



# CMS NEWS

## The Chicago Medical School Newsletter

WINTER 2019  
ISSUE 11

### AMA INTERIM ASSEMBLY

*Three CMS students attend the assembly as student delegates.*

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### INTRODUCING STUDENT SIMS

*A new interprofessional student organization coordinates clinical skills workshops for students.*

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### ALUMNI GIVE BACK

*CMS alumni return to campus for several mentoring events, including the annual Operation MEDS.*

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## Veteran Patient Perspectives Panel

**Veterans from the FHCC met with second-year medical students to share their experiences and their perspective on how they want to be treated by healthcare providers.**

On November 14, 25 veterans came to Rosalind Franklin University to meet with second-year CMS students for a panel discussion. The veterans were there to share their stories in hopes of ensuring that future doctors would be well-equipped to care for veteran patients. The students were there to improve their understanding of future veteran patients, getting a perspective on health care that they would not be able to get in any of their other classes.

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## Dean's Message

### Greetings from Dean James M. Record

While we have been enjoying another Chicago winter, progress has continued on many fronts — even in the face of a polar vortex that made breathing a challenge! Our curriculum renovation continues to take shape around its clinical focus. The Research Park now has risen from its virtual

beginning to a (nearly) four-walled structure replete with Western-Blot style windows, and our Huntley Center continues to expand in its delivery of state-of-the-art, interprofessional, clinical simulation. The true inspiration, however, comes from those in our CMS community.

While inspiration can be a protean and an elusive quarry, in the following pages we proudly provide a number of CMS examples:

- Our nationally recognized faculty like **Mary Russell**, President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, who spoke at the United Nations about fighting malnutrition.
- Our student leadership in **Jaleesa Harris**, who received a National Medical Fellowships Award for her work in community health outreach and education.
- Our alumnus, **Dr. David Feinberg**, leading as chief of Google's initiative to change the delivery of healthcare.
- Our NIH-funded researchers like **Joseph Reynolds**, PhD, who is pursuing a regulatory target for autoimmune inflammation, and **Judy Potashkin**, PhD, who is studying therapeutic targets for dementia.
- Our veteran volunteers creating new programs to enhance the education of students.
- Our interprofessional student-led organizations expanding opportunities for hands-on student learning and peer support.
- Our steadfast alumni who continue to support student mentorship and advising.

Please enjoy this issue as we celebrate those that breathe life into what it means to be part of The Chicago Medical School.

Sincerely,

James M. Record, MD, JD, FACP  
 Dean, Chicago Medical School



# 2019 ICI Executive Officers

Congratulations to the five Chicago Medical School students who were elected as 2019 Interprofessional Clinic Initiative (ICI) Executive Officers! Together with their interprofessional peers, these students will continue to lead the efforts of the Interprofessional Community Clinic in 2019.

**Megan Chan**, CMS '22, Executive Officer of Medical Informatics

**Pavan Kottamasu**, CMS '22, Executive Officer of Patient Education & Resource Development

**Peter Lorenz**, CMS '22, Executive Officer of Quality Improvement

**Kieran Palumbo**, CMS '22, Executive Officer of Clinical Operations

**Varsha Swamy**, CMS '22, Executive Officer of Research ■



The 2019 ICI Executive Officers. **Front row:** Patrick Vollmer, COP '22; Alisha Joshi, SCPM '22; Nicole Delino, SCPM '22; Madeline Johnson, CHP '23; and Peter Lorenz, CMS '22. **Back row:** Neathie Patel, SCPM '22; Lou Ann Hall, SCPM '22; Adam Ferguson, SCPM '22; Varsha Swamy, CMS '22; Khanh Phuong Tong, SCPM '22; Kieran Palumbo, CMS '22; Pavan Kottamasu, CMS '22; and Megan Chan, CMS '22. **Not pictured:** Shanna McGowan, DePaul nursing student.



# Veteran Patient Perspectives Panel

*(continued from cover)*

In 2016, the Veteran Patient Perspectives panel — a joint effort by CMS's Clinical Reflections II course series and the Patient Stakeholders Committee at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) — started as an effort to prepare CMS students for the types of patients they would encounter during their clinical rotations at the FHCC. Colonel **Christopher J. O'Donnell**, U.S. Military Corps, Retired, and Private First Class **Lenny Floom**, U.S. Army, Retired, the two co-chairs of the FHCC's Patient Stakeholders Committee, were always looking for ways to improve the patient experience at the FHCC, and they realized that CMS students would be interacting with veteran patients and participating in their care without any special training on the unique needs of veterans in the healthcare setting.

Col. O'Donnell and Pvt. Floom met with CMS administration, and both parties agreed that CMS students would benefit from learning more about veterans, their perspectives, and the unique considerations necessary for caring for patients who were veterans. And what better way was there for

students to learn about veterans than to listen to the veterans themselves?

Col. O'Donnell and Pvt. Floom explained the situation to their fellow veterans on the Stakeholders Committee, looking for a small group willing to volunteer to participate in a learning experience for medical students.

"Eighteen hands went into the air," Col. O'Donnell recalled. "I was overwhelmed."

The veterans were eager to participate, viewing the perspectives panel as a chance to give back to the community and make a true impact on future physicians. "They know that they are making a difference in the next generation of doctors," Col. O'Donnell said.

Three years later, the Veteran Patient Perspectives panel is now a required part of the medical curriculum, and it has also been incorporated into an elective course on military medicine. There are now about 45 veterans who volunteer to participate





in CMS curricular events, which include veteran-specific “Patient Days” in the Essentials of Clinical Reasoning courses, as well as the perspectives panel.

The most recent panel was attended by the entire Class of 2021, which was split into its four learning communities, with each group listening to a panel of four to five veterans moderated by a physician learning community mentor. The veterans shared their perspectives on a variety of topics, reflecting on what it’s like to seek medical care as a veteran with certain life experiences that many healthcare providers may not be able to relate to. Many veterans have experienced levels of trauma and stress unparalleled in the general population, and they often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and moral injury, as well as other physical and psychological maladies related to their military service.

Above all, the veterans emphasized the importance of empathy and listening skills — of listening to the patient and truly hearing what they are trying to say. An important part of seeking health care — and one that many veteran patients feel is missing from their treatment — is feeling that their doctor cares about

them as individuals.

The effect on students has been profound. “The students are getting the opportunity to hear from a special population,” said **William Agbor Baiyee**, PhD, associate professor and Assistant Dean for Educational Research and Student Learning, who directs the Clinical Reasoning course series and works with the FHCC to implement the panel each year. “By sharing their experiences, the veterans are helping our students gain an understanding of patients with unique needs. They will also be able to apply that insight to other patient groups with unique needs.”

The veterans have also benefited from the experience. “It’s been really quite exceptional,” said Col. O’Donnell, noting that some veterans who were initially reluctant to open up are now eager to talk to medical students about their experiences. “I’ve seen that their confidence levels have improved, their attitude has improved — they feel like they’re making a difference in something else in the world.”

“As much as the students have learned from this, we’ve learned from this,” Pvt. Floom agreed. “It’s a good experience for us as well as them.” ■



# Honoring Our Student Veterans

Last November, several CMS students (and alumni) who serve in the military were featured in a display for Veterans Day. We reprint their photos and stories here and thank them for their service.



## **2nd Lt. Cherilyn Mae Acorda, Class of 2020,**

is in her third year of service with the U.S. Air Force. She is supporting her education with the Health Professions Scholarship Program.

## **Ensign Matthew J. Christensen, Class of 2021,**

joined the United States Navy medical corps on scholarship through the Health Professions Scholarship Program. He will be the first physician in his family, yet is the fourth consecutive generation to serve in the Navy and he is proud to continue that family tradition. Matthew plans to complete a GMO tour as a Naval flight surgeon once he graduates and matches into an emergency medicine residency. Practicing military medicine just feels like the right fit for him, and he is looking forward to wherever his career may be headed.



## **2nd Lt. Cecily Ober, Class of 2021,**

was commissioned into the U.S. Army reserves in 2017. Several members of her family have served in various branches of the United States military for generations and she decided in high school that she wanted to serve military personnel as a physician. She joined the Army medical core to care for those who are risking their lives to ensure the safety of those living in the United States. She is supporting her education with the Health Professions Scholarship Program.



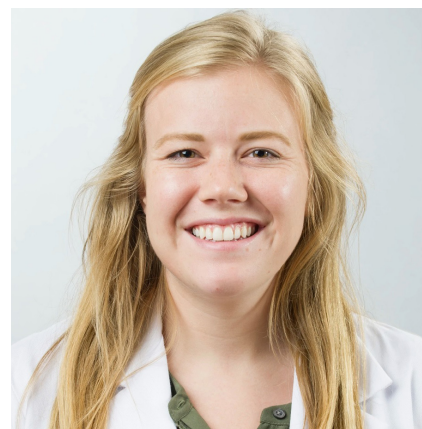


## **2nd Lt. Kathleen O'Brien, Class of 2019,**

is in her fourth year of service with the U.S. Army Reserves, completing Basic Office Leadership Training at Ft. Sam Houston, TX, in 2016. She is supporting her education with the Health Professions Scholarship Program and will continue her service as pediatric resident at San Antonio Military Medical Center in the summer of 2019.

## **2nd Lt. Hannah Doris Samuelson, Class of 2019,**

is in her fourth year of service with the U.S. Army Reserves. She is supporting her education with the Health Professions Scholarship Program and will enter a urology residency with the military at University of Texas in San Antonio in the summer of 2019. ■



## **Recent Alumni Veterans**



## **Capt. David Stachniak, MD '15,**

has Served in the U.S. Air Force since 2010 and is currently stationed at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, serving as a pediatrician. The Health Professions Scholarship Program helped support his education at RFU.



## **Lt. Andrew Ernst, MD '16,**

has served four years with the U.S. Navy Reserve at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, MD; Navy Medical Center Portsmouth, VA; and Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA. Dr. Ernst has been on active duty for three years and in orthopedic surgery residency at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA. His education was supported by the Health Professions Scholarship Program.



## **CPT Crystal J. Forman, MD '18, MHA '18,**

is in her first year of service in the U.S. Army. She spent four years as a reservist while completing her graduate studies at Rosalind Franklin University. She is currently in her first year of her Internal Medicine Residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. She plans to pursue a fellowship in Nephrology or practice as a General Internist in the U.S. Army upon completion of her residency.



# American Medical Association Interim Assembly

Three CMS students report on their activities at the AMA Interim Assembly.



Chicago Medical School students Alvin Singh, CMS '21; Courtney Harris, CMS '22; and Matthew Christensen, CMS '21, visit the Washington Monument and Reflection Pool during a break in the AMA Interim Assembly.



Three students from Chicago Medical School travelled to National Harbor, MD from Nov. 2-4 to attend the 2018 American Medical Association (AMA) Interim Assembly. As one of the largest medical advocacy organizations in the world, the AMA holds biannual national assemblies to highlight and prioritize the interests of physicians and medical students across the United States. These biannual assemblies offer students the opportunity to write and propose policy resolutions, debate policy on the assembly floor, network with other like-minded student leaders, and participate in training workshops and educational sessions related to the hottest topics in healthcare today.

Chicago Medical School influences AMA Medical

Student Session (MSS) activity from a local to national level, with two students from our local CMS chapter holding leadership positions on national AMA-MSS standing committees. CMS Chapter Co-President and Alternate Delegate **Alvin Singh**, CMS '21, is an active member of the Committee on Medical Education (CME), and helped organize an Interim Assembly educational session describing how to effectively facilitate end-of-life care conversations in situations encompassing diverse religious beliefs, cultural norms, and family dynamics. CMS Delegate and Vice President of Student Advocacy **Matthew Christensen**, CMS '21, holds a position on the Committee on Legislation & Advocacy (COLA), and was invited to sit as a panelist during COLA's "Advocacy in Action" grassroots advocacy session



**Alvin Singh,**  
CMS Class of 2021  
2018 AMA Chapter Co-President, CMS Alternate Delegate, AMA-MSS National Committee on Medical Education

"AMA conferences are extraordinary opportunities for medical students to directly impact our communities, our profession, and the way we will treat our patients. Sometimes, the challenges seem insurmountable, but being part of something larger than myself reminds me that together our voices and actions *can* make demonstrative change in healthcare."



**Matthew J. Christensen,**  
CMS Class of 2021  
2018 Vice President of Student Advocacy, CMS Delegate, AMA-MSS National Committee on Legislation & Advocacy

"Attending the national AMA assemblies is always an inspiring experience. There are so many talented and strong leaders doing big things across the country. We may have the 'student' title for now, but I will not be surprised to see many of these individuals growing into leaders of the industry."



**Courtney Harris,**  
CMS Class of 2022  
2019 AMA Chapter Co-President

"I am unbelievably grateful for the chance as an M1 student to see firsthand the creation of meaningful healthcare policy driven, written and advocated for by fellow medical students. These issues affect both our future practices and the patients we will treat, and I now feel more prepared to actively engage in policy creation and advocacy at a campus, state, and national level."

to describe his advocacy experience in the greater Chicagoland area and teach students how to build their own local advocacy network.

Throughout the conference, first-year medical student and incoming CMS Chapter Co-President **Courtney Harris**, CMS '22, attended various medical student breakout sessions and workshops. Topics ranged from current legislation on the opioid epidemic to the care of child and adolescent refugees. Guest speakers included Dr. Colleen Kraft, current president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Dr. Patrice Harris, president-elect of the American Medical Association. Of particular note was a healthcare think-tank session, where

five current medical students from around the country gave TED-style talks about innovation in healthcare, discussing topics such as the use of artificial intelligence in medicine, bringing up gun safety in the pediatric well-visit, and the acceptance of women wearing hijabs in the operating room.

To learn more about the American Medical Association on our campus and beyond, please contact [ama@rfums.org](mailto:ama@rfums.org). ■

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*Article and photographs submitted by Matthew Christensen, CMS '21.*



***Clockwise from top left:*** AMA-MSS National Advocacy Panel, including Matthew Christensen, CMS '21 (second from right). Chicago Medical School students Alvin Singh, Courtney Harris, and Matthew Christensen outside the AMA-MSS Midwest Region Meeting. AMA-MSS Illinois Medical Student Delegation.





# Introducing: Student Skills & Interprofessional Medical Simulation (Student SIMS)

A new clinical skills and simulation-based student organization seeks to increase the hands-on clinical skills training available to RFU students.



*RFU students are given a chance to practice their clinical skills at a Student SIMS lunchtime walk-up intubation clinic.*

**Student Skills & Interprofessional Medical Simulation (Student SIMS)** is a new student-led interprofessional initiative designed to supplement the hands-on training built into the curriculum of each RFU degree program. As part of the Student SIMS Intro & Info Week, leadership from seven different student organizations collaborated to host the first-ever **Student SIMSposium** simulation lab open house. Clinical Skills Stations included emergency diagnostic ultrasound, basic vascular and airway access, laparoscopic surgery, birthing & obstetrics, lumbar puncture, and suturing & knot tying.

Nearly 100 students and faculty visited the SIMSposium, featuring nine student-led task trainer demonstrations highlighting the many training opportunities available through the RFU simulation lab. Due to overwhelming student and faculty support, Student SIMS leadership is working to integrate similar open house demonstrations into the new student orientation each fall.

Since becoming officially recognized as an RFU student interest group on October 31, Student SIMS has hosted a dozen different clinical skills training

sessions, with plans for much more.

“The resources and motivation are all right in front of us,” said president and co-founder **Matthew Christensen**, CMS '21. “Faculty and sim lab staff have been incredibly supportive, and students from all programs are eager to have as much pre-clinical hands-on training as we can handle. It was just a matter of piecing everything together, and I think the infrastructure we are building into this interest group goes a long way toward making that happen. I am incredibly proud of what our board has accomplished so far and excited to see where it goes from here.”

Student SIMS is structured to streamline access and increase the use of on-campus Simulation Lab

resources and task trainers, with plans to extend beyond campus to the Huntley-Centegra simulation facility. The group also plans to support student participation in regional and national simulation competitions.

Student SIMS was founded by students from the Chicago Medical School, DePaul School of Nursing, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program to promote the interprofessional RFU vision of being a leader in simulation education and research.

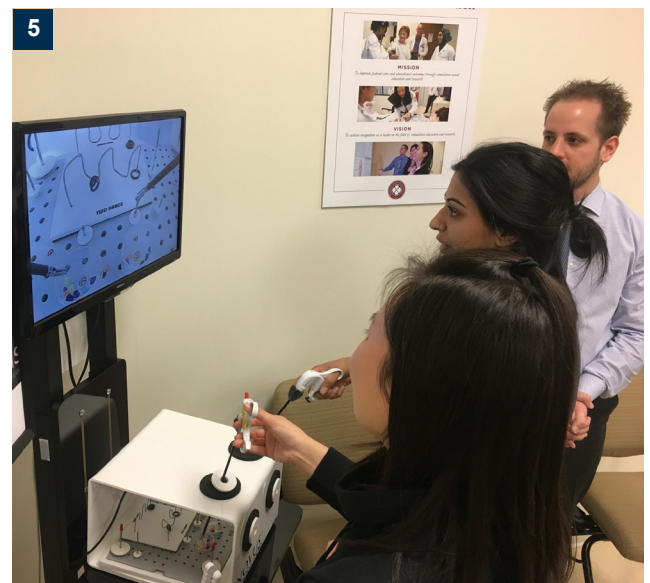
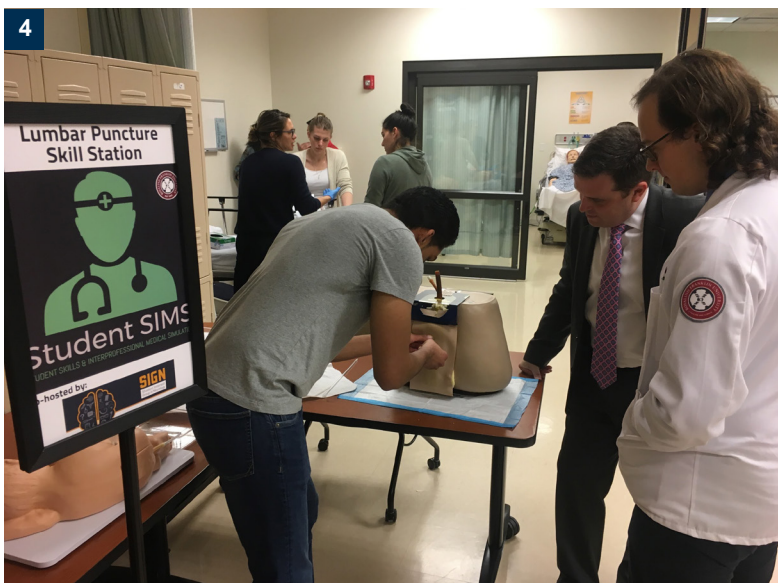
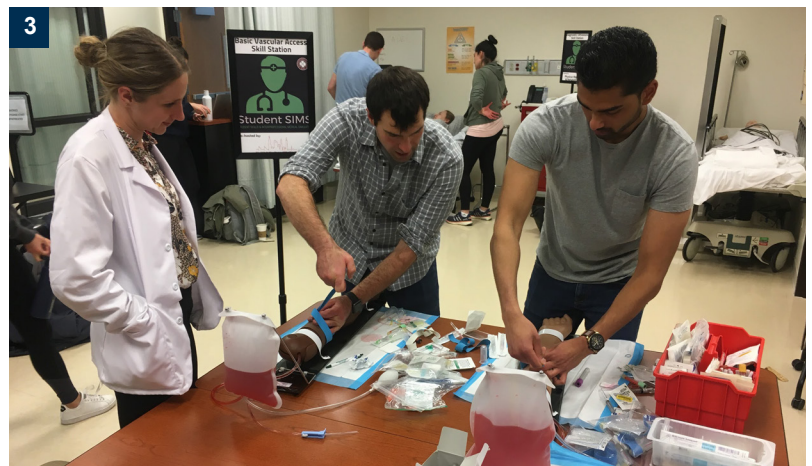
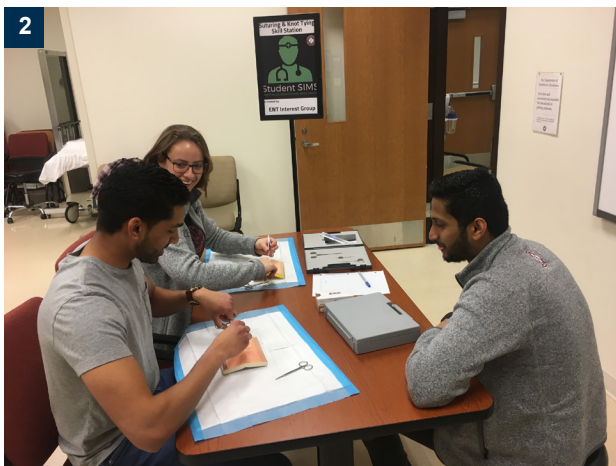
If you are a faculty member willing to lead a skills clinic or a student interested in contributing to this initiative, visit the Student SIMS Engage page or email [sims@rfums.org](mailto:sims@rfums.org). ■



**Above:** Student SIMS founding executive board. From left to right: Chantal Creighton, CMS '21; Darren Stapleton, CMS '21; Alvin Singh, CMS '21; Matthew Christensen, CMS '21; Alex Morgan, CRNA '21; Laura Billstein, CMS '21; Rebecca Silverman, DePaul School of Nursing.

**Opposite page: 1.** Physician Assistant teaching faculty Robert Aitchison, MS, PAS-C, leads a cardiac ultrasound clinic, co-hosted by Student SIMS and the Cardiology Interest Group. **2.** ENT Interest Group President Prahi Thirkateh, CMS '21 (right), leads the Suturing & Knot Tying station during the Student SIMSposium open house. **3.** Former paramedic and current EMED Clinic Coordinator Alex Clos, CMS '21 (center), teaches basic vascular access to classmates Charlotte van Schooten and Alvin Singh during the Student SIMSposium open house. **4.** James M. Record, MD, JD, FACP, Dean of CMS, teaches proper lumbar puncture technique to second-year medical students Alvin Singh and Jordan Newman during the Student SIMSposium open house. **5.** Medical students Darren Stapleton, CMS '21, and Nikita Singh, CMS '21, demonstrate use of the laparoscopic surgery training system during the Student SIMSposium open house.







# Military Medicine National Conference and Residency Specialty Night

Chicago Medical School students attended two national events related to military medicine.

Rosalind Franklin University is proud to have an active and supportive community of faculty, staff, and students with current and prior military service. Three military scholarship students from the Military Healthcare Professions Interest Group (MHPIG) travelled to National Harbor, MD, and Bethesda, MD, to attend two overlapping annual events related to military medicine: the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) professional society's Annual Military Medicine Conference and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) Military Residency Specialty Night.

The AMSUS Annual Conference was held at the Gaylord Hotel & Convention Center from November

26-28, featuring a variety of keynote speakers and exhibitor demonstrations. Our students were selected from a national pool of applicants to participate in the AMSUS Student Volunteer Program, networking with military students from across the country and working alongside the professional conference management and staff to assist with various conference operations. They manned the membership and information booths, registered attendees and exhibitors, and helped set up the exhibitor and poster presentations. Notably, our students had the opportunity to test a working model of the da Vinci robotic surgical system, and one CMS student had the opportunity to meet and speak with the United States Surgeon General, VADM Jerome Adams.

**Right:** CMS military scholarship students at the entrance to the Uniformed Services University Military Medical Specialty Night in Bethesda, MD. From left to right: 2LT Cecily Ober, United States Army, CMS 2021; 2LT Matthew Burke, United States Air Force, CMS 2021; ENS Matthew Christensen, United States Navy, CMS 2021.

**Opposite page, top:** Matthew Burke, Cecily Ober, and Matthew Christensen work at the AMSUS membership booth during the Military Medicine Annual Conference in National Harbor, MD. Bottom: Matthew Burke demonstrates use of the da Vinci robotic surgical system on display during the AMSUS Exhibit Hall.





Uniformed Services University hosted its annual Military Residency Specialty Night on November 27, at the USUHS campus across from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. More than 40 program directors representing specialties from Army, Navy, and Air Force residency programs set up booths for a meet-and-greet open house with students from all over the country. Our students had the opportunity to meet with the directors of emergency medicine, anesthesia, general surgery, aerospace medicine, family medicine, orthopedic surgery, ophthalmology, and internal medicine residency programs, and gather information for military classmates unable to make the trip.

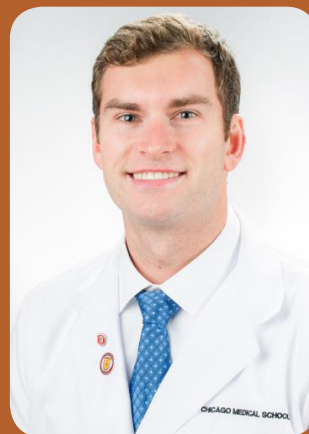
For more information about the Military Healthcare Professions Interest Group, please contact [mhpig@rfums.org](mailto:mhpig@rfums.org). ■



## Student Testimony



"Travelling to this conference and to the residency specialty night was such a great experience. I learned a lot about military medicine and the available military residencies that I did not learn during my initial Navy training. The AMSUS staff and residency program directors were very welcoming and engaging, and I am excited to get more involved as my medical career moves forward." — Ensign Matthew Christensen, United States Navy, CMS ' 21, MHPIG President



"It was great to see how inviting and excited the residency directors were to talk with us about their particular field of medicine and how they each fit into the military." — Second Lieutenant Matthew Burke, United States Air Force, CMS ' 21, MHPIG Communications Director and ESC Representative



"I enjoyed speaking with residency directors about their specific medical fields. They were all very excited to talk with us. The surgeon general's talk about his work to fight the opioid crisis was also very informative and intriguing." — Second Lieutenant Cecily Ober, United States Army, CMS ' 21, MHPIG Treasurer and Events Director

# NMF Champions of Health Awards

Student and faculty representatives from CMS attended the annual Champions of Health Awards in Chicago, where one CMS student received an award for her community service project.

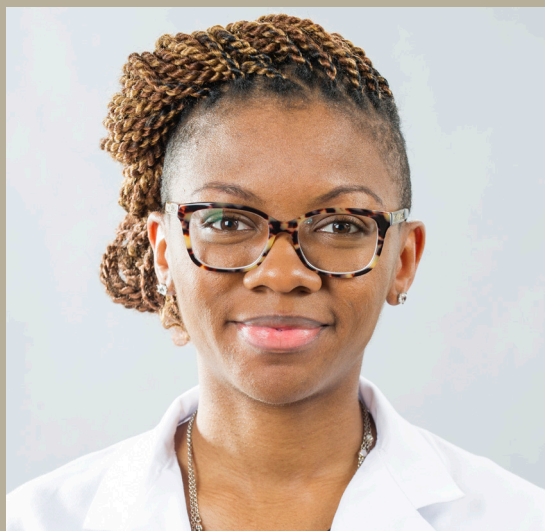
Several CMS students and faculty members attended the National Medical Fellowships (NMF) Champions of Health Awards, held December 3 in Chicago. The event, which brings together medical students, physicians, healthcare leaders, philanthropic and community leaders, and the deans and diversity officers of medical schools across the Midwest, honors individuals who have made a lasting impact on health care and diversity in health care.

**Jaleesa Harris**, CMS '21, was awarded the Dr. David Monash/Harry Lloyd and Elizabeth Pawlette Marshall Medical Student Scholarship for her recent community health project, titled Mystery Organs. Jaleesa spent a year teaching elementary and middle school students in Chicago's Austin community about anatomy and how to keep their organs healthy. Using organs from the university's Gross Anatomy Lab, Jaleesa led the students through hands-on activities to teach them about organ function and disease. ■

**Front row:** Jaleesa Harris, CMS '21; James M. Record, MD, JD, FACP, Dean of CMS; Leah Bolden, CMS '21; Natalie Bankole, CMS '21; and Raven Wright, CMS '21. **Back row:** Major General Elder Granger, U.S. Army (retired), RFU Board of Trustees member; Alvin Onyewuenyi, CMS '22; James Roberts, CMS '22; Nutan Vaidya, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Learning Environment; Lloyd Sealey, CMS '22; Herena Sim-Record, MD, assistant professor and medical director (CHP); Carl Lawson, PhD, Director of Interprofessional Global Health; and Mildred M.G. Olivier, MD '88, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Learning Environment.







**In a speech given at the Champion of Health Awards, Jaleesa Harris discussed her community health project and what motivates her.**

I crafted a community project titled *Mystery Organs*. The purpose of this project is to teach 4th through 7th graders about the human body using real cadaver organs that they can physically handle while learning about how to keep them healthy. Each *Mystery Organs* lesson began with my giving the students three clues as to what the mystery organ was and having them work together to figure it out. Then I would reveal the organ and teach them about its normal functions, what diseases affect it and how to keep it healthy. The students were able to view many organs from kidneys and lungs to the liver and heart. It was an amazing experience to be able to teach such interactive science-based lessons to bright young students.

My love for science began at a young age when my mother bought me a science book full of kid-friendly science experiments. The bathroom quickly became my unofficial laboratory as I completed every one of them. From mixing baking soda and vinegar to using static electricity to direct the flow of water, each of these experiments intrigued my young mind just as *Mystery Organs* did for the minds of the students I taught. As I grew older, my interest in science became

more targeted toward the functions of the human body and how disease interferes. This interest is what drove me to pursue a career in medicine.

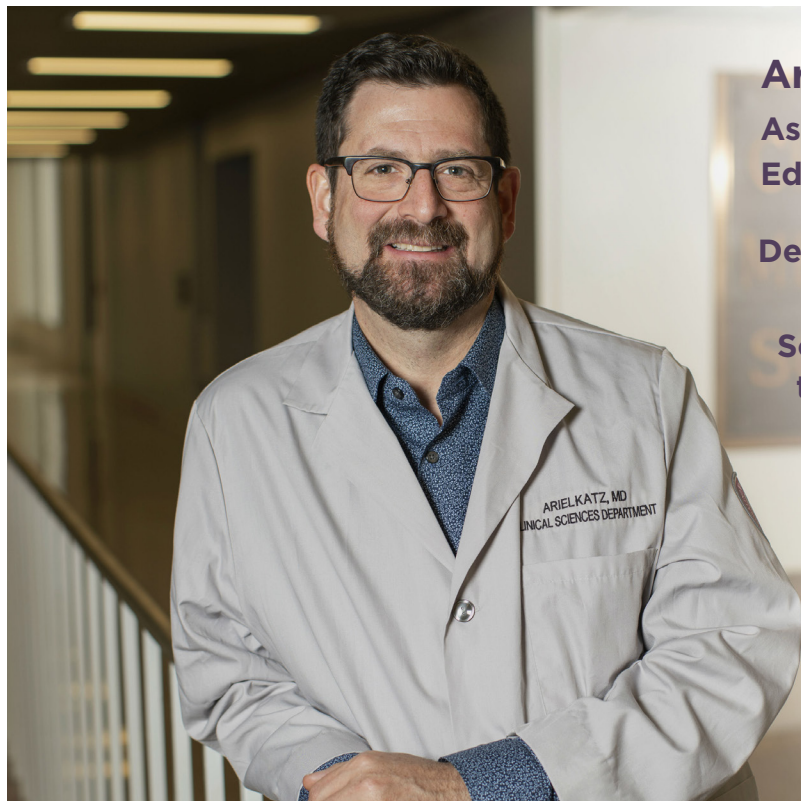
My mother taught me to value education at an early age. She was a single mother worked hard to pay for my older brother, older sister and I to attend a private elementary school because she was not satisfied with our neighborhood public school. Seeing her sacrifice for our education illustrated its importance. I grew up knowing that education would be the path that leads me to my goals. Another life lesson I got from my mother is that we are blessed to be a blessing and I've always felt the responsibility to give back out of what I've been given, especially to my old neighborhood and communities like it.

When creating *Mystery Organs*, I knew two things from the beginning. I knew that I wanted to work with children and that I wanted to work in the community I grew up in, which is the Austin community of Chicago's west side. The street I grew up on serves as the border between Chicago and suburban Oak Park. One street divides a medically underserved community from an affluent suburb. As a child, I began to recognize the disparities between the two. One has two state of the art hospitals while the other has only one hospital that lacks both a trauma unit and a labor and delivery unit. One has seasonal farmer's markets, while the other is a food desert. When I decided that I wanted to become a physician, I also decided that I wanted to practice in communities like Austin that have been often times ignored.

I ultimately want to become a pioneer. I want my journey to better the lives of generations to come. National Medical Fellowships is helping me make this dream into a reality. The National Medical Fellowships has allowed me to continue *Mystery Organs* and to bring these lessons to over thirty students on Chicago's west side. With this scholarship, I was able to demonstrate to young students that they can pursue goals beyond the world they see around them. ■

# RFU Spotlight: Dr. Ariel Katz and Jacqueline Valkanet

Two members of the CMS community were recently featured in the Division of Student Affairs and Inclusion's monthly RFU Spotlight, which profiles faculty and staff members nominated by their peers for their work ethic, commitment to RFU, humor, overall attitude, and other positive attributes. Below are excerpts from Dr. Katz and Jacqueline's question-and-answer features.



## Ariel Katz, MD

Assistant Professor and  
Education Director, Clinical Skills

Department: Clinical Sciences

### Someone close to Dr. Katz had this to say:

"He's passionate in his teaching,  
incredibly approachable, and  
genuinely caring for students!"

#### **Q: How long have you been at RFU?**

A: 2 years.

#### **Q: Where are you from?**

A: Chicago.

#### **Q: How do you typically spend your free time?**

A: My wife and I travel a lot. We have been all over Europe and the Caribbean.

#### **Q: What is the most exciting place you've ever visited?**

A: Southern France- I love the vibrancy of the people, cuisine, culture, and geography.

#### **Q: Why do you like working at RFU?**

A: The support and resources the school has for us

are incredible. I am amazed at how so many skilled people here are able to allow my vision to shine.

#### **Q: If you could witness any event of the past, present or future what would it be and why?**

A: To be in the room of the portrait "A Clinical Lesson at the Salpêtrière" by Pierre Aristide André Brouillet. All of the people in that room defined what we know of as modern medicine.

#### **Q: What is one of the most daring things you've ever done?**

A: Hiking for three weeks on the Appalachian Trail.

#### **Q: Tell us about a quirky habit of yours.**

A: I will eat anything besides bananas. ■





**Jacqueline Valkanet**  
**Clinical Affairs and Training**  
**Administrator**

**Department: Dean's Office**

**Someone close to Jacqueline had this to say:**

"Jacqueline shows genuine concern for students' well-being while they complete their third year of medical school. She readily shares her phone number with us in case we have any emergencies, sends flowers to those who had an unfortunate life event, and contacts outside institutions for our questions. She really goes above and beyond of what her job entails and makes us feel cared and supported."

**Q: How long have you been at RFU?**

A: 2 years, 8 months.

**Q: Where are you from?**

A: Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Q: How do you typically spend your free time?**

A: I collect and read old/rare books, I enjoy creating glass marbles using the torch technique and traveling to Arizona to spend time with my beloveds.

**Q: What do you feel most proud of?**

A: Personally — The love of my life is still in love with me and I adore him for that. Professionally —I created the CMS Match Day Map from my own design and I haven't had a CMS student dropped from a clinical site.

**Q: Why do you like working at RFU?**

A: Our students' lives aren't 9 - 5, so I don't support them that way. Our RFUMS community and culture is wonderful and supportive of this. I really enjoy

the interactions I have with our students and visiting with our clinical sites.

**Q: What are 4 things on your bucket list?**

- A: (1) Learn to play four musical instruments — I've got three down, one more to go.  
(2) Master the art and skill of fore-edge Illustration.  
(3) Travel to the Caribbean and stay at the Jade Mountain Resort  
(4) Snowboarding in St. Anton, Austria.

**Q: Who do you admire most?**

A: My parents.

**Q: Tell us about a quirky habit of yours.**

A: I play a lot of practical jokes. ■



# Peer Mentoring Week

First- and second-year medical students took a break from studying to participate in some mentor-mentee bonding events during the annual Peer Mentoring Week. The activities, organized by the House Council's Peer Mentoring Committee, included trivia night, an online meme contest, a photo booth, and a mug-decorating workshop. The activities were organized by the House Council's Peer Mentoring Committee, which also matches incoming M1s with an M2 mentor before they arrive on campus. ■

**1.** Sharné Morrow, CMS '22. **2.** Leah Bolden, CMS '21; Alex Woods, CMS '22; and Yanhan Ren, CMS '22. **3.** M1s and M2s participate in Trivia Night. **4.** Chantal Creighton, CMS '21, Class President, and Allison Martin, CMS '21, Peer Mentoring Chair. **5.** Ashley Schaefer, CMS '22, Class President, and Matthew Tan, CMS '22. **6.** Courtney Harris and Haleigh Hunter, both CMS '22. **7.** Nicki Patel, CMS '22; Brandon Golant, CMS '22; India Baughman, ALE Student Programs Coordinator; Sharné Morrow, CMS '22; and Kelsey Bria, CMS '22. All four students are Peer Mentoring Committee Reps.









## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT:

### Dr. William Frost and Dr. Judy Potashkin

William Frost, PhD, Director of the Center for Brain Function and Repair, and Judy Potashkin, PhD, from the Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases & Therapeutics, were each awarded a recent grant for their research projects. Below is a summary of their research and their academic contributions to Chicago Medical School.



### New Award:

**Dr. Frost was awarded a \$181,650 grant from the University of Massachusetts for his project “A five-dimensional connectomics approach to the neural basis of behavior.”**

Dr. Frost joined Chicago Medical School in 1998 in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. He has been nationally recognized for his contributions to science, and in 2018 he received the RFUMS Morris L. Parker Research Award for his meritorious research in health sciences. He currently serves as Director of the Center for Brain Function and Repair, Chair of Cell Biology and Anatomy in the Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities, and professor of cell biology.

Dr. Frost holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Reed College in Portland, OR, and a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Physiology from Columbia University in New York. He has been studying the principles of brain function since his

graduate training at Columbia University, and he has published extensively on how neural networks process information, store memory, and generate behavior.

In his research, Dr. Frost has made several groundbreaking discoveries regarding neural network functionality in invertebrates such as mollusks. Most recently, he has worked with international collaborators to develop a method for tracking and recording the behavior of up to 200 neurons simultaneously (instead of only two to four at a time). These large-scale recordings can be used to track neural ensembles across trials and preparations, and Dr. Frost has begun publishing his imaging data sets for use by others.





## **New Award:**

**Dr. Potashkin was awarded a \$624,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for her project “Network analysis for identifying disease mechanisms and therapeutic targets for dementia.”**

Dr. Potashkin has been an integral part of the Department of Pharmacology since 1990; her expertise and mentorship have made a huge impact on the students she teaches and her fellow faculty members. She has provided excellent insight and leadership on the Faculty Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure Committee as a member from 2005 – 2010, serving in an advisory role as the Dean’s Representative in 2013. She returned to serve as chair from 2014 – 2017, and continues to serve as a voting member. In addition, in 2017 she was appointed to serve on the RFUMS Board of Trustees as a Faculty Trustee.

Dr. Potashkin holds a Master of Science in Cell Biology and Biochemistry from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Biology from the Roswell

Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, NY. Dr. Potashkin has received numerous grants for her research into the disruption of the regulation of RNA metabolism and how it leads to neurodegeneration. Her lab has provided insight into Parkinson’s disease, progressive supranuclear palsy and multiple system atrophy patients.

In addition to her outstanding research, Dr. Potashkin is also a professor of pharmacology and holds a position in the office of Academic Learning Environment as CMS Director of Faculty Affairs. In this position, she oversees the administrative aspects of faculty appointment, promotions, and tenure and works to promote a culture of continuous improvement for faculty activities in teaching, research, and service. ■

# Alumni News

## Alumni Give Back

Several CMS alumni have visited RFU recently to give lectures, participate in mentoring events, and give career guidance and advice to medical students. Here are a few of the ways alumni give back to the CMS community.

### Operation MEDS

Twenty-two CMS alumni from fifteen different medical specialties came to the university on January 15 to participate in the 11th Annual Operation M.E.D.S. (Medical students Exploring Different Specialties), a speed networking and mentoring event designed to help students learn about the various career opportunities available to them.

Alumni were grouped at tables by specialty, including anesthesiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, interventional cardiology, military medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pathology, pediatrics, psychiatry, radiology, plastic surgery, and orthopedic surgery. Students rotated from table to table, switching every 15 minutes so that they had a chance to learn about each specialty.

Participating alumni included **Eugene E. Saltzberg**, MD '72; **Mitchell L. Goldflies**, MD '75; **Elliot M. Levine**, MD '78; **Richard Pervos**, MD '82; **Evelyn Lewis**, MD '83; **Oleh S. Paly**, MD '84; **Eric R. Sloan**, MD '85; **Joyce G. Chams**, MD '89; **Joshua F. Loew**, MD '89; **Jason S. Mitchell**, MD '89; **James S. Spitz**, MD '89; **Adrienne Balsam**, MD '91; **Kenneth P. Wind**, MD '92; **Kimberly A. Forsey**, MD '93; **Suzanne Siegel**, MD '94; **Sam J. Speron**, MD '94; **Deborah T. Ehrlich**, MD '95; **Narayan Tata**, MD '98; **Anjum Sayyad**, MD '07; **Savan D. Patel**, MD '10; **Amit Marwah**, MD '11; and **Tina Sundaram**, MD '11.





# Alumni News



**Clockwise from top left:** Narayan Tata, MD '98, talks to students about physical medicine and rehabilitation. Evelyn Lewis, MD '83, talks to students about family medicine and military medicine. Suzanne Siegel, MD '94, talks about her experiences in emergency medicine. Kimberly A. Forsey, MD '93, talks with Kayla Wilson, CMS '22. Jason S. Mitchell, MD '89, shares his experiences working in the field of anesthesiology.





# Alumni News

## Dr. Martin Lanoff

**Martin P. Lanoff**, MD '85, visited RFU on Jan. 14 to talk to students interested in the physical medicine and rehabilitation specialty. In his presentation, "What is PM&R?" he discussed the history of the specialty and what types of conditions are treated by PM&R specialists. He also gave advice on how to prepare to match into a PM&R residency and discussed post-residency career opportunities.

Dr. Lanoff has held national positions in the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He is a clinical assistant professor in the department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Chicago Medical School. Dr. Lanoff's special interests are rehabilitation of industrial and sports related injuries, musculoskeletal disorders, electrodiagnosis and spinal injection procedures. ■





# Alumni News

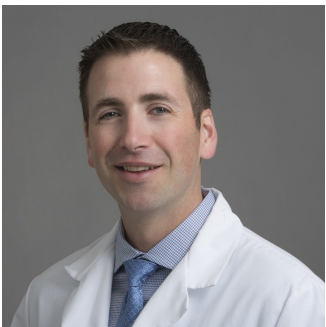
## Dr. Parit Patel

On December 5, **Parit Patel**, MD '06, MS '02, MBA, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, visited the university for a special talk hosted by the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Interest Group and the Pediatric Interest Group. In his presentation, "Pediatric Reconstructive Surgery," Dr. Patel shared his unique career path and experience in the field.

Dr. Patel is one only of a few plastic surgeons in the Chicago area who is fellowship-trained in craniofacial reconstruction to repair facial differences acquired from trauma, cancer, or birth. ■



## Dr. Jordan Tasse



**Jordan Tasse**, MD '07, MS '03, spoke to students and answered questions about "A Career in Interventional Radiology (IR)" in a January 25th event hosted by the Radiology Interest

Group. Dr. Tasse is a vascular and interventional radiologist at Rush University Medical Center, where he is also Director of Interventional Oncology and Associate Director of the IR residency and fellowship programs. ■

## Dr. Linda Yala



**Linda Yala**, MD '16, visited the university on February 7 to talk about "Life as a Surgical Resident" to CMS students interested in that specialty, in an event organized by the

Surgery Interest Group. Dr. Yala is currently a resident physician at the University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospitals. ■

# Alumni News

## Other News

**Kwan Kew Lai**, MD '79, has published her first book "Lest We Forget: A Doctor's Experience with Life and Death During the Ebola Outbreak" with Simon & Schuster.

**Martin Tallman**, MD '80, was elected Vice President of the American Society of Hematology for 2019 and will become President of the society in 2020.

**Colonel Donald Gagliano**, MD '81, was appointed chief of staff of John J. Pershing VA Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, MO.

**Jeffrey Sherman**, MD '81, chief medical officer and executive vice president at Horizon Pharma, served on the Diversity in Clinical Trials and Research Panel at the eighth annual Diversity, Inclusion & Health Equity Symposium in Chicago.

**Clive K. Fields**, MD '88, received the American Academy of Family Physicians Robert Graham Physician Executive of the Year award, which recognizes physicians for making significant contributions to the specialty of family medicine and promoting higher quality, cost-effective care in communities across the U.S.

**David Feinberg**, MD '89, MBA, will take on a new leadership role at Google, as chief of the company's healthcare initiatives. Dr. Feinberg, who will transition from his post as CEO of Geisinger Health, will coordinate healthcare efforts across many groups, including Google Brain, Nest and Google Fit.

Dr. Feinberg was recently recognized as one of the nation's top healthcare leaders by Becker's Hospital Review for his innovative approach and patient-centered focus while leading the Danville, PA-based health system. He also discussed a holistic vision of health as keynote speaker for HLTH: The Future of Healthcare conference.

**John J. Hutcheson**, MD '89, was named president of the Medical & Allied Health Staff at Winchester Hospital, Winchester, MA, where he also serves as chairman of anesthesia.

**Wayne J. Olan**, MD '89, was appointed clinical director of the BioRestorative Therapies, Inc. Regenerative Disc/Spine Program. He formerly served on the company's Scientific Advisory Board.

**Kelley Meade**, MD '91, was named interim associate dean of clinical and academic affairs at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland.

**Sharon Basham**, MD '94, participated in a panel discussion, "Impact Investing and Innovation in the Fields of Rehabilitation, Disabilities and Assistive Technologies," on Nov. 8 at Impact Hub in Santa Barbara, CA.

**John J. Maciejewski**, MD '01, PhD, was appointed bone marrow transplant attending physician at the University of Michigan.

**Prashant Verma**, MD, '05, held a seminar on new therapies in treating children and adults with asthma on Nov. 14 at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, CA.

**Elson Lai**, MD '07, was appointed chair of ophthalmology at Methodist Hospital of Southern California in Arcadia, CA.

**Ankur J. Patel**, MD '07, was appointed clinical evaluation reporting specialist for Terumo BCT in Denver, CO.

**Kevin A. Adeleke**, MD '08, provided diabetic foot screenings and foot care education during the World Diabetes Day Celebration at Gbagada General Hospital in Lagos, Nigeria.

**Omeed Ahadiat**, MD '18, published a novel titled "Making of the Devil." ■



# “When Health & Stigma Intersect”

“I define stigma as a set of negatively associated ideas or beliefs about a certain circumstance or condition,” wrote one CMS student who was asked to provide her definition of stigma. In many cases, those negative ideas and beliefs can prevent an individual from seeking medical care, due to shame or guilt over a socially stigmatized illness or condition.

The recent “When Health & Stigma Intersect” exhibit and speaker series, presented by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Division of Institutional Advancement, explored the concept of stigma and the effect it can have on health and well-being. Students, faculty, and staff throughout Rosalind Franklin University were invited to reflect on their definitions of stigma and share personal and professional stories of the relationship between social stigma and health.

In the series’ first presentation, titled “Stories Behind Mental Health,” three RFU students, including two students from CMS, explored the misunderstandings and stigmatization surrounding mental health conditions. The panelists related stories of their own or others’ experience with the stigma their culture places on mental health.

**Jenna Sutton**, CMS ’21, discussed her own encounters with mental health conditions, sharing journal entries chronicling her experiences with clinical depression in high school. Asked what she would want other people in that situation to know, Jenna said, “It’s okay to not be okay.” She hopes that mental health conditions



*Jenna Sutton speaks during the “Stories Behind Mental Health” panel.*

will eventually be viewed and treated no differently from physical health conditions like asthma. Erasing the current stigma surrounding mental health, Jenna said, would remove the barriers between patients and the help they need.

**Andrew Ji**, CMS ’21, defined stigma as “a mark of shame” that a person experiences when they do not meet the expectations others have of them. He also shared his personal experiences with depression, speaking about the intersection of gender and mental health. In many cultures, he noted, men are expected to be stoic and to just “keep moving forward” no matter what emotions they are feeling. In an attempt to meet these expectations, Andrew learned to hide his feelings of depression and unhappiness, until he eventually realized that his depression would not just go away over time.

Andrew also noted that part of the stigma associated with mental health is the silence: often no one wants to talk about mental health issues or acknowledge how widespread these conditions can be. He expressed the





*Andrew Ji shares his experiences during the panel.*

hope that medical students, professionals, and educators would become more proactive as a community, addressing and discussing the issues that they and others face. “There are signs for mental health that you should be aware of, but that requires that you also understand yourself and who you are,” Andrew said. “Don’t bury it.”

In another presentation in the speaker series, faculty and student representatives from the university’s Interprofessional Community Clinic (ICC) discussed “Poverty: The Hidden Disease.” **Melissa Chen**, MD, assistant professor of medicine and Clinical Director of the ICC, examined how poverty – and its accompanying stigma – has a measurable effect on health. She related her experiences working at a county hospital in Seattle and then in a hospital in the suburbs – in Bill Gates’ neighborhood – where she observed how disparities in patient income and hospital resources led to disparities in health.

Dr. Chen compared poverty to a disease, and one with some very real symptoms: having a low income is associated with lower life expectancy and higher rates of cancer and heart disease. The average life expectancy in North Chicago is 64, but in Lake Forest – just five miles away – that number rises to 80.

Dr. Chen urged current and future clinicians to take action to change these disparities by addressing some of the root causes. “It is critical that we see our duty to be advocates for the human rights of our patients,” she

*Dr. Melissa Chen gives a presentation on “Poverty: The Hidden Disease.”*





said. “We can choose not to judge or blame them for their experiences. We can demand political and policy solutions to eliminate the structures that impart inequality.”

One way that RFU is addressing those inequalities is through the ICC, which treats uninsured and underinsured patients and serves as an advocate for patients without resources. **Majed Abbas** and **Akshay Patel**, both CMS ’21, 2018 president and vice-president, respectively, of the Interprofessional Clinic Initiative, shared their personal motivations for joining the ICC and encouraged others to get involved as well.

For Akshay, his reasons for joining the ICC were the same as his reasons for going to medical school: he wanted to be able to help people. Volunteering at the ICC gave him the opportunity to make a difference even before he finished medical school. “We say that we want to do all these things, that we want to help people who are impoverished,” he said. “The ICC is a great way to do that right now.”

Majed also expressed a desire to help low-income and otherwise disadvantaged populations, and he believes that the working at the ICC is giving him the tools and knowledge he needs to be an advocate for his patients in the future. One of the most rewarding parts of volunteering at the clinic, he said, is having the opportunity to interact with socioeconomically disadvantaged patients and get a new perspective on the struggles they face: “Getting to see these patients and learning from them and speaking with them is one of the greatest experiences that you can have here.” ■

*Akshay Patel and Majed Abbas, 2018 executive officers of the Interprofessional Clinic Initiative, with Neli Fanning, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Programs.*



## STAFF CORNER

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

#### Laurie Lonicki

Faculty Appointment Administrative Coordinator,  
Department of Clinical Sciences  
Time at CMS: Almost 6 1/2 years



Laurie started out at CMS in the Dean's Office, working under former dean Dr. Russell Robertson, and later transitioned to the Department of Biochemistry. But when the clinical science departments (now one Department of Clinical Sciences) needed a dedicated staff member to put together faculty packets for appointment, promotion, and tenure decisions, Laurie proved to be the perfect person for the job.

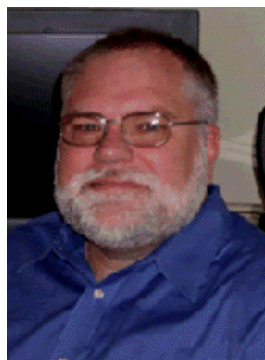
"Some people don't like the little details," she said, referring to the faculty credentials, diplomas, license information, and certifications that she has to gather and then cross-reference online, "but I love them. It's like a puzzle." Laurie uses this information, along with the forms, CVs, letters of

recommendation, and chair letters to put together an application packet that then gets sent to the proper committees for approval.

Laurie's supervisor says: "Laurie is an exemplary employee. She has the dual qualities of friendliness and toughness which are needed to obtain letters of recommendation from busy clinicians who have other priorities. She anticipates problems that need to be resolved, and she owns the process of faculty appointments. Her sense of humor and persistence help her achieve high-level work for the medical school." ■

## School & Department News

### Awards & Accomplishments



**Robert Bridges**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, received a one-year, \$191,535 grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for his research project "Functional and Biochemical Screening of CFTR Variants."

**Nancy Z. Farrell**, MS '11, RDN, FAND, clinical instructor of nutrition, is one of only 32 registered dietitian nutritionists nationwide to be named a 2018–2019 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokesperson.





# School & Department News

**Karen O'Mara, DO, FCCP**, associate professor of medicine and Education Director of Acute & Critical Care Medicine, became licensed in the state of Illinois as Lead Instructor for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training.



**Joseph Reynolds, PhD**, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, received a five-year, \$1.9 million NIH grant for his research study, "Molecular Regulation of TLR2-mediated Autoimmune Inflammation."



**Mildred M.G. Olivier, MD '88**, assistant dean for diversity and learning environment and professor of ophthalmology, was featured in the American Medical Association's "Members Move Medicine" campaign. The series spotlights inspiring AMA

members who are moving medicine through advocacy, education, patient care and practice innovation. In an interview with the AMA, Dr. Olivier talked about her work, her inspirations, her volunteer work in Haiti and Jamaica, and how she has dedicated her career to advocating for physicians and patients.

When asked what advice she would give to those interested in pursuing a career in medicine, she said, "You have to love what you do . . . At the end of the day, you have to want to get out of bed and feel that your day will be filled with opportunities to learn, curiosity and challenges. You cannot stop learning or educating yourself after medical school—learning is lifelong."

Dr. Olivier was also featured in Crain's Chicago Business as one of Chicago's Notable Women in Healthcare 2018, where she was recognized for her work as a physician and an educator.



**William Rhoades, DO**, Vice Chair of Clinical Sciences and associate professor and chair of medicine, was honored by the Men & Women's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital during their annual dinner. Each November, the Association honors an individual who not only

serves as an exceptional ambassador for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital (ALGH), but also someone who makes a significant difference in the lives of others. When introducing Dr. Rhoades for this honor, Dr. Leo Kelly, ALGH Vice President of Medical Management, gracefully acknowledged his humble and gentle nature as well as his outstanding compassionate care and clinical expertise. Congratulations to Dr. Rhoades!

**Beth Stutzmann, PhD**, associate professor of neuroscience and director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics, was awarded a three-year, \$766,177 grant from the Department of the Army for



# School & Department News

her research project “Identifying Common Underlying Mechanisms Driving Synaptic Deficits between TBI and AD.” Dr. Stutzmann also received a one-year, \$390,000 NIH grant for her project titled “Cellular and Synaptic Signaling Mechanisms Driving Early AD Pathology.”

**Joy Tso**, psychiatry residency program administrator, received a GEM Award for the winter quarter. These awards are presented by the university to recognize staff members who go the extra mile to make RFU a better place.

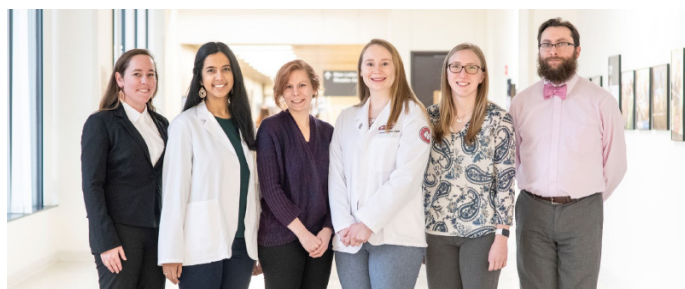


**Carl White**, PhD, associate professor of physiology and biophysics, received a five-year, \$1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for his research study, “The Contribution of Perivascular Adipose Tissue Macrophages to Microvascular Dysfunction in Obesity.”

## Presentations & Publications

An interprofessional group of students including **Mary Brinkman**, CMS '21, and **Payal Shukla**, CMS '22, presented “From the Pharmacy to the Hospital and Back Again: An Interprofessional Approach to Healthcare” on January 17. The presentation was part of the Baldwin Institute’s Interprofessional Student-Led Grand Rounds series. The

next presentation in the series will take place on March 6.



*Michelle Sener, CHP '19; Payal Shukla, CMS '22; Allison Gregg, CHP '20; Mary Brinkman, CMS '21; Sara Stankoskey, CHP '21; and Justin Bladecki, COP '22.*



*Dr. Broutman*



*Dr. Katz*

**Laurie Broutman**, MD, FACP, associate professor of medicine and director of Clinical Skills Enhancement, co-authored an abstract that was recently presented during the “Highlights in Medical Education: Innovations in Teaching Clinical Reasoning” session at the 2018 AAMC Annual Meeting, held November 5 in Austin, TX. The abstract, titled “Qualitative Analysis of Student Reactions to Diagnostic Errors,” was a collaboration between Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the University of Minnesota, and Chicago Medical School.

Dr. Broutman, along with **Ariel Katz**, MD, assistant professor of medicine and Educator Director of Clinical Skills, and **Ana LoDuca**, MD, assistant professor of surgery, also contributed to a poster that was presented at the Director of Clinical Skills Courses annual meeting. Their poster was titled “Perception of Ease of Use and Usefulness of a Simple Interface Interactive, Virtual



# School & Department News

Patient Case in a Small Classroom Setting.”

**William Cotter**, MD, assistant professor of medicine and associate program director of the CMS/FHCC Internal Medicine residency program, was the keynote speaker at the university’s annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Dr. Cotter is a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps.



**Salah Dajani**, CMS '19; **Anand Saripalli**, CMS '21; and **Neelam Sharma-Walia**, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, recently published an article titled “Water Transport Proteins-Aquaporins (AQPs) in Cancer Biology” in *Oncotarget*. The article was based on research the students conducted in Dr. Sharma-Walia’s lab.



*Salah Dajani*



*Anand Saripalli*



*Dr. Sharma-Walia*

at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL.

Dr. Eliot also presented a medical grand rounds lecture at RFU on November 14, titled “Plasticity in Brain Development: Implications for Cognitive, Emotional, and Gender Development.” Dr. Eliot addressed the myths that men and women’s brains are fundamentally different and that gender differences are “hard-wired” from birth.



*Dr. Eliot during her grand rounds presentation.*



**Ashok Fulambarker**, MD, FCCP, professor of medicine and program director of the Pulmonary Medicine Fellowship, gave a medical grand rounds presentation on January 23 titled “Approach to a Patient with Interstitial Lung Disease.”

**Michelle Hastings**, PhD, director of the Center for Genetic Diseases and associate professor of cell biology and anatomy, co-authored the articles “Neurite Collapse and Altered ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> Control in



**Lise Eliot**, PhD, professor of neuroscience, delivered the Nu Rho Psi Keynote Lecture, “Brain, Gender, and Mental Health,” on November 13 during the 15th Annual Brain Awareness Week

# School & Department News

Human Parkinson Disease Patient iPSC-Derived Neurons with LRRK2 G2019S Mutation,” published in *Stem Cell Reports*; “Searching for Novel Biomarkers Using a Mouse Model of CLN3-Batten Disease,” published in *PLOS ONE*; and “A Mutation Affecting Polycystin-1 Mediated Heterotrimeric G-protein Signaling Causes PKD,” published in *Human Molecular Genetics*.

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On Feb. 4, **Suresh Hathiwal**, MD, professor of medicine, gave a Clinical Sciences & Humanities Grand Rounds presentation titled “From Mythology into Medicine.” In his presentation, Dr. Hathiwal discussed the mythological origins behind some medical terminology that is still used today and

demonstrated how knowing the history and origin of those terms can help physicians to understand and describe the human body more precisely.

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**Binod Kumar**, PhD, senior research associate in the lab of Dr. Gulam Waris, in the microbiology and immunology division of the Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities, published a book chapter titled “Hepatitis C Virus and Inflammation” in the book *Hepatitis C: From Infection to Cure*.

.....



**Hunter Launer**, CMS '20, presented a poster titled “An Automated Fractionation Algorithm for Substrate

Mapping for Patients with Scar-Based Ventricular Tachycardia” at the American Heart Association’s Annual Meeting, held November 10-12 in Chicago.



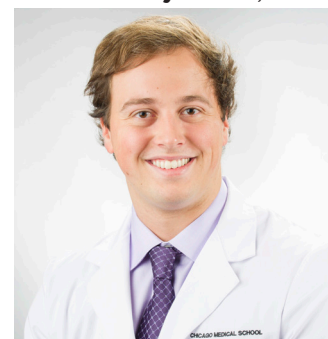
*Hunter Launer (center) at the American Heart Association’s Annual Meeting, with fellow attendees Lindsey Hendricks, CMS '20, and Christopher Hamilton, CMS '22.*

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**Casimir Lorenc**, CMS '19, presented an award-winning poster at the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry annual meeting in Chicago on October 13. His poster, titled “Deadly Spice: Superwarfarin Poisoning in a Synthetic Marijuana User” won the competition for a vignette that demonstrated the combination of medicine and psychiatry in clinical practice.

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**Jordan Newman**, CMS '21, and **Anthony West**, PhD, associate professor and chair of neuroscience, published an article titled “Regulation of Dopamine Neurotransmission from Serotonergic Neurons by Ectopic Expression of the Dopamine D2 Autoreceptor Blocks Levodopa-Induced



*Jordan Newman*



# School & Department News

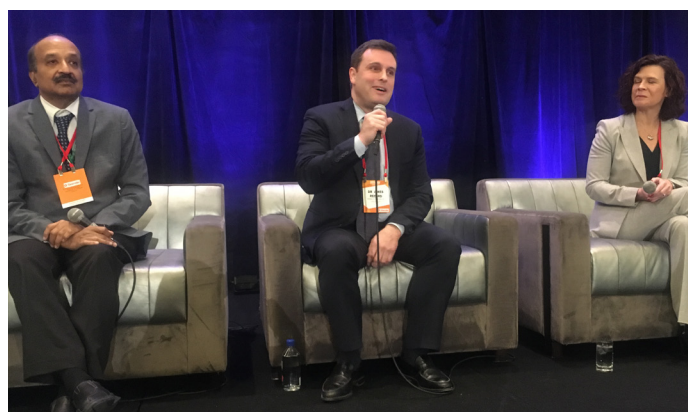
Dyskinesia” in the journal *Acta Neuropathologica Communications*.



**Karen O'Mara, DO, FCCP**, associate professor of medicine and Education Director of Acute & Critical Care Medicine, gave a medical grand rounds presentation on February 13 titled “Selection of Mobile Health Apps for Patient Use.” Dr. O'Mara

discussed how physicians and other health care providers can help patients select mobile health apps that are safe, effective, usable, and engaging.

**James M. Record, MD, JD, FACP**, dean of CMS, participated in a panel at the National Healthcare Midwest Conference on November 27. The topic of the panel was “Leaders of Tomorrow: Innovation in Policy, Partnerships and Academia.”

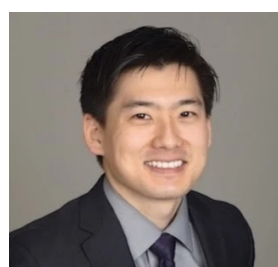


*Dr. Record (center) during the panel discussion, with Dr. Ranga Krishnan, Dean of Rush Medical College, and Dr. Laura Findeiss, Chief of Radiology at Grady Memorial Hospital and professor of radiology and surgery at Emory University.*

**Mary Russell, MS, RDN, LDN, FAND**, lecturer of nutrition, participated in a panel titled “Investing in Science and Technology Education for Shaping Society's Future” at the 4th annual International Day of Women and Girls in Science Forum, held February 12 at the United Nations



headquarters in New York City. Ms. Russell, who is President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, spoke about the Academy's contribution to fighting malnutrition, which has national and international applications.



*Matthew So*



*Dr. Kasjanski*



*Dr. Conneely*

**Matthew So, CMS '19; David Kasjanski, MD '18; Paul Kohanteb, CMS '19; Mark F. Conneely, MD**, professor of radiology; and **Piyush Vyas, MD**, associate professor of radiology, presented an electronic education exhibit at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) 104th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting at McCormick Place in Chicago in November. The digital presentation was titled “Seeing Through the Eyes (and Visual Cortex) of a Machine: Convolutional Neural Networks at the Forefront of Machine Learning in Medical Imaging.” The exhibit guided participants through the history of Convolutional Neural Networks,

# School & Department News

which are machine learning algorithms inspired by the organization of neurons in the mammalian visual cortex, and how they are being applied to problems in medical imaging with increasing success.



**Grace Stutzmann**, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics, recently published an article titled “Reduced Presynaptic Vesicle Stores Mediate Cellular and Network Plasticity Defects in an Early-Stage Mouse Model of Alzheimer’s Disease” in *Molecular Neurodegeneration*.

**Nutan Vaidya**, MD, professor and chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Learning Environment, published an article titled “Clinical Outcome of Maintenance Electroconvulsive Therapy in Comorbid Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder” in the October volume of the *Journal of Psychiatric Research*.



## Other News

The Office of Academic Learning Environment has recently welcomed two new staff members!

**India Baughman** has joined as Student Programs Coordinator. In this role, she will provide support for Clinical Reflections I, II, III, and IV, the House and Learning Community program, and some diversity-related

programs. She will also assist with all ALE related events.

India received her bachelor’s degree in Communications with a major in Public Relations and minor in Sociology from Illinois State University. India has spent the past nine years of her career in education and has worked at Deer Path Middle School, Lake Forest High school and Lake Bluff School District in various capacities. Also, she has achieved a Level 1 certification with the Professional Ski Instructors of America.



*India Baughman*



*Brie Hodgins*

**Brie Hodgins** has joined the office as Senior Administrative Assistant, where she will be assisting Dr. Nutan Vaidya, Senior Associate Dean, and the rest of the ALE team.

Brie received her bachelor’s degree in Business Management with a major in Accounting and Finance from Columbia College of Missouri. Brie has spent the past eight years of her career in the healthcare industry supporting high-level executives in various capacities.

**The Office of Interprofessional Global Health** is pleased to announce the formation of two new international institutions partnerships with the **Universidad Biomédica Rafael Guívar y Valencia** in Xalapa, Mexico and **Galilee Medical Center** in Nahariya, Israel.

The *Universidad Biomédica Rafael Guívar y Valencia* is



# School & Department News

a newly established institution founded by a renowned physician and educator dedicated to addressing metabolic diseases, especially diabetes. Galilee Medical Center, the largest government hospital in the Galilee region of Israel, is an award-winning hospital with a strong interest in training international medical students through a variety of clinical rotations.

Both institutions have welcomed CMS students to fulfill

Global Health Elective experiences at their respective locations in 2019, and welcome the future involvement of other RFUMS schools, colleges, and programs.

Additionally, the partnership between RFU and **Vilnius University** in Lithuania has been expanded to facilitate CMS student participation in clinical rotations at the Vilnius University Faculty of Medicine teaching hospital. ■

## Off-Campus Activities



**Above:** Hunter Launer, CMS '20 (left), coordinated a Shabbat gathering to celebrate the holiday and to commemorate the lives lost at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

**Left:** OSR representatives Mohammed Akhter, CMS '22; Hunter Launer, CMS '20; Lily Sung, CMS '19; and Sam Bunting, CMS '21, attend the AAMC Annual Meeting: Learn Serve Lead in Austin, TX.

# Upcoming Events

## **AMWA Soirée**

March 3, 2019  
6:00 pm  
Café Ba Ba Reba

## **Art from the Benchtop**

March 11–28, 2019  
Scholl Gallery, RFUMS

## **Couples in Medicine**

March 5, 2019  
6:30 pm  
Scholl Gallery, RFUMS

## **ASRC**

March 20, 2019

## **Synapses Exhibit**

May 7–June 7, 2019  
Scholl Gallery, RFUMS

## **Pediatric Pathways**

March 13, 2019  
6:00 pm  
Centennial Room,  
RFUMS

## **Awards Day**

May 30, 2019  
Navy Pier

## **Match Day**

March 15, 2019  
RFUMS

## **Commencement**

May 31, 2019  
UIC Pavilion

**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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