Wright State’s Travel Medicine Center

Prepares Dayton for Global Health
It’s chaotic in the emergency room. Your patient is drunk. He flails around as you clean his knife wounds and begin to sew sutures. In these conditions a needle stick could happen easily. And if you’re practicing medicine in a remote country where a third of the population is infected with HIV, ready access to AIDS prophylaxis could be more valuable than any insurance policy.

At a U.S. hospital, a doctor would begin AIDS prophylaxis within an hour of receiving an accidental needle stick. In Swaziland, a land-locked nation in southern Africa with only three hospitals for a population of 900,000, anti-viral medications such as AZT and 3TC are unavailable. That’s why Wright State medical students Megan Baker and Kara Levri brought their own supply when they traveled to the Swazi city of Manzini last February for a one-month rotation at Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital.

“We didn’t want to feel restricted or scared of the patients,” Kara says. “We wanted to be ready to sew sutures or deliver babies. If you have any inhibition about doing that because of the threat of HIV, you’re not giving your patient quality care. I didn’t want that in the back of my mind.”

Kara delivered two babies at Raleigh Fitkin, and she and Megan worked long shifts in adult and children’s wards where an estimated 90 percent of the patients were infected with HIV. Neither experienced a needle stick, but their AIDS prophylaxis was put to use near

“We wanted to be ready to sew sutures or deliver babies.”

H. Bradford Hawley, M.D. (L), and John Czachor, M.D. ('83), specialize in travel medicine.
the end of their stay. They gave it to a colleague who had cut himself with a scalpel while inserting a chest tube in a trauma patient.

The medical students did their homework long before packing their bags. They talked to Roger Pacholka, M.D. ('85), who travels frequently to Swaziland as a medical missionary, and with Howard Wunderlich, M.D., who teaches an HIV selective course for Wright State medical students. They checked with the Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline for the latest advice about AIDS prevention in Africa. And they consulted with Wright State faculty who specialize in infectious diseases and the burgeoning field of travel medicine.

Wright State’s Travel Medicine Center, located on the main campus at the Frederick White Health Center, was the first comprehensive travel clinic in the Dayton area. In conjunction with the WSU Pharmacy, it offers a complete array of vaccines and medications for travel destinations throughout the world. John Czachor, M.D. ('83), and Brad Hawley, M.D., provide medical services to more than 200 travelers a year. Half their patients are recreational travelers, and half are traveling on business.

“Lead time is the most important prescription for healthy travel,” Dr. Czachor, associate professor of medicine, says. “We recommend that travelers consult with us at least eight weeks before the trip. That gives us time for thorough research and recommendations. It also allows vaccines sufficient time to become fully effective.”

For first-time travelers to a new destination, the consultation takes about 45 minutes. The doctor takes a personal medical history and asks detailed questions about itinerary and travel activities.

“A traveler lounging by the pool at a five-star hotel is exposed to different health risks than someone doing gall bladder surgery at a rural clinic. We
need to know everything we can about the trip’s who, what, when, where, and why,” Dr. Czachor says.

During a travel consultation, Drs. Czachor and Hawley prepare a schedule of vaccinations and recommend medications to take on the trip. They also review the basics for healthy travel to any destination: safe sex and personal security, how to prevent insect bites and infection by parasites, and how to avoid traveler’s diarrhea.

“Travel broadens the mind and loosens the bowels,” Dr. Czachor says. “The simplest advice for avoiding diarrhea is this: boil it, peel it, cook it, or forget it.”

The specialty of travel medicine was once known as emporiatrics. Derived from the word empire, its original emphasis was protecting American and European travelers from the health risks found in developing countries. Under the aegis of the International Society of Travel Medicine, the discipline’s scope has broadened to include the health needs of immigrants throughout the world. The specialty’s growth also is an indicator of ever-increasing travel driven by a global economy.

That’s how travel medicine came to Dayton, according to Dr. Hawley, professor and chief of infectious diseases in internal medicine. About 15 years ago, a Dayton businessman became jaundiced after returning home from a junket in Africa. He thought he had contracted food-borne hepatitis, so he rested but did not get better. A few weeks later he was rushed to a hospital, where he died of malaria.

“If he had seen a doctor initially, his malaria could have been treated. That’s when we started to think about travel medicine as a need in Dayton,” Dr. Hawley says.

“It’s a real need for companies who do international business,” he adds. “People who travel abroad frequently on business shouldn’t get illnesses that are easily prevented, and when they come home, proper medical care shouldn’t be delayed because an exotic problem goes undiagnosed.”

Wright State’s Travel Medicine Center has developed medical programs for several Dayton corporations. One is Delphi Chassis Systems, which regularly sends employees to more than a dozen destinations around the world. Before each business trip, Delphi personnel consult with Drs. Czachor and Hawley. The Wright State doctors have identified a worldwide referral network of travel medicine specialists for Delphi, and the WSU Pharmacy has assembled a special travel medicine kit for the company. The working relationship with the Travel Medicine Center has been so successful that Delphi hopes to replicate the model at its other locations.

“A physician can go a lifetime and never see malaria, bacterial dysentery, or any number of diseases that show up regularly in Dayton with its level of international travel,” Dr. Hawley says. “With these types of problems, the more cases that you see, the better you are at diagnosing them. That’s what travel medicine does so well.”

— Mark Willis

Megan Baker, Year IV, with young patient.
These descriptions of Match Day were unaffected by the new electronic matching on the Internet in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). For the first time, participants in the NRMP were able to learn one hour after the ceremony, via the World Wide Web, if they had successfully matched to a residency program. This modern convenience did not deter traditional Match Day ceremonies.

Before 11:00 a.m., people began filing into the Medical Sciences Amphitheater, where the ceremony was scheduled for noon. The noise grew as families and friends arrived to share in the festivities. Medical students from Years I, II, and III came to watch and, perhaps, dream. At 11:45 a.m., the room quieted as Dean Howard Part welcomed students, family, and friends to the ceremony. A few seconds before noon, cheers erupted as Paul Carlson, Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs and admissions, turned the bin and reached for the first envelope that would tell one of them where they would spend the next three to five years. It exemplified, almost as much as the diploma, that they were no longer medical students but were medical professionals.

The tension was palpable as all held their breath. The first name was read and the student ran to get her envelope. She shared her match with classmates, placed the traditional dollar bill in a bowl, and the annual celebration began.

Alison Moon “would not have missed being there,” traveling from Florida where she could have received her match at 1 p.m. on the World Wide Web. Alison applied for dermatology and matched at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Jacksonville, Florida. Her match allows her to join her husband Mark, who began his residency in 1997. Alison couldn’t be happier!

Mark Green and his three-year old son, Mitchell, wore matching Texas caps and carried the Lone Star flag. Because Mark is in the Army, he already knew he would be going to Darnall Army Community Hospital at Fort Hood, Texas, but he attended Match Day to
celebrate with classmates. “The time has gone faster than I thought it would, and has gone more smoothly than I expected,” says Mark. Beginning medical school with a wife and daughter (Mitchell was born during Mark’s second quarter of medical school) presented time management challenges but provided incredible benefits in terms of support and encouragement.

Camcorders whirred, cameras snapped, balloons and flowers were presented, and hugs and kisses were shared as one by one the soon-to-be M.D.’s opened their envelopes.

Marcus Washington described Match Day as “our day, truly!” He thinks Match Day is more personal for the class than graduation day. “It is one of the rare moments when the entire class can get together.” Marcus held onto his sealed envelope until his wife’s name was called. Together, Rhonda and Marcus opened their envelopes to learn they had matched at Indiana University School of Medicine, Rhonda in obstetrics/gynecology and Marcus in family medicine.

Few knew that Rhonda and Marcus had an appointment immediately following Match Day ceremonies to have their baby—Aaron Washington was born at 6:30 a.m. on Friday.

The last name in the bin was called. Linda Lee ran to receive her envelope, no less excited than the first student had been. She opened the envelope and shared her match with her classmates. Her patience was rewarded with the bowl full of 96 one dollar bills.

— Gwen Sloas

The passage of time usually results in changes, both great and small, especially in our electronic world. Yet, some traditions remain.

Rhonda and Marcus Washington, Year IVs (above), celebrate their matches.

Linda Lee matched last, but richer, thanks to the “dollar in the bowl” tradition.
Development of a Multipotential Multifunctional Myeloid Cell Line

Abstract: To further develop a human blood cell line that can be used for research and drug development purposes.

P.I.: Michael A. Baumann, M.D.
Professor of Medicine and Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development at the Dayton VA Medical Center

Co-P.I.: Cassandra C. Paul, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine and Research Health Scientist, Dayton VA Medical Center

Cellular Mechanisms of Hyperbaric Oxygen (HB0₂) Toxicity in the Mammalian CNS

Abstract: To determine the effects of high-pressure oxygen on the sensitivity of neurons.

P.I.: Jay B. Dean, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Physiology and Biophysics

Co-P.Is.: Richard Henderson, M.D.
Associate Clinical Professor of Community Health and Biomedical Engineering

Patrick A. Carr, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of North Dakota

Neurobiology of Chloride Transport

Abstract: To use molecular, electrophysiological, and biophysical techniques to identify, characterize, and localize chloride cotransporters and their role(s) in the regulation of nervous system function.

P.I.: Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D.
Professor of Anatomy

Co-P.Is.: Peter K. Lauf, M.D.
Professor and Chair of Physiology and Biophysics

Francisco Alvarez-Lefmans, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology and Biophysics

Norma C. Adragna, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Francisco J. Alvarez, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Anatomy

Thanks to a generous gift from the Kettering Fund with support from the medical school, researchers at Wright State University School of Medicine are receiving grants that hold great promise for new and significant discoveries. Entitled the Kettering Medical Innovations Grant Program, the program has two major components: Program Alpha and Program Beta. The first distributed $750,000 to the six research projects listed here. Program Beta distributed approximately $250,000 in smaller grants to an additional five researchers from a field of 29 applications.

Internal and external scientists carefully reviewed the research proposals for the new alpha programs. An ad hoc group, the Horizons in Research Committee, established the competitive process that included a two-page preproposal. After reviewing 21 preproposals, invitations were sent to 11 researchers to submit full proposals.
Collaborative research and projects with a potential for external support were encouraged. Grant reviewers examined the proposals for scientific and scholarly merit and how well the proposed research related to solving a health or medical problem.

External reviewers were extremely impressed by the proposals they reviewed, and favorably commented upon the national and international reputations of the school’s researchers and the creativity and scientific merit of the proposals. They also recognized the strength of collaborations, “talented investigators who together form an absolutely unique team,” and of the “practical value” inherent in the proposals.

“Critiques of Alpha applications by the external reviewers confirm the high caliber of research proposed by our faculty,” adds Dean Howard Part.

— Judith Engle

Essential DNA Elements at a Human Origin of Chromosome Replication

Abstract: To identify the essential DNA elements at a human origin of chromosome replication—the human c-myc replication origin.

P.I.: Michael Leffak, Ph.D.
Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Angiotensinergic Modulation of Neuronal Function: Use of Gene Deletion Models

Abstract: To uncover the role of neuronal function in the regulation of blood pressure.

P.I.: Mariana Morris, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Co-Is.: David R. Cool, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Javier Stern, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Genetic Epidemiology of 20-Year Change in CVD Risk Factors

Abstract: To locate in humans specific chromosomal regions containing genes involved in cardiovascular disease and traits related to it.

P.I.: Roger M. Siervogel, Ph.D.
Fels Professor and Director of the Division of Human Biology

Co-P.Is.: Chumlea W. Cameron, Ph.D.
Fels Professor

Ellen W. Demerath, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Shumei S. Guo, Ph.D.
Professor

Tuan V. Nguyet, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Bradford Towne, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Wayne A. Wisemandle, M.S.
Research Associate II
When is mommy coming back?” a six-year-old asks his grandmother. Unfortunately the answer frequently is, “she’s not.”

More and more often, grandparents across the nation are raising their grandchildren. Although most grandparents are looking forward to retiring and enjoying leisurely activities, 1996 U.S. Census data indicates that almost three million of them have found themselves in an unexpected role. In a time when drug and/or alcohol abuse, poverty, and domestic violence are slowly eating away the family structure, grandparents are becoming parents to their own grandchildren.

Wright State University School of Medicine is concerned about this national trend and the fact that many children in the Miami Valley are becoming part of the “skip generation family.” To explore the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren, concerned community partners contacted the Center for Healthy Communities (CHC), a community-academic partnership with Wright State University, Sinclair Community College, and the Dayton community. CHC invited a core group of health and social service organizations serving Montgomery County residents to meet and discuss the issues and problems facing these families. As a result a coalition, the Grandparents/Grandchildren Initiative (GPGCI) Network, was formed and awarded a Community Integrated Service System grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

Project Coordinator Barbara Fuller, R.N., M.A., M.S., believes that the ultimate goal of the Grandparents Initiative is to “study the problems and needs of grandparents and work with the state to implement change.” The GPGCI Network surveyed more than 140 grandparent caregivers to determine the demographics, resources for support, and problems facing them. The emerging local picture mirrors national statistics.

The caregiver feels there is no choice but to take on this parenting responsibility. Even though she loves the children and enjoys some positive experiences raising them, there are problems, the financial strain being the most difficult.

One local grandmother, raising five children, laments, “I fall through all the cracks. I’m considered too affluent for help but I don’t make enough money to live, really, because if I pay the bills we don’t have enough for food.” Struggling grandparents are finding that it does not pay to be a custodial grandparent. They can receive approximately $216 per month for the care of one child through The Ohio Works First Program (formerly Aid to Dependent Children) and a medical card. However, foster parents receive approximately $500 per child in their care, a medical card, a clothing allowance, and they can be reimbursed for medical travel expenses.

Our prototype grandmother also encounters increased household chores and fatigue, feelings of inadequacies with current child raising norms, and anger and disappointment about the lack of gratitude. Caring for grandchildren increases stress, depression, and anxiety and contributes to general health problems for the grandparents. Additionally, they are taking on the challenges of caring for children who have multiple

---

**Profile of Dayton’s typical caregiver in skip generation families**

- **Age:** 53 years
- **Marital Status:** single
- **Sex:** female
- **Income:** $15,000
- **Health:** fair to good
- **No. of Grandchildren:** two to three
- **Ages:** 10 and under
- **Length:** 5 years

---

**Editor’s Note:** The Grandparents/Grandchildren Initiative Network, project coordinator Barbara Fuller, and local grandmothers were recently featured on ABC’s *Nightline*. Profiling a growing type of surrogate parent (up 20 percent in the past decade), host Barbara Walters explored the emotional and physical consequences that result when grandparents become parents.
needs themselves. Grandparent health is closely related to grandchild health, and these children are likely to have more health problems than other children. They more frequently have difficulties in the areas of impaired visual acuity and hearing, obesity, dental caries, and asthma. Health problems are more likely to go unidentified and untreated.

Policies and procedures in public health, housing, human and social services, and schools need to be modified to be more responsive to the special needs of this population.

A major concern is that grandparents often do not have legal custody. Without it, grandparents cannot register their grandchildren for school or consent to health care for their grandchildren. While legal custody procedures may need to be initiated, the grandparent often is reluctant to do anything that might lead from caring for a grandchild on a temporary basis to raising that child permanently. Sometimes a lack of trust in the system prevents grandparents from sharing their problems in fear that the information might hurt them in the future.

In addition to surveying grandparents, the GPGCI Network member agencies were surveyed regarding services available for grandparents/grandchildren and to identify problems in providing those services.

Barbara notes that “many grandparents feel the system is not user friendly, that they have to jump through so many hoops.” As a result of the survey data, three subcommittees have been formed to actively address the needs of the grandparents. The Grandparent Friendly Provider Subcommittee of the GPGCI Network was developed to establish guidelines for organizations to call themselves “grandparent friendly.” They have already identified seven agencies and will encourage others to meet their standards. The Grandparent Advocacy Subcommittee was established to provide grandparents with information on finding help with basic needs, custody issues, and parenting information. The third committee is the Policy Subcommittee, designed to investigate issues such as the legal ramifications of the foster parent and grandparent financial inequities. This subcommittee will inform legislators of the problems grandparents face and recommend more responsive policy.

The answer to “when is mommy coming back” may remain the same, but the GPGCI Network is committed to improving the lives of these children and their caregiving grandparents.

— Mary Lou Graham and Alicia Weaver
A Diligent Catalyst: Richard DeWall, M.D.

When Richard DeWall, M.D., came to Dayton in 1966, his sights were set on starting the city’s first open-heart surgery program. In just a few short years, however, he would champion an innovative plan for starting a medical school in Dayton, one that would break the mold of traditional medical education based in a university teaching hospital.

Dr. DeWall was thoroughly grounded in the tradition. Trained at the University of Minnesota, he was part of the team that pioneered open-heart surgery there in 1954. He invented a heart-lung machine that was used widely in the early years of the procedure. Before Dayton cardiologist Doug Talbot, M.D., offered him a research position at the Cox Heart Institute, Dr. DeWall had chaired the surgery department at the Chicago Medical School.

“Dayton had hospital facilities that matched any academic medical center that I’d seen,” remembers Dr. DeWall. “Dayton was an ideal place to start a new medical school — without spending $100 million for a new university hospital.”

Depth of experience in academic medicine combined with knowledge of the Dayton community to make Richard DeWall a diligent catalyst for the idea. He garnered support from civic leaders including Eugene and Virginia Kettering and politicians such as State Senator Clara Weisenborn and State Representative C. J. McLin, Jr. In 1968 he approached the Association of American Medical Colleges with the idea, and a year later he presented the plan to Wright State University president Brage Golding.

Dr. DeWall worked with the late Robert Conley, Ph.D., then dean of Wright State’s College of Science and Engineering, to draft a proposal for the Ohio legislature. It called for a community-based medical school that utilized Dayton’s existing hospitals instead of building a new university hospital. The community-based model would be more cost-effective, and it also would provide a broader range of clinical experiences to students and residents. With bipartisan support from Miami Valley legislators, the Ohio General Assembly established Wright State University School of Medicine in 1973.

“A lot of people put a lot of dedicated, hard work into it — more than what I ever did,” Dr. DeWall says modestly. “But I like to think I gave it the spark.”

— Mark Willis
A Man of Action:  
John Beljan, M.D.

If Dr. Richard DeWall gave the idea its spark, John Beljan, M.D., turned idea into action. He was appointed as founding dean of Wright State University School of Medicine in 1974. Simultaneously, he began the work of building facilities on Wright State’s main campus, negotiating affiliations with partner institutions in the community, and recruiting a faculty that combined academic physicians with doctors in private practice.

Dr. Beljan was uniquely prepared for the task. A decade earlier he had helped to launch a new medical school at the University of California at Davis. Trained as a surgeon at the University of Michigan, he supervised surgery residents at Davis, ran a research laboratory for NASA’s space program, and juggled administrative duties as the new school’s associate dean. He had served 10 years as an Air Force surgeon, followed by 15 years in surgical practice — experience that helped him galvanize Wright State’s network of clinical partnerships in the community.

The founding dean had to have strong academic credentials plus the ability to work with the community to get the school off the ground. John Beljan had those qualities. “I think history will show that he did an incredible job,” says Walter Reiling, Jr., M.D., who served on the search committee that selected Dr. Beljan.

“John Beljan went to great lengths to build cooperation, not competition, with the practice community,” remembers Jack Lewis, M.D., a founding member of Wright State’s voluntary faculty. “He became an active member of the Montgomery County Medical Society board. He involved community doctors at every step along the way. It wasn’t just lip service.”

“Putting together that level of cooperation isn’t happenstance,” Dr. Beljan says. “You have to work at it every day. It has to be your first priority. I covered more meetings than I can remember, but they were worth the effort. Both the curriculum and the admissions process were strongly influenced by community physicians. I’m proud of that.”

Twenty-five years later, would Dean Beljan do it all over again?

“Yes . . . and I’d probably do it better.”

— Mark Willis
Academy of Medicine

Excellent food, fine entertainment, and an enjoyable lecture were presented April 28 at the 1999 Annual Distinguished Guest Lecture and Dinner Meeting for the Academy of Medicine. This year’s event featured Michael Levitt, M.D., gastroenterologist and associate chief of staff for research at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. His presentation, “The Status of Flatus,” educated and entertained everyone in attendance.

Henry Maimon, M.D., chair of the Academy of Medicine, paid special tribute at the dinner to new life members of the Academy: Kim Goldenberg, M.D., Michael Albert, M.D., Gerard Dehner, M.D., Michael Jaffe, M.D., Richard Klein, M.D., Marjorie L. Stahler, and Frances Unger, M.D.

Dr. Maimon received a certificate of appreciation from the Academy for his hard work and dedication in his duties as Academy chair. The Academy also presented awards to outstanding students, residents, and faculty. These recipients were chosen based upon their exemplary professionalism.

1999 Award Winners
Student Excellence Award
Inga Grills

Student Excellence Award Runners-Up
Alison Moon
Robin Rinehart

Outstanding Resident Award
Sheri Gladish, M.D.

Professional Excellence Award—Clinical Faculty
Partha Banerjee, M.D.

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award—Junior Faculty
Mary T. White, Ph.D.

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award—Senior Faculty
Jay B. Dean, Ph.D.

Academy of Medicine Announces New Student Grant Program

The Academy of Medicine recently submitted a successful proposal to the Physician Charitable Trust Fund to establish the Student Community Service Grant Fund. The endowed fund will provide resources for Wright State medical students who have a history of dedication to improving the human condition. Each year, individual students and student organizations need financial support for community service projects. Through this new grant, a committee of physicians will evaluate and fund projects that “demonstrate the potential to significantly impact the health and well-being of individuals in the community.”
The Ultimate Legacy

“One, and only one, characteristic seems to ring true of those who donate their bodies to the Anatomical Gift Program,” explains Frank Nagy, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and of surgery and current director of the program. “They all seem to be someone who was always caring about others. They are wonderful people from all socioeconomic and educational levels, religions, and cultures.”

Established in 1975, the Anatomical Gift Program now has more than 9,000 listed donors. In 1980, Wright State University School of Medicine became the first medical school in Ohio to hold a memorial and interment service for families and friends of its donors. Dr. Nagy and Jesse Ziegler, Ph.D., professor of community health, developed a meaningful, compassionate service that brings together families of donors, students, faculty, and clergy from several different religions.

Throughout the years, donors’ families and friends have made unsolicited contributions to the program. The anatomy department, in an effort to continue the educational mission embraced by donors, recently combined many of those gifts to develop a scholarship in the name of Dr. Ziegler. “Jesse Ziegler really does epitomize what a good human being can be, how you can give to others in a variety of ways. He is an excellent role model for students,” says Jane Scott, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of anatomy.

The scholarship required about two years to endow and received unanimous department support. It is to be given to a medical student who exemplifies the humanistic ideals of Dr. Ziegler and of Wright State University School of Medicine. Another scholarship has been established in the names of donors Carolyn and Joseph Priest, and donor Martha Maley Bell recently bequeathed a gift that established an annual lecture series for the department.

“Donors to the Anatomical Gift Program give so that others can learn,” adds Dr. Nagy. The program meets the educational needs of medical and nursing students, resident and community physicians, emergency medical technicians, allied health professionals, and medical research teams. One daughter of a recent donor summed it up this way, “My mother was a devoted teacher all of her life. Even at death she’ll continue to do that. It is what she wanted.”

Phonathon 1999 Another Success!

Twenty-two third- and fourth-year students braved wintry weather and sacrificed study time February 22–25 to help raise $23,330 for School of Medicine scholarships and programs. This record amount beat 1998’s campaign by $1,840!

Participating students competed for prizes donated by generous local businesses — restaurant gift certificates, sweatshirts, compact discs, and tickets to Wright State’s theater and Nutter Center events.

The Office of Advancement would like to thank everyone who helped to make this event so successful!
Dr. Howard Part Appointed Dean

Howard M. Part, M.D., has been selected as the fifth dean of Wright State University School of Medicine. He served as the medical school’s acting dean since April 1998, when he replaced Kim Goldenberg, M.D., who was selected as president of Wright State University.

Dr. Part possesses a wealth of experience in advancing community partnerships, is the author of publications and grants in both medical education and research, and has received numerous teaching awards, including the 1992 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Medical Education.

Dr. Part’s affiliation with Wright State dates to 1986, when he entered private practice and joined the medical school’s voluntary faculty. Dr. Part supervised residents and Wright State medical students as an attending physician at Kettering Medical Center. He is the first dean of medicine at Wright State to come from the ranks of the voluntary faculty, more than 1,250 physicians who mentor and supervise medical students and resident-physicians throughout the community.

“I’m proud of my experience with Wright State’s voluntary faculty,” Dr. Part says. “As the School of Medicine celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, it’s important to remember the instrumental role that our community’s physicians played in starting the medical school and shaping its curriculum.”

Dr. Part describes his years of private practice as a “real-world fellowship” that gave him a fresh perspective on working with generalists and specialists. “My training gave me the tools I needed to make the transition into private practice. Private practice provided the experience to sharpen those tools before coming back to academic medicine at Wright State.”

After joining the medical school’s fully affiliated faculty in 1988, Dr. Part held a succession of leadership positions. He was chief of the General Medicine Consult Service and director of the internal medicine residency program at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, as well as the department of internal medicine’s vice-chair for medical education. He also served a term as the department’s chair and was associate dean for faculty and clinical affairs at the School of Medicine from 1995–98.

A native of New York City, Dr. Part received a B.S. degree from Ohio University. He holds an M.D. degree from The Ohio State University, where he also completed residency.

Student Notes

Patricia Abboud, Year III, is one of 20 students selected nationally by the American Medical Student Association Foundation to attend the 1999 Primary Care Leadership Training Program.

Laurie A. Bankston, Year IV, was selected as the first place winner, from a field of 276, in the William Carlos Williams poetry competition held annually at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine.

Sherri L. Morgan, Year III, is one of 15 medical students from across the country to receive a fellowship in the field of community medicine, according to the National Medical Fellowships, Inc., and the W.K. Kellogg Community-Based Training Fellowship Program for Minority Medical Students. The fellowship requires two rotations, a clinical project, and report on the community and the health care issues encountered during the rotations.
Jeff Kovacic, Year IV, was honored at the annual J.C. Penney Golden Rule Awards reception. Five volunteers and one community organization were chosen from a field of 57 nominations for the award, a $1,000 contribution to the group for which they volunteer. Jeff volunteers with Building Bridges, a program for children in the juvenile justice system.

Faculty Notes

Robert Grubbs, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology, received the 1999 Research Award from the American Heart Association.

David M. Rube, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and of pediatrics, and director of psychiatry at Children’s Medical Center, was selected as one of the 1999 John Templeton Spirituality and Medicine Award Winners. The six award winners were presented at a press conference in Washington, D.C., in April. The award from the National Institute for Healthcare Research, recognized Dr. Rube for the ways he incorporates spirituality into the psychiatry curriculum, particularly for children and adolescents and their families. His course has two portions, one didactic and one experiential, to be used in the two-year fellowship and residency training program in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Barbara L. Schuster, M.D., M.A.C.P., has been elected to the Board of Regents of The American College of Physicians American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM). She will serve a three-year term that began in April 1999 on the Board of Regents, the governing body of ACP-ASIM. The ACP-ASIM is the nation’s largest medical specialty and second largest medical organization. Dr. Schuster became a member of the ACP in 1982 and served on a number of its committees. She was awarded Mastership in the ACP in 1996, a highly selective category held by less than 400 internationally.

Family Medicine Receives the Gold

The American Academy of Family Physicians recognized seven medical schools, including Wright State University School of Medicine, with the Gold achievement award for a three-year average of more than 30 percent of graduates entering family practice residency programs. This is the second consecutive year Wright State has won this award.

Diana P. Broomfield, M.D.
Major, USAF
Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
M.D.: Eugenio Mario De Hostos University School of Medicine, Santo Domingo
Residency: Emory University School of Medicine (obstetrics and gynecology)
Fellowship: University of Pennsylvania (obstetrics and gynecology)

Ann E. Burke, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
M.D.: University of Virginia School of Medicine
Residency: Wright State University (pediatrics)
Celebration Sunday

Celebration Sunday began with a gala reception at the Dayton Marriott on a beautiful spring day in April and ended with a standing ovation at Memorial Hall for The Temptations, the ’60s group that made “My Girl” famous.

The day was months in the planning stages, including a “ballot” to determine the guest musical artists. Designed as a tribute to voluntary faculty and community partners, Celebration Sunday combined a heartfelt thank you with frivolity. Dean Howard Part bestowed the heartfelt thank you, and Roger Pacholka, M.D. (’85), aptly provided an irreverent audience warmup. Almost 2,000 attended the concert in honor of the 25th anniversary for Wright State University School of Medicine.

Above: The Temptations in step and Rose and Albert Langley, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs, at the gala reception.

Below: Roger Pacholka, M.D. (85), as MC and the final bow from The Temptations.
Vital Signs Memory Licensing Exam

How well do you know the school’s history? If you correctly answer all, you have achieved the coveted V.S.M.D. (Vital Signs Memory Degree). (Answers on the inside back cover.)

1. In honor of the founding dean, John Beljan, M.D., the charter class of 1980 created the “Big John” award. What was sitting on top of this coveted trophy?
   a. A caricature of Dr. Beljan
   b. A plaque listing the signatures of the charter class
   c. A miniature commode
   d. The Norman Rockwell print entitled “Checkup”

2. When the charter class of 32 arrived in 1976, what was the tuition per quarter for an Ohio resident?
   a. $ 424
   b. $1,092
   c. $1,867
   d. $2,030

3. The retired chair and professor emeritus of the department of family medicine (1975–1993), John Gillen, M.D., often talked about and shared pictures of his horse, a competitive harness racer. What was the horse’s name?
   a. Caramel Corn
   b. Cornsilk
   c. Cornstalk
   d. Colonel John

4. The School of Medicine holds a 5K Fun Run each year to welcome the entering class. When and where was the first Fun Run held?
   a. 1978 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
   b. 1979 on the Riverwalk in front of then St. Elizabeth Medical Center
   c. 1980 on downtown Dayton streets
   d. 1981 on Wright State University campus

5. Which departments merged in 1989 to become the Department of Community Health?
   a. Community Medicine and Postgraduate Medicine
   b. Continuing Education and Community Medicine
   c. Community Medicine and Medicine in Society
   d. All of the above

6. What is “Big Bertha?”
   a. The apparatus used for underwater weighing at Fels
   b. The 40-pound diseased liver used by the Weekend Intervention Program
   c. The crane used to place the bust of Hippocrates
   d. A companion to the “Big John” award

7. One of the innovations of the School of Medicine was the Selectives Program, which offered students unique learning opportunities and was designed to enhance lifelong learning and self-appraisal of educational need and professional growth. The current catalogs list 52 options for Year I and II students. How many were offered to the entering class?
   a. 15
   b. 4
   c. 29
   d. 22

Robert A. Hawkins, M.D.
Associate Professor, Internal Medicine
M.D.: University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
Residency: Wright-Patterson Medical Center (internal medicine)
Fellowship: University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (rheumatology)

Dennis W. Nielson, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Pediatrics
M.D.: University of Utah
Residency: University of California (pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology)

Adrienne Stolfi, M.S.P.H.
Instructor, Pediatrics
M.S.P.H.: Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
8. The School of Medicine was innovative in many respects, but which aspect was of enough concern to share with the accrediting body before becoming part of the founding plan?
a. The school did not own a university hospital, partnering with several area hospitals
b. The school began clinical care in the first week of class instead of the third year
c. The school used community members on its admissions board, granting them the majority of votes
d. All of the above

9. Where was the first location for School of Medicine administration?
a. WSU Kettering Center
b. Allyn Hall
c. Building 115, Dayton VA
d. Central State University

10. In 1981, the Frederick A. White Health Center opened for patient care and clinical training on Wright State’s main campus. Who was Mr. White?
a. The university’s first employee
b. A major donor
c. A community CEO
d. A national leader in health care

11. In 1980, the School of Medicine held its first Student Recognition Ceremony. Where was this first hooding ceremony?
a. The Quad
b. The old PE Building
c. Dayton Convention Center
d. Fairborn High School

12. Long-term faculty member and chair of internal medicine (1983–1994) was H. Verdain Barnes. What did the H. stand for?
a. Homer
b. Hortense
c. Herman
d. Herschel

13. The first courier services to quickly distribute information among hospitals and campus offices began in 1974. Where was it housed?
a. The Kettering Center
b. The trunk of a 1975 Impala
c. Allyn Hall student mailboxes
d. Dayton Chamber of Commerce

14. In 1980, the Dayton Hellenic Cultural Society gave a bronze bust of Hippocrates, Father of Medicine, to grace the front entrance to the Medical Sciences Building. Before its formal unveiling, what was removed from the bust?
a. A nurse’s cap
b. A hairline crack
c. A piece of duct tape
d. A stethoscope

15. In 1929, Samuel Fels, a Philadelphia philanthropist and businessman, and Arthur Morgan, president of Antioch College, created the Fels Longitudinal Study. Today, the study, regarded by the National Institutes of Health as a “national treasure,” is internationally recognized for:
a. The scientific development and application of anthropometry
b. A long-term study on the effectiveness of Fels soap
c. Genealogy methods
d. All of the above

Fels Celebrates Its 70th
“Body Composition Throughout the Lifespan: Issues, Mechanisms, and Health Outcomes,” a one and one-half day symposium, was held April 24 and 25. The symposium commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Fels Longitudinal Study and the 25th Anniversary of Wright State University School of Medicine. Designed for experts in body composition research and its clinical applications, the symposium brought together researchers from the United States and Canada to evaluate current scholarship and to identify gaps in knowledge regarding the impact of body composition changes on health.