the Fall Quarter, students have already begun their Winter Quarter classes and rotations. The holiday season is just around the corner and the snow flurries earlier today signal the beginning of winter. Although the pandemic continues its hold on our nation, most of us have successfully adapted our routines for this

“new normal.” Faculty, staff, and students alike have adjusted to the many safety measures in place on campus creating a working and learning environment that is as safe as one could hope for during this time. As our nation continues to be vaccinated, including our younger children now, we hope for a joyous holiday season when families and friends are able to gather safely and enjoy time with one another.

Speaking of family, I want to share more of the details surrounding our CMS “family” and our recent medical school reorganization. In the last issue, I wrote about some of the high level changes so this issue will provide more details. I want to share how excited I am that we have been able to attract so many talented academic medicine professionals from around the country who are teaching our students and working in the research centers. While I would love to list each new faculty member by name, there are just too many for this brief message. A warm welcome to those who have recently arrived and joined the CMS family.

One of the most noticeable changes was the division of the Office of Student Affairs & Education into two offices. Dr. Jeanette Morrison will continue to lead the Office of Medical Education while Dr. Sandra LaBlance, who recently joined CMS, directs the Office of Student Affairs assisted by new administrative staff member Deaushana Wilson. This change allows both leaders to dedicate their focus to each of these important, distinct areas. Earlier this month, Dr. Michael Allswede joined the CMS Office of Medical Education as the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education. In his role, Dr. Allswede will be working with CMS students on campus and also at our clinical affiliate partner sites.

Another noteworthy change was the creation of the Office of Clinical Affairs. Dr. Brenda Affinati is leading this office assisted by a new administrative staff member, Tina Espina. The Office of Clinical Affairs ensures that all needs are met to foster and maintain clinical rotation sites for our students, including meeting the accreditation requirements associated with clinical training.

We are also saying farewell to two colleagues who have been with CMS for many years. Dr. Michael Moninger, Director of Academic Advising and Success, retired

earlier this month. In his role as advisor and educator with CMS, Dr. Moninger has provided guidance and support leading to the success of our students throughout their medical education program. Nikki Dixon, RN, MEd, MSN, who joined CMS this past summer, succeeds Dr. Moninger, bringing over twenty years of experience in academic advising and counseling to the position. Another dear colleague, Dr. Mildred M.G. Olivier '88, will be leaving CMS in her role as the Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion in January. She has accepted a position as the founding campus dean of Ponce Health Sciences University at its regional campus in St. Louis, MO. While we will miss both Drs. Moninger and Olivier, we wish them all the best, and Dr. Olivier will remain engaged with us on our Mini Medical School project. CMS remains a dynamic place with many exciting and new initiatives, new faculty, students and staff, as well as those moving on to other opportunities.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, and reflect on everything we are grateful for, we applaud and appreciate each and everyone's contribution and dedication to our school and its mission. Speaking of mission, next time I will share more about two recent faculty retreats focused on the CMS Strategic Plan and Admissions Program.

I hope you all enjoy a safe and joyful holiday season!

Sincerely,



Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD  
Dean, Chicago Medical School

## Welcoming New CMS Leadership

*continued from cover*

Dr. Allswede comes to us from Las Vegas, Nevada, where he most recently served as the Founding Program Director of Sunrise Health GME Consortium and as associate professor of emergency medicine at the University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine. Dr. Allswede was a responder to the October 1, 2017, Harvest Festival Mass Casualty Event and regularly speaks on crisis standards of care. A former U.S. Army company commander, Dr. Allswede served as the founding program director of two ACGME-accredited emergency medicine residency programs. He is also an *ex officio* board member of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine (ACOEP).

With strong ties to the Chicago area, Dr. Allswede is a graduate of the Chicago



**Above:** The CMS Dean's Cabinet: Dr. Brenda Affinati, Dr. Sandra LaBlance, Dr. Lise Eliot, Dr. Michael Zdon, Edward Rotchford, Dr. Archana Chatterjee, Dr. Michael Ellison, Sarah Schuck, Dr. Nutan Vaidya, Dr. Frank Maldonado, Carissa Van Ausdall, Dr. Gordon Pullen, and Dr. Jeanette Morrison. (Not pictured: Drs. Michael Allswede, Ronald Kaplan, and Mildred M.G. Olivier)

**Front cover:** New administrators Michael Allswede, DO, FNP, Assistant Dean of Clinical Education; Sandra LaBlance, PhD, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs; Michael Ellison, EdD, Associate Dean for Admissions; and Frank Maldonado, MD, Executive Chair of Clinical Sciences.



*Dr. Michael Allsweide*

Osteopathic Medical Center Emergency Medicine Residency. He also served in a Critical Care Fellowship at Chicago Medical School/Cook County Hospital for one year.

His non-academic interests include serving as Vice Chairman of the Reduxion Theater Company in Oklahoma City and being a public policy expert for The Global Bargain for the Biosecurity and the Bioterrorism Unit of INTERPOL in Lyon, France.

We are glad to have Dr. Allsweide as part of our leadership team as he transitions from his career in clinical emergency medicine to medical education at CMS.

As previously noted in an earlier newsletter issue, **Michael Ellison**, EdD, joined CMS in the spring as our Associate Dean of Admissions. He is also an assistant professor of humanities and health care in the Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities.

Dr. Ellison has been a successful administrator in higher education for several decades, focusing on university admissions and recruitment, academic



*Dr. Michael Ellison*

advising, retention, student affairs, and teaching. He came to CMS from Chicago State University, where he was Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management. In this role he managed all activities associated with enrollment management and related services including Admissions, Transfer Center, Financial Aid, Registrar, Veteran Resource Center, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and Retention. His previous roles at Chicago State University included Admissions Counselor/Recruiter, Director of Pre-Medical Education Programs, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Admissions for the College of Pharmacy, and Instructor. Earlier, he was the Associate Dean for Admissions and Assistant Professor at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, Quinnipiac University, in North Haven, CT.

A Chicago native, Dr. Ellison earned his Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at Roosevelt University in Chicago and both his Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees at Chicago State University.

Throughout the search process, Dr. Ellison demonstrated a commitment to diversity, inclusion



*Dr. Sandra LaBlance*



*Dr. Frank Maldonado*

and equity, collaboration, and communication. His 30+ year career demonstrates impressive successes in the areas of student enrollment and retention, program development, and empowering students.

**Sandra LaBlance**, PhD, joined CMS at the end of August as our Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs, filling a role that had been newly created after the Office of Student Affairs and Education was split into two separate offices.

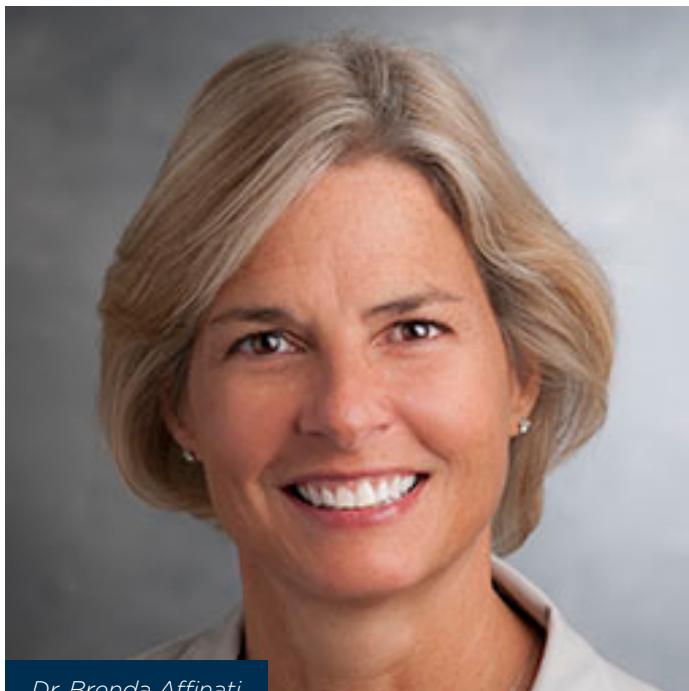
In her role as Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Dr. LaBlance will be responsible for all aspects of the student experience, including admissions, orientation, academic and career advising, progression through medical school, student well-being and professional development, the residency match, and graduation. Dr. LaBlance will oversee the activities of all assistant/associate deans, directors, and staff of the Office of Student Affairs, and provide feedback, assistance, guidance, and mentoring for the professional development and optimal performance of these individuals.

Dr. LaBlance brings great experience and depth to her position. Before coming to CMS, she worked at

Oakland University's William Beaumont School of Medicine in Rochester, Michigan, where she most recently served as Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Her experience there focused on working with medical students throughout the medical specialty choice process, including residency application, interviewing, and the match process.

With more than 20 years of experience in higher education, Dr. LaBlance was previously affiliated with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, where she served as Director of Academic and Career Counseling followed by three years of post-doctoral research. Dr. LaBlance has also conducted research focused on the role of relationships in medical student specialty choice as well as on learning assistance, learning disabilities, and effective pedagogical and learning techniques to support student needs.

As previously noted in an earlier issue of this newsletter, **Frank Maldonado**, MD, FCCP, joined the CMS leadership team in the summer as the Executive Chair of Clinical Sciences. He also holds an academic appointment as professor of medicine. Dr. Maldonado previously served as Chicago Medical



*Dr. Brenda Affinati*

School's Assistant Dean for Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

Through his leadership as Executive Chair of Clinical Sciences, Dr. Maldonado will be responsible for ensuring a high-quality clinical education and achievement of clinical, educational, and research goals and objectives as demonstrated by medical student success, faculty engagement, and clinical affiliate satisfaction.

Dr. Maldonado was born and raised in Puerto Rico, where he graduated from the Universidad Central del Caribe. He moved to Washington, DC in 1983 to complete his Internal Medicine residency, followed by a critical care and pulmonary fellowship at Chicago Medical School.

Dr. Maldonado has spent most of his 30-year career at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) in North Chicago in progressive clinical and leadership roles. Most recently, he served as the Chief Medical Executive/Chief of Staff.

His relationship and engagement with CMS over many years provide him with a unique insight into



*Dr. Jeanette Morrison*

the medical school. He was honored by CMS in 2019 with the CMS Champion Award, presented to an individual who is an exemplary contributor to the CMS mission and embodies the core values of the institution.

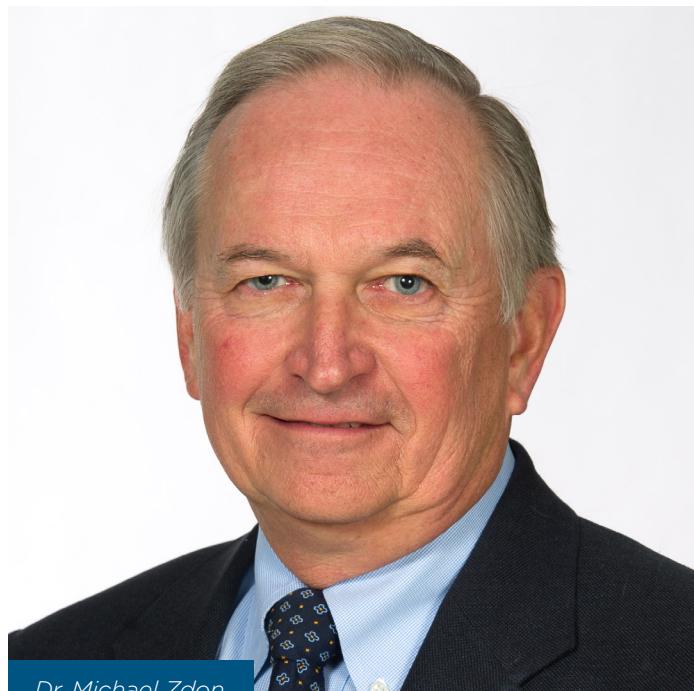
### Recently Promoted Leadership

Starting last summer, **Brenda Affinati**, MD, FACP, took on a new role at CMS as the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs. Dr. Affinati has been a faculty member at CMS since 1998, and she has served in several leadership roles including Assistant Dean of Clinical Education, Vice Chair of the Clinical Sciences Department, and Discipline Chair of Medicine.

Last July, Dr. Affinati moved on from her previous CMS responsibilities and began providing leadership and management in the new Office of Clinical Affairs, ensuring that all needs are met to foster and maintain clinical rotation sites for students. She also oversees and ensures that the accreditation requirements associated with clinical training are met. Dr. Affinati's depth of experience, institutional knowledge, and robust relationship with many of Chicago Medical School's affiliate partners have prepared her well for this position.



*Dr. Nutan Vaidya*



*Dr. Michael Zdon*

A graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Dr. Affinati completed her Internal Medicine residency and Chief Residency at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Before dedicating herself fully to medical education, Dr. Affinati, board certified in Internal Medicine, coordinated the administrative and clinical services for multiple Chicago-land area hospitals as the Vice President of Clinical Operations and Business Development at Best Practices Inpatient Care, Ltd.

She continues to serve as Site Director at CMS' Internal Medicine Clerkship and Sub-Internship programs at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. In this position, she was selected by the Class of 2010 as the Outstanding Attending in Internal Medicine. Dr. Affinati was a recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award in 2014, an award that recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates both clinical excellence and outstanding compassion in the delivery of care.

**Jeanette Morrison, MD, FACP**, has recently assumed two new roles at CMS: Vice Dean for Medical Education and Executive Vice Dean of Chicago Medical School.

As the Vice Dean for Medical Education, Dr. Morrison will provide leadership, oversight, and direction for activities related to medical education, including curriculum, grading and evaluation, and teaching skills and strategies. This includes strategic planning, program development and implementation, policy development and implementation, budget development and oversight, and participation in university and school committees. She will be accountable for developing innovative, future-oriented educational programs; meeting academic accreditation standards; and forging effective inter- and intra-professional partnerships with faculty and staff to fulfill the school's academic mission.

As the Executive Vice Dean of CMS, Dr. Morrison will represent the school and the Dean at essential student educational functions and at regional and state group meetings and education related functions. She will also partner with the Dean and CMS leadership to set strategic direction and priorities for the school. In addition to serving as a key member of the Dean's leadership team to achieve the school's high-level goals and objectives, Dr. Morrison will serve as acting Dean in the Dean's absence.

Dr. Morrison has served as the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Education at CMS since 2015. In the recent reorganization within the medical school, her office was divided into the separate Office of Student Affairs and Office of Medical Education, providing the opportunity for each office to have a singular focus. Dr. Morrison has assumed full oversight of medical education, with Dr. Sandra LaBlance joining CMS to oversee student affairs.

Dr. Morrison received her MD from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. She completed her internship and residency training in Internal Medicine at University Hospitals of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University, where she also served as chief medical resident. Following residency training, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of Chicago.

During her time at CMS, she has served in numerous leadership roles. In addition to being the Internal Medicine Residency Program Director from 2009 to 2013, Dr. Morrison also served for five years as the Course Director for the second-year Essentials of Clinical Reasoning course. Dr. Morrison has also served as the Associate Dean for Medical Education and Innovation and the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education. Most recently, she served as the Faculty Accreditation Lead for CMS' recent LCME accreditation visit. Dr. Morrison's academic interests include curriculum design, assessment of clinical performance, and professional development. A fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Morrison is the recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, the Lawrence R. Medoff Award, the James B. Hammond Humanitarian Award, and the Department of Medicine Distinguished Clinical Educator Award.

In July, **Nutan Vaidya**, MD, assumed a new role at CMS as the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Equity. She continues in her roles as professor and discipline chair of psychiatry. As the Vice

Dean for Faculty Affairs and Equity, Dr. Vaidya will support faculty activity throughout the faculty lifecycle to ensure excellence and sufficiency of faculty to support and facilitate the CMS and RFU mission, vision, and strategic plan. She will work with leadership across the school to develop and implement strategies to increase faculty diversity, enhance faculty excellence, ensure a robust faculty career development, recruit and develop top leaders, and focus on junior faculty mentorship and inclusion. Her goal is to foster a faculty-forward perspective on trends and best practices in higher education to educate and challenge all CMS faculty to maximize their academic strengths.

Dr. Vaidya began her career at CMS as a psychiatry resident in 1984, and throughout her tenure has held several administrative positions, most recently as the Senior Associate Dean of the Office of Academic Learning Environment. A lifelong academician and administrator, Dr. Vaidya has extensive experience in recognizing and cultivating the talents of residents and faculty members to support them in enhancing their teaching and academic skills. She served as chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences from 2003 to 2013 and interim chair of the Department of Neurology (2009). Dr. Vaidya has also held several educational positions within the psychiatry discipline, including Director of Medical Student Education and Acting Director of Residency Training. A distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Vaidya is certified in the subspecialty of Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry by the United Council of Neurologic Subspecialties. She has published extensively on psychopathology and neuropsychiatric education, and she has won several awards for teaching and clinical care of neuropsychiatric patients.

Earlier this year, **Michael Zdon**, MD, FACS, professor of surgery, was promoted to Senior Associate Dean for Graduate and Continuing Medical Education. He also assumed a new role as the Vice Chair of the Clinical Sciences Department (CSD). In addition to his new

roles, Dr. Zdon will continue serving as education director and discipline chair of surgery, and the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for CMS.

As vice chair, Dr. Zdon will assist with the day-to-day operations of the CSD and serve as acting CSD Executive Chair when the Executive Chair is unavailable. He will assist the Executive Chairs of CSD and the Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities with the recruitment and hiring of clinical faculty within Phase One of the curriculum. Dr. Zdon will also be assisting the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs in engaging new clinical partners and maintaining existing partnerships.

Dr. Zdon, a full-time faculty member at Chicago Medical School since October of 1988, received his MD from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine and completed his training in General Surgery at The University of Kansas Medical School in Kansas City before being appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery at Yale University Medical School. He is

board certified in both General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. During his tenure at CMS, he has served as Chief of General Surgery, Director of the CMS Surgery Residency Program, and Site Coordinator for the Surgery Clerkship. He was also the Interim Executive Chair of the CSD from December 2020 to July 2021.

Dr. Zdon is a member of many local, regional, and national professional societies. He is a past President of the Chicago Surgical Society and is currently a Governor of the American College of Surgeons and the immediate past President of the Chicago Metropolitan Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. His clinical interests focus on Endocrine Surgery and he is currently active on the medical staffs of Advocate Condell and Lutheran General Hospitals.

We are grateful to all these existing faculty members for taking on new roles to better serve CMS, and we welcome the recent additions to the CMS family! ■

## Also Recently Promoted:



**Diane Bridges PhD, MSN,  
RN, CCM**  
Assistant Dean for Distance  
Learning and Curricular  
Resources  
(formerly Director of Distance  
Education and Project  
Specialist)



**Lucy Hammerberg MD,  
FACEP, CPE**  
Assistant Dean for Career and  
Specialty Advising  
(formerly Director of  
Specialty Advising)



**Judy Potashkin, PhD**  
Assistant Dean of Faculty  
Appointments & Recognition  
(formerly Director of  
Faculty Affairs)



# WHITE COAT Ceremony

On September 22, the CMS Class of 2025 received their white coats in an in-person ceremony on campus. The students were able to walk across the stage of Rhoades Auditorium while family and friends were invited to watch via a live stream of the event. The White Coat Ceremony is a rite of passage that celebrates students' entrance into medical school and marks the beginning of their careers as future physicians.

The students met **Sandra LaBlance**, PhD, the new Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs, who welcomed them to CMS. "Although a pandemic has kept us physically apart, we come together today to celebrate this most important milestone as you receive your first white coat, marking the beginning

of your journey to become a physician," she said. "It is with great honor that I stand before this class of medical students who have chosen the noble path of becoming a physician and who will provide care and healing to others."

**Archana Chatterjee**, MD, PhD, Dean of CMS, also welcomed the students. She talked about some of the traits that the white coat represents: professionalism, caring, trust, authority, and achievement. Students would need these traits to care for others, Dr. Chatterjee said, as well as the ability to listen, empathize, think critically, and work with others. "Medicine will require your leadership, strength, and flexibility to manage the uncertainties ahead," she said. "Keep your mind open and engaged

as you accept these new challenges. They are all connected to caring for your fellow human beings."

**Kina C. Peppers**, MD '01, FACOG, an obstetrician/gynecologist, motivational speaker, and lifestyle coach, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Peppers is a retired Lieutenant Colonel and veteran of the Army Medical Corps who delivered emergency medical and gynecological surgical care to U.S. and Coalition forces during two tours in Iraq, earning a Bronze Star. She spoke to students about the responsibility that comes with wearing a white coat, telling them, "People will see you differently. Automatically when you put on that white coat, you are held in high esteem." Students would have to live up to that expectation as medical students and physicians, she said, always demonstrating professionalism, integrity, and commitment to service.

There were also two student speakers: **Rachel To**, CMS '23, Student Dean, who gave the incoming students advice, and **Peter Nesper**, CMS '23, who read an essay he had written entitled "Embracing the Symbolism of the White Coat."

Rachel talked about her own experiences so far as a medical student and encouraged the first-year students to take advantage of the opportunities available at CMS to discover and pursue their passions. "Take the initiative to explore your

curiosities, whether that be research, community health, or healthcare disparities. Don't be afraid to challenge yourself and make mistakes. You'll learn more about yourself in the process," she said. "Let your passions be greater than your fear of failing, and have courage to follow through with your convictions."

In his essay, Peter talked about the sense of duty that comes with wearing a white coat, and how he wants to always remain teachable so that he continues his education and growth. To do this, he said, he thinks of his white coat not as a possession, but as a loan: "a loan from the generations who have come before us, and from the society in which we serve. It is an honorable loan that we should receive with gratitude."

The students then crossed the stage and put on their white coats while their names were read by their learning community mentors: **Lisa Kasalajtis**, MD '00; **Monique Jones**, MD '93; **Benjamin Daniels**, MD; and **Paul Jones**, MD. The ceremony concluded with a recitation of the modified Oath of Geneva, led by Dr. Peppers.

Members of the CMS Class of 2024, who did not get to have an in-person ceremony last year, will have their White Coat Ceremony in the spring. ■





# FIELD DAY





# Science Saturdays

Article submitted by  
Victor Barragan, CMS '24

**Science Saturdays** is a weekend program that reaches out to local high school students, primarily 9th and 10th graders, who are interested in STEM careers.

Science Saturdays is completely run by Chicago Medical School students and was successfully transitioned to a virtual environment to keep the program running through the COVID-19 pandemic. **Victor Barragan**, CMS '24, is the Medical Student Director of the program. The teaching assistants present topics weekly (on Saturdays) that range from DNA extraction to protein quantification, as well as medical applications like histology staining and biopsy application. The program focuses on basic science and introduces basic medicine. Each week, students are given an introductory lecture followed by four laboratory demonstrations. Students are evaluated with weekly formative assessments, lab reports, and a cumulative summative assessment.

**DePaul Ohiri**, CMS '24, is the lecturer of the didactic portion of the program and delivered lectures of the week virtually via Zoom. **Ruben Martinez**, **Kate Just**, and **Stephane Joachim**, all CMS '24, are the laboratory instructors who supplement the course. This fall the new cohort of students will be introduced to anatomy with a lecture series also taught by CMS students, at the overwhelming request of prior student participants. CMS students have



demonstrated incredible leadership and academic skill, establishing the Science Saturdays program as a mainstay in the local community. Students from Round Lake High School, Cristo Rey Martin, North Chicago High School, and Waukegan High School are recruited between sessions. Students who successfully complete the program are considered for acceptance into the INSPIRE program, which is a paid summer internship program that continues the work started in Science Saturdays.

Science Saturday students are also exposed to workshops and mentoring which include CV and resume writing, professionalism workshops, and weekly meetings with their mentors whilst in the program. Additionally, students are paired with medical students for one-on-one tutoring. This dynamic program began with a new cohort on Saturday, October 30, and will run through February 2022. ■

*Below, from left: DePaul Ohiri, Kaye Just, Ruben Martinez, and Stephane Joachim, all CMS M2 students. Above: local high school students at a Science Saturdays session in January 2020.*

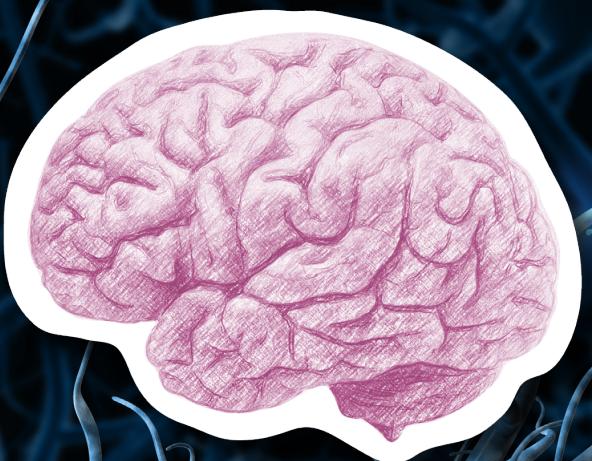


# Calling all artists and writers!

**NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS!**

# SYNAPSES

*A Creative Journal of Chicago Medical School*



**ALL ART FORMS ACCEPTED:**  
NON-FICTION ESSAYS + REFLECTIONS  
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FINE ART • PHOTOGRAPHY  
DIGITAL ART • SCULPTURE • COLLAGE

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022**

**VISIT [HTTP://RFU.MS/SYNAPSES](http://rfu.ms/synapses) FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Submissions are open to CMS students, faculty, staff, alumni, residents, and fellows.

# New Visionary Training Program at Chicago Medical School and Cook County Health

We are pleased to announce the launch of the inaugural combined MD / Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program at Chicago Medical School. This program is offered to candidates who have completed dental school, with a DDS or DMD degree, and are applying for specialty training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. At the completion of this six-year, 72-month program, trainees will have both dental and medical degrees, two years of general surgery training, and a certificate of training in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

This forward-thinking program is the result of a collaborative effort between Rosalind Franklin University/Chicago Medical School and Cook County Health. It is the first of its kind in the history of the two institutions and is an example of how

institutions can come together to provide better care to members of the community.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons provide care that includes dentoalveolar surgery, management and reconstruction of patients with facial trauma injuries, management of benign and malignant tumors of the facial region, treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders, and perform corrective jaw surgeries for patients with dentofacial deformities. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons can further subspecialize in cleft and craniofacial surgery, facial cosmetic surgery, or head and neck cancer surgery by completing additional fellowship training.

“These types of combined programs attract some of the brightest and most competitive applicants from all across the country.” said **Mohammed Qaisi**, DMD, MD, FACS, residency program director of the oral and maxillofacial surgery program at Cook County Health.

Chicago Medical School and Cook County Health join a list of elite institutions across the country that have this type of training program. This list includes medical schools such as Harvard University, the Mayo Clinic, University of Pennsylvania, and New York University, to name a few. The first class will begin the program in July of 2022.

“We are excited about the positive impact this program will have on the communities we serve as well as for both our institutions,” Dr. Qaisi said.

For inquiries about the program, contact Dr. Mohammed Qaisi or **Brenda Affinati**, MD, CMS Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and associate professor of medicine. ■



Dr. Brenda Affinati and Dr. Mohammed Qaisi

# Mildred M.G. Olivier, MD '88

## *Recognized for Her Compassion and Advocacy*



**Mildred M.G. Olivier**, MD '88, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, received an Honorable Mention from the Gold Foundation for the Pearl Birnbaum Hurwitz Humanism in Healthcare Award. This award honors women who exemplify humanism and have advanced, through their scholarship, advocacy, leadership, or work, the well-being of underserved or vulnerable populations in the healthcare arena.

Dr. Olivier is being honored for her tremendous work to treat glaucoma and prevent blindness in at-risk communities, specifically those of Black and Afro-Caribbean heritage, as well as her compassion and advocacy in fostering pathways to medical school for underrepresented communities.

Dr. Olivier travels frequently to Haiti, her ancestral homeland, to teach fellow ophthalmologists and educators as well as to perform eye surgeries in underserved communities. People in African American and Afro-Caribbean communities experience blindness from glaucoma at rates 8-10 times higher than white populations.

To help serve disadvantaged communities in Haiti long-term, Dr. Olivier has also worked to enlist philanthropic support for medical missions. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Humanitarian Award by the American Glaucoma Society and the American Medical Association.

As CMS's Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Olivier has spearheaded symposia and programs to help remove barriers for underrepresented groups from entering the healthcare field and shed light on racism in healthcare. After serving on the Board of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, she created the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program, now in its fifth year, and has been Co-Investigator for the NEI supported Rabb-Venable Excellence in Ophthalmology program since 2007.

Dr. Olivier's nominator wrote: "Dr. Olivier is both a clinician-educator and a catalyst for engaging other healthcare workers in compassionate, patient-centered care."

We are proud of all of Dr. Olivier's wonderful contributions to Chicago Medical School and the global healthcare field, and we congratulate her on this latest achievement. ■



# INTERSECTIONALITY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND HEALTHCARE SYMPOSIUM

RFU's 6th Annual Women in Science and Healthcare (WiSH) Symposium: "Intersectionality Under the Microscope" was held virtually on September 23. Speakers and panelists explored how the intersection of racism and sexism affects the health and careers of women of color.

The symposium featured a keynote address from **Jioni A. Lewis**, PhD, associate professor of counseling and psychology at the University of Maryland, titled "Applying Intersectionality to Center Black Women in Health Equity." Dr. Lewis focused on the intersection of racism and sexism on Black women's health and well-being, discussing the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 and other health inequities faced by Black women, including heart disease, diabetes, and increased mortality from certain types of cancer. She described how the COVID-19 pandemic is projected to increase the gap that already exists between Black and white life expectancy.

"I cannot say it enough: in order to disrupt gendered racism in all of its forms, all of us need to have ongoing learning and education," she said. "As scientists and practitioners, we need to develop these systemic interventions to push for systems-

level policies to really try to eliminate these gender/racial disparities that impact black women."

The symposium also included a welcome by RFU President **Dr. Wendy Rheault**, who talked about the importance of continually pursuing equity in health care and academia. "Progress demands that we educate ourselves and others on the insidious nature of microaggressions against our colleagues of color," she said. "We must provide the support and resources that are needed to move the world beyond the limitations presented by intersectionality."

RFU Trustee **Rosalind S. Franklin**, CPCC, PCC, niece and namesake of Dr. Rosalind Franklin, joined the symposium to deliver opening remarks. Ms. Franklin discussed the importance of challenging the norms and assumptions of society and said that her aunt would certainly have supported the goals of the WiSH Symposium.

"When you consider all that Rosalind went through in her professional career," she said, "I believe that she would have welcomed this year's focus, shining a light on the need to reexamine our systems and frameworks to ensure equality and justice for all."

The symposium concluded with a panel discussion on the topic “Gender and Race in Health and Healing.” The panel featured Dr. Lewis; **Ezra Hunter**, MS '20, MA, PA-C; **Heather Kind-Keppel**, EdD, RFU executive director of diversity and inclusion and CMS assistant professor of humanities and health care; and **Laurine Tiema-Benson**, MPH, CMS '22, and was moderated by **Kristin Schneider**, PhD, CHP associate dean of research and associate professor in the CHP Department of Psychology.

The panelists discussed what intersectionality means to them, how women — especially women of color — are disadvantaged in society and how we can work to combat those disadvantages, how healthcare practitioners can look at patients with an intersectional lens, and the importance of embedding continuing education about race and bias into medical school curricula.

Dr. Kind-Keppel talked about the importance of acknowledging the history of racism and how that history can continue to affect patients today. “Those intricacies are important to know, because then we can move forward,” she said. “So it’s not only knowing the history, it’s embedding it in the curriculum...making sure that we not only educate our students, but we educate ourselves as well so that it’s ongoing. It’s professional development, it’s training and education. It should be woven into the fabric of institutions.”

Laurine also emphasized the need for healthcare providers to acknowledge the role of racism and sexism on health outcomes, understanding that race and other cultural factors play a role in patient health and how a patient might approach health care. “I think the care of the patient would be increased, which would further build trust and build relationships between the patient and the provider,” she said. “That overall would produce better health outcomes.” ■

# WiSH Seminar Series

*A series of presentations to continue the conversation throughout the academic year*

## Upcoming Events



December 9, 2021 - 4:00 p.m. CT

### **Amy Gottlieb, MD, FACP**

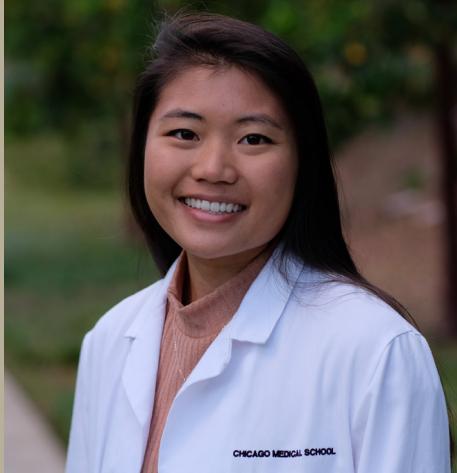
Chief Faculty Development Officer

Baystate Health

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

University of Massachusetts Medical School

***“Closing the Gender Pay Gap in Medicine: Identifying Drivers of Inequity and Devising Solutions”***



# Student Dean Corner

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

Greetings, classmates and colleagues:

This year will mark the second wave of residency applicants undergoing virtual interviews in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. As the past year and half of COVID has undoubtedly placed many challenges on medical education, our M4s have exemplified perseverance, resilience, and adaptability in the face of cancelled Step exams, virtual rotations, and now virtual residency interviews. CMS is proud of how far our M4s have come and we are confident that our students will continue to achieve great success during this application cycle. Best of luck to our M4s as they navigate through this exciting and nerve-wracking process!

As our M4s are preparing to leave the nest, our M1s have now fully transitioned into med school mode, having completed their first challenging basic science course. With the recent change of Step 1 to pass/fail, our M2s will prepare to take the exam earlier than previous years in order to start rotations by late spring. This change was designed to allow our students more time to explore their specialty interests at the end of their third year. While the current M3s will not be affected by this transition, the new specialty advising series by

Dr. Lucy Hammerberg will give all students ample opportunity to explore their career interests. More information regarding this specialty advising series can be found on InSite.

Substantial progress has been made to several CMS Student Dean-specific projects. The CMS Student Resource Center website currently has over ten student leaders collaborating to create a centralized platform for student resources. We are aiming to have the website running by the end of the winter quarter and it will include information on topics such as study tips, local eats/activities, leadership opportunities, diversity-related and LGBTQIA+ resources, and more. The purpose of the website is to create ease of access to resources created by former and current CMS students. Additionally, an initiative to update the RFU ID card design is currently in process. The goal for a new design is to modernize the current ID card and emphasize the identifying information (for example: clearer university name, simpler design, program name, etc.). While this initiative is in collaboration with the Student Deans Cabinet of other RFU programs, I am leading the project; for questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding this undertaking, please contact me.

In line with my goals of increasing transparency and advocating for my peers, I record project updates and tasks on a Google spreadsheet known as the Student Dean Tasks Tracker (this has been emailed out to all students). I have also recently created a Student Dean suggestion box as I firmly believe in the value of hearing from my peers directly. I highly encourage all students to check the tracker periodically to stay informed on topics pertinent to the student experience as well as to submit feedback to the suggestion box.

If there is anything I can assist with, I would be more than happy to meet online or in-person with

students, faculty, and staff. I am always available at [student.deancms@rfums.org](mailto:student.deancms@rfums.org). Have a wonder-FALL season!

Sincerely,



Rachel To  
Chicago Medical School Student Dean, 2021-22  
Chicago Medical School Class of 2023

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## Alpha Omega Alpha Inductees

Congratulations to the 37 members of the Class of 2022 who were selected this fall for induction into Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ)! ΑΩΑ is a national honor medical society dedicated to improving the medical profession by recognizing high educational achievement, honoring gifted teaching, encouraging the development of academic and community leaders, supporting the ideals of humanism, and promoting service to others.

Arjun Ahuja  
Thomas Alter  
Jennifer Alvarez  
Casey Aman  
Kelsey Bacidore  
Alison Cottrell  
Co Duong  
Elianna Fred  
John Fudala  
Allison Gelfond  
Christopher Hamilton  
Thaddeus Hawley  
Daniel Hivick

Harshita Jain  
Lindsay Karson  
Yejoon Kim  
Simon Lalehzarian  
Grant Lewin  
Madelaine Newman  
Brianna Norris  
Lisandra Ochoa  
Paras Patel  
Akshay Patke  
Sydney Rabin  
Simone Raiter  
Alissa Resnikoff  
Ashley Schaefer  
Madelaine Schaufel  
Shirali Shah  
Zachariah Shalginewicz  
Anna Shanker  
Kelsey Spear  
Jacqueline Story-Remer  
Irmina Swiostek  
Palwashia Syar  
Laurine Tiema-Benson  
Ellen Yang ■

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

## Executive Officers of the INSPIRE Program

The **INSPIRE program** is run through RFUMS by students. 96 percent of executive officers, teaching assistants, and mentors who participate and run the program are CMS students! The executive director of the program (**Victor Barragan**, CMS '24) and executive assistant directors (**Anna Gomez**, CMS '24; **Christopher Mendez**, CMS '25; and **Kaitlin Henry**, CMS '22) have successfully transitioned the program to a completely remote nature for the 2020 and 2021 cohorts. This was crucial to the success of the program in an unpredictable and unprecedented time. **Hector Rasgado-Flores**, PhD, serves as the faculty director of the program and oversees the executive officers.

The program is an eight-week rigorous pre-med bootcamp that includes mentoring and applied research programs designed to build a pipeline for local, underrepresented students pursuing higher education in science and medicine. The long-term goal of INSPIRE is to prepare students for STEM careers by establishing a firm foundation of biomedical science, fundamentals of research, and laboratory principles. The program provides the undergraduate participants with a stipend to afford them the opportunity to focus on the program.

Each year students give detailed pathology presentations at the end of the program to demonstrate their newfound knowledge in histology, pathology, systems-based physiology, and medicine. This year the program also instituted new directives including bi-weekly journal clubs, MCAT preparation via one-on-one tutoring, and individualized structured curricula for students ready for the MCAT.

All 20 INSPIRE students successfully completed the program and are enrolled at four-year institutions pursuing higher education, and many of them earned scholarships.

With ongoing CMS student-led instruction, recent curriculum restructuring, and personal mentorship, the program showed renewed success. This is best demonstrated by the success of the INSPIRE students, measured in both participation and completion of the program. INSPIRE 2022 will begin in June 2022 and is currently in its planning stage. Thank you to our excellent CMS student executive officers, instructors, mentors, and facilitators for keeping this program running through the COVID-19 pandemic for the students from our local community who benefit greatly. ■



Anna Gomez, CMS '24



Christopher Mendez, CMS '25



Kaitlin Henry, CMS '22

# *Summer Research Poster Session*

On October 26, students from Chicago Medical School, the College of Pharmacy, and the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine presented their work at the 2021 Summer Research Poster Session. Students presented a total of 127 posters showcasing research they had conducted over the summer with faculty mentors. Congratulations to the CMS winners, whose work was selected from the 108 posters presented by CMS students. ■

## **First Place:**



**Alex Freidinger**

**Rahim Laiwalla**

“Mitochondrial Respiration in Swine Cardiac Tissue Changes Post-Cardiac Arrest”

## **Second Place:**



**Sahand Golestan**

“Prenatal Pesticide  
Exposure and Infant  
Temperament”

## **Third Place:**



**Favour Oladipupo**

“Interruption of Glucagon Signaling Leads  
to Increased Delta Cell Proliferation and  
Mass in Pancreatic Islets”

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 2022 Honorees!



Jennifer  
Alvarez



Kelsey  
Bacidore



Carolyn  
Cook



Co  
Duong



Kelechi  
Emuchay



Adriana  
Fresquez



Alfonso  
Gomez



Courtney  
Harris



Daniel  
Hivick



Victoria  
Hooker



Harshita  
Jain



Susmitha  
Kowligly



Adam  
Lewis



Peter  
Lorenz



Diya  
Majumdar



Sharné  
Morrow



Arnold  
Nadel



Lisandra  
Ochoa



Akshay  
Patke



Ashley  
Schaefer



Payal  
Shukla



Vikram  
Singh



Kalyani  
Sonarikar



Kelsey  
Spear



Shahrukh  
Syed



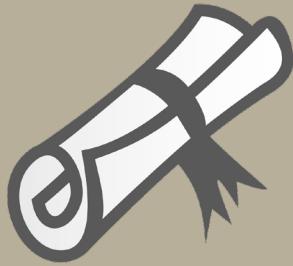
Matthew  
Tan



Laurine  
Tiema-Benson



Yukyee  
Tsang



# Scholarship Updates

Chicago Medical School is excited to announce two new scholarships: the **Michael Reese Research & Education Foundation Scholars Program** and the **Theresa I. Kepic, MD '85, and Frank Naeymi-Rad, PhD, Endowed Scholarship**.

## The Michael Reese Research & Education Foundation Scholars Program

CMS was recently awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation to recruit two students from underrepresented populations in medicine. The four-year, full-ride scholarships will provide a unique opportunity for Chicago-area students who aspire to provide care for the region's underserved communities and populations. CMS will recruit students who express an interest in remaining in the region and serving people in need in their community, demonstrating the values of the former Michael Reese Hospital.

The inaugural Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation Scholars will matriculate to CMS in fall 2022.

## The Theresa I. Kepic, MD '85, and Frank Naeymi-Rad, PhD, Endowed Scholarship

The Theresa I. Kepic, MD '85 and Frank Naeymi-Rad, PhD Endowed Scholarship was established in September by a generous gift from Dr. Kepic, a CMS Class of '85 alumna, and Dr. Naeymi-Rad, a previous employee of the University. This \$100,000 honorary endowed scholarship provides

recognition and financial assistance to support the ongoing needs of first-year, female CMS students who reside in Lake County, come from populations underrepresented in medicine, and have financial need.

Both of these scholarships reinforce Chicago Medical School's dedication to addressing social inequities and growing financial support for students who are underrepresented in medicine. We are delighted to be able to support this essential group of future physicians as we work to attract and matriculate more students from populations that are underrepresented in medicine. ■



Theresa I. Kepic, MD '85

ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY *of* MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

**EMPOWERING SCHOLARS**

# Undaunted. Resilient. Inspired. Laurine.



**“My acceptance to CMS positioned me to be a future physician who — like you — can sit at the table and advocate for more access to health care for underserved populations. Through your generous support and partnership, you continue the CMS tradition of producing graduates undaunted by the challenges of today, and inspired by your example to make an impact on our profession and in our communities.”**

**Thank you for leading the way,  
Laurine Tiema-Benson, CMS Class of 2022**

CMS Mission Scholarship, 2021 recipient

Bohdan J. Giel, MD '40 and Martha Barclay-Giel Memorial Scholarship, 2020 recipient

Francey A. and Martin L. Gecht, MD '44 Memorial Endowed Scholarship, 2019 recipient

Cook County Physicians Association Scholarship, 2019 recipient

Empower scholars with  
your gift to the  
**Chicago Medical School  
Impact Fund**

**[rfu.ms/cms-impact](https://rfu.ms/cms-impact)**

# Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

## GME Faculty Receive Teaching Awards

Two of our faculty members were recently nominated by our Internal Medicine residents and fellows at the Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) to receive awards for their excellence in teaching and patient care.

**Dr. Jonathan Daniels** is an Internal Medicine Hospitalist at the FHCC. He was nominated to receive the Max H. Well Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award, which recognizes an individual with outstanding teaching in a clinical setting.

**Dr. Jabeen Abutalib** is also an Internal Medicine Hospitalist at the FHCC. She was nominated to receive the James B. Hammond Humanitarian Award, which recognizes an individual who has exhibited humanitarianism for the community or the world.

Congratulations, Dr. Daniels and Dr. Abutalib, and thank you for everything you do for our residents and fellows! ■



## Wellness Events



► On September 23, our **psychiatry residents** worked with veterans to plant lilies on the campus of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC). This community engagement event was part of the residents' quarterly "Wellness Thursdays." The day concluded with a dinner gathering among residents and faculty.

▼ Residents in Chicago Medical School's **Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital internal medicine residency program** gathered in Moraine State Park in McHenry for some much-needed rest and relaxation. ■



# Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

## Resident Awards & Publications



Psychiatry resident **Nikhilesh Raju**, MD, PGY-3, was elected as resident representative on the Illinois State Medical Society Council on Medical Service for the 2021-2022 academic year. This council addresses a wide variety of issues specific to public health and the provision of medical care, including opioids, immunizations, and cannabis, as well as OSHA, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), medical waste, environmental and community health, maternal and child health, and laboratory services.



Psychiatry resident **Jasleen Singh**, MD, PGY-3, was the co-recipient of the Illinois Psychiatric Society's Resident of the Year award. This award recognizes a resident or fellowship member of the Illinois Psychiatric Society who best represents, in the view of colleagues and teachers, the ideals of being a dedicated psychiatric trainee. Awards were presented at the IPS annual meeting on October 9.

Several residents in the Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital internal medicine program have recently had articles published:

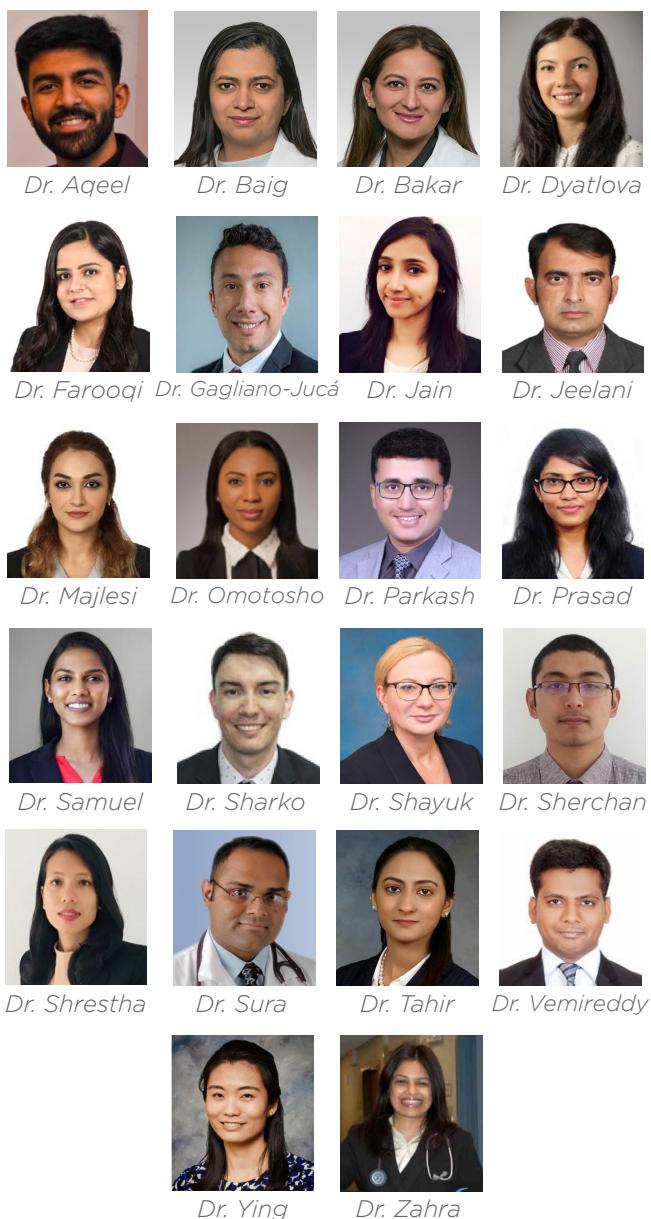
- "A Rare Case of Small Bowel Obstruction Due

to Sunflower Seeds Consumption in an Adult," published in *Cureus* — **Shirly Samuel**, MD, PGY-2; **Artem Sharko**, MD, PGY-2; **Jishna Shrestha**, MD, PGY-2; and **Robin Sherchan**, MD, PGY-3.

- "Acute Pancreatitis Induced by Linagliptin: A Rare but Dangerous Side Effect," published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Sharko**; **Dr. Samuel**; and **Nikita Jain**, MD, R '21.
- "Herpes Simplex Virus-2 Meningitis Masquerading as Pseudotumor Cerebri," published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Sherchan**; **Dr. Shrestha**; **Yetunde Omotosho**, MD, PGY-3; and **Nataliia Dyatlova**, MD, PGY-3.
- "Acute Pancreatitis: A Possible Side Effect of COVID-19 Vaccine," published in *Cureus* — **Om Parkash**, MD, PGY-2; **Dr. Sharko**; **Aneeba Farooqi**, MD, PGY-3; **Grace Ying**, MD, PGY-2; and **Prashant Sura**, MD, residency associate program director and associate professor of medicine.
- "A Rare Case of RYR2 Mutation Causing Sudden Cardiac Arrest Due to Catecholaminergic Polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia," published in *Cureus* — **Lalitha Vemireddy**, MD, PGY-3; **Ammar Aqeel**, MD, R '21; **Dr. Ying**; and **Delaram Majlesi**, MD, PGY-2.
- "Is the Renal Resistive Index a Marker for Revascularization in Atherosclerotic Renal Artery Stenosis?" published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Vemireddy**; **Dr. Ying**; **Dr. Aqeel**; **Shaji Baig**, MD, assistant professor of medicine; and **Venkata Buddharaju**, MD, instructor of medicine.

# Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

- “Lung Adenocarcinoma Presenting as Malignant Pericardial Effusion/Tamponade,” published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Vemireddy; Dr. Jain; Dr. Aqeel; Hafiz Jeelani**, MD, PGY-3; and **Maryna Shayuk**, MD, residency program director and assistant professor of medicine.
- “A Unique Case of Bannwarth Syndrome in Early Disseminated Lyme Disease,” published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Omotosho; Dr. Sherchan; Dr. Ying; and Dr. Shayuk**.
- “SARS-CoV-2 Myocarditis Due to Severe Obesity,” published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Farooqi; Nayha Tahir**, MD, PGY-3; **Dr. Parkash; Dr. Ying**; and **Farah Zahra**, MD, assistant professor of medicine.
- “Gastric Epithelioid Angiosarcoma: An Unexpected Tumor in an Unexpected Location,” published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Sharko; Dr. Samuel; Dr. Ying; Sonika Prasad**, MD, PGY-2; and **Dr. Baig**.
- “Age Trends in Growth and Differentiation Factor-11 and Myostatin Levels in Healthy Men, Measured Using Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry: Differential Response to Testosterone,” published in *The Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* — **Thiago Gagliano-Jucá**, MD, PGY-2.
- “Effect of Protein Intake on Visceral Abdominal Fat and Metabolic Biomarkers in Older Men With Functional Limitations: Results From a Randomized Clinical Trial,” published in *The Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* — **Dr. Gagliano-Jucá**.
- “Idiopathic Ovarian Vein Thrombosis: A Rare Cause of Abdominal Pain,” published in *Cureus* — **Dr. Tahir, Dr. Sherchan, Dr. Farooqi, Dr. Shrestha, and Dr. Jeelani**.
- “Thyrotoxicosis: A Primary Cause of Arrhythmias and Acute Heart Failure,” published in the *Journal of the Endocrine Society* — **Dr. Omotosho; Dr. Farooqi; Ayla Bakar**, MD, instructor of medicine; and **Dr. Jeelani**. ■



Dr. Aqeel Dr. Baig Dr. Bakar Dr. Dyatlova  
Dr. Farooqi Dr. Gagliano-Jucá Dr. Jain Dr. Jeelani  
Dr. Majlesi Dr. Omotosho Dr. Parkash Dr. Prasad  
Dr. Samuel Dr. Sharko Dr. Shayuk Dr. Sherchan  
Dr. Shrestha Dr. Sura Dr. Tahir Dr. Vemireddy  
Dr. Ying Dr. Zahra

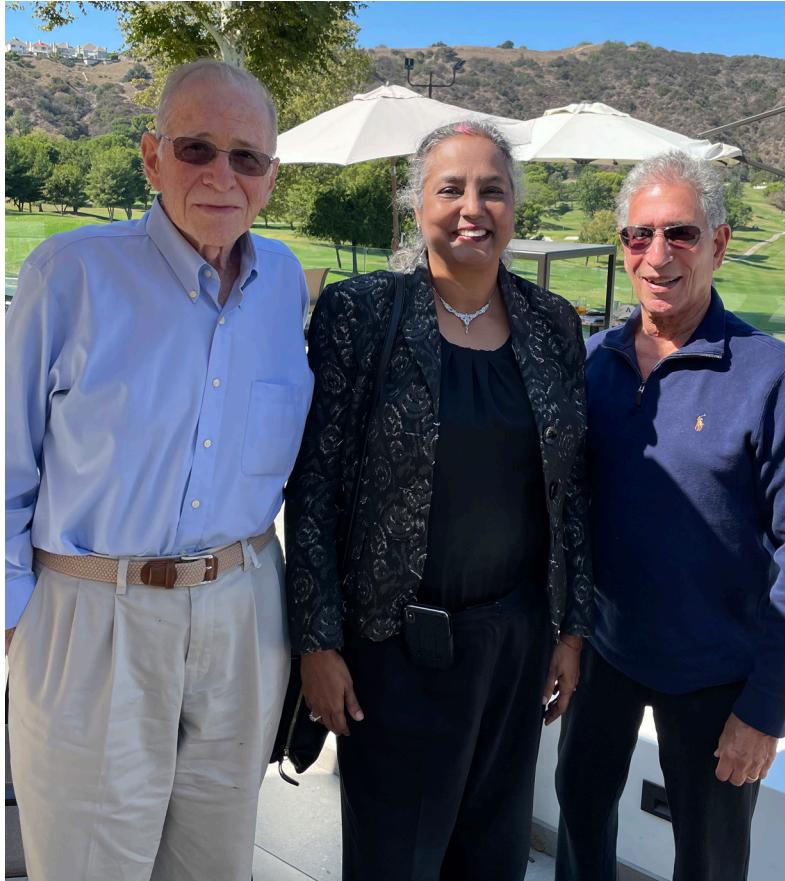
# Alumni News

## *California Alumni Visit*

CMS Dean Archana Chatterjee went to California in October to visit some CMS and RFU alumni in Los Angeles.



Dr. Chatterjee with K. Elizabeth Hawk, PhD '09, MD



Dr. Chatterjee with Alfred Bloch, MD '60 and Jay Silverman, MD '60



Dr. Chatterjee with Carey Strom, MD '80



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Basil K. Williams Jr., MD '11

*Dr. Williams shared his thoughts and experiences with us as part of a series to highlight the accomplishments of CMS alumni, faculty, and students of color. The series, "A Spotlight on Rising Stars in the CMS Community" is run by the Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion.*

**Dr. Basil K. Williams** is an assistant professor of ophthalmology and the director of ocular oncology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where he holds the Mary Knight Asbury Endowed Chair of Ocular Oncology and participates in teaching curriculum for medical students, ophthalmology residents, and retina fellows. Clinically, he treats adult and pediatric patients with surface and intraocular tumors and vitreoretinal pathology. His research interests pertain to these topics, and he is a member of the Collaborative Ocular Oncology Group, whose goal is to advance research on uveal melanoma.

In order to increase diversity in ophthalmology, Dr. Williams serves on the American Academy of Ophthalmology Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and will continue this effort in collaboration with the National Medical Association.

While a student at CMS, Dr. Williams was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and won the Board of Trustees Scholarship Award. After

graduation, he attended Resurrection Medical Center for his internship year and then completed his ophthalmology residency, vitreoretinal surgery fellowship, and chief residency at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. During his time there, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and won the Fellow of the Year Award. He then completed his ocular oncology fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital, where he also received the Fellow of the Year Award.

During his time at CMS, Dr. Williams was fortunate enough to meet some amazing people and develop quality friendships. Many of these relationships last to this day and translate to both professional and personal bonds. He is proud of the quality of people that he went to school with and is grateful for the educational opportunities CMS provided. Dr. Williams is particularly thankful for the support CMS showed while he was pursuing ophthalmology opportunities, even outside of the institution. ■

# Alumni News

## Dr. Gautreau Shares His Wisdom

**Marc A. Gautreau**, MD '95, MS '91, MBA, visited RFU on October 13 to meet with CMS students in the Emergency Medicine Interest Group (EMED). He spoke about national disasters and his experience as an emergency medicine doctor.

Dr. Gautreau, a clinical associate professor of emergency medicine at Stanford University, certainly had a wealth of experience to share with students: he has been an Advisor at the California Fire Chiefs Association since 2019, Medical Advisor at the San Jose Fire Department since 2017, and a consultant for the San Jose Police Department since 2019. He held several positions at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1997 to 2017, including Associate Supervising Deputy Chief Medical Office for the National Disaster Medical System, Regional Deputy Chief Medical Officer for FEMA Region I (New England) at the National Disaster Medical System, and Team Physician for the DMAT Massachusetts 2 at the National Disaster Medical System. Dr. Gautreau was recently appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to the Emergency Medical Services Commission. ■



## Other Alumni News

**Carter Mecher**, MD '80, senior medical advisor for the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Public Health, appeared on the May 2 episode of "60 Minutes" as part of a segment on Michael Lewis's

book *The Premonition*, which details the efforts of doctors and scientists, including Dr. Mecher, to collect data and alert officials about the COVID-19 threat in the early days of the pandemic.

# Alumni News

**Harry Borovik**, MD '82, a medical reviewer with the FDA in the Ear, Nose and Throat Medical Device Division, presented "Exploring Roles in Medicine" to the CMS student chapter of the American Medical Association. Dr. Borovik transitioned out of a clinical position as an otolaryngologist in 2020 after over 30 years of dedicated service.

**Michael R. Foley**, MD '84, was appointed chief medical officer of Sera Prognostics Inc., The Pregnancy Company™.

**Martin P. Lanoff**, MD '85, presented to the Chicago Medical School physical medicine and rehabilitation interest group on Sept. 13.

**Leon M. DeJournett**, MD '86, an intensive care unit pediatrician at Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, presented to RFU's Pediatrics Interest Group.

**John J. Shufeldt**, MD '86, JD, MBA, authored *Entrepreneur Rx: The Physician's Guide to Starting a Business*, published by ForbesBooks.

**David Feinberg**, MD '89, MBA, was appointed president and CEO of Cerner, a U.S.-based company that supplies innovative healthcare information technology solutions to clients around the world.

**Paul J. Coogan**, MD '90, was promoted to executive medical director of emergency medicine for the Advocate Aurora Health System.

**Mark Zimmerman**, MD '90, is lead author on the article "Telehealth Treatment of Patients in an Intensive Acute Care Psychiatric Setting During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Comparative Safety and Effectiveness to In-Person Treatment," published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*.

**Phyllis Ritchie**, MD '92, is CEO and founder of PS...Test, a recently opened nonprofit clinic in Palm Springs, California, that offers free, accessible testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

**Tony A. Reisman**, MD '93, joined Cleveland Clinic Martin Health in Stuart, Florida, as the department chair for Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery.

**Kevin D. Watkins**, MD '93, MPH, Cattaraugus County's public health director in Olean, New York, was a guest speaker at the CMS Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion's virtual symposium on Race in Medicine on Aug. 30.

**Mark D. Sorrentino**, MD '94, MS '94, was named vice president of the Center for Pediatric Clinical Development and Center for Vaccines and Emerging Infectious Diseases at ICON plc.

**Robert N. Bilkovski**, MD '95, MBA, joined mPathix Health Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Qualis Innovations Inc., as chief scientific officer.

**Marc A. Gautreau**, MD '95, MS '91, MBA, was appointed to the California Emergency Medical Services Commission. Before enrolling as a medical student at CMS, Dr. Gautreau completed the school's Applied Physiology program (now the BMS program).

**Dennis Kim**, MD '96, MBA, was named chief medical officer of CymaBay Therapeutics, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing therapies for liver and other chronic diseases with high unmet need.

**Adam J. Maass**, MD '97, MS '94, is the first-place winner in the Vasculitis Foundation's 2021

# Alumni News

Recognizing Excellence in Diagnostics award program.

**Maddie Deutsch**, MD '01, MPH, medical director and founder of UCSF Transgender Care, and an associate professor of clinical family and community medicine at the University of California - San Francisco, presented "Primary and Preventative Health Needs for Transgender People" at Harvard Medical School's Advancing Excellence in Transgender Health: A Course for the Whole Care Team.

**Kimberly M. Darey**, MD '04, chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs for Elmhurst Hospital, was named to the Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Foundation's board of trustees.

**Anjum Sayyad**, MD '07, MBA, presented "Brain Injury from COVID" on June 15 as part of an Illinois Partnership for Safety webinar.

**Saurabha Bhatnagar**, MD '08, was named chief health officer at Commure, a technology company focused on accelerating healthcare software innovation.

**Sidharth Mahapatra**, MD '09, PhD '07, was promoted to director for research, Division of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Jacob M. Babu**, MD '14, MS '11, MS '10, an orthopedic spine surgery fellow at Johns Hopkins Medicine, shared his experiences and insight in a global health grand rounds presentation titled "Global Volunteering: International Humanitarianism — An Evolving Perspective."

**Prashanti Kandavel**, MD '14, MS '10, attending physician at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and

clinical instructor at Keck School of Medicine, met with CMS students virtually to discuss her chosen specialty in an event organized by the school's Gastroenterology Interest Group. Dr. Kandavel is a board-certified pediatric gastroenterologist whose clinical specialties are gastroenterology and inflammatory bowel disease.

**Maryna Chumakova-Orin**, MD '15, joined Anchorage Bariatrics and is Alaska's first female bariatric surgeon.

**Micah H. Yu**, MD '15, MS '11, a rheumatologist and expert in autoimmune disease, joined the Medical and Expert Council of Alurx.

**Joanna Curran**, MD '17, received the Resident Teacher of the Year Award from the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP). Dr. Curran is completing her residency at the West Suburban Family Medicine Residency Program, where she served as chief resident last year. She'll be joining the PCC Community Wellness Center this year.

**Taif Jeelani Mukhdomi**, MD '17, MBS, MHA, was named the 2021 Resident/Fellow of the Year by the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine.

**Young Hun Yoon**, MD '18, **Timothy T. Nguyen**, MD '20, and **Jordan H. Newman**, MD '21, served as alumni panelists along with **Terrence Li**, MD, CMS education director, discipline chair, and associate professor of neurology, for RFU's Student Interest Group in Neurology. ■



### Brie Hodgins

Manager of Faculty Affairs and Equity  
Office of Faculty Affairs and Equity (FAE)  
Time at CMS: 3 years

Brie Hodgins received her bachelor's degree in Business Management with a major in Accounting and Finance from Columbia College of Missouri. Before coming to Chicago Medical School, she spent eight years of her career in the healthcare industry supporting high-level executives in various capacities.

Brie joined CMS in 2018 as the senior administrative assistant of the Office of Academic Learning Environment, where she was later promoted to administrative coordinator. When the Office of Academic Learning Environment was reorganized into the Office of Faculty Affairs and Equity (FAE), Brie was promoted to her current role of manager of FAE.

As manager, Brie is responsible for the daily operations of the Office of FAE, including budgeting, finances, scheduling, and administrative support. She is also responsible for supervising the entire department's staff. FAE encompasses Faculty Development; Faculty Affairs; Faculty Appointments, Promotions, and Recognition; Global Health; and Diversity and Inclusion, so Brie plays a vital role in many areas of the school's functions. She has also helped organize events such as the annual Faculty & Friends Recognition Dinner and the CMS faculty development retreat.

Brie's hard work is much appreciated by others in her office and within CMS in general. "Brie is an exceptional performer who is quiet, hardworking, and does not ever seek the limelight for her accomplishments," said her supervisor. "She is a real gem and I am lucky to have her on my team."

When asked about her favorite part of working at CMS, Brie mentioned the people she works with. "Although it sounds cliché, we really are like a family," she said. "Everyone is always so supportive and willing to help within their department but also with other departments outside of their own. I always feel welcome and that if I need support, everyone is willing to help."

Outside of work, Brie enjoys spending time with her family: her husband, Justin, and her son, Jaxson. She enjoys watching her son play football and she loves to explore the different things to do in Northern Illinois with her family. ■

# School & Department News

## Awards & Accomplishments



**Melissa Chen, MD, associate professor of medicine and clinical director of the Interprofessional Community Clinic, was elected to the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County's board of directors. The foundation's board comprises community leaders who have significant experience with**

and knowledge of the community's health and healthcare education needs.



**Joanna Dabrowska,**  
PhD, PharmD, Center for  
Neurobiology of Stress  
Resilience and Psychiatric  
Disorders, associate  
professor of neuroscience  
and cellular and molecular  
pharmacology, received a  
two-year, \$252,000 grant from Aptinyx for her research  
study “The Effects of NYX-783 on Fear and Anxiety-  
potentiated Startle.”





**Lise Eliot, PhD, Stanson Toshok**  
Center for Brain Function and  
Repair, professor of neuroscience  
and executive chair of foundational  
sciences and humanities, received  
a one-year, \$10,000 grant from the  
Snite Foundation for her research  
study “Sex Versus Gender Effects  
on the Human Brain.”

**William Frost**, PhD, director of the Stanson Toshok Center for Brain Function and Repair and professor and discipline chair of cell biology and anatomy, received a \$1.95 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how the brain develops and sustains focus when responding to novel stimuli. “Mechanisms of Stimulus-Induced Network Focusing,” a five-year, NIH R01 grant, was awarded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).





Dr. Frost and his team are in the vanguard of scientists using large-scale recordings to watch how neurons interact and participate in networks to process information, store memory, and generate behavior. The grant will allow them to test their hypothesis that neurons' variable network participation, even when presented with identical inputs, is an adaptive feature that reflects a "focusing" mechanism innate to many networks. They theorize that focusing allows networks to rapidly and flexibly rearrange which neurons are called upon to process specific information in the context of the moment.

“We hope insights gained from this study of the principles of rapid network focusing will help promote novel approaches for treating or preventing declines in cognitive function in aging and disease,” said Dr. Frost.

Dr. Frost is also the recipient of a three-year, \$600,000 NIH Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) subcontract to create the first transgenic mollusc model for neuroscience research. While the award ended in August 2021, the work by the five-lab team continues under a no-cost extension until August 2022. The BRAIN subcontract was part of a large

# School & Department News

award to researchers from five institutions, which in addition to RFU includes the University of Massachusetts, Harvard University, the University of California San Diego, and the University of Maryland.

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**Raúl Gazmuri**, MD, PhD, FCCM, professor of physiology and biophysics and director of RFU's Resuscitation Institute, and **William Frost**, PhD, director of the Stanson Toshok Center for Brain Function and Repair and professor and discipline chair of cell biology and anatomy, were included in the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition's list of 2021 "Researchers to Know." This annual list highlights university researchers who have made a significant impact in their field. Dr. Gazmuri and Dr. Frost were featured in the "Improving Health Outcomes" category.

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**Michelle Hastings**, PhD, professor of cell biology and anatomy and director of the Center for Genetic Diseases, received a one-year, \$51,374 grant from ProMis Neurosciences to study therapeutic opportunities for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.



*Dr. Raúl Gazmuri*



*Dr. William Frost*

**Johnny He**, PhD, professor and discipline chair of microbiology and immunology and director of the Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection, received a one-year, \$73,000 grant from the Advocate Health Foundation for his research study "Tip110 as a Biomarker for Melanoma."

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**David Mueller**, PhD, Center for Genetics Diseases, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, received a \$89,833 grant (year 1 with possible renewal based on progress) from the ForeBatten Foundation for the project entitled "Structure, Function, and Partners of CLN3 Batten Disease Protein."

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**James O'Donnell**, PhD, MS, assistant professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, was elected Vice President of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics-Great Lakes Chapter (ASPET-GLC).

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**Amiel Rosenkranz**, PhD, MS, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology and director of the Brain

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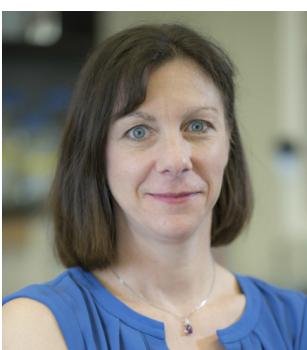


Science Institute, received a one-year, \$52,000 grant from Aptinyx for his research study “Effects of NYX-783 on Stress-induced Suppression of Exploration.”

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## Ashley Schaefer, MA, CMS

‘22, has been selected for the AMA Foundation Leadership Development Institute. This year-long program focuses on developing fourth-year medical student leadership skills to better aid them in residency training, as well as providing networking opportunities within the AMA mentoring program. The program consists of quarterly web conferences, a weekend of intensive leadership training, and structured one-on-one mentorship with practicing physicians. Ashley will also have the opportunity to attend the AMA Annual Meeting.



**Beth Stutzmann**, PhD, professor and discipline chair of neuroscience and director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics, received a one-year, \$207,112 grant from Aptinyx for her research project “Screening Novel NMDAR-targeted Compounds in Rodents.”

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## Presentations & Publications

**Andrew Alsterda**, MD '18; **Kumari Asha**, PhD, postdoctoral research associate; **Olivia Powrozek**, laboratory research assistant; **Miroslava Repak**, who completed a Master's degree from RFU; **Sudeshna Goswami**, PhD '16, research technician; and **Neelam Sharma-Walia**, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, co-authored “Salubrinal Exposes Anticancer Properties in Inflammatory Breast Cancer Cells by Manipulating the Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress Pathway,” published in the May 2021 issue of *Frontiers in Oncology*. Dr. Alsterda and Dr. Asha share equal authorship.



Dr. Andrew Alsterda



Dr. Kumari Asha



Miroslava Repak



Dr. Neelam Sharma-Walia



**Dima Arbach**, MD, director of faculty engagement and wellness and assistant director of the psychiatry residency program, presented a lecture titled “Physicians’ Mental Health and Resilience During and After Pandemic” on September 22 as part of the Department of Clinical Sciences’ medical grand rounds series. Dr. Arbach discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of physicians and how physicians can maintain and increase resilience to face these effects.

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**Kumari Asha**, PhD, postdoctoral research associate, and **Neelam Sharma-Walia**, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, co-authored a review article titled “Targeting Host Cellular Factors as a Strategy of Therapeutic Intervention for Herpesvirus Infections” which was published in *Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology*.



Dr. Kumari Asha



Dr. Neelam Sharma-Walia

as levels of income inequality and racial segregation, impact overall health and Black-white inequities. The book also offers specific case studies to help public health advocates, civic leaders, and other stakeholders envision the steps needed to improve their cities' current health outcomes and achieve racial equity.

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**Sangili Chandran**, MD, MS, associate professor of family medicine, published a curriculum titled “New Champion ‘Casting and Splinting,’” which was accepted by the online Family Medicine Residency Curriculum Resource. The

Family Medicine Residency Curriculum Resource houses more than 200 peer-reviewed, case-based presentations, quizzes, and facilitators’ guides for family medicine graduate medical education.

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**Maureen Benjamins**, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, was co-editor of the book *Unequal Cities: Structural Racism and the Death Gap in America’s Largest Cities*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press. The book details the dramatic differences in health outcomes between Black and white populations in the United States and examines why the life expectancy gap is larger in some cities than others. It is the first book to specifically examine racial health inequities within and across U.S. cities.

The essays contain analyses of life expectancy, mortality from leading causes of death, and related Black-white inequities for the country’s 30 biggest cities, as well as explorations of how characteristics of cities, such



**Joanna Dabrowska**, PhD, PharmD, Center for the Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, associate professor of neuroscience and cellular and molecular pharmacology, delivered a keynote lecture titled “Oxytocin, Fear Memory, and the Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis (BNST)” during the 23rd Biennial Regulatory Peptides Symposium (virtual) on August 10.



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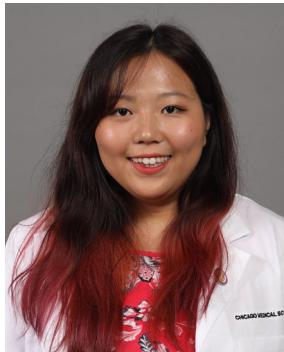
**Lucy Hammerberg**, MD '82, assistant dean for career and specialty advising and assistant professor of medicine, presented “Careers in Oncology” to students on October 13 in a virtual event organized by the CMS Oncology Interest Group. Dr. Hammerberg

discussed the various pathways to a career in oncology as a physician.

Learning Environment Diversity, presented on October 12 on “Equitable Practices In Global Health.” The event was organized by the New Life Volunteering Society, a non-profit volunteering organization for students from CMS and other Chicagoland medical schools, which runs a free health clinic dedicated to serving the uninsured of Chicago.



**Nahae Kim** and **Anjali Mehta**, both CMS '23, presented their work at the Mayo Clinic's RISE for Equity: Reflect, Inspire, Strengthen & Empower conference. Their abstract titled “To Be Racist or Antiracist: A Student-Led, Theater-Based Workshop for Preceptor Training” was accepted as both a poster and oral presentation. The conference, held November 4-6 in-person and with virtual viewing options, focused on prioritizing and addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism in workforce development and organizational culture in order to provide optimal patient care and achieve health equity.

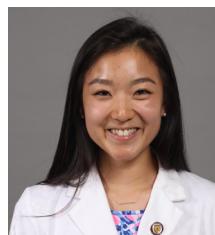


Nahae Kim

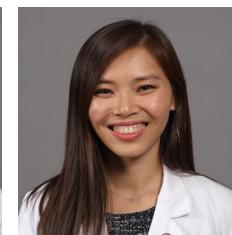


Anjali Mehta

**Bohae Rachel Lee**, CMS '23; **May Paing**, CMS '23; and **Neelam Sharma-Walia**, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, co-authored a review article titled “Cyclopentenone Prostaglandins: Biologically Active Lipid Mediators Targeting Inflammation” that was published in *Frontiers in Physiology*. All three contributors share equal authorship.



Bohae Rachel Lee



May Paing



Dr. Neelam Sharma-Walia

**Carl Lawson**, PhD, MPH, MA, RFU Director of Interprofessional Global Health and CMS Director of



**Ricardo Lopez**, CMS '23, was invited to give a virtual Grand Rounds presentation at Harvard Medical School / Boston Children's Hospital on October 27. His presentation, titled “Burnout in Anesthesiologists: With a

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Focus on Those Underrepresented in Medicine," was about one of Ricardo's research projects at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. This research is the largest study ever of burnout among anesthesiologists underrepresented in medicine. Ricardo expects to publish a manuscript of this research before the end of this year, and he will be the first author of that publication.

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Peter Nesper



Dr. Daniel Wasserman

Mr. Nesper and Dr. Wasserman participated in a segment called "Professionalism in the Digital Era: Student to Advanced Learner's Perspectives," which was moderated by **Nutan**

**Vaidya**, MD, Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Equity and professor and discipline chair of psychiatry. The panel discussion explored how ethical issues may come up during virtual interactions, how can they be addressed, and how virtual media will influence professional communications.

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**James O'Donnell**, PhD, MS, assistant professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, has authored two book chapters: "The Pharmacology of Adrenocorticosteroid Disorders" and "Introduction to Endocrine Pharmacology," both published in *Brody's Human Pharmacology*, 7th ed. (Elsevier).



Dr. O'Donnell also presented his research in two posters at the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics-Great Lakes Chapter Annual Meeting, held August 28 in Chicago. The posters were titled "The Relationship between Fraction of Drug Metabolized and Drug Hydrophobicity" and "A Novel Pharmacokinetic Model of Ethanol Absorption for Forensic Use."

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**Meredith Polaskey**, CMS '24, presented "Facial Atopic Dermatitis and Food Sensitization in the First Year of Life" at the 2021 Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance virtual conference.

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**Judith Potashkin**, PhD, Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology and assistant dean for faculty appointments and recognition, co-authored the article “Network Analysis Identifies Sex-Specific Gene Expression Changes in Blood of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Patients,” published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

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**Miroslava Repak**, who completed a Master’s degree from RFU; **Olivia Poworzek**, laboratory research assistant; **Kumari Asha**, PhD, postdoctoral research associate; and **Neelam Sharma-Walia**, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, gave an oral presentation titled “AS1411 Aptamer Displays Potent Therapeutic Potential in Kaposi’s Sarcoma-Associated Virus-Associated Primary Effusion Lymphoma” at the 23rd International Conference on Kaposi’s Sarcoma Herpesvirus (KSHV), held virtually on June 21-24.

They also gave a poster presentation with the same title at the 45th Annual International Herpesvirus Workshop, held virtually August 2-6.



Miroslava  
Repak



Dr. Kumari Asha



Dr. Neelam  
Sharma-Walia



On October 27, **Pallavi Shah**, MD, associate professor of medicine and attending physician (gastroenterology) at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, presented a lecture titled “Evaluation of Abnormal Liver Function Tests” as part of the Department of Clinical Science’s medical grand rounds series. Dr. Shah reviewed and discussed the interpretation of routinely performed liver function tests (LFTs), along with the indications and utility of quantitative tests and how to address the abnormal liver tests. Abnormal LFTs are frequently encountered in clinical practice, since elevation of at least one LFT occurs in more than 20 percent of the population.

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Dr. Heinz Steiner

**Heinz Steiner**, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, and **Connor Moon**, research associate, Stanson Toshok Center for Brain Function and Repair, in collaboration with researchers from the Clinical Research Institute on Addictions at the State University of New York at Buffalo, published a study titled “Fluoxetine Potentiates Oral Methylphenidate-Induced Gene Regulation in the Rat Striatum” in the journal *Molecular Neurobiology*.

Dr. Steiner also co-authored an article with **Feras Altwal**, PhD ’20, and **Alexandra Ritger**, an MD/PhD candidate, titled “Role of 5-HT1A Receptor in Vilazodone-Mediated Suppression of L-DOPA-induced Dyskinesia and Increased Responsiveness to Cortical Input in Striatal

# School & Department News



Alexandra Ritger

Medium Spiny Neurons in an Animal Model of Parkinson's Disease" as an invited article in the special issue "Recent Developments in Serotonin Receptor Research" of the journal *Molecules*. **Anthony R. West**, PhD, formerly a professor with the Center for

Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics, also contributed.

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**Beth Stutzmann**, PhD, professor and discipline chair of neuroscience and director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics, along with former RFU postdoctoral research fellows

**Daniel T. Christian**, PhD; **Michael T. Stefanik**, PhD; **Jessica A. Loweth**, PhD; **Amanda M. Wunsch**, PhD; and **Clark A. Briggs**, PhD, co-authored the article "GluN3-containing NMDA Receptors in the Rat Nucleus Accumbens Core Contribute to Incubation of Cocaine Craving," published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Dr. Stutzmann also co-authored the article "Oxidative Phosphorylation Is Dysregulated Within the Basocortical Circuit in a 6-month old Mouse Model of Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Disease," published in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*.

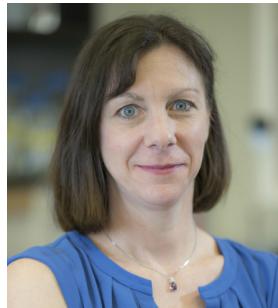
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**Bharathi Swaminathan**, MD, associate professor and discipline chair of physical medicine and rehabilitation



and site director for the PM&R residency program, was featured on the podcast "Specialty Stories," which shares the stories of doctors in various medical specialties to help medical students choose a career path. Dr. Swaminathan discussed her career journey in the episode "From OB/GYN in India to Physiatry in the United States."

The podcast can be accessed on the Medical School Headquarters blog page and can also be found on Apple Podcast, Spotify, and Google Podcast.



Dr. Beth Stutzmann

## Events and Other News

The **Interprofessional Community Clinic (ICC)** collaborated with the RFU Nutrition Department and the YWCA to create a series of Healthy Cooking videos featuring RFU faculty, staff, and students. The goal of the project was to provide easy, healthy, homemade recipes for everyone at home during COVID-19 and to show that health information can be easily accessible.

So far the ICC has released seven episodes, featuring **Amy Swift-Johnson**, MD, associate professor of family and preventive medicine; **Laurine Tiema-Benson**, CMS '22; Sarah Haag, PT, DPT, MS, from the College of Health Professions (CHP); Jeffrey Damaschke, PT, DPT, PhD, from CHP; **Farhana Ikmal Hisham**, CMS '24; Kristine Burgess, PA-C, MS; Steve Jennings; **Alyson Brinkman**, CMS '24; **Shannon Gurley**, CMS '24; and **James (CJ) Roberts**, CMS '22. The videos are available to view on the ICC Facebook Page and will be uploaded onto the YWCA website as well.

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# School & Department News

**Catherine Deamant, MD, FAAHPM,**  
FACP, associate professor of  
medicine and palliative care and  
addiction education faculty lead,  
was recently interviewed by the  
Cunniff Dixon Foundation as  
a past recipient of the Hasting  
Center Cunniff-Dixon Senior



Physician Award, which recognizes physicians who give exemplary care to patients at the end of life. During the interview, Dr. Deamant discussed what inspired her to devote her career to palliative care, how palliative care has evolved during the COVID-19 pandemic, and what she teaches Chicago Medical School students about communicating with patients.



**Tina Espina**, MBA, joined CMS in October as Coordinator of Clinical Affairs, assisting Dr. Brenda Affinati, Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs. In her role, Tina will be supporting Dr. Affinati with maintaining and growing clinical rotation sites for our students. She will also oversee CMS contract management with our affiliate partners.

Most recently, Tina worked with the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education in Chicago as the Associate Executive Director. With a broad range of experience in the area of regulatory accreditation and continuing medical education, Tina also has extensive information technology and continuing medical education knowledge.



Yanhan Ren



Dr. Ted Lorenc

In August, **Yanhan Ren**, CMS '22, hosted a webinar series for international medical graduates to introduce them to Chicago Medical School's residency programs. The first session was co-hosted by **Ted Lorenc**, MD, associate professor of medicine and Northwestern McHenry Hospital clerkship site manager.

Over 150 foreign medical graduates and physicians attended the virtual information session to learn about CMS's internal medicine residency program at Northwestern McHenry Hospital. Another session was co-hosted by **Javier Desler, MD, lecturer of**

**Jamal Turner**, MSA, MJ, has joined CMS as a Diversity Coordinator. In this role, he will assist in developing programs within the Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion and provide support and coordination of Diversity and Outreach programs.

Jamal earned a Master of Juris Prudence in Health Law from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, a Master of Science degree in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: Hospital Administration from the University of Toledo. His previous experience in health equity and work with medical association education and diversity initiatives will be a great asset to the school. ■

## Around Campus



Frank A. Maldonado, MD, Executive Chair of Clinical Sciences; Karona Mason, DPM, MA, Vice Dean of Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine; Paul Hung, MD, Psychiatry Residency Program Director; Brenda Affinati, MD, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs; Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD, Dean of CMS; and Michael Ellison, EdD, Associate Dean for Admissions, attend a food truck picnic hosted by the university to welcome students, faculty, and staff back to campus.



Students attend a CMS Town Hall event where they are introduced to administration and faculty.



First-year students complete a team-building exercise during orientation week.



The Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion hosted a luncheon in September for medical students from groups underrepresented in medicine. Students were introduced to some of the faculty and resources available to support them during their time at CMS.

**We want to hear from you!**

To submit information or news for upcoming issues, contact Candice Kosanke at [candice.kosanke@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:candice.kosanke@rosalindfranklin.edu).



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**CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL**