



# Chicago Medical School Newsletter



Spring/Summer 2015 | Issue 1

# Dean's Message

What an amazing year Chicago Medical School has had. I hope all of you would agree it's a great time to be a faculty, staff, student, alumni or partner of this school and Rosalind Franklin University. As I have talked with many of you over the last year, one item kept coming up: Can you communicate more about the wonderful things that are happening at the school? The answer is yes! I am excited to announce this inaugural issue of the Chicago Medical School newsletter.

As you will see, the newsletter is a collaborative effort between faculty, staff, administration, alumni and students. This first issue is actually quite lengthy, but we had many exciting things to report. I'm sure you will find at least one item worthy of your time.

As you all know, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) recently announced that we are in full compliance with their standards and moved us to full accreditation with no qualifiers. This is exciting news. I can't thank the team enough for all the hard work they've done over the last 18 months to put us in this position. However, that's not all Chicago Medical School has been working on. Moving forward, this newsletter will be a vehicle for bringing you many exciting stories about the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alumni. We look forward to telling you about our re-imagined curriculum initiative, our "house system" and exciting new opportunities for everyone to get involved with the CMS community.

This year, the team is kicking off a CMS spirit campaign. We are so excited about the endeavors that CMS and RFUMS are engaged in! One of the things we would like to do is hear from you about your CMS spirit and pride. In each newsletter, we will highlight some of the responses that we receive. Please keep your submissions to about 250 words and email them to Candice Kosanke at [candice.kosanke@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:candice.kosanke@rosalindfranklin.edu).



Finally, I'm sure some of you will have comments and suggestions for future issues. You'll notice on the back page that there is contact information to send your thoughts. Positive feedback is always welcome! I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learning about the amazing things YOUR Chicago Medical School is doing. My challenge for all of you who read these pages is to get involved. Don't just read the CMS newsletter; become one of its stories!

Regards,

John Tomkowiak, MD, MOL  
Dean  
Chicago Medical School

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# Welcome from the Student Dean

Dear Chicago Medical School,

You are about to read the first Chicago Medical School Newsletter.

The students, staff and faculty of Chicago Medical School (CMS) do incredible things, and we needed a way to highlight their accomplishments and send updates in a way that's fun and meaningful to read. This newsletter comes about, in many ways, from the simple fact that we do *so much* as a school that we needed a central place to showcase these achievements. With each newsletter, you're going to read about students (successfully) lobbying for opportunities that make the Chicago Medical School experience even more meaningful and see how the incredible staff of CMS supports these students every step of the way.

At certain points in the last few years, this could have been a tough newsletter to write. Chicago Medical School faced difficulties with LCME accreditation in 2013, and for a little while, it was hard to see the upside. It didn't take long, though, to see why we're proud to call CMS "our school." We've seen students, faculty and staff rally together to redraw policies, restructure departments, and use accreditation as a springboard to start a new chapter for the school. It's an exciting time to be a student here at CMS, with new alliances, curriculum changes, and student traditions being implemented with widespread school support. We have chosen to be defined, not by our challenges, but by how we've taken those challenges and made them strengths, which is what truly makes us Chicago Medical School. Take this newsletter and all the accomplishments detailed within it, and use it as a reminder that as a school, we've set the bar high.

Finally, this newsletter comes at a significant point in each class's medical education:

To the Class of 2015: Congratulations, doctors! We're so proud of everything you've accomplished as a class, and we expect incredible things

# ***Victoria Hoch***

## ***CMS '17***

from you! We'll miss you here on campus, but you've left your legacy at CMS and you're now part of a bigger family of CMS alumni. This won't be the last we hear of you, and we look forward to seeing "our M4s" become the physicians that we one day hope to be!

To the Class of 2016: We miss you on campus, but you've proven yourself in the hospital and you've explored most of the core disciplines of medicine, an accomplishment in itself. Good luck as you start finalizing a career path, filling out residency applications, taking Step 2, and beginning your last year!

To the Class of 2017: Now comes the fun part! It's been a tough two years, but you're almost out into the world! Good luck on Step 1 (we're all rooting for you!) and make sure you take a quick break to celebrate! Don't forget to stay connected to campus next year, and have fun learning hands-on medicine!

To the Class of 2018: One year down! You should be proud of everything you've learned this year, so impress your friends with your newfound medical lingo and have a relaxing summer! We're proud of our "youngest" group, and we're excited to watch you show the Class of 2019 the way around!

Enjoy the first Chicago Medical School Newsletter, and have a wonderful summer, CMS!

Sincerely,

Victoria Hoch  
Student Dean, Chicago Medical School  
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science  
Chicago Medical School, Class of 2017

# Pinning Ceremony



The medical school's inaugural Pinning Ceremony, honoring the Class of 2018, was held on April 17 in Rhoades Auditorium. This ceremony, traditionally held to celebrate the completion of the first year of medical school, also celebrated the sense of community that is central to the Chicago Medical School experience.

After an introduction and opening

remarks by House Council President Archana Ramesh, CMS '18, the welcome address was delivered by Dean John Tomkowiak, MD, MOL, who discussed the relationships medical students form during their education and careers.

The keynote address was delivered by Gregory Brisson, MD, assistant professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr.



# Class of 2018



• • • • *The Class of 2018 recites the Physician's Oath, led by Douglas Reifler, MD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs.*

getting involved on campus and forming connections that would last beyond graduation.

The ceremony culminated in a presentation of the pins. Members of the Class of 2018 processed onstage according to their school houses — Emanuel House, Portes House, Lipschultz House and Finkel House — and received a pin depicting their house's crest. Student names were read by members of the M2 Executive House Council and the pins were placed on each student's white coat by the M1 learning community mentor of the corresponding house. These mentors are faculty role models responsible for providing advice, clinical mentoring and social support to the students within their learning community.

The final event of the evening was a post-ceremony celebration held in the Rothstein Warden Centennial Learning Center.

Brisson reminisced about his own experience in medical school and highlighted the importance of making an impact — of making sure that students leave their mark on their medical school as much as medical school leaves its mark on them.

In keeping with the mission of the House Council, both speakers focused on the importance of

# Body Donor Memorial Ceremony

**By Joseph Guerrero, CMS '18**

The completion of Gross Anatomy Lab was an important landmark in our medical education. This course and everything it offered students would not have been possible without the generosity of our body donors and their kin. To pay tribute, first-year students from Chicago Medical School and Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine hosted the Body Donor Memorial Ceremony on the chilly, overcast afternoon of May 5.

More than 100 students, faculty and staff filled the pavilion to show respect and gratitude for the donors. The room was adorned with candles and arrangements of white flowers. Students from both colleges read poems and essays, sang, and played musical instruments. All participants displayed impressive talents, and the ceremony was truly beautiful. As the performances ended, all attendees were invited to leave a thought, feeling, lesson or memory behind as their contribution to the memorial. After writing on notecards titled “Giving Back,” attendees lined up outside to place their cards into a fire, symbolic of a cremation. A quiet reception then brought the event to a close.

To say that Gross Anatomy was different from the other courses we have taken at CMS would be a vast understatement. Anatomy lab required us to use scalpels and forceps, wear scrubs and gloves, stand for hours on end, and try our best to not destroy any structures. It was the surgery rotation of our first year. At a time when we were (sometimes frantically) treading in an ocean of PowerPoint slides, Gross Anatomy provided us an opportunity for some hands-on learning.

Over the past year, we became increasingly familiar with the internal layout and workings of a total stranger. We did not have many details about the lives of our cadaver specimens — a first name, an age, and whatever assumptions we could make from the discovery of tattoos, scars, or medical devices. At first, the whole idea was odd to us. *“Is it okay to be cutting up a dead person?”* made at least a few appearances on the ticker of my stream of consciousness. But as the weeks went by, the cuts went deeper, and we revealed more and more, the peculiarity transformed into awe, and I realized how much of a privilege it was to be learning anatomy from the body of a human. We became very familiar with our cadavers, and



# Class of 2018

we gained a perspective unknown to them or to their closest loved ones.

I was one of those individuals that *liked* anatomy lab. Sure, some elements of Gross Anatomy were just that: gross. The penetrating smells, the splashy fats, the collection buckets, and the varying degrees of processing and ripeness were each enough to keep me from spending too much of my free time in the lab. But I appreciated honing my novice scalpel skills, took pride in my dissections, and was immensely interested in the anatomical variants that were found. I also enjoyed the social aspect of learning from each other, especially leading up to the practicals; after all, it is pretty uncommon for so many of us to be working in one place at one time. I am sure that even those who didn't find so many silver linings would agree that the course was an extremely valuable experience.

Part of the purpose of an anatomy course with human cadavers is to desensitize us. Working with real bodies teaches future physicians to, when necessary, detach themselves

from the person and look at a clinical situation as simply working on a specimen, allowing us to deliver objective, clear-headed, knowledge-based health care. Equally important to me, supplementing text and 2D images with a tangible experience helped to ingrain anatomy into my mind. When I think about a knee joint, not only can I picture it in detail, but I know how the condylar surfaces should feel, whether healthy or arthritic. This will remain with me.

The memorial service was a special way to commemorate everything we have gained during the past year in anatomy. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the planning, set up, performances, readings, and cleanup. And thank you to everyone who was in attendance. It was an honor to be involved in this meaningful event with you.

*Students place their notecards into a fire in a gesture symbolic of cremation.*



# Updates from Class Officers

We're almost there! As we round out our second year of medical school, we can definitely say that we've spent a lot of time studying. We've taken 23 combined exams, passed a head-to-toe physical, passed an "it's all testable" Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), and as of May 23, 2015, spent 650 days together as the Chicago Medical School Class of 2017. It's been a tough two years, but we're excited to move past the lectures, past the combined exams, and past Step 1 to start what we're told is "the best part of medical school." As rising M3s, it's an exciting time to be a medical student.

The past two years have been filled with events and changes that have enriched our education. As a class, we initiated the development of a First Year Clinical Exposure Program to allow M1s to network with alumni, and we've watched the program thrive with the Class of 2018. We've seen our classmates rise to the occasion and work with Dean Tomkowiak to keep us informed of LCME developments and serve on accreditation teams. We hosted two very successful CMS M1-M4 Mixers, which collectively had over 400 students in attendance. At class

socials alone, we've eaten almost twenty gallons of ice cream, seventy pizzas, and undeniably shown our love of "breakfast for dinner" by munching on eight pounds of bacon and over a hundred pancakes. We're a pretty great class, and we've got a lot to look forward to.

As we begin our clinical years, the CMS 2017 Class Council is excited to continue working with administration to find new ways to improve the class experience. Most immediately, we're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to take Advanced Cardiac Life Support at the tail end of Clinical Skills weeks, an opportunity that over three-quarters of our class has signed up for. We're going to continue working for these sorts of experiences during our upperclassmen years — increasing times for us to connect with the whole school and finding ways to network with alumni and clinical faculty in locations convenient for us. We will also continue on our path to be involved with curriculum changes and continue finding ways to bring optional clinical workshops, case presentations, and accessible didactic lectures to our class. This wouldn't be possible without the extreme support and optimism of

# Class of 2017



● ● ● ● ● The 2014-2015 Class of 2017 Council, from left: Bret Goldman, Rushil Desai, Victoria Hoch, Shana Patel, Suhag Patel, and Hilary Tamar.

the CMS administration, so on behalf of the entire Class of 2017, a heartfelt thank-you to absolutely everyone who has supported us!

Finally, we would like to end our year by reaching out to the CMS Class of 2015. Thank you, CMS 2015, for all the guidance and the time you've spent shaping CMS before us. Thank you for being the scary M3s we looked up to last year, and thank you for showing us how not-scary you really are. You've made your mark on us as "the upperclassmen," and we loved meeting you during

ECR, class mixers, and anytime you'd tiredly walk around campus after a shelf exam. Congratulations on the innumerable accomplishments you've achieved while at CMS, and from all 189 of us in CMS 2017, ***congratulations and good luck!*** We'll miss you!

Sincerely,

Rushil Desai  
CMS '17 President

Brett Goldman  
CMS '17 Vice President



# Updates from the Class President Class of 2016

Transitioning from M2 to M3 year is odd because we go from seeing our classmates all day, every day to interacting only with the few who may share the same rotation. Third year is everything we hoped medical school would be (Talking to patients! Learning at the bedside! Touching live organs!) and more (commuting... fatigue... anxiety). To the Class of 2017: In hindsight, the stress of obtaining the perfect rotation schedule at the most ideal locations seems moot; with an adaptable attitude, you'll do fine anywhere. It is with that same hindsight that the 2016 class officers rallied our administration to make Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) a required part of future curricula. We are very proud of this and hope that M3s continue to collaborate with "Home Base" up in North Chicago on how things are going on the wards.

Soon we begin our fourth year, when many of us will scatter across the country like X-rays off reflective surfaces. Unfortunately, the limited number of intramural CMS electives

requires us to complete some fourth-year electives elsewhere. The silver lining is that we can pick programs around the country that suit our individual wants in a rotation, such as a unique specialty (psychiatric oncology, anyone?) or with an esteemed mentor, thus greatly enriching our medical education. From what we hear, CMS grads are known for being adaptable because of the number of hospitals we see as upperclassmen.

More than once, someone has commented on how weird it is to talk to younger medical students and realize how much we've learned in such a short amount of time. It's true. We can all deliver babies, name the anatomy of a gallbladder, and navigate insulin administration. How amazing is that? With one more year of training under our belts, we are going to be those wise, well-dressed seniors walking around campus. Can't wait.

Kimberly Burfiend  
CMS '16 President

# The Great Give Back

## “Giving Is In Our DNA”



The Great Give Back, the university's first day of giving, took place on April 24. Students, faculty, staff and alumni from all five schools came together to raise over \$40,000 for scholarships.

To demonstrate that “giving is in their DNA,” student organizations and groups participated in a Photo Scavenge Hunt competition. In this photo, members of the CMS 2018 Class Council — Rana Rabei, Joseph Guerrero, Patrick Holman, Valerie Chavez, Javier Fariñas and Rajiv Yogendran — recreated Dr. Rosalind Franklin's famous Photo 51.

## All School Research Consortium Awards

Congratulations to our students for their research and presentations at the university's 10th Annual All School Research Consortium on March 18.

Karthic Chandran, CMS '17 • • • • •  
*CMS Best Student Research Poster*

Laura Seewald, CMS '17  
*CMS Best Scientific Talk*

Olsi Gjyshi, MD/PhD '17 • • • • •  
*Keystone Travel Award*



# Celebrating Our Student Leaders

Each year, Rosalind Franklin University holds the Student Leadership Awards Ceremony to honor students who demonstrate exceptional commitment and service to the university, their school, and their community. This year's award ceremony took place on May 7 as part of Impact Week, which celebrated student leadership in all its forms.

Congratulations to the CMS students who were honored at the annual Student Leadership Award Ceremony for their leadership skills and their commitment to their school and their peers.

**Victoria Hoch**, CMS '17, the school's recently elected Student Dean, received the CMS Student Leadership Award for her two years of service as president of the 2017 Class Council. **Patrick Kent**, CMS '17, recently elected student representative to the RFUMS Board of Trustees, received the RFUMS At Large Leadership Award for the determination and dedication he showed to the student body through his role as Executive Student Council President. He also received the Outstanding Representation of a Student Voice Award.

Other winners included **Jalia Tucker**, CMS '17, who received the Rising Rosalind Award; **Shannon Burke**, CMS '18, who received the Outstanding Community Member Award and the Stewardship Award; and **Olsi Gjyshi**, MD/PhD '17, who received the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award.

Several university organizations were also recognized for their accomplishments. This year's Outstanding Student Organization Award was presented to **Phi Delta Epsilon**. The medical fraternity, which established its Beta Tau chapter at CMS in 1949, is devoted to the principles of philanthropy, leadership, and education. The organization's recent activity includes planning and hosting the university's first Dr. Rosalind



Franklin pageant — an event which raised over \$1,000 for Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Members of the fraternity's previous and current executive board accepted the award on PhiDE's behalf.

Other group and organization awards were the Outstanding Community Service Award, presented to the **Interprofessional Clinic Initiative**; the Outstanding Educational Service Award, presented to the **International Health Interest Group** for World AIDS Week; the Outstanding New Student Organization Award, presented to **Rosalind Franklin University International Students**; the Outstanding Established Program Award, presented to the **South Asian Medical Association** for its Diwali program; the Team Unity Award, presented to **Outreach for Health**; the Outstanding Multicultural Project Award, presented to **OUTPatients** and the **Women's Health Interest Group** for their safe sex workshops; and the Helix Award, presented to the **Athletics Club** for their Stress Free Friday initiative.

To all the individual students and organization leaders — we're proud of all you have accomplished and everything you've done for the school and your fellow students!



*Phi Delta Epsilon, top row: Martin Wrobel, '18, Karthic Chandran '17, Philip Schoenrock '17, Barry Golestany '18; bottom row: Cassie Rosello '18, Sarah Carballo '17, Archana Ramesh '18, Kylie Busse '18, Kate Fiderler '17*



*Olsi Gjyshti MD/PhD '17; Kelsey Deacon, Fitness and Recreation Specialist; and Landon Herrera, CMS '17*



*Shannon Burke, CMS '18, with Sara Nobbe, Coordinator, Student Life*



*Jalia Tucker, CMS '17*

# I<sup>4</sup>C Reimagined Curriculum Updates

The I<sup>4</sup>C Ad Hoc Curriculum Task Force, appointed in October 2014 to create the Reimagined Curriculum's structure and content, will soon enter into Phase II of its operations.

The Curriculum Committee began its work a year and a half ago, when members analyzed the needs of society in the current healthcare landscape, determined the skills and knowledge future physicians must have to meet those needs, and identified opportunities to improve the school's curriculum to fully meet the educational needs of students.

During Phase I, the task force identified specific goals and outcomes for student learning, assessed proposed changes to the curriculum, and formed the infrastructure needed to support the redesigned curriculum. This infrastructure includes the recently created Department of Clinical Sciences and Department of Medical Education, Innovation and Humanities.

Phase II, which will run from July to December 2015, will focus

on development and delivery of educational materials for the new curriculum. Task force members will assemble and train writers, create all necessary frameworks and materials, and recommend a faculty development curriculum and assessment process to ensure that faculty members have all the skills needed to carry out the curriculum reforms.

## **Curriculum Task Force, Phase II Membership**

### Chair:

Mary Ann Clemens, EdD, FACHE

### Members:

Carl Correll, PhD  
Michael Fennewald, PhD  
Stuart Kiken, MD  
Monica Oblinger, PhD  
Naomi Parrella, MD  
Gordon Pullen, PhD  
William Rhoades, DO, FACP  
Kimiko Suzue, MD

### Advisors:

Sheryl Juliano, MA  
Jeanette Morrison, MD  
James Record, MD, JD, FACP  
John Vitale, PhD, MHS (CHP representative)  
Robert Intine, PhD (SCPM representative)  
Abbie Lyden, PharmD (COP representative)

# Annual Awards Ceremony

The following awards were presented to members of the Class of 2015 at the Annual Awards Ceremony on June 4.

## **CMS Alumni Association Scholastic Achievement Award**

*For maintaining the highest GPA throughout all four years of medical school.*

Benjamin Andrew	Mark Shievitz
Anna Rounis	

## **CMS Scholarship Award for Highest Average in the Basic Sciences**

*For achieving a perfect "A" average in the basic sciences.*

Benjamin Andrew	John Moeller
Adam Berry	Paul Piennette
Margaret Besler	Lisa Rauschert
Joseph Brantman	Anna Rounis
Jay Guan	Mark Shievitz
Meng-Chieh Hsieh	Ashley Takahashi
Bryan Lamb	Jue Zhang

## **CMS Scholarship Award for Highest Average in the Clinical Sciences**

*For achieving a perfect "A" average in the clinical clerkships.*

Benjamin Andrew	Jennifer Lee
Aaron Baessler	Anthony Persino
Randi Connor-Schuler	Anna Rounis
Avery Kechter	Mark Shievitz
Ali Khiabani	Alyssa Wield
Jill Krissberg	

## **CMS Clerkship Award**

*For excellence in academics, clinical skills, and professionalism in their respective specialty.*

Mark Shievitz, Emergency Medicine  
Naomi Thompson, Family Medicine  
Aaron Baessler, Medicine  
Philip Lichtenstein, Neurology  
Alyssa Wield, Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Jill Krissberg, Pediatrics  
Malcom Vandrevalla, Psychiatry  
Aaron Gipsman, Surgery

## **Ronald M. Reifler Primary Care Award**

*For plans to continue a career in primary care.*  
Afrin Burney

## **Martin Gecht, MD '44, Memorial Award**

*For dedication to community service projects.*  
Sara Cady

## **Excellence in Interprofessional Health Care Award**

*For outstanding achievement in leadership and interprofessionalism.*

Zubin Wala

## **John J. Sheinin, MD, PhD, Research Award**

*For originality and creativity in a research project.*

Joshua Bakhsheshian	Kinjan Patel
Michael Park	

## **MD with Distinction in Research**

*For completing a committee-refereed research program during the course of their studies.*

Joshua Bakhsheshian	Michael Park
Michael Daneshvar	Kinjan Patel
Julia Ding	William Pearse
Lindsey Edwards	Lisa Rauschert
Rachel Forman	Zubin Wala
Aaron Gipsman	Claribel Wee
Jennie Orlando	

## **Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award**

*For demonstration of integrity, compassion, altruism, respect, empathy and service.*

Shannon Liu

## **CMS Dean's Award for Service to the School**

*For active participation in school functions and commitment to the school's future.*

Amanda Abuaf	Amir Khan
Corianna Anderson	Ali Khiabani
Lauren Bonzelaar	Jill Krissberg
Sara Cady	Shannon Liu
Anita Desai	Rachel Tanz
Deepa Deot	Marian Tripp
Michelle Di Fiore	John Wahhab
Jenna Erickson	Alyssa Wield
Trevor Gerson	Joseph Yard
Kelsi Greider	

## **Eugene J. Rogers, MD '46, Memorial Award for Excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

*For plans to continue a career in physical medicine and rehabilitation.*

Carrie Miller



# Congratulations, Graduates!

The Class of 2015 graduated on June 5 at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago, during the university's 101st Commencement Ceremony.

William E. Evans, PharmD, faculty member and former president and CEO at St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, gave the commencement address, in which he encouraged graduates to always continue learning and growing in their careers. The ceremony also included a student address given by Patrick Kent, CMS '17, president of the Executive Student Council.

More than 600 students — including 183 CMS students — received degrees. The graduates joined a family of more than 17,000 Rosalind Franklin University alumni.









# Office of the Dean

## **Dean Tomkowiak's University Open Forum**

**On May 18, Dean Tomkowiak held another University Open Forum to provide updates on Chicago Medical School to university faculty, staff and students. He highlighted some of the school's recent accomplishments — such as the formation of a new residency program at Centegra, scheduled to start in 2016 — and shared his vision of CMS's near future.**

**Dean Tomkowiak discussed the progress of the Reimagined Curriculum, an initiative that was begun last year. As the curriculum task force completes its curriculum review and enters the second phase of its operations, administration is beginning to focus on expanding and creating the best opportunities for students.**

**Some of the possible options being considered by the task force include M1 intensive clinical training opportunities, which will get students immersed early on. These intensives will also allow students to explore potential career paths during their first year of medical school. And in keeping with the university's dedication to interprofessionalism, the reimagined curriculum effort is placing collaborative education at the forefront by increasing opportunities for CMS students to work and learn alongside other students in the university.**

**Dean Tomkowiak concluded his presentation with an expression of appreciation for all the faculty members who have made the medical school what it is today. Referring to the recent Faculty and Friends Recognition Dinner, he praised the faculty for their commitment to the school and to its students. The reimagined curriculum will involve the efforts of every faculty member, and CMS seeks to create a culture where those contributions are truly recognized and appreciated.**



# CMS Faculty and Friends Recognition Dinner



*Left to right: John Tomkowiak, Dean of CMS; Stuart Oserman, MD, FACP; Judith Potashkin, PhD; Sheryl Juliano, MA; Naomi Parrella, MD; and Nutan Vaidya, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Talent Recognition and Enhancement*

On May 1, the Office of Faculty Recognition and Enhancement held the inaugural CMS Faculty and Friends Recognition Dinner — the school's way of demonstrating its appreciation of its faculty members for their dedicated excellence in teaching. Although all faculty members were recognized for their accomplishments, the ceremony placed a special emphasis on honoring the contributions of the more than 700 volunteer faculty members who dedicate their time and effort to CMS.

After dinner and an introductory speech by Dean John Tomkowiak, several faculty members were given special recognition for their accomplishments.

**Stuart Oserman**, MD, FACP, professor of medicine, received the CMS Dean's Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching in recognition of the instruction and mentorship he gives CMS students at Lutheran General Hospital.

Five faculty members received the CMS Champions Award for their embodiment of the CMS mission statement and core values: **Carl Correll**, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; **Ted Lorenc**, MD, physician and director of medical student affairs at Centegra; **Lori Moss**, MD '87, associate professor of psychiatry and director of electroconvulsive therapy service at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center; **Naomi Parrella**, MD, clerkship director for family medicine and primary care; and **Judith Potashkin**, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology.

**Sheryl Juliano**, MA, assistant dean for educational best practices, received the Special Recognition for Contribution to CMS Educational Innovation Award for her efforts to evaluate and implement an innovative curriculum.

# Diversity Events

## Understanding Culture Through Cinema

On April 8, the film *El Andalón* [The Healer] was shown as part of the Understanding Culture Through Cinema series - a program designed to create a venue for students, faculty and staff to discuss current minority issues. *El Andalón* tells the story of Don Sergio Castro, a humanitarian who has spent more than 45 years building schools, cleaning water systems, and treating burn and wound victims in Chiapas, Mexico. The screening was followed by a discussion of the film, moderated by Hector Rasgado, PhD, and Nutan Vaidya, MD.

*El Andalón* was the second film featured by the Understanding Culture Through Cinema program. The first film, *Belle*, was shown last November and focused on African American culture and class. Future films in the series will focus on women and the LGBTQ community.

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## Second Annual DOCS Kickoff Event

The Office of Diversity - along with its community partners - is planning the second annual Doctors of Color (DOCS) Kickoff Event. The DOCS Mentorship Program, established by CMS and the Cook County Physician's Association, matches medical students with physician mentors and is designed to promote and support underrepresented minority medical students as they pursue careers in medicine.

The program's first kickoff event, which took place on September 27, 2014, brought together physicians in the Chicago area - many of whom are CMS alumni - who volunteered to serve as mentors. Participating alumni included Agnes Lattimer, MD '54, former medical director of Cook County Hospital; Dianna Grant, MD '79, former vice president of medical management at Advocate Trinity Hospital and 2014 CMS Distinguished Alumnus; Kina Peppers, MD '01, obstetrics and gynecology instructor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; and Ronald Rembert Jr., MD '00, physician advisor at Accretive Health. These mentors met with students from Chicago Medical School and other local medical schools.

Since that event last fall, over 60 students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine have been matched with physician mentors. Mentors and mentees were matched based on common goals and interests. Program participants met for several DOCS activities throughout the year, including clinician shadowing, networking engagements and workshops.

The second annual kickoff event, planned for fall of 2015, will launch the program's second year of mentoring.

## 2014 DOCS Kickoff Event



*Tapera Chiwocha, CMS '17; Nicole Brewer-Lowry, CMS '16; and Shannae Ferguson, CMS '17.*



*Mentors and mentees.*



**For any questions or concerns about diversity issues at Chicago Medical School, please contact:**

**Mildred M.G. Olivier, MD '88 FACS**  
**Assistant Dean for Diversity**  
**RWCLC 1.091**  
**847-578-3264**  
**[mildred.olivier@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:mildred.olivier@rosalindfranklin.edu)**



# Office of Graduate

Two GME training programs recently held ceremonies for graduating residents and fellows. We're proud of all our graduates and wish them well as they move on to the next stage of their careers.

The Psychiatry Resident Graduation Ceremony was held at the Highland Park Country Club on June 11.

Congratulations to all the residents:

Biana Kotlyar, MD  
Pavan Prasad, MD  
Rupinder Randhawa, MD  
Matthew Robin, DO  
Hang Wang, MD

The Internal Medicine Resident and Fellow Graduation Ceremony was held on campus on June 12. Ten postgraduate residents, the chief medical resident and seven fellows graduated during the ceremony. The fellows completed their subspecialty training in cardiovascular disease (3); interventional cardiology (1); endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism (2); and infectious disease (1).

Congratulations to all the Internal Medicine residents and fellows!

Residents:

Adeola Banjo, MD  
Majdi Al Dliw, MD  
Nawfal Al-Khafaji, MD  
Mahmoud Alsayed, MD  
Ahmed Ghadai, MD  
Hosam Hakim, MD  
Yenal Harper, MD  
Veena Balakrishnan Iyer, MD  
Adnan Khan, MD  
Sharleen Sidhu

Chief Resident:

Ibrahim Habib

Fellows:

Suzi Kochar, MD  
Narmada Movva, MD  
Sneha Parmar, MD  
Rania Saleh, MD  
Ankur Sethi, MD  
Mukesh Singh, MD  
Param Singh, MD

# Medical Education



*Psychiatry residents, from left to right: Matthew Robin, DO; Hang Wang, MD; Biana Kotlyar, MD; Rupinder Randhawa, MD; and Pavan Prasad, MD.*



*Internal Medicine residents and associate program director, from left to right: Adnan Khan, MD; Nawfal Al-Khafaji, MD; Adeola Banjo, MD; Ahmed Ghadai, MD; William Cotter, MD, associate program director; Mahmoud Alsayed, MD; Hosam Hakim, MD; Veena Balakrishnan Iyer, MD; and Majdi Al Dliw, MD.*

# School & Department News

## Awards & Honors

Congratulations to the CMS faculty members who were recognized for their exemplary research, teaching and service at the RFUMS Faculty Awards!

**Judith Potashkin**, MD, Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, received the Morris L. Parker Research Award. **Eugene Dimitrov**, MD, Department of Physiology and Biophysics received the Board of Trustees Research Award. **Monica Oblinger**, MD, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, received the Rosalind Franklin Award for Excellence in Teaching. **Hector Rasgado-Flores**, PhD, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, received the Dean's Award for Diversity and Inclusion. **Stuart Goldman**, MD, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, was inducted into the Master Teacher Guild.

Congratulations to **Lise Eliot**, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience, for receiving the Centennial Scholar Award at the Institute of Medicine of Chicago's 100th Anniversary gala reception on April 18. Dr. Eliot's work in the field of neuroscience has had an important impact on issues of social justice and public education. Through books, journal articles, lectures and media interviews, she has promoted a greater understanding of sex differences in brain development and their impact for educational policy in order to address gender bias and help overcome gender gaps in STEM fields.

**Naomi Parrella**, MD, assistant professor and clerkship director for family medicine and primary care, received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award at the Annual Awards Ceremony on June 4. Dr. Parrella was selected for this honor by the CMS Class of 2015.

**Daryn Cass**, CMS '17, recently received a Medical Student Scholar Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry. This award — a travel fellowship — enabled her to attend the society's Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada. The fellowship also included participation in the SOBP Mentorship Program, special programming during the annual meeting, and recognition events held in honor of the travel award recipients.



Several non-graduating students received recognition at the Annual Awards Ceremony on June 4. **Andrew Alsterda**, CMS '18, received the Melvyn Leichtling, MD '48, Oncology Research Award for his outstanding research proposal. **Nicholas Hawley**, CMS '16, former CMS Student Dean, received the Ronald Bangasser, MD '75, Memorial Award for his exemplary leadership. **Mari Freedberg**, CMS '17, and **Julie Witkowski**, CMS '16, received the CMS Student Humanitarian Award for their dedication to selfless service to improve health. **Israel Labao Jr.**, CMS '17, and **Laura Seewald**, CMS '17, received the USPHS Excellence in Public Health Award for their involvement in public health issues and their commitment to the mission of the Public Health Service.

## Presentations

**Karthic Chandran**, CMS '17, presented a poster titled "Implications of a Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Alpha (PPAR- $\alpha$ ) Ligand Clofibrate in Inflammatory and Invasive Breast Cancer" at the Chicago Medical Society Midwest Clinical Conference Research Symposium on March 13-14. The poster tied for first place in the the basic science category.

Assistant professors **David Everly**, PhD, and **Neelam Sharma-Walia**, PhD, presented at the Wisdom 4 Health Symposium on April 16. The symposium, organized by the American Cancer Society and held in the Centennial Room, featured presentations and panel discussions about the effect of good nutrition and physical activity on cancer prevention and survival. Dr. Everly presented "Targeting Cancer Through Infectious Diseases" and Dr. Sharma-Walia presented "Lipid Biology: Implications in Breast Cancer."

Several students received trainee travel awards to present their research at the Combined Annual Meeting of the Central Society for Clinical and Translational Research and Midwestern Section of the American Federation for Medical Research. The annual meeting, held in Chicago on April 23-24, provides a forum for young investigators to present their research to leaders in their fields.

Doctoral student **Jayashree Chandrasekharan** presented "Lipoxins: Implications in Kaposi's Sarcoma Associated Herpesvirus (KSHV) Biology." **Patrick Sowa**, CMS '16, presented "Leukotriene A4 Hydrolase Inhibitors: Potential Chemotherapeutic Modality for Primary Effusion Lymphoma." **Lashika Yogendran**, CMS '17, presented "Sphingosine Kinases Play Important Role in Breast Cancer Cell Survival." All three students work under the guidance of **Neelam Sharma-Walia**, PhD, assistant professor.

# School & Department News

**Marina Wolf**, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Neuroscience, delivered a seminar at the University of Pittsburg Center for Neuroscience, titled “Synaptic Mechanisms Maintaining Persistent Cocaine Craving.”

## Events & Developments

On Wednesday, August 26, 2015, the Department of Medicine will host the **8th Annual COPD Symposium**, titled “Advances in COPD.” This event will feature discussions by local experts on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a progressive disease that makes it difficult to breathe.

The agenda currently consists of “Lung Transplantation in COPD” (11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.), given by Sangeeta M. Bhorade, MD, associate professor of medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; “Interventional Bronchoscopy in COPD” (1:30 – 2:30 p.m.), given by D. Kyle Hogarth, MD, associate professor of medicine at University of Chicago Hospital and Clinics; and “Reducing Early Readmissions after COPD Exacerbations” (2:30 – 3:30 p.m.), given by Steve White, MD, professor of medicine at University of Chicago Hospital and Clinics.

The symposium will be moderated by **Ashok Fulambarker**, MD, FCCP, professor of medicine at CMS and director of the Pulmonary Division at the FHCC. It will take place in the Centennial Room.

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CMS and Centegra Health System have partnered to establish a **new Internal Medicine residency program** that is scheduled to begin in July 2016. The program seeks to recruit, train and retain motivated clinicians committed to practicing in northern Illinois.

The new residency will be located at Centegra Hospital – McHenry. **Preston Cannady**, MD, FACP, professor of medicine at RFUMS, will serve as the Program Director.

The new residency program, which has been fully accredited, will participate in both ERAS and the NRMP. Candidate interviews are planned over the winter months to be followed by an all-in match in March 2016. Eight

residents will be accepted into the program in July 2016, with the goal of a total complement of 24 residents by 2019.

The participating residents will experience a hospital system very similar to the systems most will work in when they finish their training. In this program, residents will be prepared to become a primary care internist or a hospital-based internist who would work with inpatients only, or go on to become a subspecialist.

All those involved in this effort, both at Rosalind Franklin University and Centegra, are committed to the success of the residency program and to providing future residents the highest quality educational experience possible.

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Students had the opportunity to network with alumni and explore potential career paths at two events sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations. During **Pediatric Pathways** (April 23) and **Physician Assistant Pathways** (May 5), RFUMS alumni currently working as pediatricians and physician assistants, respectively, met with students to engage in small group conversations and discuss the subspecialties of their field.

### **Faculty & Alumni Call to Action: Get Involved**

As the CMS House and Learning Community Program enters its third year, there will be several opportunities for faculty and alumni to join the community experience as volunteer members. By becoming an advocate, mentor or advisor, faculty and alumni can connect with students to provide guidance and social support.

Different degrees of participation are available, allowing volunteers to find a level and pace that suit their schedule. For more information about becoming a faculty volunteer member, contact Lecia Slabaugh, MD '81, at [lecia.apantaku@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:lecia.apantaku@rosalindfranklin.edu) or Lisa Michaluk at [lisa.michaluk@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:lisa.michaluk@rosalindfranklin.edu). For more information about becoming an alumni volunteer member, contact Martha Kelly Bates at [martha.bates@rosalindfranklin.edu](mailto:martha.bates@rosalindfranklin.edu).



# Eight Tips for Trips Abroad

**By Collin Hanson, CMS '19**

*Mr. Hanson, an incoming M1, deferred enrollment in 2014 to participate in the Fulbright Program.*

Congratulations to all students finishing up their year in medical school! Undoubtedly it is a great achievement and you should be proud of the accomplishments you have made throughout the year. As summer quickly approaches, some of you may be preparing to head abroad for medical mission trips. Below you will find eight tips for trips abroad — pieces of advice that I have gathered during my time living in Ecuador participating in the Fulbright Program.

1

## **Be flexible — always!**

Time and organization are completely different in Latin America. In Ecuador, there is a phrase “*la hora ecuatoriana*,” or the “Ecuadorian hour.” Generally, nothing will start on time. This could be really difficult for someone who is used to planning ahead and being timely. Just remember to always be flexible and have a good attitude about things, even when they don’t go as planned.

2

## **Be open to trying new things.**

Experience the native culture! Paint your hair with achiote, dance with the indigenous community members, and don’t be afraid to try the food (even if insects are on the menu!). If your program allows you to accept meals from the community, try to finish the food they serve you. This shows respect, as they are welcoming you into their community and thanking you for your services.

3

## **Toilet paper is a no-go.**

The septic systems in Latin America aren’t designed to handle toilet paper. That being said, you can’t flush ANYTHING (except body waste) down the toilets. There will usually be a small trash can near the toilet, so be sure to dispose of everything in there. If you are going to a rural area, there will be toilets, but they most likely will not have a seat and won’t be connected to running water. Usually you’ll do a “gravity flush” by pouring a bucket of water from a bin into the toilet. It’s not a pretty subject matter, but share funny stories (even if they are embarrassing) with fellow trip-mates to make it more enjoyable.

# road in Latin America

4

**Wifi sometimes doesn't exist.**

¿Hay wifi? Is there wifi? Maybe yes, maybe no, but chances are it is probably not a good signal. Take the time to disconnect from your devices. Many people will spend hours trying to find the perfect connection to text someone back home or post a picture. Don't worry; you can do all that later. Live for the moment, not for the post.

5

**Practice good manners and be polite.**

There's no such thing as being too polite. When you enter a room, make sure you greet those present by saying *buenos días* (in the morning), *buenas tardes* (in the afternoon before 6 p.m.), or *buenas noches* (any time after 6 p.m.). When leaving, always say thank you (*muchas gracias*) and *feliz día*, *feliz tarde* or *feliz noche*. These phrases are appropriate for anyone, regardless of age or gender. It can be disrespectful to enter a room without greeting those present, especially in a medical setting to both the patient and the doctor.

6

**Be resourceful when in the clinic or hospital.**

Many of the clinic sites where I have volunteered have been in community buildings, such as schools and community centers. Consult rooms might be constructed out of sheets hung on clotheslines and the standards for sanitation are much, much more relaxed. Don't let these things concern you; most of the patients you will be serving are used to this being the way things are done. Be resourceful and find creative uses for everyday items.

7

**Listen to patient stories.**

This might be difficult for those that don't know the language, but hopefully there is an interpreter available to help. Make the most out of volunteering in the clinics by talking and listening to the patients. Laugh with them, hold their hand when they cry, and celebrate with them when they receive good news.

8

**Enjoy every moment, even the difficult ones.**

There will be times when you feel frustrated and upset, but the joyful and amazing experiences will far outnumber the bad ones. Approach each situation as a cultural learning experience, and have fun. You won't be the same coming back.

## **Upcoming Events:**

CMS Field Day & Chicagoland BBQ  
On campus (Date to be determined)

Orientation  
August 12-14 on campus

White Coat Ceremony  
August 14 in Rhoades Auditorium, on campus

RFUfest  
October 2-3 at the Drake Hotel, Chicago



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**UNIVERSITY**  
*of* MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

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