

Summer 5-1-2012

## Vital Signs, Summer 2012

Boonshoft School of Medicine

Follow this and additional works at: [https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/med\\_vital\\_signs](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/med_vital_signs)



Part of the [Medical Education Commons](#), and the [Medical Specialties Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

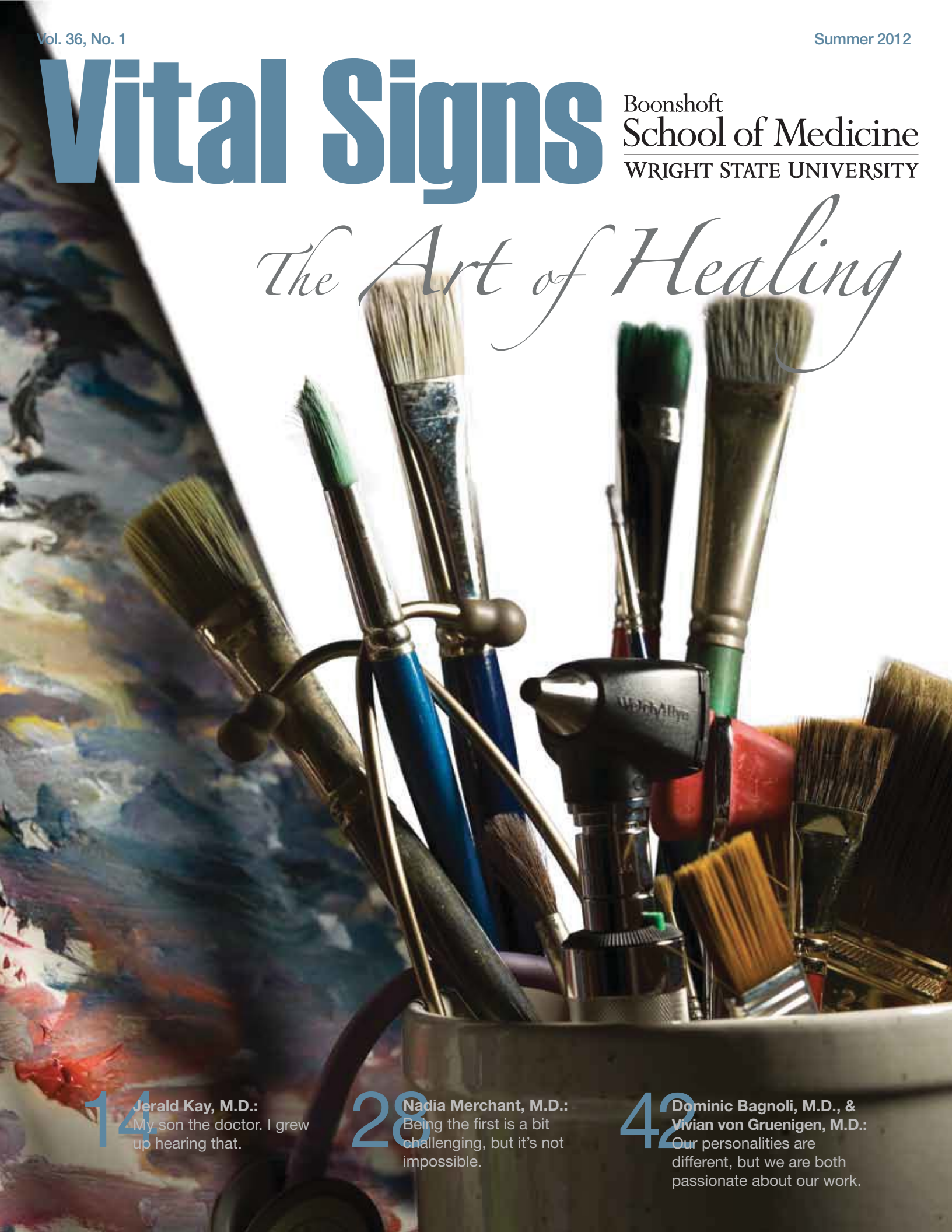
Boonshoft School of Medicine (2012). *Vital Signs, Summer 2012*. Dayton, Ohio: Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Boonshoft School of Medicine Newsletters at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vital Signs by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact [library-corescholar@wright.edu](mailto:library-corescholar@wright.edu).

# Vital Signs

Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

## *The Art of Healing*



14

**Jerald Kay, M.D.:**

My son the doctor. I grew up hearing that.

28

**Nadia Merchant, M.D.:**

Being the first is a bit challenging, but it's not impossible.

42

**Dominic Bagnoli, M.D., & Vivian von Gruenigen, M.D.:**

Our personalities are different, but we are both passionate about our work.

# From the Dean

2012 is a year of transitions for the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. I will be stepping down as dean on October 1 when Marjorie Bowman, M.D., M.P.A., professor and founding chair of the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, will become the sixth dean of the medical school. This year, we also said farewell to the medical school's second dean, William D. Sawyer, M.D., who passed away in March at the age of 82.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine for the past 14 years. The successes and accomplishments of the medical school during my tenure are the direct result of the outstanding leaders, faculty, staff, and students at the Boonshoft School of Medicine and Wright State University. The opportunity to work with these exceptional individuals and observe the growth of the medical school has been the highlight of my career. I thank you all for your dedication, compassion, scholarship, and service to our mission—the education of the next generation of physicians, research to find the treatments and cures of tomorrow, and service to improve health care in our community.

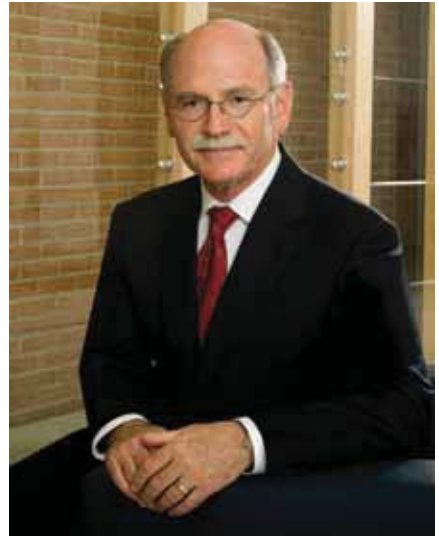
I would like to welcome Dr. Bowman to the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Dr. Bowman comes to us from the University of Pennsylvania where she serves as professor and founding chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, and director of the university's Center of Public Health Initiatives. As a family medicine physician and director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center of Public Health Initiatives, she brings with her a wealth of experience and commitment to community partnerships that will serve the medical school's mission well.

Thank you all for your generous support through the years. Without the tireless work of the Wright State family and our alumni and friends, none of this would be possible. I look forward to reading about the future successes of the Boonshoft School of Medicine in these pages for many years to come.



Howard M. Part, M.D.

Dean



# What's Inside

## Vital Signs

Vol. 36, No. 1  
Summer 2012

### Editor

Cindy Young

### Art Director

Emily Stamas

### Contributing Writers

Seth Bauguess  
Jane DelGiorno  
Stephanie Gottschlich  
Tim Gaffney  
Jim Hannah  
Cory MacPherson  
Heather Maurer  
Leigh Wilkins  
Cindy Young

### Photography

William Jones  
Chris Snyder

### How to contact us:

Editor, *Vital Signs*  
Wright State University  
Boonshoft School of Medicine  
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.  
Dayton, Ohio 45435

Phone: (937) 775-2951

Fax: (937) 775-3366

som\_mc@wright.edu  
med.wright.edu

### To submit Alumni Notes:

som\_adv@wright.edu

Phone: (937) 775-2972

*Vital Signs* is published for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

© 2012 Wright State University  
Boonshoft School of Medicine

Facebook is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.



Become our fan on Facebook



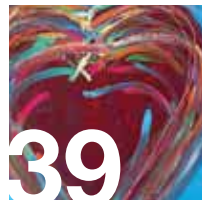
### HOME TEAM ADVANTAGE:

We'd like the person to maintain their personhood as long as they can.



### 14 YEARS OF TRANSFORMA- TION:

He is the most genuine individual I've ever had the privilege to call "boss."



### JOSEPH KANDEL, M.D.:

This is a marathon, not a sprint. Children with autism have special needs.



### SCOTT ALBRIGHT, M.D.:

I'm a perfect match.

### Snapshots

5

### Issues In Depth

The Art of Healing

9

### Faculty in Focus

Jerald Kay, M.D.

14

### A Closer Look

Home Team Advantage

17

Fourteen Years of Transformation

20

### 1,000 Words

22

### Research Spotlight

Seeing the Big Picture: The pieces are falling into place at the WSU & PHP Neuroscience Institute.

24

Clinical Trials Research Alliance: We anticipate this will be a game changer for clinical research in the Dayton region.

26

### In Residence

Nadia Merchant, M.D.

28

### Future Docs

Home is Where the Heart Is: I've had to teach a third grader how to write his name.

30

Class of 2016 in profile

33

### Milestones

34

### On the Move

38

### In Good Company

Stamp of Approval

39

Dominic Bagnoli, M.D., and Vivian von Gruenigen, M.D.

42

Match Play

44

### Alumni Notes

46

### Correction:

The article, "The Brain of Medicine" about alumna Sophia Apple, M.D., in the Summer 2011 issue of *Vital Signs* contained several errors. Dr. Apple was born and raised in Korea, not raised in China as the article stated. In addition, she began her residency in 1992, not 1994, and earned an M.S. degree from New York University in addition to a B.S. degree. We regret the errors.

## Marjorie Bowman, M.D., M.P.A., named dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine



Marjorie Bowman, M.D., M.P.A., professor and founding chair of the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, has been named dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

Bowman will succeed Howard Part, M.D., who is stepping down after 14 years as dean to resume his teaching career as a full-time faculty member in the medical school.

Bowman is director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center of Public Health Initiatives, whose mission is to improve health and quality of life by expanding and strengthening public health education, research, and practice; to promote community/academic partnerships; and to serve as the academic base for Penn's Master of Public Health degree program.

"Marjorie Bowman was selected from a strong pool of highly qualified candidates," said Wright State President David R. Hopkins, who thanked the search committee for its work. He added, "She will bring outstanding experience to the Boonshoft School of Medicine in many areas, one of which is her significant interest and work in the area of health care community partnerships. She's an excellent choice to succeed Dr. Howard Part, whose vision and leadership have served our larger community so well. Under his guidance, the Boonshoft School of Medicine has grown in stature and significance. While we thank him for his excellent work, we must also thank his family for the sacrifices they made to help him be such an effective dean."

Since arriving at Penn as the first female chair of a clinical department in the School of Medicine and as a founder of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Bowman

has led the department to one with over 45,000 outpatient visits in two offices in West Philadelphia and 1,400 hospital admissions, while championing education and research in family, preventive, and community medicine within the university.

"I was attracted to Boonshoft because it is a school truly birthed of and for its community. The school has benefited immensely from excellent leadership, which has created a forward thinking collaborative for superior health care and for highly creative research while maintaining an educational model that is emulated nationally," said Dr. Bowman. "Such a magnificent spirit of both innovation and inquiry will serve the school well into the future, and I am honored to take the helm at such an exciting time in Boonshoft's history."

In addition to her medical degree, Bowman has a master's degree in public administration. She previously worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service in health policy work and was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. She is dual board-certified in family medicine and public health and general preventive medicine.

Bowman has served as a consultant to several branches of government and many universities, and previously served as president of the American Board of Family Practice—now known as the American Board of Family Medicine.

Bowman has written several books, including *Stress and Women Physicians* and *Office Emergencies*. She has also served as editor of the *Yearbook of Family Practices*.

In addition, Bowman has been a reviewer for such publications as the *Journal of Women's Health*, *The Primary Care Companion to the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, and the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*. She has written journal articles on topics ranging from family medicine to cancer, obesity, neurology, and radiology. One notable article was titled "The impact of drug company funding on the content of continuing medical education."

Bowman earned her bachelor's degree from Penn State University, her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College, and her master's in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Bowman served as assistant and associate professors, an assistant dean, and a program director at Georgetown University School of Medicine. She later was professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University.

Her tenure at the Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine will begin Oct. 1.



## New transplant team joins medical school faculty

Three new transplant surgeons expand transplant services and research at Miami Valley Hospital

Three new transplant surgeons have joined the Miami Valley Hospital (MVH) Transplant Center and the faculty of the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

R. Brian Stevens, M.D., Ph.D., FACS, will serve as the new surgical director of the MVH transplant program and professor of surgery in the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Lucile Wrenshall, M.D., Ph.D., FACS, is the new director of the living donor kidney program at MVH and professor of surgery, and Tamer Malik, M.D., FACS, has joined the program as a transplant surgeon and assistant professor of surgery. The new physicians join Augustus Eduafo, M.D., clinical associate professor of internal medicine, and William Rundell Jr., M.D., clinical professor of surgery.

Stevens and Wrenshall trained at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, home to one of the oldest and most successful transplant centers in the world. Malik completed a cardiovascular research fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard University, Boston, and a fellowship in abdominal solid organ transplant surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. All three are fellowship trained in transplant surgery and fellows of the American College of Surgeons, the most rigorous accreditation possible for surgeons.

Prior to coming to Dayton, Stevens and Wrenshall practiced at the University of Nebraska Medical Center where Dr. Stevens served as director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program and director of the Islet and Cell Transplant Program. Malik served as a surgeon and assistant professor of surgery, transplant division, at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

In addition to kidney transplantation, the team is trained in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery. They can provide state-of-the-art care for patients with diseases related to the liver, bile duct, and gallbladder.

“Our intent is not simply to do transplants,” said Stevens, “but to make available to the people in this region the best possible transplant care available in the nation if not the world. And to do it in a very personal way.”

The new team will also focus on cutting-edge research in the transplant field. Joined by their research teams, who also made the move to Dayton, the physicians will continue to expand their basic and clinical research into new treatments to minimize the need for aggressive immunosuppression in transplant patients. They are researching new ways to “trick” the patient’s immune system into accepting the new kidney as their own so that it is not rejected.

“There’s always been a very high quality clinical transplant program here,” said Stevens. “Now we’re going to expand upon it and build a world-class transplant center right here in the Dayton region.”

# Snapshots

## Six Boonshoft School of Medicine faculty and staff members receive Wright State University Awards

2011-2012 Awards

### **Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research—Timothy Cope, Ph.D.**

Timothy Cope, Ph.D., chair and professor of neuroscience, cell biology and physiology and codirector of the WSU & PHP Neuroscience Institute, was named the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research at Wright State University. The title is a special rank awarded by the Board of Trustees to a faculty member who has produced a significant body of work in scholarship, research, or the creative arts which brings distinction to the university and national or international recognition to the faculty member.

Cope has served as chair of the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology since November 2004. He was instrumental in the creation of the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute, created in 2010 as a partnership between the WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine and Premier Health Partners.



### **Early Career Achievement Award—Christopher Wyatt, Ph.D.**

Wright State University recognized Christopher Wyatt, Ph.D., associate professor of neuroscience, cell biology and physiology, with its President's Award for Early Career

Achievement. The award recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service during the first four years of a faculty member's appointment.

Wyatt is a nationally recognized scientist dedicated to research and education. In his four years at Wright State, he has published 15 papers in prestigious journals, been invited to give seminars across the country, and received \$1.4 million in grant funding for his research.



### **Frederick A. White Distinguished Professor of Professional Service—Jerald Kay, M.D.**

Wright State University named Jerald Kay, M.D., chair and professor of psychiatry, the Frederick A. White Distinguished Professor of Professional Service. The title Distinguished Professor of Professional Service is a special rank awarded by the Board of Trustees to a Wright State University faculty member who has provided exceptional service to the university and the community through outstanding leadership and significant contributions.

Kay has served as chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine for more than 20 years. During his tenure, Kay has provided regional and national leadership for extending mental health care to underserved

populations. Medical schools from the University of Pennsylvania to the University of Southern California have sought his expertise to help them improve their programs. And his expertise in the area of psychiatric resident training led to his chairing the U.S. Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education's Committee on Psychiatric Residency Training Programs—the group responsible for assuring compliance with accreditation standards for all U.S. psychiatric training programs.



### **President's Award for Leadership—Lori Metivier**

Lori Metivier received the

Wright State University President's Award for Excellence in Leadership. The award is presented each year by the president of Wright State University to a staff member who has provided leadership in support of the university's mission. Metivier serves as a grants and contract specialist in the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine's Center for Global Health.

Metivier has been the operational manager for annual conferences on health systems management and public health for the last decade and has served as an important catalyst in the integration of the Center for Global Health and the Center for Healthy Communities.



## 2012-2013 Awards

### **Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research—Cameron Chumlea, Ph.D.**

Wright State University named Cameron Chumlea, Ph.D., executive director Lifespan Health Research Center, and Fels Professor, Community Health and Pediatrics, the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research. The title is a special rank awarded by the Board of Trustees to a faculty member who has produced a significant body of work in scholarship, research, or the creative arts which brings distinction to the university and national or international recognition to the faculty member.

During his 33-year tenure at Wright State as a critical member of the Fels Longitudinal Study team, Chumlea has played an integral role in turning the study into a national treasure and helped to create an international reputation for the Boonshoft School of Medicine as a research institution of the highest order. Results of the study were used to develop the first childhood growth charts used by physicians in the United States and worldwide. Among other projects, he is currently working with the Intergrowth-21st Study by the International Fetal and Newborn Growth Consortium at the University of Oxford, and the World Health Organization, to develop new “prescriptive” standards describing normal fetal growth, preterm growth, and newborn nutritional status in eight geographically diverse populations worldwide and to relate those standards to neonatal health risk. The worldwide use of these tools will help to improve infant health care and nutritional status.



### **Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching—Dean Parmelee, M.D.**

Wright State University recognized Dean Parmelee, M.D., associate dean for academic affairs and professor of psychiatry and pediatrics, as the Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching. The title is a special rank awarded by the Board of Trustees to a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding skills as a teacher and advisor, as evidenced by student and peer evaluations, course development, and improvement and/or scholarly publications in the area of teaching.

Parmelee joined the Boonshoft School of Medicine in 2001 after a distinguished career of teaching, service, and scholarship



at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine (VCU). At the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Parmelee has championed active learning in its curriculum, including the development of Team-Based Learning™ in all major courses and most clerkships. He co-edited *Team-Based Learning for Health Professions*

*Education*, which is considered a landmark publication in medical education. He is a leading figure for promoting active learning in medical education worldwide. Parmelee also has helped develop The Healer’s Art, an elective course designed by Dr. Rachel Remen, for Boonshoft. In bringing The Healer’s Art to the school, Parmelee has sought to complement the critical thinking skills being utilized in Team-Based Learning™ with an exploration of the healing relationship and to encourage students to become compassionate physicians who serve the community.



# Snapshots



Margaret Dunn, M.D., receives top award from Association of Women Surgeons



The 66,000-square-foot, three-story building on the northeast side of the Wright State University campus will offer a wide array of physician care, including a new sports medicine practice, as well as the existing practices in orthopedics, family medicine, geriatrics, and dermatology.

## New Wright State Physicians medical office building opens on Wright State campus

The new Wright State Physicians (WSP) medical office building recently constructed on the Wright State campus has opened ahead of schedule, with the first tenants moving in in June. The facility will provide much-needed medical care for the residents of Clark, Montgomery, and Greene Counties.

WSP corporate offices were the first to occupy the facility, with clinical practices of the Departments of Dermatology, Family Medicine, Geriatrics, and Orthopedic Surgery following. Other early tenants include the Wright Health Pharmacy and CompuNet Clinical Laboratories. An MRI facility operated by Miami Valley Hospital will open in the fall.

The new facility will help further WSP's mission to retain outstanding medical faculty and staff in support of the clinical, research, and community service activities of the university's medical school. The Boonshoft School of Medicine and Wright State Physicians are partners in providing training to medical students and delivering health care to the region.

The Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) honored Margaret Dunn, M.D., M.B.A., FACS, with its most prestigious award, the Nina Starr Braunwald Award, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in surgery. She was presented with the award at the annual AWS Fall Conference in San Francisco last October.

Dunn serves as executive associate dean at the Boonshoft School of Medicine. As second in command of the medical school, Dunn has been a long-time advocate for women in medicine and specifically women in the Department of Surgery, which is currently led by Mary McCarthy, M.D., and is one of six academic surgery departments in the nation with a woman chair. In addition, she serves as president and CEO of Wright State Physicians, the region's largest academic multispecialty physician group.

Dunn is certified in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. She was recently elected to a three-year term as a member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons.

# *The Art of Healing*

Cindy Young

To become excellent physicians, medical students must master the science of medicine. But they also must learn the art of healing, which is a much more subtle skill.

The patient presented with vague symptoms of fatigue.

“I was running three miles, three times a week,” the soft-spoken man explained. “Now after about a mile, I’m ready to cash it in. I just don’t have the stamina, I guess.”

The young doctor probed further, asking him if there was any associated pain or difficulty breathing and whether he had experienced anything like this before. He took a detailed medical history and asked about the man’s family. He asked about possible sources of stress and about his work life, carefully jotting down the answers in his notes. He listened to the patient’s heart and lungs, taking care to place the stethoscope directly on the man’s skin rather than listening through his hospital gown. He palpated his neck, checking his thyroid.

He learned that the man was a divorced teacher who loved his job. He was happy with his life, but was experiencing unexplained fatigue. Further questioning revealed the patient woke up several times in the night to urinate and that his mother had a “sugar issue,” although he was unclear what it was and whether she took medication for it.

When the interview was complete, the patient delivered the diagnosis.

“I thought it went well,” he explained. “These are my suggestions...”

The patient was a standardized patient, carefully trained to help teach medical students how to conduct a medical interview and physical exam and—more importantly—how to interact with patients. The doctor was second-year medical student Arvind Suguness.

To become excellent physicians, medical students must master the science of medicine. They must learn the biological, physical, genetic, molecular, and mathematical foundations of medicine. But they also must learn the art of healing, which is a much more subtle skill.

### **At the Boonshoft School of Medicine, that process starts early**

“Our students start from day 10,” said Bruce Binder, M.D., associate professor, Department of Family Medicine and director of the Skills Assessment and Training Center. All first-year medical students take Introduction to Clinical Medicine, where they learn the fundamentals of building a relationship with a patient, how to gather relevant information, and how conduct a physical examination.

“We model it to build an interview—not just take down information,” Binder said. “We want to teach them to treat people, not diseases.”

Two first-year exams called OSCEs, (Objective Structured Clinical Exams) use standardized patients, trained professionals following a script prepared by the professor.

“Part of their evaluation is whether they get the appropriate information,” said Binder. “But a large part of their evaluation is interpersonal skills, how are you interacting, how are you doing with that piece of it?”

During the second year the focus is on differential diagnosis, how to determine what’s wrong with a patient, taking a focused history, and the physical, taught through 14 different standardized patient encounters in sets of three.

Students are again evaluated on their interpersonal skills. “Did they show concern for the patient as a person?” said

Binder. “Patients will interpret that a little differently at times, but really getting at the issue of were they just there to diagnose a disease, or were they really there to be concerned about a person. The thrust here is to learn to have a good conversation, learn how to care for your patient.”

Second-year student Arvind Suguness was participating in his second set of interviews. Although uncomfortable at first, Suguness has found talking to patients easier than he expected.

“It’s definitely intimidating at first, to go into a room with someone you’ve never met before and ask them a whole bunch of questions about their life,” he said. “That can be kind of invasive. It’s a very nerve wracking thing, but you find that with some experience, it starts to come pretty naturally. When you start, you never think you’re going to be that person, a doctor who goes in the room and can just talk to someone. But then, by the end of it, I learned that I could do it.”

### **The ability to listen carefully and empathize with others doesn’t come easily to everyone**

Some people are more in tune with others. And for the ones who aren’t?

“If they’re not a people person, it’s a tough sell,” said Binder. “You keep it out there as a value. You let them know that this is the expectation and continue to evaluate them based on that expectation.

“Honestly, the ones who want to and don’t have the inherent skill are trainable,” he explained. “The bigger problem—and we really don’t encounter it a whole lot—are the ones who just don’t see the value there at all.”

Binder credits the admissions process at the medical school for recruiting caring students. “I think they do a nice job of



recruiting people with those good interpersonal skills and people values,” he said. “That’s always been kind of our trademark.”

### **Learning the art of healing will now start before students enter medical school**

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) also recognizes the need to recruit medical students who not only have a broad understanding of the scientific underpinnings of medicine but are also well versed in the social and behavioral sciences.

Recent AAMC research found that although the public believes physicians have a strong medical background, they often lack bedside manner.

In an effort to ensure a broader range of skills for incoming medical students, in February of this year the AAMC announced it has revamped its Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), required for admission to virtually all U.S. and Canadian medical schools, to include testing in the behavioral and social sciences and in critical analysis

and reasoning, in addition to the current sections on the natural sciences. The new MCAT will launch in 2015 and is expected to remain in place until 2030. This is only the fifth revision of the MCAT exam in its 84-year history.

“Being a good doctor is about more than scientific knowledge,” said Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., AAMC president and CEO. “It also requires an understanding of people. By balancing the MCAT exam’s focus on the natural sciences with a new section on the psychological, social, and biological foundations of behavior, the new exam will better prepare students to build strong knowledge of the socio-cultural and behavioral determinants of health.”

The revised MCAT exam will include a new section that will test students’ understanding of how these disciplines influence behavior, cultural and social differences that affect well-being, and the relationship among socioeconomic status, access to resources, and well-being.

### **Putting the pieces together**

Sister Mary Diana Dreger, O.P., M.D., has seen these complex interactions first-hand, working on the frontlines of medicine providing health care for the

underserved at the St. Thomas Family Health Center South Clinic in Nashville, Tenn. Dreger, a Dominican nun and practicing physician, visited Wright State in March to speak on the practice of virtue in the practice of medicine.

“I’m in primary care because I love that piece of taking care of the whole person and thinking of all the pieces that go together,” she said. “I think that we find that understanding the psychosocial situations of our patients is extremely important. Because without that piece, you don’t really know what’s going on with that patient.”

She recounted the story of a new patient she had seen recently. The young woman was 22 and had many vague complaints that had been going on for a while, but she had been without medical insurance so they hadn’t been addressed.

“As we talked, she revealed to me that five years ago she was shot and so was her boyfriend, and he died,” Dreger said. “And it’s changed her life in many, many ways—really not to the good of her health. And yet she doesn’t have a way of dealing with those issues.

“I didn’t get to that in the first 10 or even 15 minutes of the conversation,”

she said. “Yet that was the part I needed to know, and I couldn’t have known any other way except for spending some time and finally getting there.”

For Dreger, providing medical care for a patient has a deeper meaning.

“I think it’s a very true statement that the real heart of medicine, not art, but heart, is about love for the patient, love for the person,” she explained.

As medicine has become more subspecialized, that sense of caring for the person can become more difficult to maintain.

“We can run the risk of being subspecialists who only take care of parts of a person and not the whole person,” she said. “And so perhaps the subspecialists are called in a more real way to think about that and to not lose out on the fact that they are truly taking care of the person and not just the person’s parts.”

### **Sometimes caring for the patient means doing less**

There are times when interventions can be more burdensome on a patient than helpful, Dreger believes.

She recently treated a 59-year-old patient with a host of medical issues. Dreger listed his many problems, “End-stage liver disease due to hepatitis C and alcohol, and he’s still drinking. End-stage lung disease because of smoking, and he’s still smoking. Untreatable coronary artery disease—untreatable mostly because his liver disease is so bad that his platelet count is so low that nobody is willing to do a cardiac catheterization because you’re afraid he’s actually going to bleed out. Now on top of the fact that his kidney function is actually pretty low, and you could basically put him on dialysis if you

actually gave him the contrast that you would do with cardiac cath.

“He was just a good honest fellow who doesn’t really want to give up his beer from time to time and really doesn’t want to give up his cigarettes,” she said.

“And for anybody standing on the outside, you would say poor quality of life. But he’s able to enjoy his friends and enjoy his family and to know that he has very serious disease,” she said. “The last six months of his life, he actually flew down to Florida with his family. He had never been on an airplane before... had never been to Florida before, and he had a great time.”

Near the end of his life they were able to get a palliative care team on board to visit him at home. “Initially he and his family had made it very clear to me that they didn’t want to go the hospice route,” she said. “They still wanted the opportunity that if he was feeling very bad to go to the hospital.

“But once the palliative care people went out and talked to him, he was able to understand it in a different way and actually did end up very quickly on hospice and got the care that he needed,” she said.

### **Healing can be much more than just curing the disease**

According to the Center to Advance Palliative Care, palliative care growth in hospitals has been exponential. The number of teams has doubled over the last six years. To date, there are more than 1,500 hospitals with a palliative care team. Approximately 63 percent of all hospitals with more than 50 beds have a palliative care team today.

The Boonshoft School of Medicine has been at the forefront of this wave with its Palliative and Hospice Care Fellowship program, created in 2008.

Boonshoft School of Medicine graduate Howard Edwards, M.D., (’08) was attracted to the fellowship program following a year-long rotation at the Hospice of Western Reserve in Cleveland.

“I had an amazing year, I loved what I was doing,” he said. “I thought I was actually helping people.”

Palliative care focuses on decreasing pain and suffering by providing treatments for relief of symptoms, along with comfort and support for patients and their families. Palliative care uses a team approach that involves the treating doctor, the family, and other health care professionals and social services. Palliative care relieves symptoms without curing the disease and can be offered at any stage of a disease.

Hospice care is provided at the end of life and always includes palliative care. The goal is to make the patient comfortable and improve his or her quality of life.

“Instead of fighting against a disease, I wanted to fight for patients,” said Edwards. “Instead of fighting against a disease or against a condition, you start fighting for someone and their quality of life.

“It’s a team-based approach to not only looking at the patient medically, but taking care of all of their needs—including the family’s needs,” he said.

A palliative and hospice care team can include physicians, pharmacists, nurses, chaplains, social workers, psychologists, and other allied health professionals as necessary. They work together with the patient and his or her family to develop a plan for care that focuses on treating symptoms and ensuring quality of life for the patient.

## Perhaps the purest form of the art of healing is palliative and hospice care

Palliative care begins with a goals-of-care consult to get the family involved, said Edwards. The purpose is to meet with the family to ensure that they are

informed about the patient's condition and the options for care, so that they can make informed decisions as a family.

"A lot of times, rightfully so, we don't know what's going to happen," he said. "As physicians it's kind of the art of what's going to happen. And it's really dependent on the man upstairs and how well the patient's body responds to the medical therapy we're trying to provide."

Since physicians don't always know exactly what's going to happen with an individual patient, the situation can be very stressful for families. "They can't get clear answers simply because there aren't clear answers," he said. "A lot of what we do, then, through goals-of-care, is we hope for the best, plan for the worst. We put in perspective what they would want to happen, what their expectations are, and if that doesn't happen, what we are going to do.

"We always make what they want to happen be the goal—that's the goal and that's what everybody's striving for—but

if we can never get there, what happens then?" he said. "A lot of times it's a personal choice; it's the family's own choice. We make sure that they're fully informed of the big picture, and then we bring in the patient's ideas and what they believe quality of life is, so they can make these hard decisions at the end of life. We're there for them to know that we're looking out for whatever they believe is the patient's best interest."

## Hospice care is a refocus of energies

Many times there's a misperception that switching from aggressive medical care to hospice is giving up. "It's not giving up, it's just a refocus of what your goals are," said Edwards. "Sometimes it's okay to say, 'instead of living my life in the ICU, it's okay to have a better quality of life while I'm here, and be at home with family.' It's never giving up. It's just a refocus of your energies."

Edwards cites the example of those needing organ transplants as patients who often graduate from hospice care. "So that's the extreme example where you get the transplant and then you graduate hospice, and we discharge you," he said.

"Our mindset and our treatment is always to have them graduate—to get out," he said. "I would hope all my patients would graduate. But with this severe disease process that we work with, we know that a lot won't."

Sometimes learning the art of healing comes down to answering the question: what are you trying to heal?

"When you say the 'art of healing,' what are you healing?" he asks. "Are you healing the numbers? Are you healing the body? Are you healing the soul? Are you healing the family? And that's kind of the focus of hospice: what are you trying to heal?" **VS**

# Faculty in Focus



## The accidental psychiatrist

Seth Bauguess

**Wall space is hard to come by in Dr. Jerald Kay's office, and he likes it that way.**

Seemingly every square inch of vertical real estate is covered in large photos that Kay has taken from his world travels, a cadre of visual stimuli that wraps visitors in a cocoon of color and contrast, and raises questions about where and when the photos were taken. Put simply, he's a shutterbug who enjoys sharing his treasures.

Inviting and warm, the office features a leather couch that the average NBA center would feel comfortable lounging on, a large wooden desk and a small library where you're just as likely to pull a periodical about jazz or photography as you are to handle a hardcover about the integrated treatment of psychiatric disorders.

A Renaissance man if there ever was one, Kay, the professor and chair of the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, is a fountain of fast-flowing

wisdom within his field. But to know him is to realize, in the beginning, he never truly intended to be here.

"I came to psychiatry through my experience in classics," said Kay, who was named Frederick A. White Distinguished Professor of Professional Service by Wright State in 2011.

Kay grew up in Maryland in a home where the pressure to migrate to medicine was palpable. His father, unable to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor, wanted it for Kay and his brother even worse.

"My son the doctor,' I grew up hearing that," said Kay.

At first, Kay deftly bucked the pressure and sought a degree in religious studies at Washington University in Saint Louis, Mo. While there, he connected with an influential professor. "I must have taken six courses with him," said Kay. Through intimate study of Greek mythology, the professor piqued Kay's curiosity. "The

Greek tragedies and some other major works really opened my mind in understanding why people do what they do and what some of the universal themes were about," said Kay. "He kind of opened my eyes."

### **The experience changed his life**

In the summer of 1967, the so-called Summer of Love, Kay was a regular in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco. Though his heart was with getting a Ph.D. in comparative religious studies, his head and trusted mentors were urging him to explore his growing interest in human behavior instead of being forced to explore the jungles of Vietnam.

"To then enter medical school in the fall of '67 and plunge into all the memorization and regimentation was a culture shock to say the least," said Kay. But it was a culture he would learn to enjoy. In his

surgery clerkship, he found working with people pre-operatively and post-operatively far more intriguing than anything involving a scalpel. Despite his enjoyment fixing cars, he never really developed an interest in the operating room. He preferred the patient contact. Interestingly, he became the psychiatrist to the cardiac transplant team at his former university years later.

### **Keeping an open mind**

In medical school Kay discovered his passion for clinical work, and it has remained a bedrock of his career ever since.

“To this day every patient has taught me something, and in that sense psychiatry is one of the most gratifying specialties to be in,” said Kay. “If you keep your mind open and don’t let your brain turn to scrambled eggs, patients will teach you an enormous amount.”

That open-mindedness is one of the most emphasized values Kay impresses upon young medical students at Wright State, as well as those at other universities who have read any of his books on psychiatry.

Over the last 30 years, Kay’s approach has been to embrace the challenge of becoming the very best clinician he could be, which he said has given him a solid foundation to learn about new areas of study in American psychiatry. Take for example his interest a couple years ago in learning more about the current state of mental health among college students.

“I went looking for a book about it and couldn’t find one, so with considerable help from leaders in the field across the country, I wrote it,” said Kay.

The book, *Mental Health Care in the College Community*, has recently helped raise Kay’s public profile, but he readily admits he’s no expert in the area. He





might, however, be an expert in synthesizing his and others work in the field as evidenced by the more than 35 psychiatry books he's authored or coauthored.

In recent years, his prevailing interest in the field has led him back to some of the science themes that he typically resisted learning much about as a medical student.

### A new love for neuroscience

Recent discoveries in psychiatry, cognitive psychology, and neuroscience show that psychotherapy works not only on a clinical level but is actually a

cally informed psychotherapy with adults, teens, and occasionally children (he's also completed a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry) and believes deeply that his department should strive for excellence in psychotherapy training with patients of all ages.

"Of the people who come to our program for residency, a large number of them come for that kind of training, which is becoming more rare, but it's what I believe in," said Kay.

That being said, in Kay's estimation a focus of all medical education will shift to teaching students how to more effectively interact with and listen to patients.

"Coming to Wright State was the best thing that ever happened to me," said Kay. "It turned out to be perfect. When I got here there was almost no one in the Department of Psychiatry. Very few people get that kind of opportunity to build a department *de novo*," said Kay. He has also enjoyed working closely with the dean of the medical school, Howard Part, M.D., who has supported every effort he has undertaken, according to Kay.

For more than 20 years, Wright State's Boonshoft School of Medicine has benefited from Kay's equal desire to teach, write, and conduct research. "I've never been someone who could spend an entire day in an office doing only one activity," said Kay. "I see a small number of patients, write, develop new programs, teach my residents and medical students, and, of course, work collaboratively with my colleagues in other departments and hospitals." Kay is equally proud of the department's well-recognized programs in public-sector psychiatry in the Dayton region that care for those child, adolescent, and adult patients with severe and chronic mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

His enormous appetite to learn more about the latest areas of study in his field, and his vigilant pursuit of staying sharp in its most basic disciplines, like clinical work, have made him a leader in his field and an invaluable asset to the school.

"In my field, the most talented psychotherapists are people my age because they get better and better and better if they keep their minds open," said Kay. "And now, I, too, am doing the best and most rewarding clinical work of my life, which in turn, makes me a more effective teacher." **VS**

"If you keep your mind open and don't let your brain turn to scrambled eggs, patients will teach you an enormous amount."

biological treatment. Psychotherapy sessions can change brain structure and brain function as repeatedly evidenced through neuroimaging studies.

"I've fallen in love with neuroscience in a way I hadn't in medical school," said Kay. "How words, learning, and memory, and the power of the doctor-patient relationship affect the chemistry of the brain."

Kay said he finds it particularly intriguing because staying informed involves keeping up with a science that changes virtually every week and has, with greater regularity, been taking him around the world with speaking engagements on the subject. Kay said the integration of the biological and the psychological is what is driving a new level of excitement in American psychiatry.

Early in his career, Kay conducted psychoanalysis (he's a graduate of a psychoanalytic institute), but now he's focusing much more on psychoanalyti-

"It's very clear that educating medical students will emphasize more behavioral science, professionalism, and the ability to relate to one's patients," said Kay.

### Body and soul

Whether the focus is bedside manner, advocacy, professionalism, or ethics, Kay predicts demand for teaching and learning these these attitudes and skills will go up. "By virtue of our training, we spend a lot of time as psychiatrists already doing this, so our skills are going to be more relevant to the training and education of all physicians," said Kay.

A jazz buff who plays drums with a quartet and tuba in a large wind ensemble weekly, Kay approaches his hobbies of music, photography, and travel as aggressively as he does his profession. It's all or nothing. Wright State has received his all, and he's built a program with an excellent reputation in psychotherapy training because of it.

# A Closer Look

## *Home Team Advantage*

*Larry Lawhorne's Patient-Centered Medical Home pilot project takes a team approach to managing care for patients with dementia*

Tim Gaffney

**For the caregiver of someone suffering from dementia, help can seem far away in the middle of the night.**

So it was recently for a woman whose husband, instead of sleeping, suddenly decided he had to go somewhere. Larry Lawhorne, M.D., described the episode involving an unnamed patient and his wife.

“He was really confused. He was bound and determined to go someplace and do something,” Lawhorne said. “Finally, in her exasperation, she just said, ‘OK, do it.’”

“And she flings open the door, and it’s windy and rainy. He looks outside and says, ‘You know, the weather’s kind of bad. I don’t think I’ll go.’”

The crisis passed, but Lawhorne said the woman shared her despair over it during her next visit with him. “Her statement was, ‘I showed a man with dementia the door. I must be a terrible person.’ As we discussed it I said, ‘Well, you know you could have called,’ because she had my cell phone number. She said, ‘It didn’t seem like a medical problem,’” Lawhorne recounted.

“And all of a sudden I realized, well, I suppose technically it wasn’t. But it was certainly a problem that a Patient-Centered Medical Home for People with Dementia should be able to address.”

The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a relatively new concept that has been drawing attention around the United States in recent years, both as a way of improving patient care and as a means of delivering care more efficiently. The federal government has encouraged the trend by funding a variety of PCMH pilot projects.

One is a project led by Lawhorne, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics in the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

### **A new model**

Lawhorne’s project is a geriatric study of the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) for People Living with Dementia. The pilot program will provide 30 households with easy access to both electronic health records and an interdisciplinary team for medical care. “What we’re hoping is that this model will help people stay at home longer, safer, and also help the caregiver with caregiver stress,” he said.

Lawhorne said a goal of the project is to determine the costs of providing care with the PCMH model. A common theme of the projects, he said, is “better care for the individual, better health for the population, and at a lower cost. Not at cheap cost, but at lower cost in the sense that we’re trying to create more efficiency within the system and avoid

duplication of x-rays, blood work, and other interventions.”

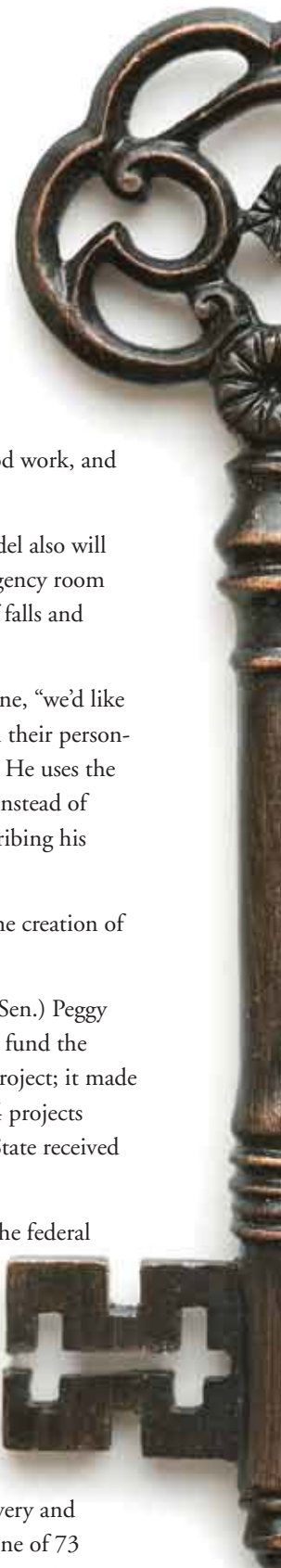
He hopes the PCMH model also will decrease trips to the emergency room and reduce the number of falls and hospitalizations.

“Ultimately,” said Lawhorne, “we’d like to see the person maintain their personhood as long as they can.” He uses the phrase “person-centered” instead of “patient-centered” in describing his medical home project.

Several factors played in the creation of the pilot project.

In 2010, State Rep. (now Sen.) Peggy Lehner sponsored a bill to fund the PCMH Education Pilot Project; it made \$1 million available for 44 projects around the state. Wright State received \$45,000 of that amount.

During the same period, the federal Affordable Care Act created the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Innovation Advisors Program, an initiative to test new models of health care delivery and payment. Lawhorne was one of 73 individuals from 27 states and the District of Columbia, and one of only three in Ohio, selected to participate in the program.



Finally, the Wyatt Family Foundation made a gift to fund the pilot project.

As part of its mission, the Innovation Center seeks to offer technical support to providers to improve the coordination of care and share lessons learned and best practices widely throughout the health care system.

It is committed to transforming federally supported programs to deliver better care for beneficiaries, better health for populations and slower growth in expenditures through improvement for Medicare beneficiaries.

### What is a PCMH?

A patient-centered medical home is not an assisted-living facility, but rather a concept for care delivery. "It's a place, and maybe a virtual place, where the person can go where all their medical needs are coordinated and concentrated," Lawhorne said. As a patient, he said, "I have a family there of health care professionals and paraprofessionals who are going to make my house a home."

In a typical PCMH, the patient or caregiver works not just with a doctor, but with a team. Every team

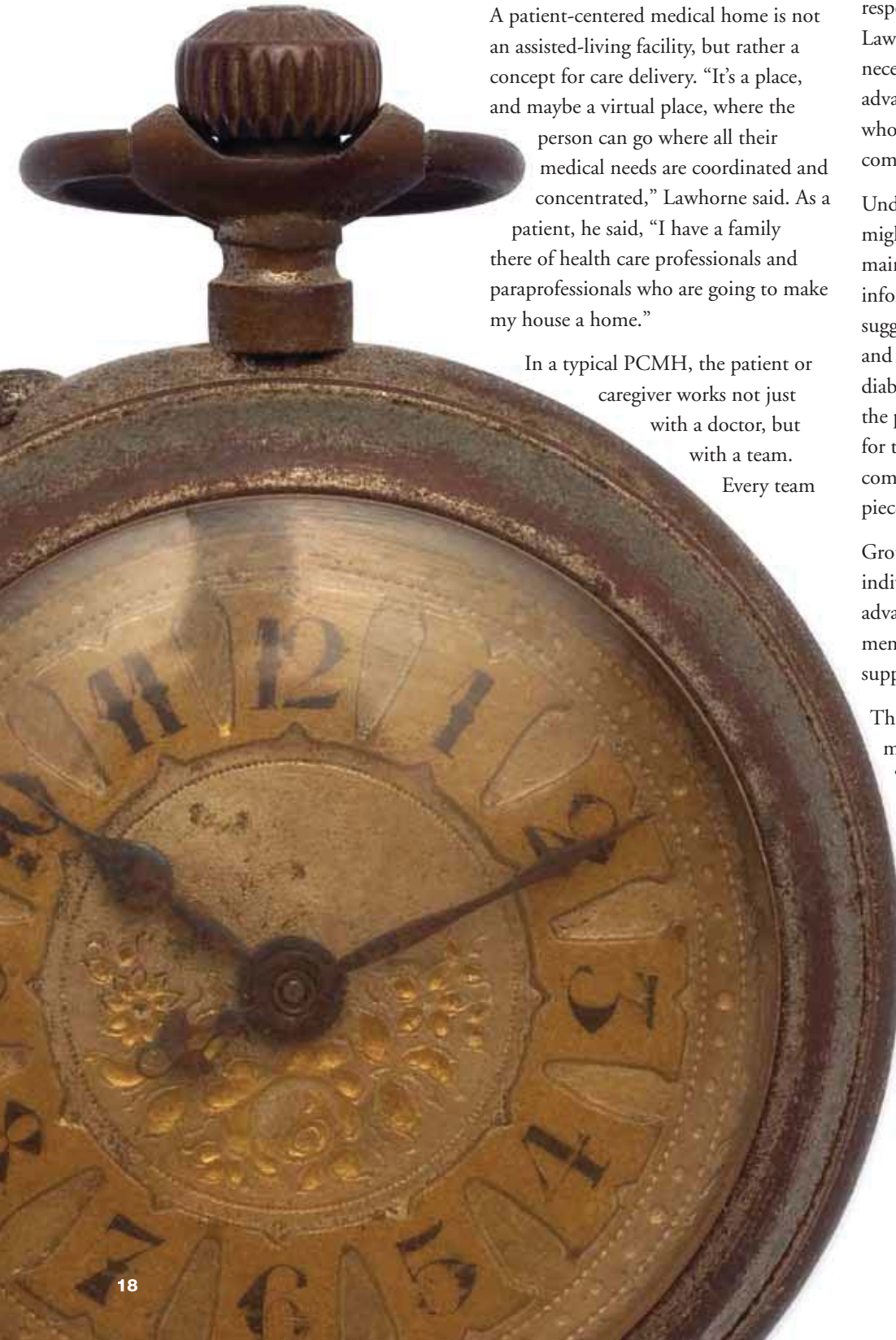
member is familiar with the patient, Lawhorne said, and the patient can access the team in a variety of ways, each one appropriate to the circumstance. It might be through a "patient portal," or internet connection, or by email or phone, he said.

"It all comes down to timely access and response to what the person's need is," Lawhorne said. "And, it doesn't necessarily have to be a doctor or advanced practice nurse. It could be whoever has the skill set and the competence to deal with it."

Under the PCMH model, the patient might have fewer office visits where the main purpose of the visit is for patient information or education. Lawhorne suggested that information about diet and exercise for patients with Type II diabetes, for example, could be given to the patient electronically. "It's tailored for that person, but they don't have to come into the doctor's office to have that piece of paper handed to them," he said.

Group sessions also might replace some individual visits. Lawhorne sees an advantage in that approach in that group members can function somewhat like a support group.

The PCMH allows the physician to make the best use of his or her time. "You're not going to have nearly as many office visits as we have now, from the physician's perspective, but the office visits that you have would be longer, and would be much more focused on things that haven't been covered otherwise, and the physician would be reimbursed a little better for those calls," Lawhorne said.



## Tailored to needs

Lawhorne's PCMH concept will be tailored to the needs of people living with dementia. An important element will be what Lawhorne calls "stage-specific screening."

"For instance, if someone is approaching end-stage dementia, we're really not interested in screening for colon cancer," he said. "We're not nearly as concerned about their cholesterol, for instance, because that becomes a moot point for them, and interventions that either screen for it, follow it up, or treat for it, become more of a burden than anything else to that person," he said.

The focus will be on people with moderate to severe dementia," Lawhorne said. "We're trying to keep them home longer and safer, with the caregiver in mind. There comes a point in every caregiver's life where they just can't do it anymore. It's not their fault—in fact, it's far from it. But, the longer the person can stay home, and as long as it's to the advantage of both the person and the caregiver, then we want to be able to keep them there."

A big challenge to the PCMH concept is reducing the number of emergency room visits and expensive tests without sacrificing care. Lawhorne envisioned a common scenario—a person with dementia who has fallen, leaving the caregiver to wonder how badly the person is injured. In many cases, a home examination and a follow-up visit by a team member may eliminate the need for an ambulance run and a CT scan.

Another important element of the PCMH for people living with dementia will be the development of advanced health care directives. For example, Lawhorne said, it's beneficial to discuss ahead of time what should be done when the person with dementia no longer can swallow.

"Feeding tubes for people with advanced dementia are probably futile interventions," he said. "They probably make very little difference in terms of outcome, and they're very invasive. The person doesn't understand why they're there, and the feeding tube is often pulled out and has to be replaced. So, let's talk about that now. Let's talk about the pneumonia that the person is probably going to get because they don't swallow very well. What are we going to do when that comes? Let's have that conversation now."

## Quantifying costs

Quantifying the cost of health care delivery through the PCMH is a crucial objective, Lawhorne said. "How much is it going to cost us to do this, to deliver good care in this model, and what's the difference between what it costs us in this model and what it's costing in the current way we do it?"

"The idea is that you would decrease the number of complications from whatever the chronic diseases are, you would decrease emergency department visits because you're taking care of these things in a more timely way, and you're arming the patient with much more information," he said.

Understanding true costs and savings is key to making the PCMH economical. Lawhorne suggested a more aggregate view of costs in developing a billing plan.

"If you look at fair market value for the social worker, a dietitian if we need one, whoever else we need, if you look at the fair market value for them, the number of hours they put in, and the number of hours that we put in as physicians and nurse practitioners, we look at all the income we get from Medicare, and we say OK, it cost us \$2,500 for all the services we delivered in a year, and we were reimbursed a total from Medicare of \$1,300, so the shortfall from what we spent and what we received in payment was \$1,200," Lawhorne said.

"So what that means is, if Medicare were to give us \$100 per month, as a per member per month fee, then we'd break even, which is all we want to do." The monthly fee would be justified if it can be shown that the PCMH model will result in fewer hospital admissions and tests. Lawhorne said the pilot project will compare its data with existing data for Montgomery County.

## Setting up the project

Lawhorne is setting up the project now. He has identified 30 households to participate in it. He expects the project to run between June 2012 and June 2013. "We're going to try to figure out, per household, how many hours of face-to-face visits take place, whether they are in the office or the home, how much time is spent on the phone, and the distribution of resources from physician to nurse practitioner to social worker to medical assistant," he said. "We have ideas about this, but we really need to know what it actually takes (to operate a PCMH for people living with dementia), and then compare that to our models."

Lawhorne envisions a PCMH for people living with dementia would manage about 200 households. Between 20 and 30 households would change each year as patients died or transitioned to institutional care.

"The bottom line is, we want to figure out how much it is going to cost to deliver this, and can we make a case to Medicare and to other insurance companies," Lawhorne said. "We've done some modeling of this. Basically, what we think we could save is somewhere around \$60 to \$80 per household per month. This could save Medicare tens of thousands of dollars per patient. So the return on investment is not bad."

And for the caregiver, the middle of the night might not seem quite so lonely. **VS**

# A Closer Look

## Fourteen years of transformation

### Dean Part's lasting impact on Wright State University

Jane DelGiorno

When Howard Part announced last fall that he was stepping down as dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine, it signaled the end of an era.

The face of Howard M. Part, M.D., is a familiar one to countless students, staff, and faculty members at Wright State University and the larger Ohio medical education community. As the longest-serving dean among Ohio's current medical school deans, his 14-year tenure is longer than most employees at the university, and began before the medical school was known as the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

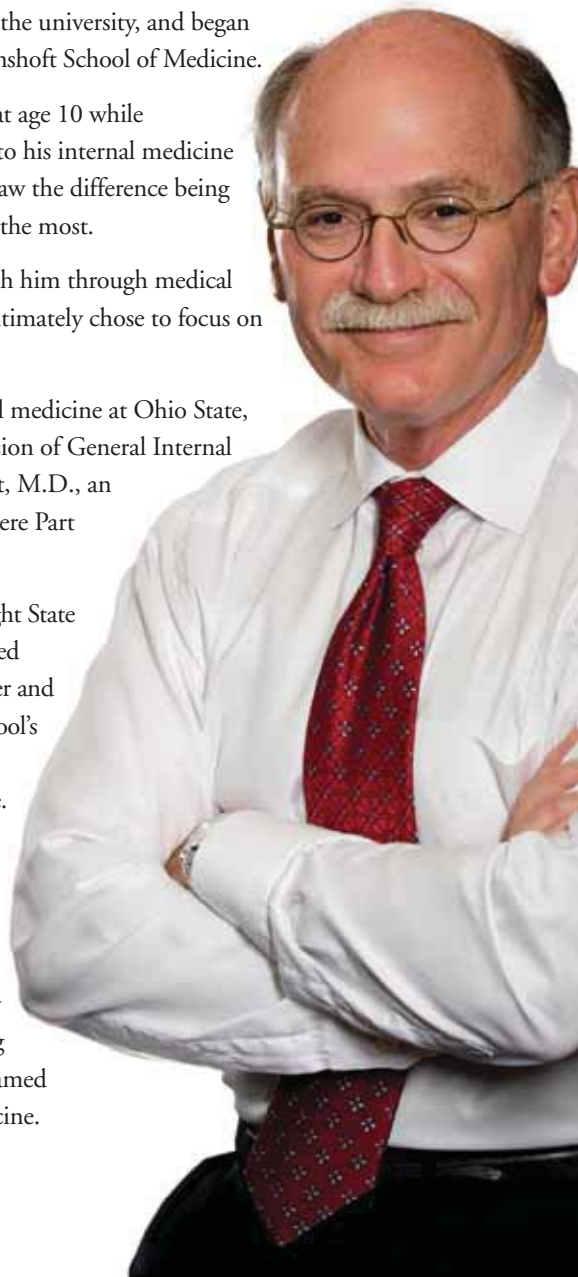
Part was first exposed to the medical profession at age 10 while accompanying his father on Saturday mornings to his internal medicine and dermatology practice in Harlem, where he saw the difference being a doctor could make to people who needed care the most.

Part carried the influence of his father's work with him through medical school at The Ohio State University, where he ultimately chose to focus on general internal medicine.

Shortly after completing his residency in internal medicine at Ohio State, Part joined the faculty at Ohio State in the Division of General Internal Medicine. He and his wife, Kristine Kunesh-Part, M.D., an ophthalmologist, moved to Dayton in 1986, where Part entered private practice.

In 1987, Part joined the voluntary faculty at Wright State as an assistant clinical professor where he supervised residents and students at Kettering Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital. He joined the medical school's fully affiliated faculty in 1988 as an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Between 1990 and 1998, Part held a variety of leadership positions at Wright State, including vice chair for medical education and clerkship director, acting chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, and associate dean for faculty and clinical affairs, before serving a year as acting dean of the medical school. In 1999, Part was named dean of Wright State University School of Medicine.



#### Under Howard Part's leadership, the Boonshoft School of Medicine

- Created a new Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree program, the first program of its kind in southwestern Ohio, and developed three new dual degree programs – the M.D./M.P.H., M.D./M.B.A., and the M.D./Ph.D.
- Became a national leader in Team-Based Learning
- Created several new graduate medical education programs
- Created the fifth department of geriatrics in the nation
- Opened the new Gandhi Medical Education Center in White Hall
- Created two University System of Ohio Centers of Excellence—the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute and the National Center for Medical Readiness.
- Opened the Wright State Physicians building on the Wright State campus
- Formed the WSU and PHP Clinical Trials Research Alliance

As dean, his care for the academic well being of his medical students was evident to both students and faculty.

“He made an effort to get to know the leadership of each class on a personal level,” said Dean Parmelee, M.D., associate dean for academic affairs at the Boonshoft School of Medicine. “I joined the student leaders, with a few other faculty members, for dinners at the dean’s house a number of times every year. I watched as he spoke with each student on a personal level to understand who they were not only as medical students, but also as individuals. It was clear to the students that he was approachable, and that he wanted to be a part of their medical education.”

Dr. Part has always been a delight to work with. He is very thoughtful, fair-minded, a class act, and a real gentleman. He is a very strategic, long-term thinker. Dr. Part has helped us have very successful residencies, and teaching has made Premier a better organization. Premier and Wright State were lucky to have him. He has given a lot to the community and deserves a great retirement.

—Mary Boosalis, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Premier Health Partners

To Parmelee, Part’s support was also personal. “I came to Wright State from another institution. I was an outsider, and went through a period of adjustment. He trusted me and wanted to hear my ideas, which is not a quality all deans possess. He consistently encourages innovation and supports change to improve the quality of medical education.”

### **During Part’s tenure, the school has experienced extraordinary growth**

Part’s genuine interest in growing the school and supporting its mission is visible in a wide variety of beneficial outcomes over the past 14 years. Since Part took the reins as dean in 1998, more than \$77.6

“As dean, Howard has lifted the Boonshoft School of Medicine to unprecedented levels of performance and recognition. I am fortunate and privileged to have had the opportunity to work closely with one of the finest human beings I have ever known, and to have enjoyed his support, guidance, and friendship over many years.”

—Robert Fyffe, Ph.D., WSU Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies

million has been raised for medical school scholarships, programs, and infrastructure, and more than \$291 million has been generated in research funding.

In June 2005, local philanthropist, Oscar Boonshoft, and his family donated \$28.5 million to the medical school, the largest gift in the history of the university. The school of medicine was aptly renamed the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Boonshoft also donated \$2.5 million to endow a chair in Health Systems Management in

transformed educational facilities, and established the physician leadership program. He is brilliant and thoughtful.”

Part’s influence stretched beyond the Wright State campus; he was a mentor to other medical school deans, partly because of his effectiveness at Wright State, and partly because of his ability to build and preserve long-lasting relationships.

Jack Brose, D.O., dean of the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, described Part as a mentor and a friend.

“He has clearly been one of the most effective medical school deans in Ohio, and is highly respected by all of the other medical school deans,” said Brose. “When I was chair of the Ohio Council of Medical School Deans, Part was always the first person I contacted to help deal with issues affecting the medical schools. He is an outstanding internist, an exceptional dean, and a wonderful person.”

According to Part, medicine will always be a profession in which you can have a positive impact on peoples’ lives. As dean, Part graduated more than 1,255 medical students who are doing just that. He will continue to touch the lives of those who are fortunate enough to learn from him as he returns to the full-time faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine. **VS**

1999, and gave a \$2 million gift in 2003 to develop a physician leadership development program, offering combined M.D./M.B.A. and M.D./M.P.H. programs.

Arthur Pickoff, M.D., chair of the Departments of Community Health and Pediatrics at the Boonshoft School of Medicine, called what transpired during Part’s time as dean an “astounding transformation” of the medical school.

“He is the most genuine individual I’ve ever had the privilege to call ‘boss,’” said Pickoff. “He created new departments, new centers of excellence, expanded the number of faculty and research programs, secured large gift donations that



# 1,000 words

The class of 2012 kicked up their heels following this year's Match Day celebration, casting off their white coats to dance to the music of Nicki Minaj, Kelly Clarkson, and Outasight—during the first-ever Match Day flash mob dance at the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

—Will Jones





# Research Spotlight

## Seeing the Big Picture

The pieces are falling into place at the **WSU & PHP Neuroscience Institute**, where codirectors **Timothy Cope** and **Kenneth Gaines** are finding ways to integrate biomedical research at Wright State with the clinical resources of Premier Health Partners.

Leigh Wilkins

**The last two years have been busy and exciting for Timothy Cope, Ph.D.** Back in 2010, Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and Premier Health Partners established the Neuroscience Institute, a unique collaboration uniting the region's most advanced biomedical research institution with the clinical resources of its largest hospital system. Under Cope's leadership, researchers, administrators, and clinicians have been laying the groundwork for a successful partnership.

One achievement of these "building years" stands head and shoulders above the rest, Cope says: the recent appointment of Kenneth J. Gaines, M.D., M.B.A., as codirector of the institute and chair of Wright State's new Department of Neurology. Gaines, who officially joined the institute on May 1, also serves as professor of neurology at the Boonshoft School of Medicine and as director of special projects: clinical neuroscience development at Premier Health Partners.

"Ken has the clinical, research, and administrative experience to put all the pieces together at the Neuroscience Institute," says Cope, now codirector of the institute. Cope is also the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research at Wright State and chair and professor, Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology. "He and I share a vision for what the institute can achieve in terms of enhancing quality care and access in neurology, an area of critical need in our region."

### **A commitment to collaboration**

Gaines comes to Wright State from the Ochsner Clinic and Foundation in New Orleans, where he served as chair of the Department of Neurology. During his four-year tenure at Ochsner, he rebuilt a neurology program that had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Gaines also served as clinical professor of neurology at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Previously, he

was professor of clinical neurology and chair of neurology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, S.C.

A subspecialist in vascular neurology, Gaines' clinical research interests are in improved health care delivery for stroke, and his basic research focus is brain hemorrhage. He has published numerous articles on his research in national and international journals.

As codirector of the Neuroscience Institute, Gaines will work with Cope and many others to establish a program that engages in cutting-edge, grant-funded research and clinical trials, enhances the quality of care and access for patients with neurological conditions, and earns a reputation as a center of excellence in neuroscience. It sounds like a daunting task, but Gaines is enthusiastic.

"I was drawn to this job in part because so many pieces are in place," he says. "Scientists at Wright State are already engaged in a lot of good neuroscience research. The medical school, while it



doesn't have a neurology training program yet, is strong. Premier is a great health system with some excellent neurology programs, particularly in the area of stroke. Our challenge is to strengthen what we already have and help people in different disciplines work together more effectively."

The idea of creating a Neuroscience Institute came from Premier Health Partners when its leadership began to recognize a need for more comprehensive neurological care in the Dayton area. Hiring top caliber subspecialists proved to be difficult. "Physicians want to work in a dynamic environment where they can offer patients innovative treatments, participate in clinical research, work with basic researchers to bring scientific breakthroughs to the bedside quickly, and be part of medical school education," says Diane Plieman, vice president of operations at Miami Valley Hospital. "That's the kind of environment we are building at the institute."

## Fostering translational research

A key ingredient of the Neuroscience Institute's success will be translational research—some of which is already happening at Wright State. There, basic scientists and clinical researchers are working together to better understand certain neurological conditions, such as spinal cord injury, movement disorders, and critical illness.

"At the Neuroscience Institute, we are creating many opportunities for basic researchers and clinical people to work side by side, to talk about how their work can fit together and find ways to impact clinical care," Cope said.

To help foster this collaboration, the Neuroscience Institute and the WSU College of Engineering and Computer Science are making plans for a \$37-million facility to be built on the Wright State campus. The 90,000-square-foot Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building will house both the Neuroscience Institute and researchers and engineers from the engineering college. The state of Ohio has given preliminary approval for a \$12 million state grant to help pay for construction costs.

"With space for basic scientists, clinicians, statisticians, administrators, labs, and cutting-edge technology, the building will be a one-stop shop for neuroscience research," Cope says.

Bricks and mortar projects like this one are important, but it's people who will ensure that the Neuroscience Institute fulfills its potential. To that end, Gaines is in the process of hiring a number of physicians who specialize in areas such as stroke, movement disorders, and critical

illness. A number of them will have offices in the new building so that they can interact with basic scientists and devote some of their time to clinical research.

Gaines is also focused on creating a neurology residency program in the next four years and expanding opportunities for faculty to teach medical students about this specialty area of medicine. He is confident that, over time, the Neuroscience Institute will earn a national reputation for excellence.

"So many people at the medical school and at Premier are committed to making this work, and I'm excited about what lies ahead," Gaines says. "The pieces are starting to fall in place for us to build something new and better that really makes a difference for people here in the Dayton area and beyond." **VS**

## New clinical trials initiative to boost clinical research in region

Stephanie Gottschlich

In February, the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Wright State Research Institute, and Premier Health Partners announced a new clinical trials initiative to increase medical research opportunities for physicians and clinicians and boost access to clinical trials in the Dayton region.

The Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Clinical Trials Research Alliance is a public-private initiative combining the biomedical research prowess of the region's strongest biomedical research institution (Boonshoft School of Medicine) with the region's leading hospital system (Premier Health Partners).

"We are pleased to be partnering with Wright State University in this collaboration," said Jim Pancoast, president and CEO of Premier Health Partners. "Physicians and other health professionals on staff at our hospitals have conducted clinical trials and research for many years, but now, through the new Clinical Trials Research Alliance, the impact will allow us to be much more far-reaching. This is a tremendous benefit to patients seeking

answers to unlock the cause of illnesses and those looking for possible cures."

### Bringing new research dollars to the region

Over the next five years, the alliance will build a clinical research portfolio of \$5 million to \$7 million annually. The medical school's average annual research portfolio during the past five years has been roughly \$24 million. Doubling the total funding for clinical research at the medical school and Premier will have a substantial impact.

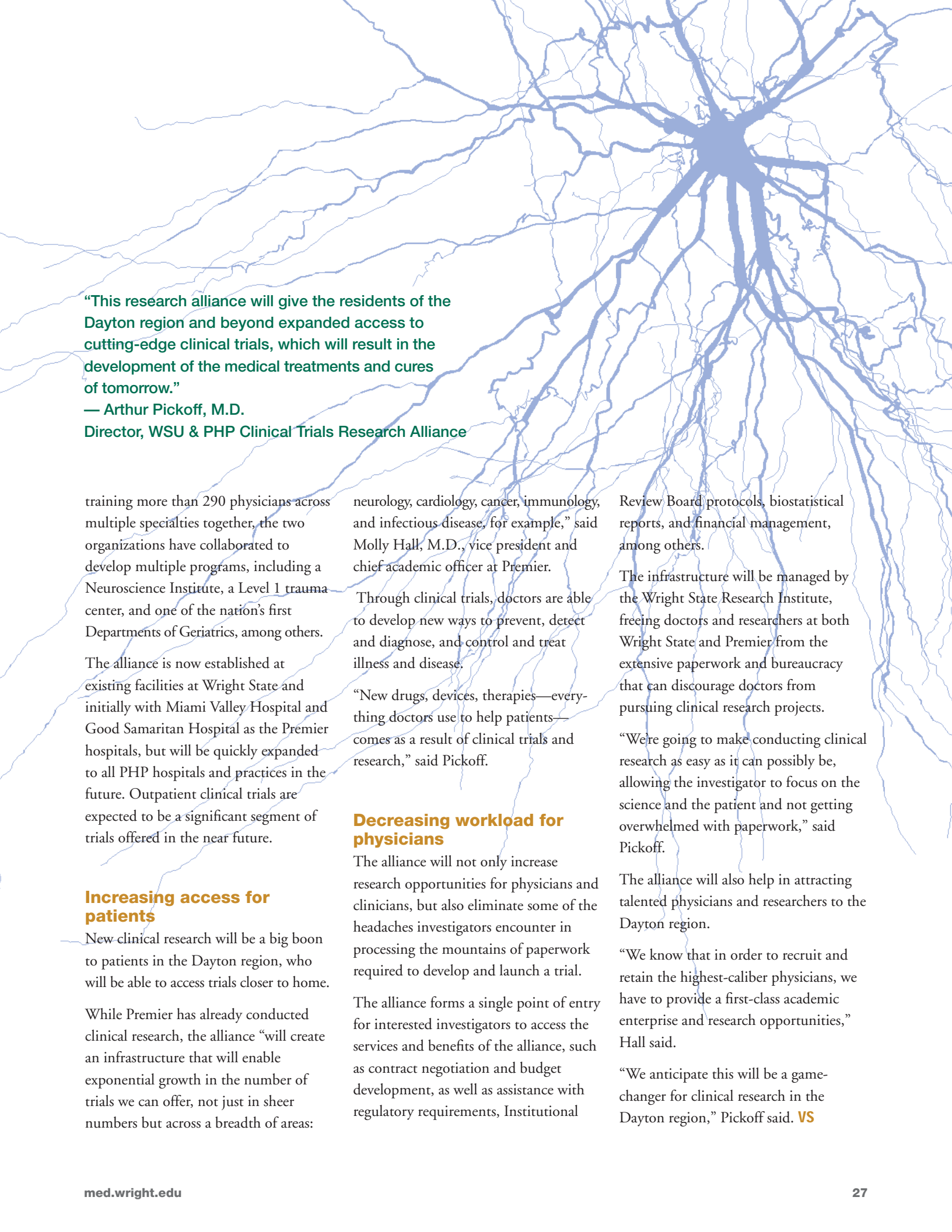
"The alliance will attract new research funding from federal and industry sources that will have direct economic impact by strengthening the medical science and services sector of the Dayton region's economy, as well as create opportunities to commercialize new devices, treatments, and technologies developed at the university," said Wright State University President David R. Hopkins. "The alliance will also help the partner organizations build a national reputation for delivering top-notch health care and serving at the forefront of medical research."

The alliance is starting with a focus on securing industry-funded trials, but ultimately it positions the region to compete successfully for federal research dollars, such as funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

About \$94 billion was spent on research and development in 2008 by the NIH, other federal sources, and pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device companies, according to Center Watch, the leading source of clinical trials information for both clinical research professionals and patients.

"Boonshoft is already nationally known for its biomedical research, and combining that with the clinical resources of the region's largest hospital system will put Wright State and Premier on a national map in clinical trials," said Arthur Pickoff, M.D., the alliance's director, professor and chair of the medical school's Departments of Community Health and Pediatrics, and assistant dean for clinical research.

The alliance was established after several successful initiatives between the school of medicine and Premier. In addition to



**“This research alliance will give the residents of the Dayton region and beyond expanded access to cutting-edge clinical trials, which will result in the development of the medical treatments and cures of tomorrow.”**

— Arthur Pickoff, M.D.

**Director, WSU & PHP Clinical Trials Research Alliance**

training more than 290 physicians across multiple specialties together, the two organizations have collaborated to develop multiple programs, including a Neuroscience Institute, a Level 1 trauma center, and one of the nation’s first Departments of Geriatrics, among others.

The alliance is now established at existing facilities at Wright State and initially with Miami Valley Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital as the Premier hospitals, but will be quickly expanded to all PHP hospitals and practices in the future. Outpatient clinical trials are expected to be a significant segment of trials offered in the near future.

### **Increasing access for patients**

New clinical research will be a big boon to patients in the Dayton region, who will be able to access trials closer to home.

While Premier has already conducted clinical research, the alliance “will create an infrastructure that will enable exponential growth in the number of trials we can offer, not just in sheer numbers but across a breadth of areas:

neurology, cardiology, cancer, immunology, and infectious disease, for example,” said Molly Hall, M.D., vice president and chief academic officer at Premier.

Through clinical trials, doctors are able to develop new ways to prevent, detect and diagnose, and control and treat illness and disease.

“New drugs, devices, therapies—everything doctors use to help patients—comes as a result of clinical trials and research,” said Pickoff.

### **Decreasing workload for physicians**

The alliance will not only increase research opportunities for physicians and clinicians, but also eliminate some of the headaches investigators encounter in processing the mountains of paperwork required to develop and launch a trial.

The alliance forms a single point of entry for interested investigators to access the services and benefits of the alliance, such as contract negotiation and budget development, as well as assistance with regulatory requirements, Institutional

Review Board protocols, biostatistical reports, and financial management, among others.

The infrastructure will be managed by the Wright State Research Institute, freeing doctors and researchers at both Wright State and Premier from the extensive paperwork and bureaucracy that can discourage doctors from pursuing clinical research projects.

“We’re going to make conducting clinical research as easy as it can possibly be, allowing the investigator to focus on the science and the patient and not getting overwhelmed with paperwork,” said Pickoff.

The alliance will also help in attracting talented physicians and researchers to the Dayton region.

“We know that in order to recruit and retain the highest-caliber physicians, we have to provide a first-class academic enterprise and research opportunities,” Hall said.

“We anticipate this will be a game-changer for clinical research in the Dayton region,” Pickoff said. **VS**



## Short Stature Is No Tall Order

Cory MacPherson

**Born with a rare genetic disorder that limits her height to three-and-a-half feet, first-year pediatrics resident Nadia Merchant lets nothing get in the way of her medical career or her love of travel.**

### **Third Culture Kid**

Nadia Merchant, M.D., experienced more of the world before she reached

high school than many Americans will see in their entire lives. Born in Houston to parents of Pakistani and Indian descent, she moved overseas with her family when her father took an engineering job in Qatar. Merchant spent her third and fourth grade in Qatar before her family returned to Texas. Four years later, they moved again—this time to Saudi Arabia.

“I’m a third culture kid,” said Merchant. “My parents are from one place, I grew up in the U.S.; and I lived overseas.”

Merchant loved living in the Middle East, saying that the region’s rapid growth gives it a dynamic and lively atmosphere. When the time came to apply to universities, she chose Cornell University’s new Qatar campus with its accelerated program. It took Merchant just six years to complete her undergraduate studies and medical school.

She credits her experience in the Middle East with expanding her cultural horizons. Having done her medical rotations in Qatar, she gained exposure to a different health care system and a different set of patients than she would have seen if she had studied at an American medical school. That’s given her an edge over some of her peers.

“I wouldn’t be who I am if I hadn’t traveled internationally so much and lived in other countries,” she said. “I have a very global perspective, and I can relate to a variety of people.”

### **Small challenges**

Merchant was born with acromesomelic dysplasia, a rare recessive genetic condition that limits her height, but doesn’t come with the health problems common in other forms of dwarfism.

“I’m just a few feet shorter than most people,” she said. “That’s all it is. I can do everything anyone else can do.”

At three-foot-six, Merchant deals with daily inconveniences like doorknobs and vending machine buttons that are out of reach. Yet she hardly lets these things bother her. She makes sure that the hospitals where she works stock gloves and gowns in her size. She can often be seen carrying a trusty teal and black stepstool that helps her reach everything from the top shelf of a supply cabinet to a patient's bedside. And she's not afraid to ask for assistance on the rare occasion that she needs it.

"As soon as I get familiar with my surroundings, I can accommodate," she said.

Sometimes the challenges are a bit bigger, but Merchant believes that hard work and persistence always pay off. For example, she earned her driver's license in the United States and had her modified car shipped to Saudi Arabia for her to drive around the military base. She ran into a bit of difficulty, however, when she moved to Qatar for college. The Qatari Traffic Department had little experience with drivers with disabilities; it was common there for people to simply hire personal drivers. Merchant had to visit several physicians and demonstrate her ability to drive in her modified car, educating traffic officials until she was granted a license.

"Being the first is a bit challenging," she said, with her typical positive outlook, "but it's not impossible."

### Medicine in her genes

Growing up with a genetic disorder, Merchant naturally understood the basics of genetics well before she learned about it in school. She developed an interest in medicine at an early age and always knew that she wanted to pursue a medical career.

As a medical student, Merchant found that she preferred inpatient settings more than outpatient. She also found that she

loved the pediatric field and discovered that her height gave her a unique advantage with young patients.

"A lot of times, kids think that I'm a kid, too," she said. "So they're more comfortable around me. I guess I'm less intimidating to them."

It isn't just working with children that attracts Merchant to pediatrics.

"Parents are overwhelmed when their child is sick," she said. "It's rewarding to walk them through the treatment plan and to spend time comforting them."

Merchant hopes to become a pediatrician with a strong background in genetics, finding a career that allows her to practice both fields.

### Earning "positive exposure"

During her studies, Merchant became involved with Positive Exposure, a nonprofit organization founded by fashion photographer Rick Guidotti.

Guidotti found images of people with genetic conditions—particularly those in medical textbooks—to be dehumanizing, focused mainly on deformity and disfiguration. He dedicated his work to photographing people with genetic disorders in a way that captures their individual beauty and human spirit.

Besides posing for one of Guidotti's portraits, Merchant was selected to be one of three women profiled in *On Beauty*, a documentary about Guidotti's work and the mission of Positive Exposure. In the film, Merchant shares her inspiring optimism and her disregard for the challenges of her height.

"People might think, oh, my challenge is short stature," she says in the film's trailer, "but honestly, maybe that's your challenge, but not mine."

After appearing in the documentary, Merchant was asked to participate in the

organization's Pearls Project. She and other young people with genetic conditions blogged and answered questions from high school students about their experiences. The students then used the blogs in a variety of class projects, from creative writing and dance to biology and philosophy. The entire project was aimed at teaching tolerance, empathy, and respect for diversity.

"I would tell them to believe in themselves," said Merchant. "Everyone has challenges, but with hard work you can overcome that."

### Wright State and beyond

Merchant is following her time in Qatar with a residency with the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. She said she was first drawn to the program because of its unique combination of military and civilian perspectives. Merchant rotates her time at Dayton Children's Medical Center and the medical center at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She also likes the size of the Boonshoft residency program.

"It's big enough that you get to work with a wide variety of people, but small enough that you know everyone on a personal level," she said.

An Ohio school may seem like an odd choice for a world traveler like Merchant, but she enjoys the change of pace. "I love the Midwest," she said. "Everyone is so friendly and relaxed here."

Of course, Merchant still loves to travel whenever she can. She speaks especially highly of a recent trip to Turkey, describing both the water and the weather as beautiful.

And when Merchant begins to apply to genetics fellowships after her residency, location won't really be a factor she considers.

"I'm open to the world," she said. **VS**

## *Home is where the heart is* *Wright State students committed to serving the community*

Jim Hannah



**School was out for the day. The children slumped around a tiny television, its flickering images dancing on their vacant faces.**

It was just another afternoon at the St. Vincent de Paul Gateway Shelter for Women and Families.

But there was one difference that day. A student in the Wright State University biomedical sciences Ph.D. program was touring the Dayton shelter. And the image of children idle and listless would burn in his brain, clawing at his conscience.

So Eric Romer brought it up with Wright State medical student Adam Deardorff one day during lunch.

“What can we do to make a difference?” they asked themselves.

Some serious brainstorming began.

Today, there is a study space and tutors for the children not only at the homeless shelter, but also at the St. Vincent de Paul Kettering Commons—apartments for families who have experienced chronic homelessness.

It’s all because of a student volunteer program launched at Wright State’s Boonshoft School of Medicine following that lunchtime brainstorming session.

Romer said there are children at the shelter and in the apartments with real human problems that can roadblock their academic careers.

“This is not throwing money, books, computers, supplies at them; it’s getting down with somebody, showing interest, getting involved,” Romer said. “You need to have that human component. And they respond so well.”

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at Wright State was established by Romer and his friends and is fed largely by student volunteers from the medical school. Romer’s wife, Shannon, a student in Wright State’s biomedical sciences Ph.D. program, does the heavy lifting when it comes to scheduling and administrative duties. And medical student Danielle Fleissig works tirelessly to recruit volunteers.

Volunteers come to the shelter and apartment complex four days a week to tutor the children, who generally range in age from five to 12. The volunteers have also constructed a makeshift study space at the shelter and raised money to buy computers, printers, copiers, and educational supplies.

In 2011, about 25 medical students logged nearly 400 hours of volunteer work at the shelter and the apartments. And 32 students were volunteering hours with the homeless in the first two months of 2012 alone.

Deardorff said the medical students get a lot out of the experience.

“It gets them down to a homeless shelter,” he said. “When they’re doing their residency and they’re dealing with underserved individuals, they need to know who the patients are and what their lives are like. If we’re trying to train people to be professionals and work in an urban environment, they’re going to have to know all of the facets of that urban life.”

### **Volunteering to help**

The after-school tutoring program is one of many similar student activities at Boonshoft.

Last year, more than 25 students put in time at the Dayton-based Community Blood Center/Community Tissue Services, the fifth largest tissue bank in the United States.

“What they’re doing is incredibly valuable for us,” said Cissy Hansen, Community’s manager of volunteer services. “These kids are used to working very hard and very quickly and multi-tasking.”

### **Bone powder and spiked heels**

Some of the students pack package inserts for bone powder, which is primarily used for dental work and some other orthopedic surgeries. Community Tissue Services distributes more than 200,000 tissue grafts annually to hospitals and medical professionals around the nation and the world.

Without the students, said Hansen, the packing process would gobble up precious worktime of other staffers and slow the distribution.

The building is a bustling beehive of activity. Workers garbed in blue sterile outfits use precision machinery to cut and shape bone in Class 100 clean rooms. Other workers process skin, bone powder, and traditional grafts.

Hansen recalled the day she arrived at work and found a young Boonshoft student loading 30-pound boxes of bone and tissue while wearing a skirt and spiked heels.

“She said, ‘I’m going to a seminar so I had to be dressed for it, but this is what I came down to do.’ Is that commitment?” Hansen said. “I think some of them develop a certain passion for what they’re doing. It means something to them.”

Dan Noble, a second-year medical student at Boonshoft, not only puts in time at Community Tissue Services, but is recruiting other students in order to keep the program going.

Noble, of Akron, said the experience has given him a better understanding of the

importance of bone and tissue and the magnitude of its distribution.

“The hardest thing is to find time to do it with such a busy schedule,” he said. “I don’t get a lot of recognition, and I like that because I think it’s the purest form of volunteering.”

Some of the students work as couriers, driving vans filled with bone and tissue to and from the center. They often have to sandwich shifts between a grueling load of classes, labs, and study sessions.

Hansen said the experience offers the students a unique view of bone and tissue donation and how it saves and enhances peoples’ lives.

“Some physicians don’t see this until they’re in internships or residents. And very few of them will actually see how it’s done, or what goes into it,” she said. “This is a great opportunity for these students to come down and see what they’re about to spend a lifetime doing. I think that we open a lot of eyes.”

### **Lifetime lessons**

The students who volunteer at the homeless shelter may not spend their lifetimes doing it, but they certainly get lifetime lessons.

“Most of them didn’t grow up homeless or never knew that side of things,” said Fleissig. “It’s nice to give people that perspective.”

The volunteers see the effects on families of getting sucked into the cycle of poverty and losing family structure as a result.



## Community service part of the Boonshoft tradition

The Boonshoft School of Medicine has a long history of community partnership and service.

In addition to co-curricular activities where students are involved in volunteering both independently and through student service clubs, medical school students engage in curricular-based service-learning experiences. As a required part of the elective program, all students complete 60 hours of service learning.

Service learning is a teaching pedagogy that places students in applied-education community-based settings where there is an equal emphasis on what the student is learning and the service they are providing.

The American Association of Medical Colleges encourages opportunities such as service learning in medical education to further the work of community engagement and civic responsibility in the professional practice of medicine.

Sites include the Community Blood Center/Community Tissue Center, St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelters, Reach Out, the Wright State Weekend Intervention Program, area secondary and elementary schools, Hospice of Dayton, New Orleans (Relief Spark, Project Lazarus, and Camp Restore), the Alzheimer's Association, Project C.U.R.E., Dayton Habitat for Humanity, and various hospitals, clinics, and charitable organizations in the students' hometowns.

"It raises awareness about what's going on, what's happening in our community," Romer said. "And it gives a birds-eye view that young people wouldn't normally have. You think about homelessness and abject poverty, but you don't think about it five minutes from where you're sleeping."

Romer said homelessness can cause parents to become deficient in life skills and habits, academic skills, confidence, and job readiness.

"They have children that grow up in that atmosphere that aren't ready to sustain themselves," he said. "And it progresses from generation, to generation, to generation. These families are essentially broken."

Shannon Romer said the kids have been hurt by the transient circumstances of their families.

"They slip through the cracks a little bit when it comes to education," she said. "I've had to teach a third-grader how to write his name."

Eric Romer said the tutoring programs are an effort to intervene with the children before they develop wrong life habits and to give them life skills and confidence.

### A sanctuary for kids

The students' work at the Gateway Shelter is designed to create a quiet, structured sanctuary for the children that buffers them from the chaos resulting from the transient nature of the residence. The effort at the Kettering

apartment complex is a more organized attempt to help the children progress academically.

The student volunteers try to establish a trusting relationship with the kids so they will open up. The relationship is built around homework so the children accomplish something together with the tutor. The whole time, the tutors try to instill the life skills of respect, responsibility, and motivation.

"All they want is positive interaction with an adult," said Deardorff. "And if you can give that to them, they'll do well. You can turn them around."

### This is why I'm doing this

The volunteer work is not easy. It can be frustrating. And the students have to squeeze it in between a dizzying schedule of classes, labs, and studying.

But Romer knows it's worth it, recalling the time he spent an hour with a young girl teaching her how to write her name.

"We're getting ready to leave. She stops, turns around, hugs me, and says 'Thank you,'" said Romer, choking up with emotion. "It stuck with me. So when I get annoyed or frustrated, I go back to that and say, 'This is why I'm doing this.'"

To make sure the program survives after they graduate and move away, the volunteers have set up a system to recruit incoming students.

"We fear that if we don't do this," Deardorff said, "it will go back to being an empty room with blank walls and eight kids huddled around a tiny little TV not doing their homework after school." **VS**

For those interested in volunteering their time or donating money or supplies to the tutoring program, email: [svdpwsu@gmail.com](mailto:svdpwsu@gmail.com).

# Class of 2016 in profile

Members of the entering class of 2016 conquered the outdoor climbing and rappelling tower and a low ropes course at the Wright State Challenge Course during orientation week. The experience helped the 103 students get to know one another during their first week of medical school.

Orientation kicked off on July 27 with an ice cream social. Students and their friends and family members also attended the Convocation and White Coat Ceremony on July 29 in the Schuster Performing Arts Center.

The class of 2016 draws from a variety of undergraduate experiences. Educated at various universities across Ohio and from Columbia University to Stanford University, the 103 members of the entering class have already shown a strong commitment to community service both at home and abroad. They have shadowed doctors, volunteered in hospitals, observed open heart surgery, and conducted research. One class member volunteered as a Spanish interpreter in a free health clinic. Others have volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Some have served at soup kitchens. Some have studied abroad in Ecuador, Spain and Italy. Two students participated in a medical mission trip to Honduras, and another was a spokesperson for cystic fibrosis. One student is an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. Fifty-two percent are women, while 48 percent are men. They speak 16 different languages.



# Milestones



## Match Day

On March 16, 95 graduating Boonshoft School of Medicine students joined medical students nationwide to learn where they will pursue residency training.

Gathered with family, friends, and other supporters in the Student Union Apollo Room on the Wright State campus, the students took part in a national event that has become a rite of passage for those on the brink of becoming physicians.

Wright State students matched in outstanding programs in Dayton, throughout Ohio, and across the country,

including Case Western Reserve, the Cleveland Clinic, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago Medical Center. Fifty-three percent of Wright State's graduates chose to enter a primary care field.



**Matthew Abraham**  
Surgery-General  
University of Tennessee Graduate  
School of Medicine  
Knoxville, TN

**Angela A. Adams-Harrison**  
Family Medicine  
Christ Hospital  
Cincinnati, OH

**Samuel Gboyega Adediran**  
Internal Medicine  
Lehigh Valley Hospital  
Allentown, PA

**Andrea Erika Ament**  
Psychiatry  
Stanford University Programs  
Stanford, CA

**Katherine Ann Backes**  
Psychiatry  
Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA  
Chicago, IL

**Thomas Barwacz**  
Internal Medicine  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, OH

**Jaclyn A. Bjelac**  
Pediatrics  
Case Western/University Hospitals  
Case Medical Center  
Cleveland, OH

**Breanna Keenan Bolivar**  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Mountain Area Health Education  
Center  
Asheville, NC

**Derek Lee Broering**  
Emergency Medicine  
WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Dayton, OH

**Stephanie N. Buchanan**  
Surgery-General  
Mount Carmel Health System  
Columbus, OH

**Andrew Patrick Burleson**  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Loyola University Medical Center  
Maywood, IL

**Terry L. Carman**  
Surgery-General  
Riverside Methodist  
Columbus, OH

**Pi-Chun Cheng**  
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics  
Indiana University School of  
Medicine  
Indianapolis, IN

**Saranya Chinnappan**  
Anesthesiology  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
New York, NY

**Simon Choi**  
Anesthesiology  
St. Lukes-Roosevelt  
New York, NY

**Brendan P. Devine**  
Emergency Medicine  
Cook County-Stroger Hospital  
Chicago, IL

**Brian Thomas Dietrich**  
Internal Medicine  
Stanford University Programs  
Stanford, CA

**Andrea Ruth Dillon**  
Family Medicine  
WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Dayton, OH

**Michael Drennen**  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Carolinas Medical Center  
Charlotte, NC

**Kelly Estes**  
Emergency Medicine  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA

**Sean Thomas Filipovitz**  
Family Medicine  
North Colorado Medical Center  
Greeley, CO

**Erin Anne Forster**  
Pediatrics  
University of Minnesota Medical  
School  
Minneapolis, MN

**Melissa Nicole Fraley**  
Family Medicine  
UPMC St. Margaret  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Gene Wayne Freeman**  
Family Medicine  
Washington Hospital  
Washington, PA

**Charles James Garven**  
Family Medicine  
Trident Medical Center  
Charleston, SC

**Alyson Marie Grant**  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
New York University School of  
Medicine  
New York, NY

**Kevin T. Gulley**  
Family Medicine  
Grant Medical Center  
Columbus, OH

**Thomas Joseph Hagele**  
Dermatology  
University of South Florida COM  
Tampa, FL

**Elizabeth Anne Hall**  
Emergency Medicine  
New York Methodist Hospital  
Brooklyn, NY

**Gloria Arum Han**  
Family Medicine  
Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Upland, PA

**Justin G. Hartke**  
Internal Medicine  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA

**Kevin Michael Havlin**  
Pediatrics  
University of Louisville School of  
Medicine  
Louisville, KY



**Bryan Douglas Hill**  
Anesthesiology  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
New York, NY

**Lauren Nicole Hruszkewycz**  
Family Medicine  
Bethesda Hospital  
Cincinnati, OH

**Theodore A. Hufford**  
Surgery-General  
UIC/Metro Group Hospitals  
Chicago, IL

**Kathryn F. Jaap**  
Surgery-General  
Geisinger Health System  
Danville, PA

**Avash Kalra**  
Internal Medicine  
University of Colorado School of  
Medicine  
Aurora, CO

**Rena Kasick**  
Pediatrics  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Columbus, OH

**Kevin Daniel Kelley**  
Radiation Oncology  
North Shore-LIJ Health System  
Great Neck, NY

**Amy Rebecca Kelley**  
Psychiatry  
North Shore-LIJ Health System  
Great Neck, NY

**Shaden Z. Khalaf**  
Internal Medicine  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, OH

**Michelle A. Kline**  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Riverside Methodist  
Columbus, OH

**Matthew T. Koroscil**  
Internal Medicine  
Wright-Patterson AFB  
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

**Pooja Lahoti**  
Family Medicine  
Grant Medical Center  
Columbus, OH

**John W. Lax**  
Family Medicine  
Dewitt Army Medical Center (NCC)  
Fort Belvoir, VA

**Lance Lee**  
Family Medicine  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR

**Christine J. Lee**  
Family Medicine  
Scott Air Force Base  
Scott AFB, IL

**Justin Leung**  
Psychiatry  
Einstein/Beth Israel Medical Center  
New York, NY

**Nicholas S. Libertin**  
Emergency Medicine  
Ohio State University Medical  
Center  
Columbus, OH

**Kent Bryce Loader**

Family Medicine  
Palmetto Health Richland  
Columbia, SC

**Aram B. Loeb**  
Urology  
Wayne State/Detroit Medical Center  
Detroit, MI

**Charlene M. Lohner**  
Family Medicine  
Ohio State University Medical  
Center  
Columbus, OH

**Jacob Daniel Luthman**  
Internal Medicine  
University of Michigan Hospitals  
Ann Arbor, MI

**Nicole Majoras**  
Internal Medicine  
University of Chicago Medical  
Center  
Chicago, IL

**Erika Sue Manis**  
Anesthesiology  
Ohio State University Medical  
Center  
Columbus, OH

**Amy E. Manzo**  
Pediatrics  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Columbus, OH

**Jacob McKeegan**  
Family Medicine  
University of Colorado School of  
Medicine Swedish Medical Center  
Littleton, CO

**Meera Menon**  
Psychiatry  
WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Dayton, OH

**Leah K. Middelberg**  
Pediatrics  
Loyola University Medical Center  
Maywood, IL

**Kelly Miller**  
Internal Medicine  
WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Dayton, OH

**Jeremy Alan Moore**  
Emergency Medicine  
WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Dayton, OH

**Telisha Ortiz**  
Surgery-General  
Cooper University Hospital  
Camden, NJ

**Sandeep Palakodeti**  
Internal Medicine  
Kaiser Permanente  
San Francisco, CA

**Richa M. Patel**  
Internal Medicine  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati, OH

**Daniel C. Persinger**  
Surgery-General  
University of North Dakota School of  
Medicine  
Grand Forks, ND

**Julia Popritkin**  
Family Medicine  
Beaumont Health System

Royal Oak, MI

**Perry Stephen Poteet**  
Otolaryngology  
University of Arkansas  
Little Rock, AR

**Laura Ann Previll**  
Internal Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Affiliated Hospitals  
Milwaukee, WI

**Jessica Marie Rando**  
Emergency Medicine  
WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Dayton, OH

**Brent Thomas Rau**  
Emergency Medicine  
Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Joseph C. Rettig**  
Emergency Medicine  
West Virginia University School of  
Medicine  
Morgantown, WV

**Angela S. Rickey**  
Family Medicine  
Adventist Hinsdale Hospital  
Chicago, IL

**Lorena B. Rodriguez**  
Internal Medicine  
San Antonio Military Medical Center  
San Antonio, TX

**Amy E. Rouse**  
Pediatrics  
Advocate Christ Medical Center  
Oak Lawn, IL

**Stephen Hall Sams**  
Anesthesiology  
Beaumont Health System  
Royal Oak, MI

**Elaine Michelle Schaff**  
Family Medicine  
Grant Medical Center  
Columbus, OH

**Matthew P. Schmieder**  
Pediatrics  
University of Utah Affiliated  
Hospitals  
Salt Lake City, UT

**Ryan W. Schmucker**  
Plastic Surgery (Integrated)  
SIU School of Medicine & Affiliated  
Hospitals  
Springfield, IL

**Shannon R. Seals**  
Neurology  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati, OH

**John Adam Shaner**  
Emergency Medicine  
St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center  
Toledo, OH

**Donald Joseph Staggs**  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Emory University School of  
Medicine  
Atlanta, GA

**Swetha Suresh**  
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics  
University of Louisville School of  
Medicine  
Louisville, KY

**Andrew Sweeny**  
Emergency Medicine  
New York Methodist Hospital  
Brooklyn, NY

**Jason E. Thuener**  
Otolaryngology  
CWRU/University Hospitals  
Case Medical Center  
Cleveland, OH

**Prakash Vemulapalli**  
Emergency Medicine  
New York Presbyterian Hospital-  
Columbia & Cornell  
New York, NY

**Arjun Vibhakar**  
Emergency Medicine  
Akron General Medical Center/  
NEOMED  
Akron, OH

**Amanda Vince**  
Family Medicine  
Saint Joseph Regional Medical  
Center  
South Bend, IN

**Randy Wallace**  
Emergency Medicine  
Akron General Medical Center/  
NEOMED  
Akron, OH

**John Robert Weiffenbach**  
Psychiatry  
WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Dayton, OH

**Ryan J. Whitt**  
Pediatrics  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Columbus, OH

**Sadie Lynn Williams**  
Pediatrics  
Orlando Health  
Orlando, FL

**Joshua Lee Wilson**  
Internal Medicine  
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center  
Winston-Salem, NC

**Eli Zarkhin**  
Internal Medicine  
Case Western/MetroHealth Medical  
Center  
Cleveland, OH

**James A. Zimmerman**  
Family Medicine  
St. Vincent Hospital Center  
Indianapolis, IN



## Graduation

**Ninety-five members of the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine class of 2012 were awarded M.D. degrees during the school's 32nd commencement ceremony at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 25.**

In addition to the conferring of degrees, the evening event included a hooding ceremony in which graduates received traditional regalia denoting their status and profession. The graduates also took a professional oath to mark the start of their medical careers and signed a registry to commemorate their first use of the initials M.D. following their names.

Patch Adams, M.D., the real man behind the hit movie Patch Adams, starring Robin Williams, gave the commencement address, "Making the Practice of Medicine a Beautiful Experience." Adams is a medical doctor, a clown, a performer, and a social activist who has devoted 30 years to changing America's health care system.

In addition to the degrees, several special awards and honors were presented during the ceremony:

**Appreciation Award—**  
The Kettering Fund

For exceptional collaboration and partnership in support of research and medical education at the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

**Dean's Award—**  
Jason E. Thuener

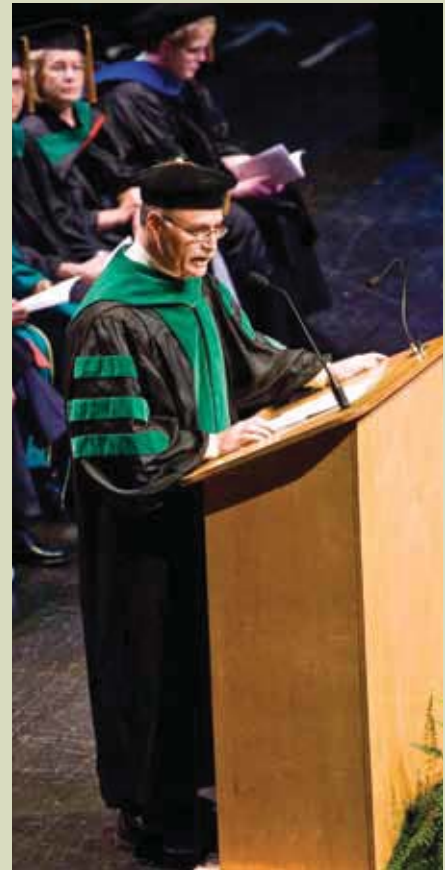
For commitment to academic excellence, empathy, and compassion toward others, personal integrity and professionalism, and earning the respect and trust of classmates and faculty.

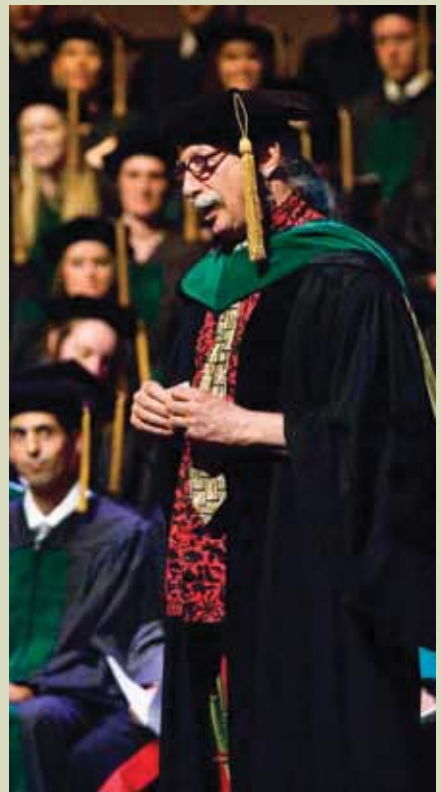
**Arnold P. Gold Foundation's Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award—**  
Jason E. Thuener (student) and Sheela Barhan, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics/gynecology (faculty)

For consistently demonstrating compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients.

**Teaching Excellence Award—**  
Gregory Toussaint, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics

For outstanding professional skill and pride in discharging his instructional duties.





# On the Move



Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research and  
Graduate Studies

Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D., professor of neuroscience, cell biology, and physiology, has been named WSU vice president for research and graduate studies. In this role, Fyffe will provide leadership to advance Wright State's research, scholarship, and graduate programs, and will serve as an advocate for the diverse constituencies involved in the university's research enterprise.

Fyffe joined the Wright State faculty in 1992 and held a variety of positions within the university. From 1995-2000, he was director

of Wright State's Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. Program and from 2000 to 2006 he served as founding director of Wright State's Center for Brain Research (now the Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute). Fyffe was appointed associate dean for research affairs at the Boonshoft School of Medicine in April 2001, serving in that role until his appointment as vice president in the university. Before coming to Wright State, Fyffe was a research fellow at the Australian National University and a faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Notably, Fyffe was named a University Professor, a special rank awarded by the Wright State University Board of Trustees reserved for full professors who have made outstanding contributions beyond the confines of their own discipline. He previously (1995-1998) was awarded the title of Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research at Wright State, and has run an active, NIH-funded laboratory for many years. A native of Alexandria, Scotland, Fyffe received a B.Sc. degree with honors in biochemistry from the University of Glasgow. He holds M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in neurophysiology from the University of Edinburgh.

Kenneth J. Gaines, M.D., M.B.A.  
Chair, Department of Neurology

Kenneth J. Gaines, M.D., M.B.A., joins the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine as chair of the Department of Neurology. Gaines is responsible for hiring a core team of faculty for the new department, and will serve as codirector of the WSU & PHP Neuroscience Institute along with Timothy Cope, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology & Physiology. Gaines will play a key role in directing the institute's research focus areas, including meaningful, ongoing collaborations among basic scientists and clinicians working in close proximity. Additionally, Gaines will direct the neurology undergraduate medical education program, a major component of both the preclinical and clinical curricula in the medical school.

Before coming to Wright State, Gaines served as chair of the Department of Neurology at the Ochsner Clinic and Foundation in New Orleans. Gaines also served as clinical professor of neurology at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, and was a professor of clinical neurology and chair of neurology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, S.C.

Gaines both earned his M.D. and completed his residency at the University of Tennessee, where he served as chief resident. He is board certified in both neurology and vascular neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He is a fellow in the American Academy of Neurology and the American EEG Society.



Jerome L. Yaklic, M.D., FACOG  
Acting Chair, Department of  
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Jerome L. Yaklic, M.D., has been named acting chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Yaklic has spent more than six years with the Boonshoft School of Medicine, serving as an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, as well as medical director for Wright State Physicians Women's Health Care. He is also a medical staff member and medical director of the Miami Valley Hospital/Five Rivers Health Center (FRHC) for Women's Health.

Yaklic served as an active duty member in the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base before joining the faculty in the WSU Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1996. In 2000, after completing his service commitment, Yaklic moved back to his home state of Michigan and opened a private practice in Bad Axe, a small rural community. Between 2000 and 2010, he held many positions within local hospitals, including chief of staff at Huron Medical Center. Yaklic came back to Dayton and rejoined the faculty at the Boonshoft School of Medicine in 2010.

In addition to his role with the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Yaklic is working toward his M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from the Wright State University Raj Sooin College of Business, which he expects to complete in December 2012. He is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

# In Good Company

**STAMP OF APPROVAL**

Painting by daughter  
of Wright State  
grad chosen by  
United Nations

Jim Hannah

## “Crazy Love”

It’s the title of a painting chosen by the United Nations after a worldwide search for its 2012 Autism Awareness Stamp. The fact that it was painted by 20-year-old Hannah Rose Kandel—who was diagnosed with autism at age two—comes as little surprise to her father.

“While our daughter was profoundly impaired initially, she is now a young, successful adult,” said Joseph Kandel, M.D. (’85). “She has blossomed into a beautiful woman and has discovered that her autism also provides a handful of gifts. She sees the world differently. She is able to do her art in the way she does it because of her unique perspective.”

Hannah’s “Crazy Love” painting is that of a red heart rimmed with a fireworks-like display of green, blue, and orange streamers. It is an expression of the love Hannah feels inside herself and for her friends.

The painting was part of a project at Masterpiece Mixers Paint and Party Studio in Naples, Fla., where the Kandel family lives.

It was about 19 years ago that Kandel and his wife, Merrylee, noticed that Hannah was developing at a different pace than the couple’s oldest child. Kandel believed that Hannah simply had a developmental delay, a learning disability or possibly some deafness. The autism diagnosis came as a shock because at the time it was estimated that only one in 10,000 people had autism.

“My wife and I were stunned,” he recalled.

Autism is a neurodevelopment disorder that can short-circuit communication, cripple social interaction, and result in

repetitive behavior such as hand flapping, spinning, and rocking. Milder versions of the disorder result in less obvious, but still interfering symptoms. About one in 88 children has been identified with an autism spectrum disorder according to estimates from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Autism and Development Monitoring (ADDM) Network.

## Building a program in Florida

After Hannah’s diagnosis, the Kandels’ pediatric neurologist suggested that Kandel close his practice and move to the Carolinas, a strong area for autism research and treatment. However, the couple instead decided to build a program in southwest Florida.

They enlisted an expert in autism therapy and intervention who currently works at the Cleveland Clinic to train people to do applied behavior analysis.



## Communicating through pictures

“We spent hours and hours with behavior modification to help Hannah begin on her road to improvement,” Kandel said.

Hannah was also helped by speech and occupational therapists.

A major breakthrough came when Andy Bondy, Ph.D., originator of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), was brought in to help Hannah, who was three and essentially nonverbal.

“We used the picture program to enable her to communicate,” Kandel said. “This helped tremendously in reducing her tantrums triggered out of frustration. Once she was able to communicate by her communication pictures, she was much calmer, much more relaxed.”

## Fun Fridays and super Sundays

Since Hannah had trouble communicating, socializing, and interacting with others, the Kandels turned to a specialist—Beth Solzer-Azaroff, Ph.D. She helped the family set up “Fun Fridays,” in which other young children—some with special needs and some not—came to the Kandel home for games, food, and social activities.

“We intentionally sabotaged some of the interactions so they would have to learn to communicate with each other,” Kandel said.

“Fun Fridays” grew to include “Super Sundays” and “Camp Kandel,” a summer camp that included sessions such as Kids in the Kitchen and Weird Science. Through the program, Hannah made friends who remain very close to her.

Currently, Hannah is attending school and working on her G.E.D. She has given a number of speeches, both at the Florida Center for Autism and Related Disorders



Joseph and Merrylee Kandel at the U.N. unveiling of their daughter's stamp.

(CARD) for 400 educators in Orlando and at Florida Gulf Coast University for a speech preceding that of Temple Grandin, renowned for her autism advocacy.

## Big goals

Hannah's goals are to go to college, raise a family, become a teacher and an artist, and be famous. She is involved in gymnastics, horseback riding, Irish step dancing, and art projects.

Hannah's penchant for staying active mirrors that of her father, going back to his boyhood.

At Eastmoor High School in Columbus, Ohio, Kandel was sports editor, and tennis team captain, took college courses at Capital University, and was named student with the “Most School Spirit.” He attended The Ohio State University on a Battelle Scholarship and graduated with a degree in psychology, with honors, and a degree in zoology, with distinction.

## A lifetime of passion

His career plans had been written in stone for awhile.

“When I was five years old, I was asked by my grandmother what I wanted to do when I grew up, and I stated without any hesitation, ‘I want to be a family doctor,’” Kandel said. “I feel that someone who has had a lifetime passion for becoming a physician often makes a more dedicated and passionate individual.”

Kandel described his start at Wright State's medical school as “a bit shaky.” He was elected class president his first year and found the responsibilities of the office combined with the academic rigors “overwhelming.”

“I was spinning my wheels and sleeping too little, studying too much and being very narrow,” he recalled. “When I started to relax, enjoy the classes I was taking, get enough sleep, and start to socialize, everything seemed to fall into place.”

Kandel especially enjoyed getting to do clinical assessments early in his career. He was paired with a family physician and allowed to see patients on Fridays.

She sees the world differently. She is able to do her art in the way she does it because of her unique perspective.”



Hannah receives a stamp sheet that includes her stamp.

“It was almost like the dessert at the end of the week,” he said. “I worked hard, studied hard, and then was able to take a little bit of what I learned and applied that towards patient care.”

Kandel particularly enjoyed the camaraderie at Wright State and the support from other students.

“One of my fondest memories was meeting up with one of the other students the Friday night before the first gross anatomy practical at midnight, studying until 4 o’clock and then going to Young’s Dairy,” he said. “I don’t think I’ll ever forget a study session like that.”

After medical school, Kandel did his internal medical transitional program at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus and then his neurology residency program at the University of California Irvine Medical Center.

### **Building a practice**

He moved to southwest Florida, where he established a neurology/neurosurgery practice group in 1996 that has grown into five office locations and more than 120 employees. He usually works seven days a week nearly 12 hours a day, arriving in either his Naples or Fort Myers offices at 6:30 a.m.

### **Tireless advocates**

Kandel, 52, and his wife have become tireless advocates for people with autism, providing encouragement and support. They also work to educate the public and demystify the diagnosis. Early intervention, Kandel says, yields tremendous improvements and can change the course of not only the individual, but society as well.

Kandel offers hope for parents of children with autism. Finding others who are supportive, nurturing, persistent, and optimistic is extremely important.

“This is a marathon, not a sprint,” Kandel said. “Children with autism have special needs, and they mature and develop at their own pace. Hannah’s curve is her own curve for growth and development, and she is still making strides forward. I am still awed by everything that she learns and does on a daily basis.”

Kandel says his family motto is “dream it, believe it, achieve it.”

“Every day we see Hannah Rose never giving up, continuously trying, no matter what, and always challenging herself,” he said. “She continues to dream it, believe it, and achieve it.” **VS**



## Love, Marriage, & Medicine

Leigh Wilkins

**Career success can sometimes sabotage a happy marriage — and vice versa. But for Dominic Bagnoli, M.D., and Vivian von Gruenigen, M.D., the two go hand in hand.**

The couple met in 1987 during Vivian's first week at Boonshoft School of Medicine, when Dominic was a second-year student. Dominic noticed Vivian right away, but two years passed before they started dating. In 1990, Dominic matched in the emergency medicine program at Akron General Hospital. A year later, Vivian matched in the obstetrics/gynecology program at Akron City Hospital. The couple married that summer, soon after Vivian graduated from Wright State.

Now, 21 years later, the couple has two teenaged children and lives in Dominic's hometown of Hartville, Ohio. Both physicians enjoy highly successful, though very different, careers. Dominic is chief executive officer of Emergency Medicine Physicians in Canton, a company he launched with two other physicians during his residency. EMP, one of the nation's leading providers of emergency medicine services, has grown to more than 700 emergency medicine physicians treating nearly three million

emergency medicine patients each year in more than 60 locations. Dominic has received numerous industry awards for his success as an entrepreneur and business visionary.

Vivian, a gynecologic oncologist, spent several years in private practice after her fellowship. In 2002, she joined Summa Health System in Akron and also was recruited by Case Western Reserve University to teach and conduct research. Vivian currently holds multiple appointments, including department chair of obstetrics and gynecology for Summa Akron City and St. Thomas Hospitals and medical director of women's health services for Summa Health System. She continues to teach at Case Western and at Northeastern Ohio Medical University, and is also editor of a popular, often humorous women's health blog called Summa Flourish.

### **Beyond busy**

Juggling career and family commitments has been a challenge from the early years of the marriage. The couple's first child, Dominic, was born toward the end of Vivian's residency. Soon after, the family moved to Dallas for Vivian's gynecology/



Boonshoft grads Vivian von Gruenigen and Dominic Bagnoli have learned to juggle busy careers and family life in their 21 years together.

oncology fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. By then, Dominic was already committed to EMP, and the work required him to commute back and forth from Dallas.

“My fellowship had no restriction hours, and I was on call all the time,” recalls Vivian. “Dominic was out of town two weeks of every month. We survived because family members and friends came down to visit and help. They’d cook and freeze meals for us and take care of the baby.”

The couple’s second child, Elise, was born in March of the last year of Vivian’s fellowship and the family returned to Ohio that summer. Once again, career demands and family commitments collided. “I was a young gynecologic oncologist in private practice, sometimes

operating five days a week, and Dominic was growing his company and working as an emergency physician,” Vivian says. “Dominic had convinced me that we should build a house in Hartville, and that he would be the project manager. Things reached a tipping point, and after a lot of debate we renegotiated our time commitments. How’s that for putting it diplomatically?”

### Keys to success

Such communication and compromise have served the couple well, Dominic says. “Having a spouse and friend to talk with about personal and professional issues has been a big positive,” he says. “Our personalities are different, but we are both passionate about our work. If

Vivian needs to change our plans because something has come up with a patient, I understand—she doesn’t have to explain it to me.”

Planning has played a key role in the couple’s success on the home front. Dinner is on the table at six o’clock, and it’s rare for anyone to be absent. Dominic and Vivian communicate frequently in person and by phone, emails, and text messaging. They try to never be out of town at the same time. And, years ago, Vivian found a go-to activity for the family: skiing. “Ski weekends capture our children and keep our family connected,” she says.

### Better together

Dominic and Vivian admit that balancing the demands of their careers and relationship hasn’t been easy. “As physicians, the challenge for us is the same as it is for other busy, professional people—there are always distractions and many opportunities to grow apart,” says Dominic. “We work hard to make sure that doesn’t happen.”

Their efforts are paying dividends in their personal and professional lives, says Vivian. “Before I met Dominic, I remember thinking, you know, I have a lot of ambition—maybe I should go this alone,” she explains. “But he has taught me that we can build our lives and careers and be better together than we would be separately.”

Dr. Bagnoli and Dr. von Gruenigen are supporters of Boonshoft School of Medicine, where they recently endowed a scholarship for medical students. They were among 11 alumni honored in February at the 12th Annual College Outstanding Alumni Awards Luncheon at the Wright State University Nutter Center for making exceptional contributions to their professional fields while giving back to their communities. **VS**

## Match Play

### Boonshoft grad donates kidney to fellow doctor

Jim Hannah

**Not everyone who needs a new kidney can get one. Finding a match can be difficult, waiting lists long.**

For M. Scott True, M.D., a physician at Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Consultants in Middletown, who was suffering kidney failure, time was running out.

What he didn't know was that a kidney matching his was sitting right down the hall in the form of Scott Albright, M.D., ('03) a Wright State University graduate who had worked closely with True for five years.

The events unfolded in 2011, when True announced to the office staff that he was having renal failure, would be off work for doctor's appointments, was looking for a kidney donor, and expected it was going to be "a bumpy ride."

In the midst of what was becoming an unsuccessful search for a donor, True casually mentioned to Albright that his blood type was O positive. Albright replied that his was the same and immediately volunteered to undergo tests at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati to see whether his kidney might be a match.

"I was willing," he said. "I told my wife well beforehand... that 'if I'm a match, I'm going to do it.' She said, 'You've got to.'"

#### **Rotation leads to love of sports medicine**

Albright's presence at Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Consultants was really a chance occurrence.

The boyish-looking 35-year-old with straw-colored hair and oval, wire-rimmed glasses grew up in the tiny western Ohio town of Covington. He attended the Kettering College of Medical Arts, obtained his bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and then went to Wright State for medical school, initially thinking he wanted to go into cardiology.

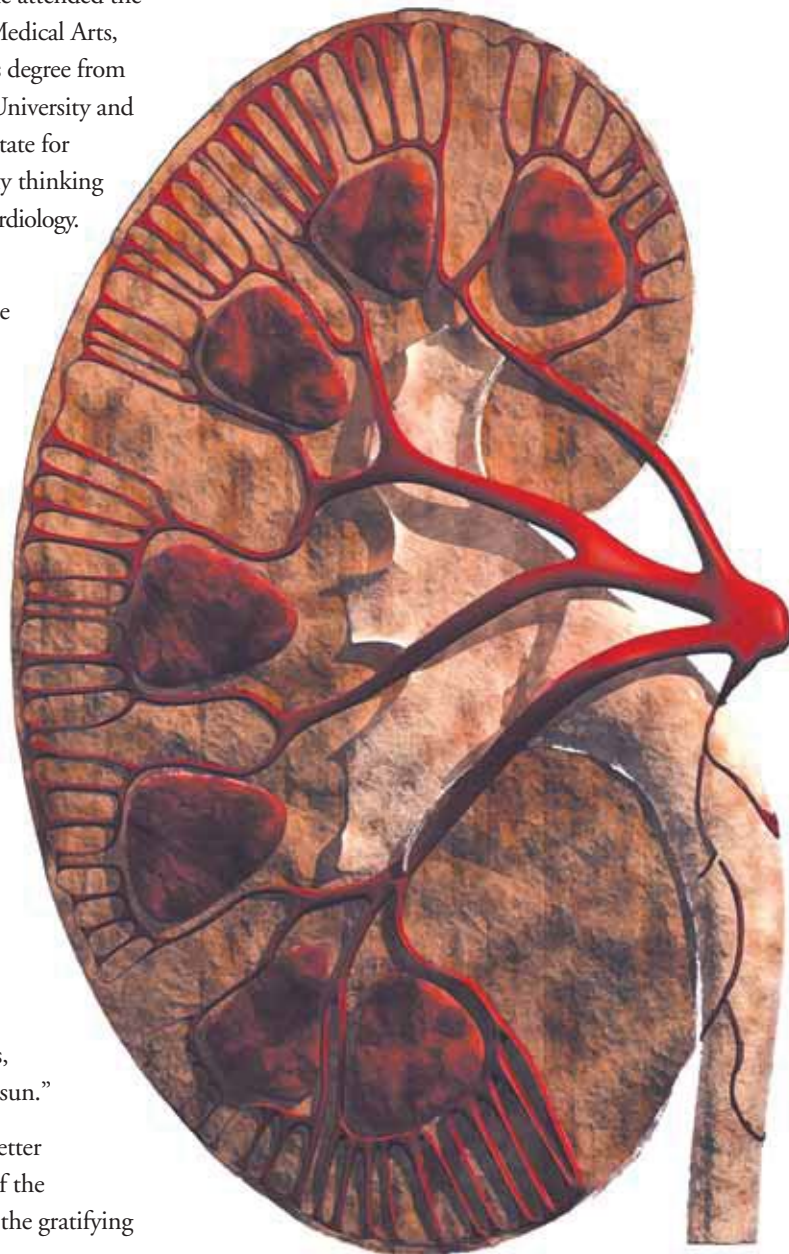
But during one of his rotations in Dayton, he worked with a sports medicine physician and fell in love with that area of health care. After finishing his residency, he received a flier in the mail from Middletown's Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Consultants looking for a doctor who wanted to do "100 percent sports medicine."

Albright jumped.

He treats fractures, sprains, torn ligaments, "everything under the sun."

"Making people feel better when they come out of the office," he says, "that's the gratifying part of it."

But it can be a lot of work. Fifty-hour work weeks and eating lunch at his desk is the norm. Albright's wife is a hospitalist



with a busy schedule, and the couple has a 10-month-old son.

### A perfect match

The fateful telephone call from Christ Hospital on the results of his bloodwork came to Albright in his office.

A moment later, True walked by and waved for Albright to follow him to a conference room, where unknown to Albright a surprise party to celebrate his recently born son was about to begin.

Instead, Albright pulled True into his office.

“I’m a perfect match,” Albright told True.

“He was floored,” Albright recalled. “He was not expecting it at all. He was quite elated.”

Finding a match in kidney transplantation is essential so that the recipient’s body does not reject the donated kidney.

Matching involves a complex series of tests that take into account blood and tissue type. In addition, a laboratory technique called crossmatching is used to determine how a transplant recipient may respond to certain cells or proteins of the donor.

A kidney does not have to be a perfect match to be transplanted successfully, but a donated kidney that is a perfect match typically survives significantly longer. Usually, a perfect match is from a brother or sister.

Albright was nervous about the surgery. He worried about the risks of general anesthesia. He worried that his one remaining kidney wouldn’t work. But he was determined to help his colleague.

On Aug. 2, 2011, the surgeries occurred back to back in adjoining operating rooms, with Albright’s left kidney removed and transplanted to True.

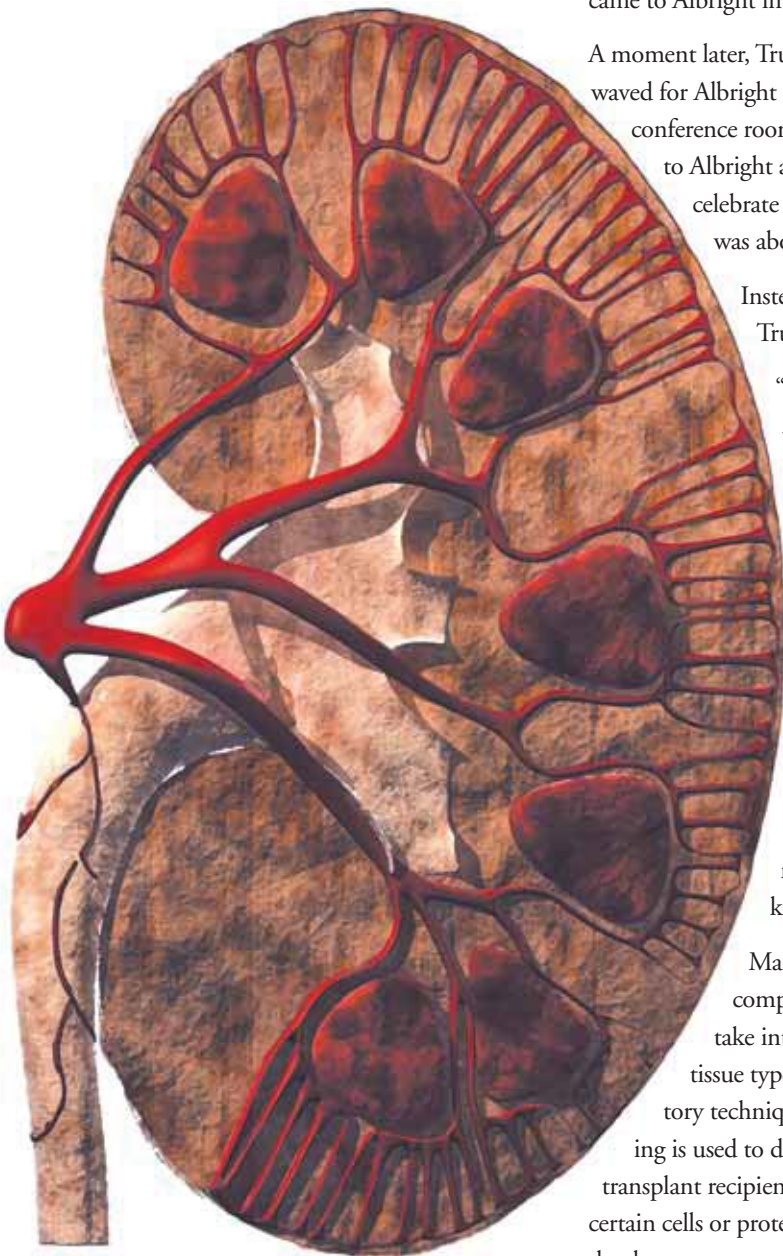
Albright was in the hospital for a couple of days, while True was there for more than a week. Albright described the post-operative pain as pretty intense.

Albright returned to work in two weeks, which he now admits was probably as much as a month too soon. He said the early return prolonged his recovery time and forced him to cut back on his schedule.

“I couldn’t walk upright for the first three weeks,” he said.

The transplant has created a special bond between the two doctors. They even joke about it, with Albright reminding True to drink plenty of fluids to keep Albright’s kidney healthy.

“For Dr. True, I would do it again in a heartbeat,” Albright said. “There was pain, but well worth it. He’s healthy again. I was glad I was able to help him out.” **VS**



# Alumni Notes

We're proud of our alumni and want to spread the word about your achievements. If you have professional news or personal updates to share—or simply want to stay in touch—please contact the Office of Advancement at [som\\_adv@wright.edu](mailto:som_adv@wright.edu) or (937) 775-2972.

## 1980

**Herman Hobohm, M.D.**, is now the medical director and plant physician for General Motors in Parma, Ohio.

## 1982

**Stan Marcus, M.D.**, works at his own incorporated practice with two other surgeons. He lives with his wife, Diana, in Oconomowoc, Wisc., where they reared their three children, Jayme, Charlie, and Victor. In his free time he plays classical guitar and is a vintage aviation buff.

**Paul D. Smith, M.D.**, and his wife, Ladonna, live in Oregon, Wisc., where he has worked at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 16 years as an associate professor. In addition to his service to the university, he works to increase health literacy in his community. He and his wife have three grown children, Melissa, Lauren, and David.

## 1987

**Deborah Pillow-Crider, M.D.**, has been self-employed at her own practice for 20 years. She has three adult children, Spring (40), Myriah (36), and Honour (34). She lives with her husband, Oakey Crider, in Lawrenceburg, Ind., where she spends her free time indulging in what she calls The 3 Gs: golf, gardening, and grandchildren.

## 1992

**Donata A. Rechnitzer, M.D.**, lives in Frankfort, Ohio, with her husband, John. She serves as medical director and partner of Express Med Urgent Care, and when not devoting her time to her work, enjoys gardening, cooking, and traveling.

## 1996

**William Vitello, M.D.**, currently practices with Chicago Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, S.C., in Illinois. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and a member of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. In addition to practicing, Vitello uses his extensive knowledge and experience to educate, having written numerous articles for both textbooks and journals.

## 2002

**Harry R. VanderWal, Jr., M.D.**, has been very busy since graduation. He now devotes the majority of his time to the Luke Commission, a non-profit organization committed to providing health care to the AIDS- and tuberculosis-stricken people of rural Swaziland. Along with his wife, Echo, VanderWal founded and is codirector of the Luke Commission. Together, they and their four children spend 10 months out of the year in southern Africa, returning to the United States for the remaining months to raise awareness. In addition to his efforts in Africa, VanderWal also continues to serve the Boonshoft School of Medicine, working as a clinical associate professor.

## 2007

**Amberly Davidson, M.D.**, recently opened an obstetrics/gynecology practice in Cincinnati. She enjoys reading and vacationing.

## 2009

**Capt. Andrew Maley, M.D.**, and Diana Haninger, M.D., became officially engaged in February 2012. Maley currently serves at Keesler Air Force Base Medicine Center in Biloxi, Mississippi, as an internal medicine resident. Haninger, a pathology resident at the University of Louisville Medical Center, graduated from Ohio University with a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree in 2011.

## 2010

**Crystal Lantz, M.D., and Vincent DeGeorge, M.D.**, were married on May 28, 2011, in Tiffin, Ohio. The couple currently resides in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and both work at University Hospital Case Medical Center, where Lantz is an internal medicine resident physician and her husband works as a resident anesthesiologist.

## In memoriam

**Kathy Dixon, M.D., ('88)** passed away in December 2011 after over two decades of service as a family physician in Marion, Ohio. She married fellow school of medicine graduate, Mark Davis, M.D., in 1998, and together the couple raised two children. Dixon was serving as the Marion County Health Commissioner and had previously been president of the medical staff at Marion General Hospital. She is survived by her mother, three siblings, husband, and children. She was 49.

**Jeffrey P. Held, M.D., ('91)** passed away in October 2011 at the age of 48. After graduation, he completed his residency at the Crozer-Chester Medical Centre in Pennsylvania before going on to practice medicine in California and Maine. He returned to Ohio several times to work at Coshocton Memorial Hospital. Held is survived by his mother, sister, and brother.

**Peter C. Imber, M.D., ('80)** passed away on December 9, 2011 at the age of 59. After a residency in family medicine, he practiced as a solo practitioner in Panama City Beach from 1984-2000. He joined the Veterans Administration as a primary care physician first in Panama City Beach and then Lexington, Kentucky. He is survived by his wife, Anna Sturgill, and two daughters, Ann Nicole Imber of Dayton and Allison Imber of Orlando Florida.

## William D. Sawyer, M.D., medical school's second dean, dies at 82



### **Dr. Sawyer led the school to greater diversity and community service**

William D. Sawyer, M.D., the second dean of Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, died on March 20 at the age of 82, following a lengthy illness. He was a resident of Temple, Texas.

Sawyer served as medical school dean at Wright State from 1980 to 1987. During that time, the Frederick A. White Health Center and the Health Sciences Building were opened, the Anatomical Gift Program held its first interment ceremony, the Prematriculation Program was initiated, and the Institute for Rehabilitation Research and Medicine was established. Under his leadership, the young medical school built a reputation for the diversity of its student body and its dedication to community service.

Following his tenure at Wright State, Sawyer became president of the China Medical Board, a New York-based philanthropic foundation supporting education and research efforts in medicine, nursing, and public health in universities of East and Southeast Asia. In 1992, the foundation awarded a \$1.2 million grant to China Medical University to help establish China's first emergency medicine residency program. Glenn Hamilton, M.D., then chair of Wright State's Department of Emergency Medicine, led a People-to-People tour of American emergency medicine specialists to China to collaborate on the grant.

Sawyer earned his medical degree at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo. In addition to his time at Wright State, Sawyer's medical career included nine years in the U.S. Army, and several years of research and teaching at Johns Hopkins University and Indiana University School of Medicine.

Sawyer was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from three Thai universities and numerous honorary professorships. Both the Chinese government and the Shanghai Municipality gave him their highest awards to foreigners for contributions to the health of their people. He also received the Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement from Airlangga University in Indonesia and the Medal for Contributions to the Advancement of Public Health from the Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jane Ann, and two children, Dale Sawyer, Ph.D., professor of geophysics at Rice University in Houston, Texas, and Carole Bolin, D.V.M., Ph.D., professor and chief of the Section of Bacteriology and Mycology at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University in East Lansing, and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contribution to Texas Home Health and Hospice, 7503 Bosque Blvd., Waco, TX 76712, or the William Sawyer Scholarship, Wright State University Foundation, 3640 Colonel Glen Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435.





## Upcoming events

### Music & Medicine Symposium

**Concert:** September 11, 2012 ■ 7 p.m.

**Symposium:** September 12, 2012  
8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

### Department of Surgery Reception American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

October 1, 2012 ■ 6-8:30 p.m.  
Hilton, Chicago, Astoria Room

### Emergency Medicine Alumni Reception American College of Emergency Physicians Scientific Assembly

October 8, 2012 ■ 6 p.m.  
Panzano's Denver, Colorado

### Cleveland Alumni Event

**Cleveland Browns vs. Cincinnati Bengals**  
October 14, 2012

**Tailgate lunch:** 11 a.m.

Marriott Downtown at Key Center

**Game:** 1 p.m.

### Department of Family Medicine Reception American Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly

October 2012 ■ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Association of American Medical Colleges Annual Meeting

Wright State University Reception

November 2012 ■ San Francisco, California

For more information on upcoming events, visit  
[med.wright.edu/calendar](http://med.wright.edu/calendar)



### 2013 Medical-Spirituality Conference Patient-Centered Care

April 11, 2013

### 2013 Academy of Medicine Dinner

April 11, 2013

## Abraham Verghese, M.D.

Abraham Verghese, M.D., renowned physician, bestselling author, and professor of medicine and senior associate chair for the Theory and Practice of Medicine, Department of Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine, has earned accolades in and out of the medical community for his advocacy on behalf of patients. Verghese has lectured widely on the importance of the doctor-patient relationship, on the samaritan function of physicians, and on where meaning resides in a medical life.

Verghese's debut novel *Cutting for Stone* was celebrated by critics around the country and has spent over 100 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. He has also written two nonfiction books, *My Own Country*, published in 1994, and the national bestseller, *The Tennis Partner*, about his close friendship with a drug-addicted physician, published in 1998.

Verghese was raised in Ethiopia, attended medical school in India, and came to the United States to practice. He has appeared on CBS's *60 Minutes* and on *National Public Radio* and his writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *Granta*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and elsewhere.