



# CMS NEWS

The Chicago Medical School Newsletter

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**Cover Image:** Rebecca Li, CMS '25, with her parents, Sharon Hame, MD '91 and Leo Li, MD '91, at the CMS Alumni Reunion in September.

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## Dean's Message



Greetings from the Dean's Office!

Our academic year is well underway, and our M1s and M2s are settling into their routine of lectures, labs, and extracurricular activities. Our M3s have begun their clinical rotations, while our M4s submitted their residency applications in September and are immersed in the residency interview season!

To help the M1s successfully transition into their lives as medical students, I have been meeting with each of them one-on-one — a new initiative launched this year. These meetings give me an opportunity to learn about students' goals, aspirations, and struggles while sharing my perspective on what they can do to succeed in medical school. I've met with nearly half the M1 class so far, and I look forward to meeting with the rest of them in the coming months.

Among the crucial ingredients for our students' success are the outstanding contributions of our faculty, who excel in their teaching and mentorship. We recently had the chance to show our appreciation for our faculty during the annual CMS Faculty and Friends Recognition Dinner. Please join me in congratulating the faculty who were honored during the ceremony: Dr. Theodore Booden received the CMS Honor Medallion; Dr. Myrtis Sullivan received the Lattimer Award; Drs. Lisa Cheng, Sandra Ndiaye, and Suzanne Schulte received the Excellence in Clinical Education Award; Drs. Catherine Deamant and Joshua Polanski received the Excellence in Educational Innovation Award; Dr. Rahul Vijay received the Junior Faculty Investigator Award; Dr. Rilina Ghosh received the Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award; Dr. George Salti received the Clinical Preceptor Award; and Dr. Lalita Prasad-Reddy and Ms. Sarah Schuck received the Dean's Special Recognition Award. In addition to the individual awards, two of our clinical partners, Froedtert South and Northwestern Medicine McHenry and Huntley Hospitals, received the Affiliate Site Award.

In September, we welcomed many of our alumni back to campus for our CMS Reunion Weekend — including seven members of the Class of 1964, who were celebrating their 60th reunion! Our alumni had a wonderful time connecting with each other, current students, as well as faculty and administration. Congratulations to the three alumni who received awards for their illustrious careers: Dr. Sharon L. Hame (Class of '91) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement, Dr. Kaleem A. Malik (Class of '96) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service, and Dr. Basil K. Williams Jr. (Class of '11) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Early Career Achievement.

We have another reason to celebrate our alumni: many of them have generously donated funds to create scholarships for our students. These endowments and other donations help make medical school accessible to

a more diverse student body, breaking down barriers on the path to becoming a physician. The Anne C. Kolker, MD 1980 Scholarship Fund has been created with a \$50,000 donation from Dr. Kolker. Dr. Manoj Monga (Class of '90) has set up an endowment fund for students interested in Urology to cover their expenses for sub-internship training so that they may be more competitive when they apply for residency in this specialty; the first gift of \$5,000 has already been received. Dr. Steven I. Ackerman (Class of '76) has donated \$51,000 to the CMS Emergency Student Related Expenses Fund. The Class of 1973 has raised \$35,000 towards an endowed fund to support student wellbeing, with donors including Drs. Joseph Sanfilippo, James Van Heest, Ian Love, Gerald Tarnoff, Melvin Roseman, Craig Joseph, David Lieb, and Alan Mensch. Dr. Joel Pengson (Class of '90), donated \$10,000 to be used for student scholarships, and Drs. Paul Granoff (Class of '64), Betty Kung Shen (Class of '94), and Allen Shen (Class of '94) were all inspired to donate funds for scholarships after attending the CMS Reunion in September. Dr. Albert Mak (Class of '89) has donated \$5,000 to the medical school, and Dr. Steven J. Bundra (Class of '82) donated \$7,500 for Greatest Strategic Priorities. Additionally, the Michael Reese Foundation has provided us with a grant for ~\$500,000 for four half-tuition scholarships to be distributed to incoming students to CMS who are under-represented in medicine and have a financial need.

In recent months, the medical school has received a total of \$125,000 for preexisting scholarship funds: the Matthew N. Harris MD '56 Scholarship Fund has received \$100,000; the Frederick L. Perl, MD '51 Memorial Scholarship has received \$10,000; the Ronald E. Palmer, MD '75 and Kathleen Palmer Honorary Endowed Scholarship has received \$10,000; and the Dean Emeritus, Theodore Booden PhD Endowed Opportunity Scholarship has received \$5,000. Another fund is in the works: Dr. Rania Agha (Class of '02) is working with Institutional Advancement to set up a scholarship fund.

Dr. Mervyn Sahud (Class of '64) has donated \$2,500 towards the Annual Prosector Award for the M2 Advanced Regional Dissection Elective. Dr. Sahud established this award in 2023 to recognize and reward exemplary skills in cadaver dissection, advanced understanding of Clinical Anatomy, and teamwork, and he has funded the award each year since then.

As we look forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, I encourage you all to join me in taking a few

moments to reflect on the things in your life you are grateful for. These moments of gratitude and reflection can reduce stress and anxiety and improve our mental well-being. Personally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for our entire CMS community, including our hard-working students and our dedicated faculty and staff. It takes a tremendous amount of dedicated effort to keep the medical school running smoothly, and I'm thankful for everyone's contributions to our purpose and our mission of educating the next generation of physicians and leaders.

As Winter Break approaches and the year draws to a close, I hope each of you are able to take some time to relax and spend time with family, friends, or other loved ones. As you reflect on everything you've accomplished this year and think about your goals for the coming year, I join you in anticipation of the adventures and opportunities that 2025 will bring. I wish all our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends Happy Holidays and a joyful and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,



Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD  
Dean, Chicago Medical School  
Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs, RFUMS



*We appreciate  
our outstanding  
faculty, staff &  
clinical partners!*



Ms. Sarah Schuck, recipient of the Dean's Special Recognition Award, with Dr. Archana Chatterjee



Drs. Antwione Haywood, Esther Calderon, Nutan Vaidya, and Regina de Leon Gomez



Dr. George Salti, recipient of the CMS Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Award, with Dr. Frank Maldonado



Drs. Michael Allswede, Sara Gazi, and Biana Kotlyar



Drs. Joanne Kwak-Kim and Svetlana Dambaeva



Drs. Ning Wang, Brenda Affinati, Melissa Chen, and Laurie Broutman



# CMS Faculty and Friends Recognition Dinner

Chicago Medical School hosted its annual Faculty and Friends Recognition Dinner on October 30 at the Riverfront Restaurant in Northbrook, IL, to celebrate and express appreciation for the school's faculty and clinical partners. During the event, the school awarded special recognition to several individuals and groups who have put forth exemplary efforts to educate, mentor, and train our students.

**Theodore Booden**, PhD, CMS Dean Emeritus, received the **CMS Honor Medallion**, an award bestowed upon a faculty, staff member, student, or alumnus for novel and/or extraordinary accomplishments that have brought honor and prestige to the school through the delivery of novel healthcare methods, healthcare education, leadership, groundbreaking research, or exceptional acts of humanitarianism.

**Myrtis Sullivan**, MD, MPH, professor of pediatrics, received the **CMS Lattimer Award**, given to a senior faculty member who exhibits a long-standing record of outstanding performance in clinical teaching or research,

patient care, or public health. The award honors **Dr. Agnes Lattimer**, a distinguished pediatrician and one of the early Black women graduates of CMS, Class of 1954. Dr. Lattimer served as Medical Director of Cook County Hospital from 1986–1995, leading a fight against child lead poisoning in Chicago.

**Lisa Cheng**, MD, associate professor of pediatrics; **Sandra Ndiaye**, DO, co-education director of pediatrics; and **Suzanne Schulte**, MD, discipline chair and co-education director of pediatrics, received the **CMS Excellence in Clinical Education Award**, awarded to educators who demonstrate empathy and respect for students, create a culture that encourages student expression of ideas, act as an exemplary role model, and exhibit professional values and standards.

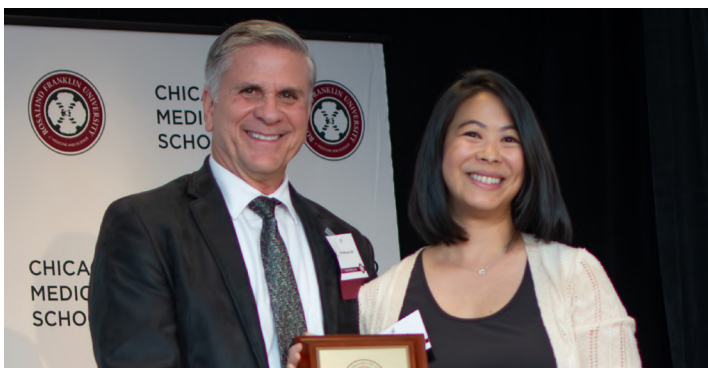
**Catherine Deamant**, MD, FAAHPM, FACP, professor of medicine and palliative care education faculty lead, and **Joshua Polanski**, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy, received the **CMS Excellence in Educational Innovation Award**. This award is given



*Dr. Theodore Booden, CMS Dean Emeritus, recipient of the CMS Honor Medallion.*



*Dr. Melissa Chen with Dr. Myrtis Sullivan (right), winner of the CMS Lattimer Award.*



*Dr. Frank Maldonado with Dr. Lisa Cheng, recipient of the CMS Excellence in Clinical Education Award.*



*Dr. Catherine Deamant and Dr. Joshua Polanski, winners of the CMS Excellence in Educational Innovation Award.*

to faculty members who demonstrate innovation in teaching and learning approaches, focusing on significant accomplishments in curriculum and instructional development.

**Rahul Vijay**, DMV, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, received the **CMS Junior Faculty Investigator Award** for his research in infectious disease immunology. This award recognizes a promising researcher for their significant contributions to their field.

**Rilina Ghosh**, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, received the **CMS Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award**, which acknowledges an individual who is committed to serving the underserved population at CMS, its communities, and its clinical affiliates.

**George Salti**, MD, lecturer of surgery, received the **CMS Outstanding Clinical Preceptor Award** in recognition of his efforts to supervise and train CMS students during clinical rotations at Endeavor Health's Edward Hospital.

Two of our clinical partners, **Northwestern Medicine McHenry and Huntley Hospitals** and **Froedtert South**, received the **CMS Affiliate Site Award**, granted in recognition of everything the sites and their faculty, staff, and administration do to provide a rigorous and educational clinical teaching environment for the CMS students who rotate there.

**Lalita Prasad-Reddy**, PharmD, MS, BCPS, PCACP, CDCES, FCCP, assistant dean of basic science education and vice-chair of foundational sciences and humanities, and **Sarah Schuck**, director of the CMS Dean's Office, received the **Dean's Special Recognition Award**, which recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond in their hard work and dedication to CMS.

Congratulations to all the faculty, staff, and clinical partners who received awards, as well as everyone who was nominated! We thank you for everything you do for our school, our students, and our community. ■



Part of our pediatrics team: Dr. Sandra Ndiaye, recipient of the CMS Excellence in Clinical Education Award; Dr. Elizabeth Henschen; Dr. Suzanne Schulte, recipient of the CMS Excellence in Clinical Education Award; and Dr. Rilina Ghosh, recipient of the CMS Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award.



Dr. Brenda Affinati with Dr. Alvaro Encinas, Mr. Tom Kelley, Dr. Srikanth Davuluri, Mr. Joe Ford, Dr. Tomasz Jarzembowski, Ms. Linda Wohlgemuth, Dr. Kunal Patel (CMS Class of 2016), and Mr. Nicholas Galich, all from Froedtert South, recipient of the CMS Affiliate Site Award.



Dr. Brenda Affinati with Dr. John Guido and Dr. Ted Lorenc, representing Northwestern Medicine McHenry and Huntley Hospitals, recipient of the CMS Affiliate Site Award.



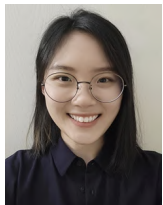
Dr. Rahul Vijay, recipient of the CMS Junior Faculty Investigator Award, onstage with Dr. David Everly.



# Summer Research Poster Session

The university held its annual Summer Research Poster Session on October 30. Second-year medical students, alongside their peers from the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and the College of Pharmacy, presented research they had completed during the summer.

Congratulations to the CMS poster competition winners!



## 1st place:

**Isabella Han, CMS '27**

"Co-Targeting of DNA Methylation and Secondary DNA Structures in TET Loss-of-Function Driven Acute Myeloid Leukemia"  
(Mentor: Dr. Vipul Shukla)



## 2nd place:

**Jefferson Sun, CMS '27**

"Identifying AQP3 Binding Partners"  
(Mentor: Dr. Chris Kywe)



## 3rd place:

**Julia Kirkpatrick and Danielle Hawryluk, both CMS '27**

"St. Bernard Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment"  
(Mentor: Ms. Rebecca Metrick)



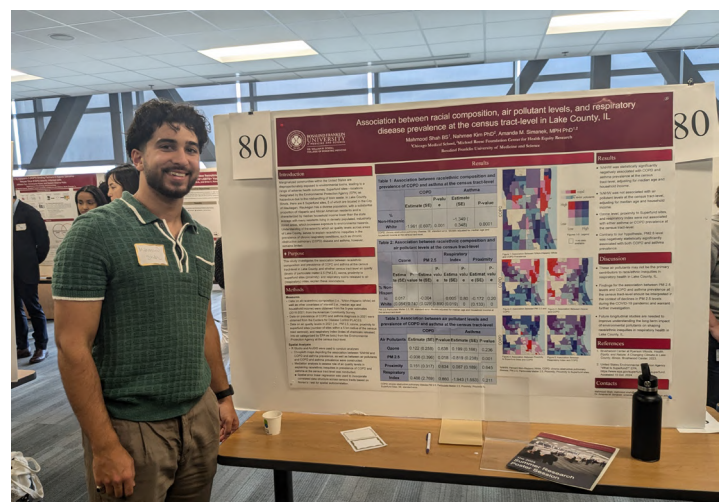
Anne Cauthorn, Chloe Liew, Cassie Peck-Dimit, Bailey Vormezele, Tyler Paul, and Iswarya VimalanJeya.



Katalina Kuzanga with Dr. Marc Glucksman.



Mariyah AbdurRahman and Kelly Bonk with their poster.



Mahmood Shah with his poster.





*Dr. Marasigan (seated, in a white coat) with members of the CMS Philippine Medical Association after the group's Holiday Candlelight Concert in 2022.*

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

### Dr. Ligaya Marasigan

**Ligaya Marasigan, MD, FACOG**, is an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology who is actively involved in educating and supporting Chicago Medical School students in a variety of ways. In addition to her work as a faculty member teaching in the Endocrine-Reproductive block, she serves as a preceptor in the Essentials of Clinical Reasoning (ECR) course, a faculty mentor in the medical school's Individualized Strategic Enhancement Program (ISEP), and the chapter adviser of the CMS Philippine Medical Association (PMA).

Dr. Marasigan's role as a preceptor in the ECR course — an interprofessional, two-year course required for all medical and podiatry students — provides students with important specialized clinical knowledge. The course

serves as the entry point to students' clinical experience and includes a series of lectures, labs, workshops, and demos on topics such as vitals, cardiac/pulmonary exam, musculoskeletal exam, neurologic exam, acute mental exam, male/female GU and breast exam, ultrasounds, neurodiversity, and cultural awareness. Because the ECR course covers so much material, our 21 preceptors each bring their unique skillsets and specialties to the hands-on workshops. Dr. Marasigan brings her expertise as an obstetrician-gynecologist to give students the skills and knowledge needed to become physicians. She also serves as a preceptor for the weekly schema case discussions.

As an ISEP faculty mentor, Dr. Marasigan works with students to identify areas of personal strengths and





*Dr. Marasigan was recently recognized as a distinguished speaker by the Philippine Medical Association in Chicago (PMAC), where she shared her work titled “Fractals in Biology and Nature” at the 2024 PMAC Gala.*

weaknesses that may affect each student’s progress, and helps them develop an individualized plan for academic, personal, and professional success. ISEP is a voluntary support program for CMS students who are first-generation college students, economically and geographically disadvantaged, or facing any other environmental stressors that might impact their medical school experience. Faculty mentors hold one-on-one monthly meetings with students to help build strategies to achieve the student’s goals.

As chapter advisor for the PMA, Dr. Marasigan supports CMS students in their mission to engage and empower the Filipino and Filipino-American local community in Lake County through social, medical, and cultural advocacy. In 2023, she helped plan a medical mission trip in the Philippines which gave CMS students the opportunity to learn about public health, work alongside local physicians, and understand how the Philippine health system works. PMA students got a chance to see community rural medicine in practice as they shadowed



*Dr. Marasigan with CMS students on a 2023 medical mission to the Philippines.*



*Dr. Marasigan (third from left) with some of her fellow preceptors in the ECR course.*

Dr. Marasigan and local physicians at Dagupan Doctors Villaflo Memorial Hospital in the rural Pangasinan province. Dr. Marasigan also makes other contributions to the work of the PMA, helping students organize donation drives, coordinate guest physician speaker events, and plan the annual holiday Candlelight Concert.

In her clinical career, Dr. Marasigan has long been an advocate and champion for public health, spending the majority of her career as an obstetrician-gynecologist providing care to underserved communities at John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County and at the Cook County Department of Corrections, where she advocates for the reproductive health of inmates.

Dr. Marasigan was nominated for this spotlight by fourth-year medical student **Med Jimenez, MS**, who said, “Dr. Marasigan’s involvement with students and the community reflects her dedication to the spirit of ‘Life in Discovery,’ fostering growth and service.” ■



## *WiSH Symposium*

The university hosted its 9th Annual **Women in Science and Healthcare (WiSH) Symposium** on September 26, focusing on the theme “Gender Roles Under the Microscope.” The speakers and panelists examined the ways in which deeply ingrained gender roles and expectations can impact women’s experiences in the workplace, including impeding their advancement in the science and healthcare professions.

**Amy Diehl**, PhD, a gender equity researcher and chief information officer at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, gave the keynote address on “Glass Walls: Shattering Gender Barriers in Science and Healthcare.” Dr. Diehl, who recently authored the book *Glass Walls: Shattering the Six Gender Bias Barriers Still Holding Women Back at Work*, discussed six core dimensions of workplace gender bias and then shared evidence-based strategies for shattering those barriers.

Dr. Diehl discussed the harm that results from these barriers — not only to individuals, but to organizations and to society as a whole — when women are prevented from reaching their full potential in the workplace. “It’s not just that one woman is pushed out of her role; it’s

harmful to our whole society when woman after woman after woman cannot fulfill her potential,” she said. “It’s really limiting society’s ability to solve our most pressing problems.”

This is especially tragic in the scientific and medical fields, Dr. Diehl noted, where the problems people are trying to solve affect lifespan and public health. “When we don’t have half of our society contributing to solving these problems, it really limits our ability to diagnose and cure disease,” she said.

After describing the framework of barriers affecting women in science and healthcare, Dr. Diehl turned her attention to solutions. She identified strategies to support women in the workplace, including actions that can be taken by leaders, allies, and individual women.

For the second half of the symposium, Dr. Diehl joined CMS alumna **Kimberley Darey**, MD ’04, CPE, FACOG, RFU Board of Trustees vice chair and president of Elmhurst Hospital; Susanna Calkins, PhD, associate professor and director of RFU’s Nexus for Faculty Success; Danny Pancirer, CHP ’26, physician assistant



student; and Allison Daminger, PhD, assistant professor of sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, for a panel discussion on “Redefining Gender Roles in Science and Healthcare.” The panelists shared their perceptions of how traditional gender roles translate to the workplace, shaping their experiences in the healthcare field.

Dr. Daminger, the assistant professor of sociology, approached the issue from a systematic perspective, noting that gender biases are deeply entrenched in our society and that implicit roles are learned early in life. “We’ve been raised this way. We’re steeped in a culture that has taught us a certain set of beliefs and characteristics,” she said. “It’s very helpful to think about the ways that we’re embedded in these systems.”

Because the barriers women face in the workplace are cultural and widespread, the panelists emphasized that it will take teamwork to tackle those issues and implement change. “It does take all of us working together,” said Dr. Diehl. “These gender biases are just so embedded into our culture — it’s going to take all of us.”

Dr. Darey agreed: “It takes allies. It takes people with influence to be able to help make change,” she said. “You need more allies to help change a system.”

The WiSH Symposium was launched in 2016 to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Rosalind Franklin, the university’s namesake, by highlighting the accomplishments of female scientists and clinicians and addressing the

hurdles that those women often face. Each year focuses on a different aspect of gender disparities in STEM fields, with past topics including gender bias, sexual harassment, intersectionality, the gendered impacts of climate change on health, and the importance of considering sex as a variable in medical research.

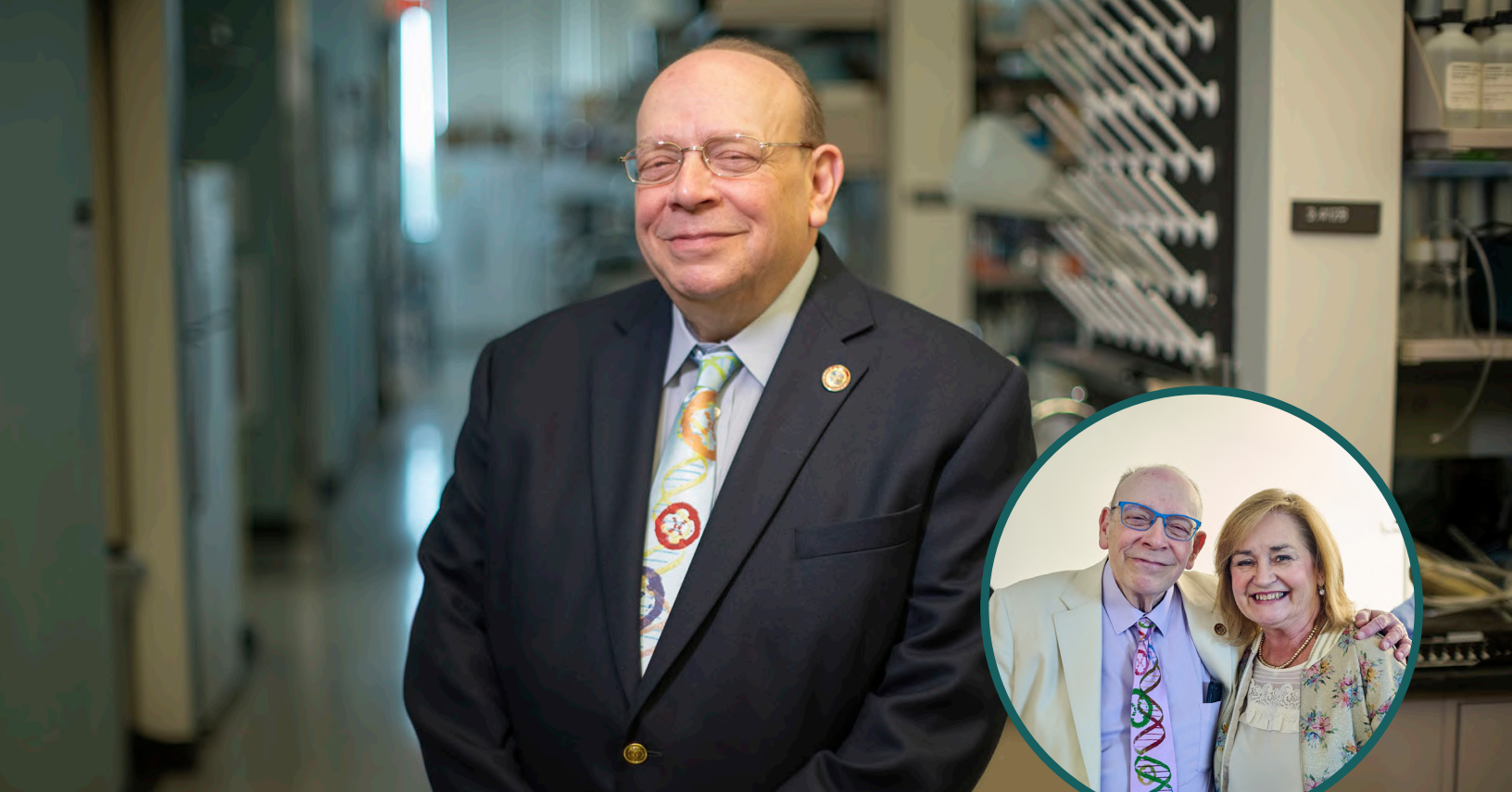
In her opening remarks at the start of this year’s symposium, **Wendy Rheault**, PT, PhD, FSAHP, FNAP, DipACLM, president and CEO of RFU, praised Dr. Rosalind Franklin for her perseverance in the face of gender discrimination. Dr. Franklin’s X-ray crystallography captured proof of the double-helical structure of DNA, launching an ongoing revolution in medical genetics.

“She disregarded gender roles and pushed past the sexism that she experienced. Her resilience led to a breakthrough in our understanding of genetics, and is regarded as probably one of the most meaningful discoveries of the twentieth century,” Dr. Rheault said. “We are honored to carry on her name and her legacy.” ■

**From left to right:** Dr. Lise Eliot, professor of neuroscience and co-chair of the WiSH committee. CMS alumna Dr. Kimberley Darey during the panel discussion. Keynote speaker Dr. Amy Diehl with Dr. Archana Chatterjee, dean of CMS.

**Opposite page:** Dr. Amy Diehl delivered the keynote address.





## Farewell to Dr. Ronald Kaplan

This fall, we said farewell to **Ronald Kaplan**, PhD, who retired on September 30 after 27 years of service to the university. Dr. Kaplan served as the university's executive vice president for research and Chicago Medical School's vice dean for research, as well as holding a faculty appointment as professor of biochemistry and molecular biology. He also served as interim dean of the medical school from 2019 to 2020. His leadership and expertise were invaluable as we navigated an accreditation visit in the spring of 2020 while also adapting to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An investigator in the Center for Proteomics and Molecular Therapeutics, Dr. Kaplan is an international expert in the field of mitochondrial transporters. His research has focused on the structure, function, and regulation of mitochondrial and plasma membrane citrate transport proteins at the molecular level.

In 2018, he successfully reorganized the basic sciences departments at CMS. The change realigned our research strengths around core areas of scientific expertise with the goal of fostering innovation. This was a critical step in the founding of the university's Innovation and Research Park and Helix 51 incubator, which Dr. Kaplan championed.

In a ceremony on September 26, faculty, staff, and academic partners gathered to celebrate Dr. Kaplan's service to the university and wish him a happy retirement. We take this opportunity to thank him again for his many contributions to the medical school and for his dedication to our missions of education and research. ■



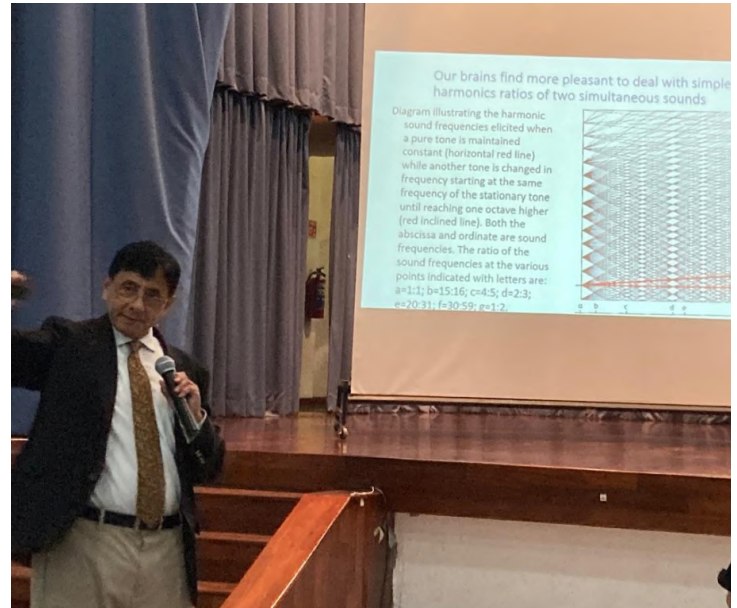


# Music as Medicine

**Héctor Rasgado-Flores**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, was invited to give a talk titled “Music as Medicine” at the “Ciencia que Palpita” (Science that Beats) Symposium at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, held October 14–15 in Puebla, Mexico. The symposium gathered academic health professionals together to discuss how the environment can affect cardiorespiratory and neurological health.

It is well known that music is a potent mood modifier that could have significant therapeutic effects, but scientists do not fully understand how music works on the human body. Dr. Rasgado’s presentation described current knowledge and new hypotheses explaining music’s therapeutic effects.

As part of his presentation, Dr. Rasgado performed a concert of his piano composition “Body Notes: A Musical Interpretation of the Life Cycle from a Physiological Perspective.” The composition, which was commissioned by the American Physiological Society, is a symphonic suite in 13 movements that uses music to describe various aspects of human physiology including the heartbeat, the elegant control of skeletal muscles, the release of hormones, and apoptosis (cell death). ■



Scan the QR code to listen to Dr. Rasgado's "Body Notes" composition on YouTube:





# Recent Conference Attendance

*Our students have recently represented Chicago Medical School at several regional and national conferences!*

First-year student **Iris Siguenza** and second-year students **Daniela Maciel** and **Veronica Palma** traveled to Los Angeles to attend the **Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) National Conference**, held September 20-22 at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. **Héctor Rasgado-Flores**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, also attended the conference.

*From left to right: Veronica Palma, Iris Siguenza, Daniela Maciel, and Dr. Héctor Rasgado-Flores.*



**Kurtis Lavelle**, CMS '25; **Andrew Trandai**, CMS '25; and **Vishnu Jindal**, MD, assistant professor of medicine, presented "Rule Out of Autoimmune (Anti-NMDA Receptor) and Hepatic Encephalitis in a Case of Unspecified Psychosis and Catatonia" at the **Illinois Psychiatric Society (IPS) Annual Meeting** on October 5 in Countryside, IL.

*Kurtis Lavelle with his poster.*





**Lin Lu**, MD, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry, who specializes in child and adolescent psychiatry; **Shannon Lanza**, MS, CMS '25; and **Andrew Trandai**, MHS, CMS '25, attended the **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Annual Conference**, held October 14–19 in Seattle, WA. The team presented a workshop titled “Beyond Ears: The Art of Whole-Body Listening.” During the workshop, the CMS team used the evolutionary journey of the Chinese character for *Listening* — which shows that true listening is an authentic endeavor that engages various parts of the body — to illustrate the whole-body listening framework and provide insight into how to listen to children intentionally and holistically.

(Several psychiatry residents also presented at the IPS and AACAP conferences — see *page 29*.)

*From left to right: Dr. Lin Lu, Shannon Lanza, and Andrew Trandai.*

Fifteen CMS students, representing the Interprofessional Community Initiative, attended the **Society of Student-Run Free Clinics (SSRFC) Annual Conference**, held October 18–20 at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. A total of 14 projects were presented across both posters and oral presentations.

**Brianna Lau**, CMS '27, was awarded 1st Runner Up for the Collaboration Award for her abstract titled “Breakfast and Breast Exams: A Template for SRFC Community Outreach.” **Delaney Griffiths**, CMS '27, was elected as the Finance Chair-Elect, and **Mia Fidanze**, CMS '27, was elected as a Technology Chair for the SSRFC Operating Committee for the upcoming year.

The full list of attendees included **Pravallika Kesarla**, **Shiza Jeewa**, **Delaney Griffiths**, **Ani Oganessian**, **Rebecca Silver**, **Mia Fidanze**, **Sami Chu**, **Brianna Lau**, **Joanna Lee**, **Megan Kim**, **Karan Gowda**, **Rikhil Makwana**, and **Romil Patel**, all CMS '27, and **Jessica Hrnciar** and **Aayush Gupta**, both CMS '26. ■



# SYNAPSES

*A Creative Journal of the Chicago Medical School*

**NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS**



Submissions must be  
received by Sunday,  
January 5, 2025 to be  
included in the 2025 volume

**ALL ART FORMS ACCEPTED:**  
Non-Fiction Essays & Reflections  
Fiction • Poetry • Photography  
Fine Art • Digital Art • Sculpture  
Collage • Textile Art • Music • and more

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







## Schweitzer Fellowship Update: *Food, Fun, and Friendship*



**Binita Pandya**, CMS '27, has spent the past several months working with the Roberti Community House in Waukegan as part of her role as a Schweitzer Fellow. The fellowship is a year-long service-learning program that provides graduate students in health-related fields with opportunities to design and implement projects that address the health needs of underserved Chicago communities, and Binita is the latest CMS student to be selected as a fellow.

For her service project, Binita has partnered with the Roberti Community House, a gathering place for the Waukegan community that offers meals, educational programs, and community support. Binita leads classes on vital health topics such as blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, and heart rate, incorporating knowledge into the adult and youth programs. Her goal is to increase health agency, helping participants understand how nutrition and healthy eating impact overall well-being. ■





## AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT: Froedtert South

This past May, Chicago Medical School finalized an affiliation agreement with one of our newest clinical partners: **Froedtert South**, a comprehensive regional healthcare system that has been serving southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois communities for 120 years. Froedtert South provides services primarily through the Froedtert Pleasant Prairie Hospital and several clinical locations.

This partnership marked a significant milestone in enhancing medical education and clinical training opportunities. The affiliation combines RFU's academic and research excellence with the hands-on clinical experience of a leading healthcare facility. Students from across all of RFU's programs will be able to complete rotations and participate in research at Froedtert South, gaining invaluable real-world experience in a diverse and dynamic healthcare setting.

The collaboration aims to foster a deeper integration of medical education with patient care, ensuring that students are well-prepared to meet the challenges of modern healthcare. Through our partnership with Froedtert South, students benefit from:

- **Advanced Clinical Training:** Access to state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge medical technologies.
- **Interprofessional Learning:** Opportunities to work alongside experienced healthcare professionals from various specialties.

- **Community Engagement:** Involvement in community health initiatives, providing comprehensive care to the local population.
- **Research Opportunities:** Participation in clinical research projects and exposure to innovative medical practices.

**Brenda R. Affinati, MD, FACP**, Associate Vice President of Medical Affairs for RFU and Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs for CMS, expressed her enthusiasm: "This partnership with Froedtert South will enhance the educational experience for all RFUMS students, allowing



*Dinner with CMS senior leadership and Froedtert South senior leadership.*





*Dr. Frank Maldonado, Executive Chair of Clinical Sciences, CMS; Ric Schmidt, CEO of Froedtert South; Dr. Brenda Affinati, Associate Vice President of Medical Affairs for RFU and Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs for CMS; Dr. Archana Chatterjee, Dean of CMS and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs for RFU; Mike Gentile, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Froedtert South; and Dr. Jim Carlson, Vice President for Interprofessional Education and Simulation, RFU.*

them to apply their knowledge in a real-world setting and improve patient care outcomes.”

**Ric Schmidt**, CEO of Froedtert South, added, “We are excited to welcome students from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. This collaboration will benefit the students and contribute to the overall quality of care we provide to our patients.”

This new affiliation signifies a commitment to excellence in medical education and patient care, paving the way for the next generation of healthcare professionals. As of November 2024, over 30 physicians at Froedtert South have applied to CMS for a faculty appointment, while the CMS curriculum committee has approved two new Family Medicine M3 core clerkships and two new M4 electives. We look forward to the ways this partnership will continue to enhance and enrich the clinical experiences we provide for our students.

Froedtert South and RFU are dedicated to shaping the future of medicine, and we appreciate all our clinical affiliates who work with us in this mission. ■



*Dr. Brenda Affinati with Michael Rosenberg, MD, an interventional cardiologist at Froedtert South. Dr. Rosenberg was one of Dr. Affinati's first mentors at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in 1993.*



# *CMS Student Research Fair*

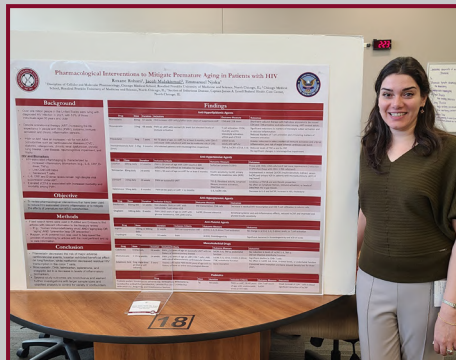
Representatives from some of Chicago Medical School's clinical research partners, including the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), Sinai Urban Health Institute, Advocate Aurora Research Institute, and the university's Michael Reese Foundation Center for Health Equity Research, attended a Student Research Fair held on campus on October 3. This was an opportunity for students to meet mentors and learn about student research opportunities as our partners presented posters to showcase their research programs. ■



**Dr. Bharathi Swaminathan, Dr. Mark Conneely, and Dr. Piyush Vyas, representing the Lovell FHCC**



**Ms. Anna Forte, representing the Sinai Urban Health Institute**



**Dr. Roxane Rohani, showcasing her research with the FHCC's Infectious Diseases Clinic**



**Dr. Amanda Simanek, representing the Michael Reese Foundation Center for Health Equity Research**

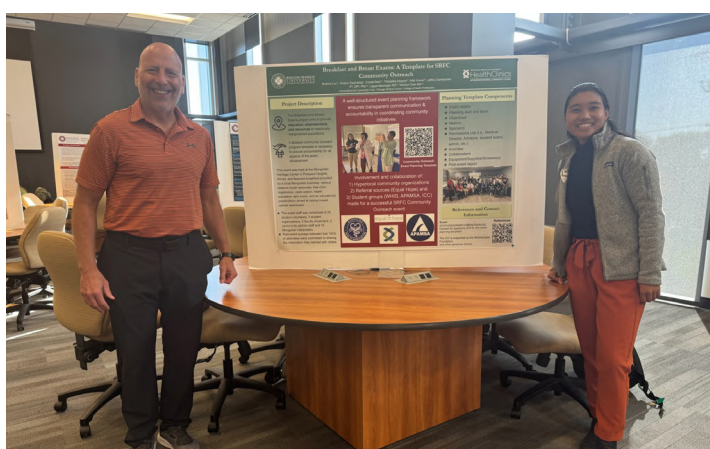


**Dr. Raúl Gazmuri, director of RFU's Resuscitation Institute, representing the Resuscitation Institute and the FHCC**



**Dr. Dennis Stevens, CMS director of clinical research**





*Brianna Lau, CMS '27, and Jeffrey Damaschke, PT, DPT, PhD, Director of ICC Clinical & Community Care, with their poster.*



*Ana Oganesyany and Joanna Lee, both CMS '27, present their research.*

## ICI Research Expo

On October 8, the **Interprofessional Clinic Initiative (ICI)** held its inaugural Research Expo on campus, hosted by the ICI Research Panel. The event provided an open forum for ICI executive officers, panel members, faculty advisors, and the RFU community to come together and explore the innovative projects our students and their faculty mentors have been working on.

The Expo kicked off with two insightful oral presentations from the Pelvic Health and the Care Coordination/Pharmacy teams, followed by an open session featuring nine poster presentations. These showcased a diverse range of projects including an analysis of barriers to appointment attendance, the establishment of a clinic food pantry, and a review of the geographic distribution of telehealth patients.

The event not only highlighted the impactful work the Interprofessional Community Clinic (ICC) has been conducting but also provided an invaluable opportunity for presenters to prepare for the annual Society of Student-Run Free Clinics Annual Conference, held October 18-20 at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA, where a total of 14 ICC projects were showcased.

The Research Expo was a great success in introducing the RFU community to the meaningful contributions being made by the ICC to improve health outcomes and address patient needs. As a faculty member in attendance shared, "It was a pleasure to see the students in their excellence." ■



# *Student Dean Corner*

**Student dean Rikki Makwana  
addresses the CMS student body.**

Hello Chicago Medical School!

I hope you all have been enjoying the first few months of the 2024-2025 academic year! The leaves have been steadily falling and we are inching closer to a beautiful winter. It has been my pleasure serving as your Student Dean thus far in the year and I would like to offer you all some words of encouragement and provide some detail on what your student leadership team has been working on thus far in the year.

Firstly, for my seniors, the current class of 2025. I want to commend you all for submitting your residency applications! I hope that you all are happy with your rank lists and are starting to see interview requests trickle in. Please feel proud of all the hard work and dedication that you have spent into crafting the perfect application. The long hours in the clinic, numerous practice questions, and your all's various extracurriculars have prepared you for this moment, the next step in advancing your medical careers.

To my peers, the class of 2026, as of the time I am writing this, we are just about halfway through our rotations! Is it just me, or has time been flying by? While I can't say I don't miss Boxer, I have found my time interacting with patients in the way only a student can and learning about potential careers paths to be exceedingly fulfilling in a way I am sure I will miss as a practicing physician. For those of you who have found your groove, keep going strong! For those of you who are feeling burnt out, I hear you. This is an extremely high stress period of our lives. Do not be discouraged by

the weight on your shoulders. If it begins to feel like a burden, please reach out. What you are experiencing is not something that needs to be experienced alone.

As for the class of 2027, I am proud of you all for finishing up NBH! It is an invaluable course that will make studying for the relevant portions on Step 1 and Shelf exams a breeze. However, it is a lot of information, and I understand how overwhelming it can feel. But you all surpassed this hurdle, and I hope you are looking forward to what the remainder of your year will bring. Third year planning, Step 1 preparation, and the remainder of your courses for the year — each just another step on the ladder that you are climbing to reach your end goals of being physicians. If you are curious about Step 1 preparation or what the rest of your second (or third) years look like, please reach out! I would love to chat.

And my new class of 2028 students, I remember how difficult these initial starting months of school can be. Learning to balance the rigor of medical school and the new community that you have been placed in can be difficult. However, I hope you have been finding that your peers and seniors are warm and willing to assist you whenever you are feeling lost. Congratulations on finishing your first course of your first year of medical school! I look forward to seeing all your accomplishments as you progress. You are at a stage in your career's where you have infinite potential. Whether your interests are academic, service oriented, related to organized medicine, or anywhere in between, I am certain you will be able to find like-minded individuals with whom you can drive change. For those of you who are uncertain



about your futures or are finding the adjustment to a new life difficult, do not fret. You are not alone in what you are feeling — I am still plagued with uncertainty and miss my family every day. However, I promise, the sky isn't falling. You are not alone while as a student at CMS. Everyone wants you to succeed and will do their best to help you achieve what you want to achieve.

Lastly, I have some updates on projects that I have been working on. Currently all the Student Deans across the colleges at Rosalind Franklin are working on an initiative to help combat student food insecurity on campus. We are also working on decreasing the number of emails that students receive from the University and developing a way to make it easier for students to only receive emails for organizations and events within the university that they are interested in. As a medical school, I have been working alongside the other student leaders to create more longitudinal relationships with our alumni and codify the requirements and reporting structures of the various medical student leadership roles.

One of my platforms as Student Dean is to serve as a unifying voice for student feedback, frustrations, and ideas. I am always open to having conversations with students who believe that there are policies or procedures that could be changed or improved for the betterment of our school. My inbox is always open — please feel free to reach out!

Respectfully,



Rikhil Makwana  
Student Dean 2024-25  
Chicago Medical School c/o 2026  
Rikhil.makwana@my.rfums.org

## New Aequitas Fellows

Sixteen members of the CMS Class of 2025 have been selected as fellows for the **Aequitas Health Equity Medical Honor Society**. Successful student applicants demonstrated previous engagement in health equity leadership and service; an understanding of, and commitment to, health equity; and have articulated how they will advance health equity as an Aequitas fellow and as a future physician. As fellows, the selected students will take part in a health equity project over the course of this year.

Aequitas was formed to recognize a society of fellows dedicated to the cause of health equity and to eradicate health disparities in all shapes and fashion. The inaugural chapter was formed in 2021 at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine; chapters at other medical schools have subsequently been established to identify, recognize, and develop future physician leaders to address the glaring health inequities that exist in our society today.

We are excited to welcome the second cohort of students to the CMS Aequitas Health Equity Honor Society chapter and look forward to their meaningful contributions to the local community through their projects:

**Neha Basti**  
**Shruthi Bhuma**  
**Swathi Bhuma**  
**Alexander Ellyin**  
**Michael George**  
**Farhana Ikmal Hisham**  
**Patricia Luzuriaga**  
**Jessica Moreno**

**Neha Patchipala**  
**Radha Patel**  
**Taylor Pullen**  
**Joseph Rumenapp**  
**Emily Standage**  
**Tejashri Venkatesh**  
**Alan Wang**  
**Shin Young Yu**



Neha Basti



Shruthi Bhuma



Swathi Bhuma



Alexander Ellyin



Michael George



Farhana I. Hisham



Patricia Luzuriaga



Jessica Moreno



Neha Patchipala



Radha Patel



Taylor Pullen



Joseph Rumenapp



Emily Standage



Tejashri Venkatesh



Alan Wang



Shin Young Yu

## Recent Events and Activities



On October 3, first- and second-year medical students met with a family whose daughter has Rett syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that affects the nervous system. The family talked to the students about their life, including the struggles and rewards of raising a child with Rett syndrome. This session helped prepare students for one of the genetic disorders they might encounter in patients in their future careers, and it also benefited the parents, who appreciated the opportunity to share their story.



Dean Archana Chatterjee makes it a goal each month to visit one of the CMS labs to talk to our faculty about their research and their careers. In September, she visited the lab of Dr. Neelam Sharma-Walia in the Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology, and Infection. Dr. Sharma-Walia's research explores the pathogenesis of Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) and other virus-associated cancers.



On October 15, the CMS pediatrics education team (clerkship education directors Dr. Suzy Schulte, Dr. Sandra Ndiaye, and Dr. Liz Henschen, and administrative coordinator Gina Hartlaub), along with Dr. Frank Maldonado, executive chair of clinical sciences, met with some of our site directors for an evening of collaboration and showing our appreciation.



The Department of Clinical Sciences held a dinner for our neurology education team on October 29 in Park Ridge, IL. Pictured clockwise from bottom left: Smriti Wagle, MD, assistant education director; Izabela Biesiada, DO, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital site director; Frank Maldonado, MD, executive chair of clinical sciences; Stephen Trevick, MD, assistant professor; Sanjeev Keshary, MD, Advocate Christ Medical Center site director; Sohel Ahmed, MD, education director; Larry Robbins, MD, associate professor; and Gina Hartlaub, administrative coordinator for medical education.



IN MEMORIAM

## David Garfield, MD

*Former Psychiatry Residency Program Director,  
Education Director, and Professor*



**Dr. David Garfield** died peacefully at his home on October 4, 2024 after a long illness. Dr. Garfield is remembered fondly by many in the Chicago Medical School community for his passion for psychiatry, and for the compassion, mentorship, friendship, and kindness he showed to his students and trainees during his 30 years at CMS.

Dr. David Garfield received his medical degree from UCSF School of Medicine and completed his psychiatry residency at Harvard's Massachusetts Mental Health Center. He later trained in psychoanalysis and continued on the faculty of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis. He was a Lifetime Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. During his career, he wrote dozens of articles on psychotherapy, lectured internationally on psychosis, and authored the textbook *Unbearable Affect: A Guide to the Psychotherapy of Psychosis*, which focused on the role of emotion in the process of psychotherapy with psychotic patients.

He joined CMS in 1987 as director of the psychiatry residency program, serving twice in that role during his tenure as a CMS faculty member. He also served as education director of psychiatry, and was named professor emeritus following his retirement in 2019. Dr. Garfield has touched generations of students and young physicians with his teaching and mentorship, having trained hundreds of residents and medical students.

He was an outstanding psychiatrist and educator whose passion for the field of psychiatry and commitment to mental health were evident in his patient care and teaching.

Dr. Garfield is survived by his wife Bonnie, daughter Jenny, son Jacob, and three grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and he will be remembered with fondness and gratitude by the many students, faculty, residents, and graduates whose lives he touched during his time at Chicago Medical School. ■



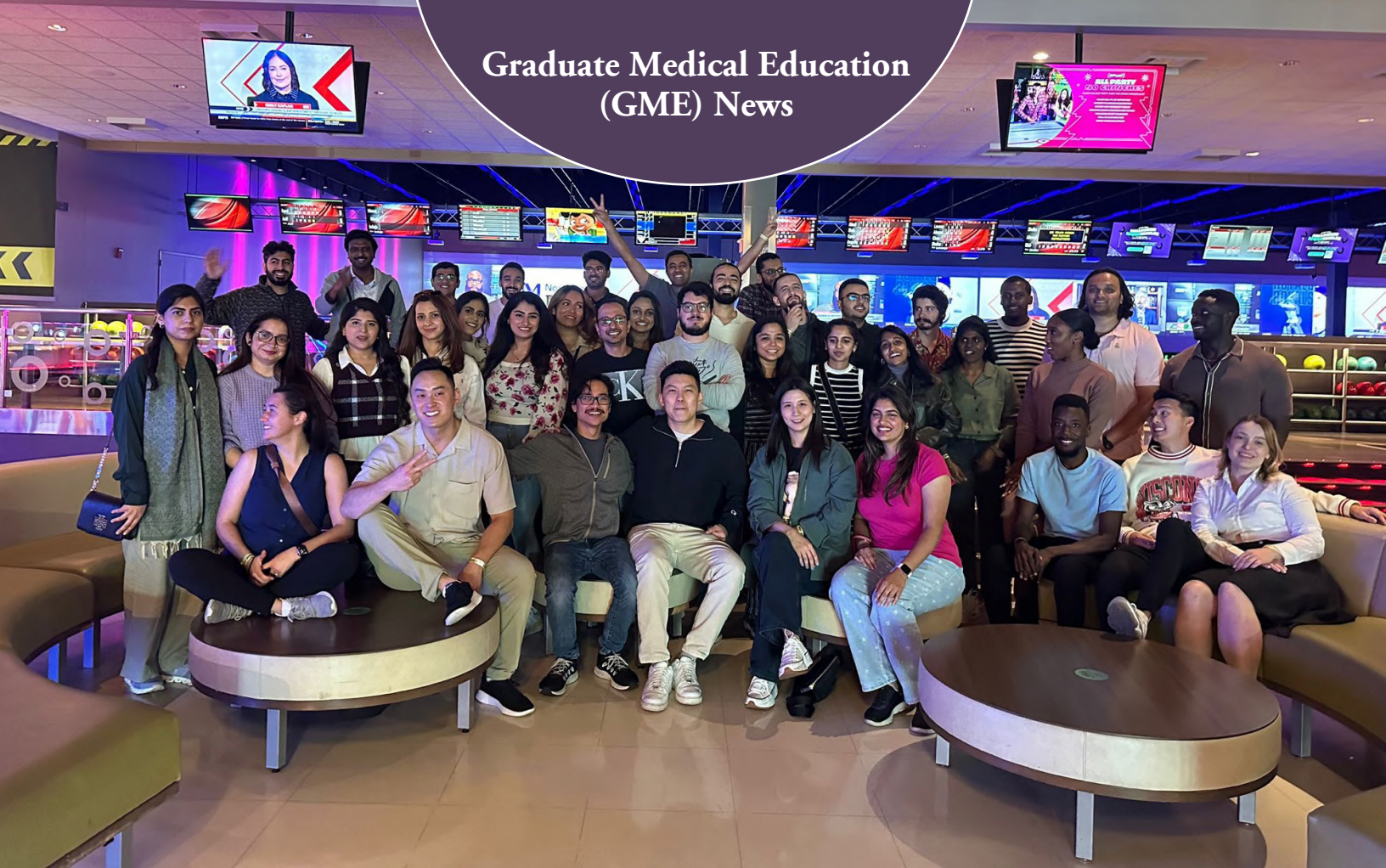
*Dr. Garfield at his retirement celebration in 2019, with then-dean Dr. James M. Record.*



*Dr. Garfield addressing the class of graduating psychiatry residents in 2016.*



## Graduate Medical Education (GME) News



## Wellness Event

Residents from Chicago Medical School's internal medicine and psychiatry residency programs gathered at Main Event Hoffman Estates on October 10 for an evening of bowling, laser tag, arcade games, food, and fellowship!

This was one of the residents' quarterly wellness events, which give participants a chance to take a break from their busy schedules to relax and recharge. ■



## Graduate Medical Education (GME) News





## “Night of 1,000 Jack-o'-Lanterns”

Our psychiatry residents got into the Halloween spirit at the Chicago Botanic Garden's “Night of 1,000 Jack-o'-Lanterns” event! At this annual festival, PGY-1 and PGY-2

residents ventured through the gardens after hours on a path lit by over a thousand hand-carved pumpkins. ■





## Conference Presentations



Second-year internal medicine resident **A B M Nasibul Alam, MD**, presented his research project “Understanding the Impact of GERD on COPD Hospitalization Outcomes: Insights from a Nationwide Analysis” at the American College of Chest Physicians Annual Conference, held October 6–9

in Boston. Dr. Alam was subsequently interviewed for a Healio.com article titled “COPD Plus GERD Reduces Mortality, Ventilation Odds in Hospitalized Patients,” which summarized his presentation and the results of his research study.

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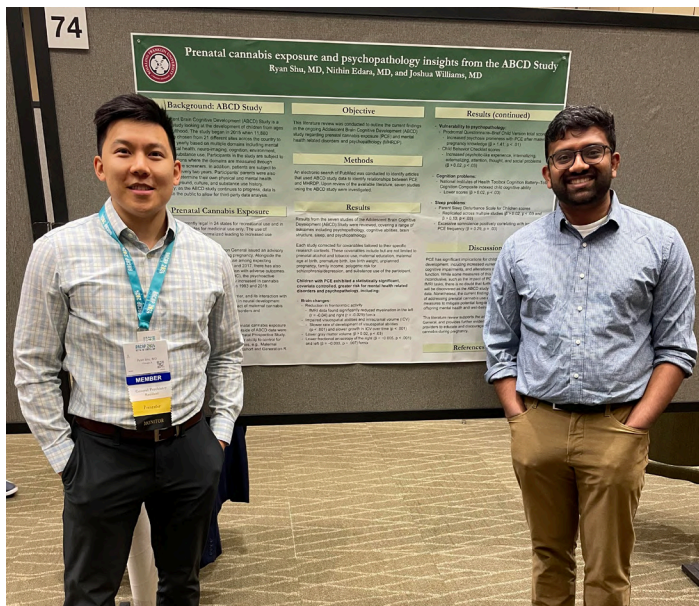
First-year psychiatry residents **Ali Mahmoud, MD**, and **Stephanie Moss, MD**, presented “Navigating the Spectrum: A Case Study of Severe Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder” at the Illinois Psychiatric Society (IPS) Annual Meeting on October 5 in Countryside, IL.



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Several CMS psychiatry residents attended the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry annual conference, held October 14–19 in Seattle, WA. **Ryan Shu,**

MD, PGY-2, and **Nithin Edara, MD, PGY-3**, presented their research poster titled “Prenatal Cannabis Exposure and Psychopathology Insights from the ABCD Study.” Second-year resident **Muhammad Nouman, MD**, presented his research poster “Utility of Metformin for Metabolic Side Effects in Children and Adolescents Treated with Second-Generation Antipsychotics.” ■



*Dr. Ryan Shu and Nithin Edara with their poster.*



*Psychiatry residents Ji in Choi, MD, PGY-2; Nithin Edara, MD, PGY-3; Ryan Shu, MD, PGY-2; and Muhammad Nouman, MD, PGY-2.*



## CMS Reunion Weekend

We were thrilled to welcome back our CMS reunion classes ending in 4 and 9 on September 20–21 to reconnect with classmates, meet Dean Archana Chatterjee, and speak with faculty, staff, and our amazing students. The weekend consisted of an on-campus experience, class-led dinners, and a CMS Alumni Signature Event in Chicago that included an alumni reception and the Distinguished Alumni Awards Presentation.

While on campus, alumni attended a hands-on tour of RFU's simulation labs, including an interactive simulation experience at our Center for Advanced Simulation in Healthcare, where alumni learned about the latest training methods for medical students. They also visited the John J. Sheinin, MD, PhD, DSc, Gross Anatomy Laboratory, the location for all cadaver-based education for students.

After the morning events, alumni guests gathered for a networking lunch with CMS students and a panel discussion titled "A Remarkable Legacy: Providing

Opportunity at CMS," featuring **CMS Dean Emeritus Theodore Booden**, PhD. The presentation focused on the history of CMS providing opportunity and support for students to be successful in their medical education and beyond, and featured our post-baccalaureate pathway programs, including the Pre-Matriculation Program (PMP) and the Master's Degree in Biomedical Sciences (BMS) program. This event also highlighted the significant role these programs, along with dedicated faculty and staff, have played in making a Chicago Medical School education accessible to numerous alumni, and how the experiences gained in these programs have empowered generations of students to achieve their full potential, fostering their development into compassionate physicians and leaders. The panel was moderated by **Michael Ellison**, EdD, CMS Associate Dean for Admissions, and panelists included **Theodore Booden**, PhD, CMS Dean Emeritus; **Steven Weiland**, PhD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs for the College of Health Professions, Chair of the Pre-Professional Health Sciences Department, and Director

of the BMS program; and **Hope Horn**, PMP alumna and CMS M2 student.

After lunch, alumni toured the Office of Students Affairs and learned about CMS learning communities, saw their class composites, and then headed back to Chicago for a cocktail hour and their class dinners. The 50th and 60th celebrations were held at Mercat a la Planxa at The Blackstone Hotel in Chicago, where the Class of 1974 was presented their 50th reunion medallions.

On Saturday, alumnus **Arthur Levine**, MD '64, described the aims and achievements of the several stages of his career as a physician-scientist as well as an academic leader, and



*The CMS Class of 1964, celebrating their 60th reunion. Front row: Drs. Arthur Levine, Robert A. Scher, and Merv Sahud. Back row: Drs. Barry Epstein, Marvin Bloshinsky, Lee Neiman, and Jay Lippman.*



guided a conversation on mid-to-late career changes at our inaugural Half-Century Club Continental Breakfast and Conversation gathering, open to all alumni who have celebrated 50+ years. Dr. Levine was the Scientific Director, NICHD (NIH), and then Dean of the School of Medicine and Senior Vice-Chancellor for the Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh for 22 years. He is now the Executive Director of the university's Brain Institute, leading basic research on Alzheimer's Disease after many years of cancer research.

The weekend concluded with a celebration of our reunion classes and the CMS 2025 alumni award recipients — **Sharon L. Hame**, MD '91; **Kaleem A. Malik**, MD '96, MS '92; and **Basil K. Williams Jr.**, MD '11 — at The Gage in Chicago.

Each year, Chicago Medical School presents awards to distinguished alumni for outstanding contributions to medicine and the biomedical sciences as well as exceptional service and early career achievement. ■

1. *Brett Duncan, MD '94, and Michele Petrucelli, MD '94.*  
2. *Katalina Kuzanga, Megan Kim, Shiza Jeewa, Delaney Griffiths, and Nicole King, all CMS '27.* 3. *Brianna Lau, CMS '27, with Michele Petrucelli, MD '94.* 4. *Barry Epstein, MD '64, locating his photo in the CMS Class of 1964 composite.*  
5. *Betty Kung, MD '94, with Dr. Amy Pabst in RFU's simulation lab.* 6. *Hope Horn, CMS '27; Dr. Steve Weiland; and CMS Dean Emeritus Dr. Theodore Booden during a panel about the RFU Pre-Matriculation Program.* 7. *Dr. Theodore Booden and Monique Jones, MD '93.*







*Dr. Sharon Hame (center) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement, presented to her by her daughter Rebecca Li, a CMS student in the Class of 2025.*

## Distinguished Alumnus Awards

Each year during our Reunion Weekend, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Chicago Medical School alumni who have made significant contributions to the field of medicine. We take great pride in recognizing the following alumni for their impact on our university, our community, and the world.

### Sharon L. Hame, MD '91

**Sharon L. Hame, MD '91**, received the **2024 Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement**, which recognizes significant impact in the field of medicine and efforts that have brought distinction to Chicago Medical School.

Dr. Hame is a board certified orthopaedic surgeon with subspecialty certification in sports medicine. She has been practicing orthopaedic sports medicine for over 24 years. She is currently a professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery and sees patients at the UCLA Medical Center and the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center.

Dr. Hame completed her orthopaedic surgery residency at the New York University Medical Center and her sports medicine fellowship at the University of California, Los

Angeles. Dr. Hame treats a wide variety of sports medicine injuries including knee ligament injuries, meniscus tears, hip labral tears, femoral acetabular impingement, rotator cuff tears, and shoulder instability. She has expertise in knee, hip, and shoulder arthroscopy. Dr. Hame is past president of the Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society and of the FORUM Society. She is the Vice Chair of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Chair of the UCLA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery EDI Committee. As a sports medicine orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Hame also serves as the Associate Team physician for the UCLA Athletic Department. She is the team physician for UCLA Football, UCLA Women's Basketball, UCLA Women's Indoor and Beach Volleyball, and UCLA Men's Tennis. She is also in her third season as Head Team Physician for the Los Angeles Sparks and a team physician for USA Basketball. She most recently traveled with USA Basketball to the Olympic Games in Paris.

As a researcher, Dr. Hame has focused her research on knee ligament biomechanics, revision ACL reconstruction, early sports specialization, and injury risk assessment and injury prevention in athletes. She collaborates with



the UCLA Athletic Department, the UCLA Department of Radiology, as well as researchers from across the country. Dr. Hame has over 80 peer-reviewed publications and speaks nationally and internationally at orthopaedic and sports medicine meetings. Over her career, she and her collaborators have been awarded the prestigious Kappa Delta Award and the O'Donoghue Award.

Dr. Hame embraces UCLA's teaching mission and is active in teaching fellows, residents, and medical students. She participates in the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) curriculum and is the Director of Medical Student Orthopaedic Education for the UCLA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Over the years, she has taught and mentored countless medical students interested in a career in orthopaedic surgery. In 2019, DGSOM honored her with the Kaiser Permanente Award for Excellence in Teaching for her commitment to teaching medical students.

## Kaleem A. Malik, MD '96, MS '92

**Kaleem A. Malik, MD '96, MS '92, received the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award for Service**, which

recognizes Chicago Medical School alumni who have unselfishly devoted time and service in a professional capacity or in the broader community.

Dr. Malik is a board certified emergency medicine/trauma physician with over 20 years of experience in various hospital and healthcare leadership roles, including Chief Medical Officer, Department Chairman, and CEO. He is the Assistant Dean of Global Health at Chicago Medical School and was recently selected by President Biden and approved by the White House to serve on the national Board of Scientific Counselors at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, and National Center for Injury Prevention. Dr. Malik is also the recipient of several notable recognitions including the annual American Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award in Disaster Medicine and the Institute of Medicine Global Health Award, and he has been inducted into the national AOA Honor Medical Society.

Dr. Malik is the CEO of TriLab Health and is providing critical diagnostic solutions through harm reduction strategies to combat substance abuse and the opioid

epidemic. Dr. Malik is the Director for Medical Disaster Response for Humanity First USA, partnered with the United Nations World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization. He is the course director for Medical Disaster Response Training and has deployed on numerous disaster and medical missions, most recently serving as medical lead for disaster response for the 2023 earthquakes in Turkey.

## Basil K. Williams Jr., MD '11

**Basil K. Williams Jr., MD '11, received the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award for Early Career Achievement**, which recognizes Chicago Medical School alumni who have achieved early distinction that proudly reflects the power of a Chicago Medical School education.

Dr. Williams is the Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and an associate



*Dr. Kaleem Malik (left) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service, presented to him by Rikhil Makwana, CMS '26, Student Dean.*



professor in the department of ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, FL. He previously directed the ocular oncology service and held the Mary Knight Asbury Endowed Chair of Ocular Oncology at the University of Cincinnati. He grew up in the Bronx and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University. He then attended Chicago Medical School, where he was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

After his internship at Resurrection Medical Center, he 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.

He is the immediate past president of the Pan-American Ocular Oncology Society, the current chair of the ophthalmology section of the National Medical Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Retina Specialists. Dr. Williams has co-authored several book chapters and has more than 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals. His



*Dr. Basil Williams Jr., recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Early Career Achievement, participated in the ceremony via a pre-recorded video, as he was in Spain presenting at a conference.*

research interests pertain to adult and pediatric surface and intraocular tumors, vitreoretinal surgical topics, and healthy equity.

Dr. Williams was also our most recent White Coat Ceremony speaker in August. His speech was inspirational and advised the next generation of physicians to focus on the people around them, to think about the big picture, and maintain balance. ■

## Other Alumni News

**Arthur Levine**, MD '64, visited the RFU campus on September 19 for a special medical grand rounds presentation on "Alzheimer's Disease: Research Update and a New Animal Model."

Medical toxicologist **Jerrold Leikin**, MD '80, delivered a virtual medical grand rounds lecture to the CMS community on November 13. In his presentation, titled "Weed, Work, and Wreckage," Dr. Leikin discussed how to recognize cannabis toxicity in the clinical setting.

**Bridget A. Martell**, MD '97, MA, has been named operating partner, biotechnology at Two Bear Capital. Dr. Martell focuses on biopharma and health tech portfolio companies and provides support in the development of products and services through regulatory approval and commercialization.

**Alex Marginean**, MD '16, was named medical director at Step One Health Services in Westchester, Illinois.

**Syed Khalid**, MD '17, has been recognized by North American Spine Society's "SpineLine" as one of the top 20 spine surgeon specialists under 40. Dr. Khalid is a resident in the department of neurosurgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago.

CMS alumni have volunteered to share their story and how CMS helped them in their career with prospective students at informal Meet and Greets that take place virtually before interview days. Thanks to **Blake Cooper**, MD '97; **Paul Coogan**, MD '90; **Nik Raju**, MD '19; and **Samuel R. Bunting**, MD '21, MS '21, for supporting Chicago Medical School admissions efforts! ■



# STAFF CORNER

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



### Lauren Hoover

Learning Communities Advisor (Lipschultz & Finkel),  
CMS Office of Student Affairs

Time at CMS: 1 1/2 years

Lauren Hoover is a learning communities advisor at CMS, where she advises students in the Lipschultz and Finkel houses. During first-year orientation, each CMS student is assigned to one of four houses, which serves as a source of community, advice, and support during their four years of medical school. Each learning community is supported by a faculty mentor, a learning communities advisor, and the student programs coordinator. As part of that support team, Lauren provides invaluable assistance to students as she helps them navigate their medical school experience.

Lauren is originally from Charleston, IL. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she studied Molecular & Cellular Biology. She then moved to Western Illinois University to earn her master's degree in College Student Personnel.

After graduating, Lauren moved to Utah for three years and worked at the Women's Success Center at Utah Valley University. While in Utah, she enjoyed camping, hiking, and traveling before moving back closer to home for her current position at CMS. She is currently studying to earn a doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus on organizational justice.

In her role at CMS, Lauren spends a typical day in multiple one-on-one meetings with students across M1-M4 years, advising them on topics including adjusting to and navigating medical school, time management, study skills, Step 1, Step 2, or anything else going on in their lives. "I like to think about advising holistically: if students are encountering barriers academically or personally, it affects how they are doing," Lauren said, "and vice versa if things are going well, I'm happy to celebrate with them."

Lauren has made a positive impact during her time at CMS. "Since joining CMS less than two years ago, Lauren's experience and creativity have significantly enhanced our team's operations and student success," said her supervisor. "Our students deeply appreciate her support, and she remains an invaluable asset in achieving our goals for student success."

Lauren finds inspiration in the people around her. "My favorite thing about working at CMS is the students," she said. "Their resilience and drive is inspiring, and I'm also really lucky to work with a collaborative and supportive team."

When she's not working or studying, Lauren can usually be found reading, cooking, crafting, watching documentaries, or hanging out with her dog. ■



## Awards & Accomplishments



**Yvette Castañeda**, PhD, MPH, MBA, research assistant professor of foundational sciences and humanities and engagement core lead, Michael Reese Foundation Center for Health Equity Research, was awarded a one-year, \$50,000 grant from the University of Chicago for the study “Feasibility of Addressing Food Insecurity as an Integral Part of Diabetes-Related Healthcare.”

**Weihang “Valerie” Chai**, PhD, professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the Center for Genetic Diseases, received a one-year, \$108,491 NIH grant for her work on the project “Molecular Basis of Coats Plus Disease.”



**Raúl Gazmuri**, MD, PhD, FCCM, director of RFU’s Resuscitation Institute and professor of physiology and biophysics, was elected a fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA), conferred by the Council on Cardiopulmonary Critical Care, Perioperative and Resuscitation (3CPR). Fellowship recognizes and awards premium professional members for excellence; innovative and sustained contributions in the areas of scholarship, practice, and/or education; and volunteer service within the AHA.



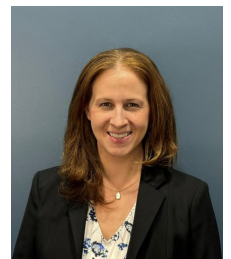
**Janice Gilden**, MD, MS, FCP, FACE, FAAS, director of the CMS endocrinology fellowship program and professor of medicine, received a lifetime achievement award from the American Autonomic Society (AAS) for her work in autonomic nervous system disorders. She received this honor at the AAS’s International Symposium on the

Autonomic Nervous System, held November 6–9 in Santa Barbara, CA. As part of the award, Dr. Gilden was invited to deliver a plenary lecture at the symposium, where she spoke on the topic “Exploring the Autonomic Nervous System Through an Endocrine Lens.”

Dr. Gilden is involved in teaching medical, pharmacy, and physician assistant students as well as interns, residents, fellows, and practicing providers. She is world-known for her research on diabetes care and complications and autonomic nervous system disorders, as well as being actively involved in patient care. In addition to her work at CMS, Dr. Gilden is active in research and clinical care at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, where she serves as staff endocrinologist, section chief of endocrinology, and chair of the Research and Development Committee.



**Eliza Hofman**, CMS ’25, received the Medical Student of the Year award from the Illinois Psychiatric Society (IPS). Eliza has been an active member of the IPS Medical Student Committee since its founding in 2021. She currently serves as co-chair of the committee, and is passionate about bringing excellent psychiatric education to medical students and increasing opportunities for medical students to be involved in mental health advocacy.

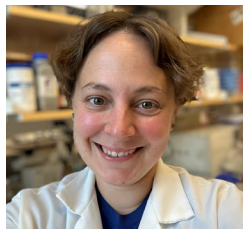




## School & Department News

Congratulations to the following CMS faculty and staff who were nominated by their peers for demonstrating the core value of excellence:

- **Lauren Hoover**, MEd, learning community advisor
- **Monique Jones**, MD, director of URiM student success
- **Marissa McCarthy**, administrative coordinator for medical education (family medicine and surgery)
- **Roseanne Oggoian**, DO, assistant professor of pediatrics and Clinical Skills course/lab director
- **Karen Quintana**, internal medicine residency program administrator (CMS/Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital)
- **Lainey Toennies**, research technician, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics
- **Joy Tso**, psychiatry residency program administrator
- **Carissa Van Ausdall**, MPA, assistant dean of business operations
- **Angela Williams**, clinical sciences coordinator



**Erin Howe**, PhD, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, received a two-year, \$100,000 grant from the Mary Kay Ash Foundation for her research study "Rab11 Family Interacting Proteins Control Immune

Recognition of Breast Cancer Brain Metastases."

Two CMS faculty members received awards at the Illinois Council of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ICHSP) annual meeting, held September 12-14 in Oakbrook Terrace, IL:

- **Lalita Prasad-Reddy**, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCACP, CDCES, FCCP, assistant dean of basic science education, vice-chair of foundational sciences and humanities, and associate professor of clinical and molecular pharmacology,



*Dr. Prasad-Reddy*



*Dr. Rohani*

received the ICHSP Diversity, Equity, Impact and Accessibility Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made sustainable contributions to the advancement of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in clinical practice, advancement, or the greater community.

- **Roxane Rohani**, PharmD, MSc, BCACP, assistant professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology, and Infection, received the Shining Star Award for taking initiative as chair of the ICHSP's Ambulatory Care Network.



**Amiel Rosenkranz**, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology and director of the Brain Science Institute, received a five-year, \$2,678,480 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his research study "Parallel

Maturation of Social Behaviors and Amygdala Circuits." Dr. Rosenkranz also received a five-year, \$2,641,785 NIH grant for his research study "Role of Neurexin in Social Adaptation and Amygdala Plasticity."

Congratulations to two members of our faculty who have earned additional degrees and certifications:

**Dennis C. Stevens**, MD, MS, MA, director of clinical research and professor of pediatrics, earned a Master of Arts in Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, CT, while **Robin**

**Dyer**, MD, OTR, CHSE, assistant professor of internal medicine, passed the certified healthcare simulation educator exam, which was developed for educators focused on healthcare simulation. Dr. Dyer works in the university's Department of Healthcare Simulation and the Baldwin Institute for Interprofessional Education.



*Dr. Dennis Stevens*



*Dr. Robin Dyer*





**Rahul Vijay**, DVM, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection, was awarded a one-year, \$28,224 grant from the American Association of Immunologists for his research study “Role of 4-1BB:4-1BBL Axis in Anti-Plasmodium Humoral Immunity.” Dr. Vijay also received a five-year, \$2.7 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant for his research study “Role of TAM Receptors In Modulating Humoral Immunity Against Parasitic Infections.”

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**Lori Wasion**, administrative coordinator, Office of Medical Education, received a Summer 2024 GEM Award from the university. GEM Awards are quarterly awards that recognize RFU staff members who “Go the Extra Mile” to make the university a better place.

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Congratulations to the 2024 graduates from our **CMS/Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital internal medicine residency program**, who successfully passed their board exam with 100% achieving this milestone on their first attempt. “This is a significant achievement and a remarkable testament to the hard work and dedication of our residents,” said **Dr. Maryna Shayuk**, program director. “Reaching this goal is not just a personal victory for our residents, but also a collective triumph for our program.”



*The 2024 graduating class of residents.*

## Presentations & Publications

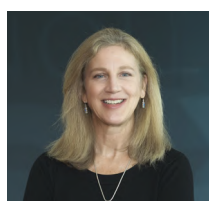


**Melissa Chen**, MD, medical director of the Interprofessional Community Clinic, CMS assistant dean of diversity and inclusion, and associate professor of medicine, co-presented the webinar “Stigma in Medicine: The Power of Language” on October 10 as part of the International Association of Medical Science Educators’ “Navigating Strains in Health Education” series. Dr. Chen presented this topic with Dr. J. Corey Williams from Georgetown University Medical Center. Their webinar explored how using stigmatizing language in clinical documentation and oral presentations can communicate biases to other clinicians, impact treatment decisions, and perpetuate racial disparities in the delivery of healthcare services.

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**Carl Correll**, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, Center for Proteomics and Molecular Therapeutics, presented “Will Health Care Replace Sick Care?” on September 12 in an event hosted by the Master Teacher Guild. Dr. Correll discussed how the increase in human lifespan during the last century has resulted in more people living with chronic health conditions, and how emerging medicine uses molecular markers to design treatment aimed at preventing or delaying chronic disease progression.

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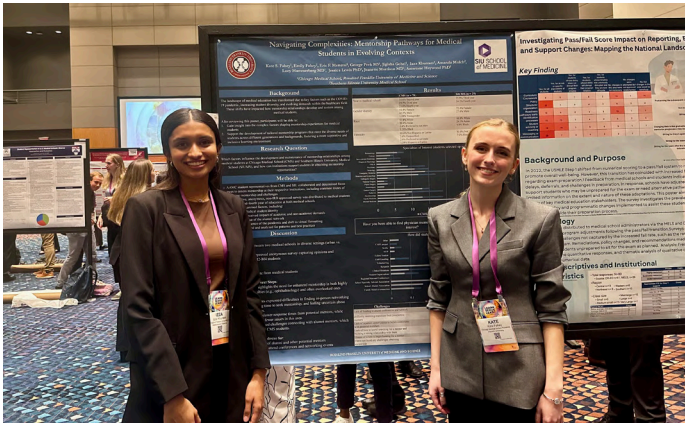


**Lise Eliot**, PhD, professor of neuroscience, presented two talks in Chile last month. On October 22, she spoke at the Universidad Autonoma de Chile in Santiago on “Neuroplasticity and the Origin of Gender Difference.” On October 25, she presented at a meeting of the Chilean Society for Neuroscience in Concón on the topic “Why and How to Account for Sex and Gender in Brain and Behavioral Research.”

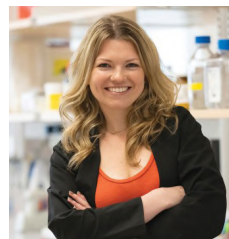


## School & Department News

**Kate Fahey**, CMS '25, and **Izza Khurram**, CMS '28, attended the 2024 AAMC Learn-Serve-Lead Conference, where they presented a poster titled "Navigating Complexities: Mentorship Pathways for Medical Students in Evolving Contexts." Kate and Izza are two of the four students representing Chicago Medical School in the Organization of Student Representatives (OSR), the student branch of the AAMC aimed at providing medical students with a voice at the national and local level.



Through the Reproductive Justice Lens" to the League of Women Voters (Arlington Heights-Mount Prospect-Buffalo Grove Area) on September 30. Dr. Gomez and Dr. Sullivan discussed how the changed climate and environmental degradation is affecting women's health and contributing to health inequities as factors like heat, pollution, and extreme weather events negatively impact reproductive health.



**Holly Hunsberger**, PhD, assistant professor of neuroscience, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics, was first author on the article "Sex-Specific Effects of Anxiety on Cognition and Activity-Dependent Neural Networks:

Insights from (Female) Mice and (Wo)Men," published in *Biological Psychiatry*.

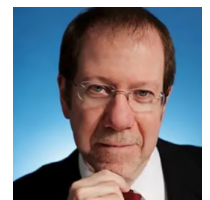
Dr. Hunsberger also participated in the panel presentation "Women in Neuropsychology (WIN) Presents: Current Directions in Women's Neuropsychology Research" at the American Psychological Association's annual convention, held Aug. 8-11 in Seattle, WA.



**Raúl J. Gazmuri**, MD, PhD, FCCM, FAHA, director of RFU's Resuscitation Institute and professor of physiology and biophysics, presented "From Early Recognition of Respiratory Failure to Liberation from Mechanical

Ventilation" at the Malayalee Association of Respiratory Care (MARC) Midwest Respiratory Educational Seminar on October 5 in Des Plaines, Illinois.

**Elliot Levine**, MD '78, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was first author on an article titled "Exploration of Real-World Obstetric Data Regarding Cesarean Delivery Rate Since the ARRIVE Trial," published in *Archives of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*.



**Regina de Leon Gomez**, MD, FACOG, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and Clinical Foundations of Medicine course director, and **Myrtis Sullivan**,



Dr. Gomez



Dr. Sullivan

MD, MPH, FAAP, professor of pediatrics, were invited to give a virtual presentation on "A Look at Climate



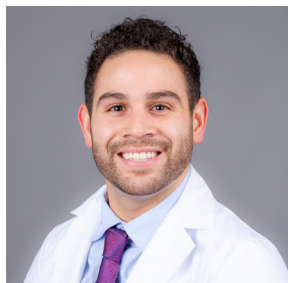
**Caroline Madigan**, CMS '26, co-authored an article titled "Adverse Childhood Experiences, Brain Function, and Psychiatric Diagnoses in a Large Adult Clinical Cohort," published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.

## School & Department News

**Juan Medina-Echeverria** and **Daniel Sanchez**, both CMS '25, co-authored "Community-Based Initiative: Engaging Youth in Medical Education," published in *Medical Education*. The article details the development and implementation of the CMS Mini Medical School, a program for local fourth- and fifth-grade students that is designed to encourage healthcare aspirations among student populations traditionally underrepresented in medicine.



Juan Medina-Echeverria

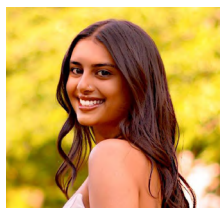


Daniel Sanchez

**Lisa Michaluk**, MEd, director of faculty affairs; **Tarika Sivakumar**, CMS '26; **Brenda Affinati**, MD, associate dean of clinical affairs; **Archana Chatterjee**, MD, PhD, dean of CMS; and **Nutan Vaidya**, MD, vice dean for faculty affairs and equity, co-authored an article titled "An Innovative, Collaborative, and Transformative Program to Enhance Off-Campus Clinical Faculty Engagement," published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*.



Lisa Michaluk



Tarika Sivakumar



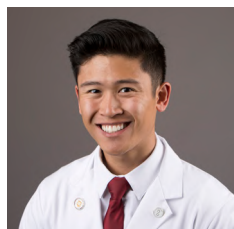
Dr. Brenda Affinati



Dr. Archana Chatterjee



Dr. Nutan Vaidya



**Richard Moraga**, CMS '26, presented an abstract titled "Characterizing the Histoarchitecture of Hypertrophic Scar in Patients with Skin of Color: Preliminary Findings" at the Skin of Color Update, a dermatology medical conference held in New York City in September.

Richard also co-authored an article titled "A Qualitative Study of Chicago Gay Men and the Mpox Outbreak of 2022 in the Context of HIV/AIDS, PrEP, and COVID-19," which was published in *BioMed Central*.

**Judith Potashkin**, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics and discipline chair, co-authored "Reversal of Bone Mineral Density Loss Through Lifestyle Changes: A Case Report," published in the *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*.



**Lalita Prasad-Reddy**, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCACP, CDCES, FCCP, assistant dean of basic science education, vice-chair of foundational sciences and humanities, and associate professor of clinical and molecular pharmacology, served as a co-editor on the *Ambulatory Care Survival Guide*, a publication of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), which was published on October 1st, 2024. She also served as program coordinator and moderator for the DEI panel at the ACCP annual meeting.

Dr. Prasad-Reddy also gave two recent presentations: she presented "Fostering Inclusion in Leadership" at the Illinois Council of Health-Systems Pharmacists annual meeting, held September 12-14 in Oakbrook Terrace, IL, and she presented "Health Inequities in Chronic Kidney Disease and Diabetes" at the North Carolina



## School & Department News

Coordinating Body of the American Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES) annual conference, held October 4 in Charlotte, NC.



**Amanda Simanek**, PhD, MPH, associate professor and director of the Michael Reese Foundation Center for Health Equity Research, moderated an invited panel titled “Moving Beyond Checking the Community Engagement Box:

Innovative Community-Partnered Approaches for Putting ‘Research into Action’ to Address Health Equity in St. Louis, MO” at the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Sciences (IAPHS) annual meeting, held September 10-13, 2024 in St. Louis. The panel was organized by the IAPHS Research to Action Working Group, of which Dr. Simanek is co-chair.

She also gave an invited talk titled “Using Health-Related Data, Identifying Health Information Needs, and Navigating Health Misinformation” at the monthly meeting of the Lake County Digital Equity Coalition on October 29.

**Beth Stutzmann**, PhD, director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics and professor and discipline chair of neuroscience, chaired a conference session titled “Beyond the Lysosome” at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, held September 1-5. She also presented an invited seminar at University College Cork in Ireland titled “Early Cellular Pathology in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders” on September 6. Additionally, Dr. Stutzmann was a contributing author on an article titled “Analysis of Microisolated Frontal Cortex Excitatory Layer III and V Pyramidal Neurons Reveals a Neurodegenerative Phenotype in Individuals with Down Syndrome,” published in *Acta Neuropathologica*.



**Siddharth Suresh**, CMS '26, won third place at the 30th annual Golden Stethoscope Awards for his research abstract titled “Assessing the Utility of Diagnostic Ultrasound Over Alternate Modalities in the Post-Operative Imaging of Peripheral

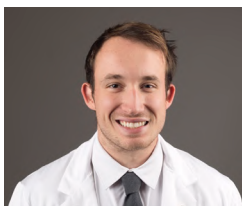
Nerves.” At this event, hosted by the Indian American Medical Association-Illinois, medical students and residents are invited to present their research projects. In addition to his award-winning presentation, Siddharth also presented a second abstract titled “Establishing the Correlation between Eye Tracking Patterns and Self-Reported Moral Injury in Veterans Diagnosed with PTSD.”

**Nathaniel Ung**, CMS '26, presented a poster titled “Beyond Back Pain: A Revealing Case of Grade II Cystic Astrocytoma” at the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation annual assembly, held November 7-10 in San Diego, CA.



**Nutan Vaidya**, MD, vice dean for faculty affairs and equity and professor of psychiatry and behavioral science, delivered a psychiatry grand rounds lecture on September 10 at Elgin Mental Health Center. In her presentation, titled “Psychiatric Symptoms in Neurologic Disorders,” Dr. Vaidya discussed a patient-centered approach to integrate psychiatric evaluation and treatment into the standard care of neurological patients.





**Jordan Villa**, an MD/PhD student in the lab of Dr. Beth Stutzmann, is first author on the article “Enhancing Biocompatibility of the Brain-Machine Interface: A Review,” published in *Bioactive Materials*.

## Events and Other News

In September, 207 members of the Chicago Medical School Class of 2025 applied to residency!

**Allegra Bohlen**, MEd, director of student affairs and career development, and **Fiona McMahon**, MEd, assistant director of student affairs, were recognized for their efforts in helping the students with their applications. One M4 told the Dean’s Office: “I just wanted to send a big shout-out to Allegra and Fiona for all of their hard work in helping us along during residency applications. I have been rotating with many students from other schools who have not had near the level of support. Both Allegra and Fiona have been there every step of the way and have responded to so many emails and requests for help during the preparation and submission of the applications. A big thank you!”



Allegra Bohlen Fiona McMahon

On September 25, **Amanda Simanek**, PhD, MPH, associate professor and director of the Michael Reese Foundation Center for Health Equity Research, spoke on a panel for RFU’s inaugural **Health Equity Breakfast** celebrating community partners, legislative representatives, and innovators in health education and community-based research who share the university’s vision of eliminating health inequities while improving community health. Dr. Simanek discussed ways that the three cores of the Center — focused on data resources, community engagement, and investigator development — are serving to support community-driven, health equity-focused research projects addressing health equity in Lake County. She was joined on the panel by Dr. Wendy Rheault, RFU president and CEO; Lupe Rodriguez, executive director of community health engagement; and Dr. Lisa Hopp, interim dean of the College of Nursing. ■



Dr. Simanek (left) at the Health Equity Breakfast panel discussion.



**Antwione Haywood**, PhD, associate dean of student affairs, has been invited to India by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for an event connected to the HLC’s upcoming accreditation visit to Future Generations University’s residential

learning experience at Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. In advance of the full evaluation, the university has invited Dr. Haywood, as chair of the HLC accreditation team, to participate in a portion of the residential experience so as to more fully understand the scope, process, and impact of the university’s curriculum.





# Join the Rosalind Franklin University Online Community

Students entrust us with their educational aspirations as they aim to realize their dreams. With a strong commitment to mentorship and support, our faculty, staff, and alumni help students navigate their educational journey both inside and outside the classroom.

[community.rosalindfranklin.edu](https://community.rosalindfranklin.edu)

**GIVE BACK** Introduce, employ, share research opportunities, support our admissions efforts, volunteer to speak to student groups and offer to act as a mentor to our students.

**CONNECT** Find and reminisce with fellow classmates.

**CREATE** your account to join our new online community!



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*The CMS Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI) hosted an open house event in October, inviting students to meet the OEDI team, connect with peers, and sample snacks from a variety of countries and cultures while learning more about Chicago Medical School's commitment to diversity and inclusion.*

**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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