

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SPRING 2001—VOLUME 25, NUMBER 2

VITAL SIGNS



DEAN'S message

A recent newsletter from the Association of American Medical Colleges featured the five medical schools



established under the 1972 Veterans Administration Medical School Assistance and Health Manpower Training Act. As one of the five, Wright State University School of Medicine shared with a national audience its close working partnership with the Dayton VA Medical Center.

For more than 25 years, our students have studied and trained at the Dayton VA, and approximately 70 percent of the physicians there hold full-time appointments with us. Perhaps less

well known is the Dayton VA's historical significance as a regional health care resource since the Civil War. This issue is a fascinating snapshot of that illustrious history.

Recent developments are also in this issue: a new Sports Medicine Fellowship, recently accredited through the Department of Emergency Medicine and Kettering Medical Center; a new research focus on premature births in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and a national award for curriculum development in community service.

Old favorites are here for an update as well. The Student-to-Student Program, a student-run organization, has been an outstanding community service program since its inception in 1987.

All have one commonality: they are partnerships that enhance all of our lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard M. Part, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Howard M. Part, M.D.
Dean

FEATURE 2-5

The Dayton VA Medical Center Preserves a Rich Heritage of Service



TABLE OF Contents

EDUCATION

6-7

New Sports Medicine
Fellowship Up & Running



Alumni News and
Class Notes

14-16

Advancement

17

Student Notes

18-19

Of Primary Interest

20

SERVICE

8-9

Student-to-Student:
Awakening a Passion for
Science



COMMUNITY

10-11

The PRIME Initiative:
Preparing Doctors to
Serve Communities



RESEARCH

12-13

The Science Behind
Premature Labor



About the covers:

(Front)

Tree-lined walk to Home
Hospital from Chapel. Home
Hospital opened in 1871 with
300 beds and was considered
the best constructed in America.

(Back)

Medical Staff on Headquarters
Steps in 1919. The Medical Staff
were required to wear uniforms
that reflected military attire.

THE DAYTON VA MEDICAL CENTER PRESERVES A

RICH HERITAGE OF SERVICE

Editor's Note: Photographs and their captions furnished by the Dayton VA Medical Center Archives.

JUNE 1885

Imagine you have stepped back in time to June 1885. You've traveled to Dayton, Ohio, to visit one of the most popular tourist destinations west of the Allegheny Mountains. Its official name is the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, also known simply as the Soldiers' Home. *Harper's Weekly* described it as "not only the largest and most flourishing institution of the kind in this country, but one of the largest in the world." In 1897, 5,033 veterans were present on the Dayton campus in all levels of care. More than half a million Americans visited the Soldiers' Home every year. In addition to spending time with the Civil War veterans who lived there, they came to see the Home's formal gardens and working dairy farm, its deer park and menagerie—complete with alligators and a bear—Soldiers' Home Memorial Hall for a spectacular assortment of plays, concerts, and speakers—as well as the Home Hospital.

As the Civil War drew to a close in 1865, and just a month before his untimely assassination, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation authorizing a National Home for disabled veterans. The National Home included an Eastern Branch in Maine, a Central Branch in Ohio (Dayton), and a Northwestern Branch in Wisconsin. Other branches were added later, but the medical center at Dayton had the distinction of being the largest and most elaborate of the Soldiers' Homes through the 19th century.

When completed in 1870 at a cost of \$185,000, Home Hospital was acknowledged widely as America's best-constructed and most efficient hospital. The three-story brick building initially provided 300 patient beds, which subsequent additions increased to 840. Each of the hospital's six wards included separate bathing and toilet facilities, and each floor contained a dining room that was connected by dumbwaiters to the central kitchen located in the basement. The hospital was heated by steam, and its boiler was housed in a separate building that was located over a hundred feet from the building as a safety precaution.

Home Hospital was the first in Montgomery County to be built and operated on a permanent basis. Temporary hospitals had been set up previously to meet emergency needs. One at the corner of Third and Main Streets, where the Courthouse now stands, served American



(Above) Veterans and visitors entered a grotto through a stone archway. (Below) Three natural springs provided refreshment to visitors in the grotto. The water from one of them was believed to have healing properties.



troops during the War of 1812. Another on Brown Street provided care for victims of a cholera epidemic in 1849.

In 1885, the medical staff of Home Hospital included a chief surgeon and two assistants, an eye and ear specialist, and recently authorized medical interns who served without pay. The patient census that year included 196 veterans with ear disorders and 134 with eye diseases. Also treated were 112 patients with paralysis, 80 with epilepsy, 49 with heart disease, and 11 with cancer. The 450-bed hospital was nearly 100 percent occupied. Nearly two-thirds of the veterans applying for admission to Home Hospital that year had some form of heart disease; their average age was 53 years.



(Above) Ward 4. Home Hospital had six wards located in its wings. A large steam powered elevator carried the sick to the floors above from the basement where the operating room was located.

(Below) The Central Branch gardens and lakes had an international reputation. Tourists were attracted to the beautifully landscaped gardens, a paradise of flowers and fountains.



PRESERVING A RICH HERITAGE

After more than a century of service, what Lincoln authorized has grown into the nation's largest integrated healthcare system. What was known as the Soldiers' Home is now the Dayton VA Medical Center.

The years have brought many changes to the buildings and grounds. Home Hospital was replaced by Brown Hospital in 1930, which in turn was replaced by the Patient Tower in 1992. The original Home Hospital structure was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin in 1941. Home Hospital was unoccupied at the time of the fire, but it was fully equipped to support the medical contingency plan for World War II. The dairy farm, deer park, and menagerie have long since passed from the scene, but the National Cemetery remains the final resting place available to all veterans. Seven of the Home's original buildings still stand, and thanks to a new virtual museum (www.dayton.med.va.gov/museum/),

(Above) Construction of South Wing, Brown Hospital, which replaced Home Hospital in 1931. This was the last major structure commissioned by the N.H.D.V.S. at the Central Branch. (Right) The construction of Home Chapel began in 1868. The disabled veterans quarried the stone from the medical center grounds. It was the first permanent place of worship ever constructed by the United States government. (Inset) The interior of the Chapel was frescoed, and the National Colors were draped across the ceiling.

visitors once again can experience the historic veterans' site as it appeared in June 1885.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Veterans Heritage Center (AVHC), and the Dayton community have undertaken the challenge of restoring four of the historic buildings. The AVHC's mission is to preserve and protect the significant history and culture of the structures, focusing on the historic preservation of the Home Chapel, Patient Library, Headquarters, and the Barracks. The AVHC aims to allow the buildings to serve their original purposes when possible, and to preserve the buildings for future use as museums, educational centers, and conference facilities. The AVHC is now raising funds, and the first major task is to preserve the Soldiers' Home Chapel. The Civil War veterans who lived at the Soldiers' Home built this amazing structure in 1870. These veterans, many of them disabled, quarried the limestone themselves from the Soldiers' Home grounds. This is the first permanent chapel ever built by the United States government.



INVESTING IN VETERANS' HEALTH

In 1972, Congress enacted another law with historic impact for Dayton. The Veterans Administration Medical School Assistance and Health Manpower Training Act (PL 92-541), also known as the Teague-Cranston Act, provided financial support to create five new American medical schools. One of them was Wright State University School of Medicine. Teague-Cranston made a long-term investment in the future of veterans' health by linking the Dayton VA's patient care with Wright State's medical education mission.

The VA allocated \$19 million in 1974 to help establish the School of Medicine. This led to the construction of two new buildings at the Dayton VA Medical Center, one dedicated to medical education and the other to basic science research. Before the Medical Sciences Building was completed on Wright State's main campus, the dean of medicine and other administrative staff worked in offices on the VA campus. Then Wright State and the VA began the joint process of faculty recruitment that continues to this day.

“We see Wright State School of Medicine as our lifeblood.”

Over the past two decades, the VA's emphasis has shifted from inpatient to outpatient services, according to Steven Cohen, M.D., director of the Dayton VA Medical Center and associate professor of medicine at Wright State. “Wider access to health care for veterans



Dayton National Cemetery and Home Hospital in 1886. The first burial was in September 1867. Wooden headboards painted white were originally used to mark the graves. In 1882, they were replaced with marble headstones. Home Hospital is in the background.

is a primary goal now. We've de-emphasized bricks and mortar in terms of hospital programs, and we're providing an increasing amount of care in outpatient clinics, particularly in smaller communities and rural areas across Ohio," he says. "That ties in perfectly with Wright State's mission as a community-based medical school."

last year. Consistent with national figures, the single largest group is Vietnam era veterans followed closely by WWII vets.

The VA has taken a leadership role in patient safety and informatics, and there will be an ever-increasing emphasis on health promotion and preventive medicine. "The VA system will continue to evolve along lines similar to the nation's health care system as a whole," Dr. Cohen says. "It will continue to grow as the population ages. We haven't yet seen the bulk of Vietnam veterans who will need VA services.

"We see Wright State School of Medicine as our lifeblood," he adds. "The cutting-edge academic programs are crucial for us, and I expect the collaboration to continue to grow." 📌

— Mark Willis

The Dayton VA Medical Center provides continuity of care for 27,000. The Dayton VA's newest hospital, the Patient Tower, has only half the number of inpatient beds as the 1870 Home Hospital, but its outpatient clinics logged more than 240,000 visits

NEW Sports Medicine



FELLOWSHIP UP AND RUNNING

While Daytonians gravitate toward Florida's sun in winter, this January, one native Floridian moved to Dayton. The attraction? A newly accredited Sports Medicine Fellowship program. A graduate of the University of Miami in Florida, Shari Baum, M.D., became the first fellow in the one-year extended program designed for graduates of emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatric residencies.

The original Sports Medicine program was another community resource threatened with the sudden closing of our clinical partner, Franciscan Hospital. Under the auspices of Kettering Hospital, however, the sports medicine staff and faculty have relocated to a newer and larger facility, the Kettering Sports Medicine Center. The sponsoring residency program for the Sports Medicine Fellowship is now the Wright State University Integrated Emergency Medicine Residency.

"The combination of sports medicine and emergency medicine is unique but logical," says Glenn Hamilton, M.D., chair and professor of emergency medicine. "There are only three such programs in the country, but this alliance is opening up new avenues for emergency medicine in Dayton. As team sports physicians, emergency medicine residents are on the frontline for athletic injuries and involved with the community outside of the emergency departments. There is new potential for research, new opportunities for community service."

"This Sports Medicine program is an asset to the entire region," notes fellowship director James Tytko, M.D., assistant clinical professor in family medicine and



Shari Baum, M.D., the first fellow in the new Sports Medicine Fellowship, works at the Kettering Sports Medicine Center.

emergency medicine. “This is a state-of-the-art facility which houses a physical therapy and rehabilitation gymnasium, an exercise physiology lab, a bracing lab, a dance medicine center, and a physician clinic with on-site radiology. We run an outstanding Sports Acceleration program to enhance the performance of athletes of all ages. When we are finished remodeling, it will be one of the largest sports medicine centers in the country.”

Dr. Baum, a practicing internist, says that she has “always felt a pull toward sports medicine. I’ve been a huge sports fan my whole life, and I thought what better thing to do than to combine my love for sports with my love for medicine.” She plays softball and tennis and works out daily at a gym. Last year, she ran a marathon, and she enjoys being a sports spectator, too.

“My experience here has been outstanding,” she says. “I see patients in the clinic, run exercise stress tests, and prescribe exercise programs. Most are athletes who are healthy and motivated to get better, which is refreshing to see. As part of the fellowship, I also attend sporting events to be on the sidelines in case of injury. Because of my interest in women’s sports, I’ve become the ‘unofficial’ team physician for Wright State’s women’s sports programs.”



Brian Springer, M.D., a current resident instructor in emergency medicine, is shown here demonstrating an emergency leg splint. He has been accepted as the second fellow of the Sports Medicine Fellowship program.

“There is new potential for research, new opportunities for community service.”

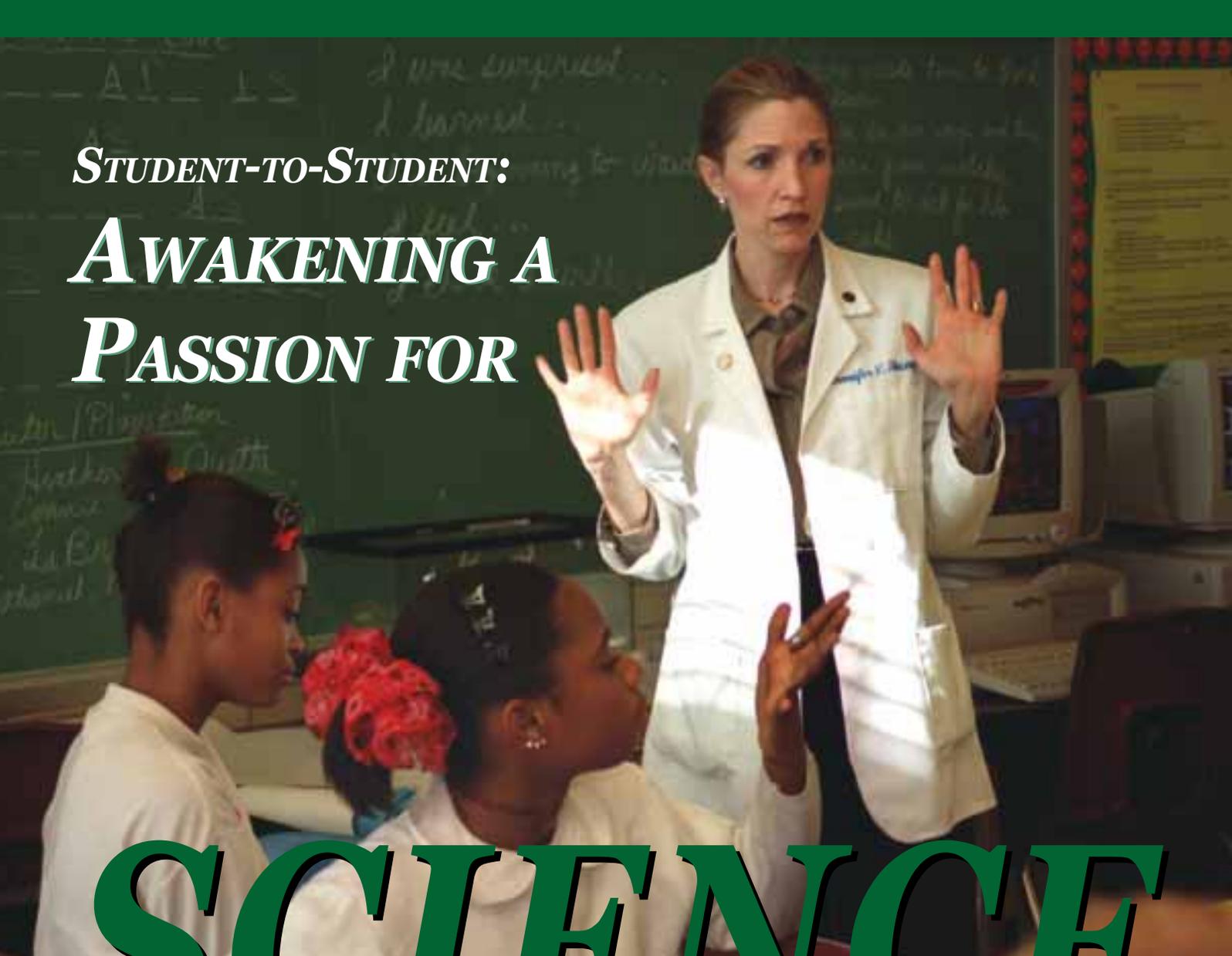
She goes to Wright State’s Nutter Center once a week to see athletes for both primary care and injuries. This spring, Dr. Baum will be working with Xavier University athletes and the Cincinnati Reds. She has also attended high school wrestling meets and stitched lacerations at Dayton Bomber games. The Center works closely with the sports programs at area middle and high schools, the Dayton Ballet Company, the Dayton Dragons, and fire and police personnel who need to pass certain exercise tests. In addition to Dr. Tytko, two other family practice physicians (Drs. Barry Fisher, ’85, and Richard Hoback) and two orthopedic surgeons (Drs. Frank Mannarino and Paul Nitz) see patients at the Kettering Sports Medicine Center.

Dr. Baum’s interest in women’s sports focuses on the “Female Athlete Triad,” a little known combination of poor eating habits, missed menstrual cycles, and early onset of osteoporosis. “As women have become more involved in sports, some of them are overtraining or compensating in other ways for that competitive edge. They are not necessarily anorexic or bulimic, but they are not getting good nutrition and often are underweight. We are finding an alarming number of stress fractures in young women athletes due to osteoporosis.” Although studies are showing that the decline in bone density is reversible to some degree, little is known about the long-term effect of early onset osteoporosis. The “Female Athlete Triad” cluster is “not a high-profile area,” she says, “but it definitely needs to be addressed.”

Dr. Baum plans to survey trainers and coaches to assess their level of knowledge about this issue as well as their comfort level with dealing with it. “This is not something that just happens in young women. Poor habits start in junior high and high school that lead to these problems. We need to know how to prevent these problems and to educate trainers and coaches on how to address a potentially touchy subject.” She is also developing a series of lectures on the topic for area trainers and coaches.

“I think sports medicine has shown me that there is so much you can do with physical diagnosis, especially in musculoskeletal injuries,” Dr. Baum says. “In medicine we are sometimes so reliant on diagnostic testing, and this fellowship is bringing me back to the art of physical diagnosis. I enjoy coming to work every day.”

— Judith Engle



STUDENT-TO-STUDENT:
**AWAKENING A
PASSION FOR**

SCIENCE

The little boy was so excited, he couldn't stop squirming. His hand shot up every time she asked a question about a different part of the body. "He always had an answer before anyone else. And, he was usually right," second-year medical student Jennifer Shoenfelt recalls with a laugh. "When I pointed to my trachea and asked, 'How does air get into your lungs?' he was so cute. He jumped up and started going 'Ta-ta-, ta- ta-,' and we encouraged him. Finally, he yelled out, 'Tarantula!'"

Jennifer and her partner Deanna Lantz were presenting "The Human Body" to a third grade class as part of Student-to-Student, an organization of medical students who present health education classes to students in kindergarten through 12th grade each year. The majority of the second-year class actively participates in the program, which started in 1987.

In "The Human Body," medical students help the children don latex gloves to hold and explore human organs provided

through Wright State's Anatomical Gift Program. The students say they've found that a close examination of a blackened lung is worth more than a thousand words about the dangers of smoking. A cirrhotic liver tells the story of alcohol abuse better than a dozen stern lectures.

"Student-to-Student is really unique," Jennifer says. "There's a huge need for programs that get kids excited about science and the human body, and this program does that. Most kids are never going to see the actual parts of a

Jennifer Shoenfelt, Year II, is giving “The Human Body” talk to a local sixth grade class. *Photo courtesy of Lynne Sobel.*

human body anywhere else. They see a liver and say, ‘Oh my gosh! Your liver is that big?’ Or, they’re amazed at the weight of the brain. It doesn’t matter if you’ve seen it in books. It’s not the same thing at all. We always explain that the organs we bring to class are gifts from people who gave them to us so we could learn about the human body and so we could teach them as well. Most kids have never heard of this. When they realize how we learn about the human body, it is a sobering thought. They gain a real appreciation for our donors.”

“Student-to-Student has been an enormously successful program,” says Paul G. Carlson, Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs and admissions. “It’s good for our students because they’re giving something back to the community. The topics are handled sensitively, and our students take it seriously. The program is very popular with the schools as well. It serves a community need.”

“The kids see Deanna and me as role models,” Jennifer says. “I always tell them how I got here. Deanna entered medical school

programs. If it weren’t for Student-to-Student, many of the children would never be exposed to interactive medical science. We are able to have an impact on their self-esteem and their ability to think, ‘Yeah. When I grow up, I can do that,’” he says.

“The program has been challenging for me as well. Every presentation I’ve done has generated at least one new thought-provoking question. Many times I’ve had to think twice before answering.”

—Robin Suits

“Student-to-Student establishes a direct connection with the community.”

“The Human Body” is one of the most popular Student-to-Student presentations, especially with younger audiences. Other popular talks include “How 2 B an M.D.,” which offers practical advice about getting into medical school, and “Kids ’n Docs,” which helps younger children feel more comfortable about what goes on in a physical exam.

“Many of our talks—like ‘AIDS,’ ‘Teen Pregnancy,’ ‘Alcohol,’ and ‘Drug Abuse’—cover delicate subjects some parents are afraid to deal with at home,” says second-year medical student Jon Kryman, who coordinates the group along with Max Clark II. “Student-to-Student offers an outlet for students to ask questions they may be curious about and learn prevention education in a nonthreatening environment.”

right out of college, while I took a less traditional path. I was a physical therapist for 14 years, and I really loved it. But, I decided about a year out of college that I wanted to be the person at the helm of the health care team,” she recalls.

“I tell the kids I hated science when I was their age, but I love it now. When they see that different kinds of people can grow up to be scientists and doctors, it makes it easier for them to imagine doing that themselves. We actually had a teacher write us to say two 12-year-old girls in his class decided they wanted to be scientists as a result of our presentation.”

“Student-to-Student establishes a direct connection with the community,” Jon says. “Many of the schools we go to have limited resources and underfunded science



Robert Baltzer, Year II, presents “How 2 B an M.D.” to students at South High School in Springfield.



THE SCIENCE

De

Early in his career, at a busy Air Force hospital in Bitburg, Germany, William Hurd, M.D., delivered as many as 60 babies a month. Even now, with a subspecialty practice in reproductive endocrinology and administrative duties as chair of Wright State's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, he takes night calls with residents on the maternity ward. After more than 20 years, he doesn't know how many babies he's delivered—"thousands, I suppose"—but he still wonders what triggers the miraculous process of childbirth.

Dr. Hurd approaches the subject as a clinician and a scientist. He is one of about two dozen obstetrician/gynecologists nationwide who has funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for basic biomedical research. His laboratory at Wright State's Cox Institute is one of only several labs worldwide which are exploring the process of uterine contraction at the cellular level. Few other labs work with human uterine tissue.

"I've always loved the intellectual challenge of basic research," Dr. Hurd says. "It has the same appeal as solving a puzzle. First you conceptualize a problem, then design experiments to test your hypotheses about it. The hard part is writing the grant proposals to get a project funded. It's a very different time span compared to delivering babies."

Dr. Hurd's research on uterine physiology has had continuous NIH support for more than a decade. It began at the University of California at San Francisco, where he completed a clinical fellowship in reproductive endocrinology. It continued at the University of Michigan, where he studied the effects of cocaine on uterine contractility. In recent years, first at Indiana University and now at Wright State, his work has focused on the cellular mechanisms of magnesium sulfate, a common treatment for premature labor.

Premature birth is the leading cause of disability and death in infants, according to Dr. Hurd. "It's the most dangerous thing that can happen to a baby. We

still don't understand why it happens." Magnesium sulfate has been used for several decades to treat seizures during eclampsia. After doctors noticed that it also inhibited uterine contraction, it began to be used to treat premature labor. High-dose, intravenous treatment with magnesium sulfate requires immobilization of the mother, often continuing until the baby reaches viability at about 30 weeks gestation. Treatment with magnesium sulfate is generally safe in intensive care settings, but it requires constant monitoring.

"I've always loved the intellectual challenge of basic research. It has the same appeal as solving a puzzle."

When it began to be used to treat premature labor, little was known about how magnesium sulfate worked. It originally was thought to stop the uptake of calcium, a key element in muscle contraction, by uterine cells. Dr. Hurd's research has demonstrated that magnesium sulfate produces a cascade of chemical changes inside uterine cells. Several of these changes appear to regulate calcium metabolism.

Dr. Hurd works with uterine tissue samples collected from research participants undergoing caesarian sections. Contractility experiments are conducted within 24 hours of harvesting the tissue samples. Uterine cells also are propagated in tissue culture for other biochemical assays. The experiments with magnesium sulfate have led to a broader investigation of the mechanisms that induce labor. Dr. Hurd's next proposal to the NIH calls for developing a computer model for the initiation of labor.

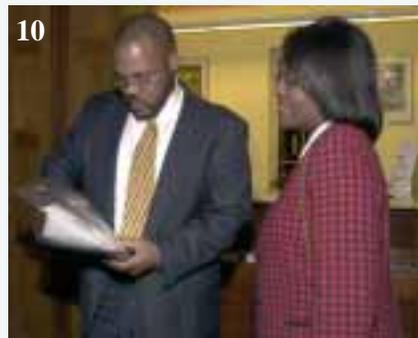
"If we can come up with new ways of understanding premature labor and what starts it, we might find new ways to prevent or treat it," he says. 

— Mark Willis

hind

Premature Labor

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
REUNION₂₀₀₀
 W E E K E N D



*It's coming . . .
 October 5-7, 2001*

*Classes of
 '81, '86, '91, and '96*



1. Alumni and family enjoying an original yearbook at the 1990 Class Reception.
2. Dr. Fran Owen ('85) registering at the Alumni Picnic.
3. Dr. John R. Beljan, the school's founding dean, with his wife, Bernadette, at the Medicine Gala.
4. LuLu Bell the Clown providing children of alumni with impressive face paint.
5. Drs. Fran Owen ('85), Cynthia Olsen ('85), and Robert Brandt ('80), mingling at the Medicine Gala.
6. Dr. Carol LaCroix ('80) taking notes during the CME presentation.
7. Drs. Walter Reiling, William Bernie, and Robert Finley at the Medicine Gala cocktail reception.
8. Looking for a stray ball at the School of Medicine Golf Outing.
9. A glance at the WSU Student Union Atrium during the Medicine Gala cocktail reception.
10. Dr. Kevin Watt ('95) and his wife Evette at the Engineers Club for the class reception.
11. An enjoyable evening of dinner and dance at the Medicine Gala.
12. Alumni registering at the 1995 Class Reception.
13. Class of 1990 alumni at the inaugural Medicine Gala.



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
REUNION
 WEEKEND
www.med.wright.edu/alumni/



- 14. Julie Zeeb, Dr. Paul Zeeb ('80), Robert Ouellette ('80), and Dr. Carol LaCroix ('80) at the 1980 Class Reception.
- 15. Recipient of the Jesse Ziegler, Ph.D., Scholarship, Robert Baltzer, along with Dr. and Mrs. Ziegler at the Pruett Ceremony.
- 16. Learning about bones at the "CME for Kids" presented by the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery.
- 17. Alumni listening intently to Dr. Wigand, the scientist featured in the award-winning film *The Insider*.
- 18. John R. Beljan, M.D., Scholarship recipients Jacqueline Barnes and Michael Krier with Marianne Krier, Bernadette Beljan, and Dr. John Beljan after the Pruett Ceremony.

- 19. Dr. Jeffrey Wigand explaining the mechanisms of nicotine addiction during the CME entitled "Halting Addiction: Smoking and Health."
- 20. Fourth Year medical student Dominique Renee Barkley with her family at the Pruett Ceremony.
- 21. Second Year medical students David Juang and David Brill taking a much-needed break from their studies at the Golf Outing.
- 22. Cara Vandemark, Grace Place, Laura Gottron (David G. Place, M.D., Memorial Scholarship recipient), and Glen Place onstage at the Pruett Recognition Ceremony.

Class Notes

'82

Richard P. Rood, M.D., FACP, FACG, has recently been elected to the board of trustees of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. He is a partner in the Center for Digestive Health, Inc., Willoughby, Ohio, and serves as chairman of gastroenterology services, Lake Hospital System. Dr. Rood is married to Shari and has three children, Emily, Allison, and David. Emily will be following in her father's footsteps, applying for pre-med training this fall. In what little free time he has, Dr. Rood enjoys boating on Lake Erie with Dale Braun, M.D., '82.

'85

Donald S. Herip, M.D., is currently living with his wife Pat in Pensacola, Florida. The couple has two children, Brenda and Matt, ages 21 and 19, respectively. Dr. Herip works at the Naval Hospital in Pensacola and considers learning the art of medicine his greatest accomplishment since graduating.

Sandra S. Pupa, M.D., practices diagnostic radiology at the Women's Healthcare Clinic in Meridian, Mississippi. She is also the former chief of mammography and MRI, Eisenhower Army Medical Center. "We try to provide for the emotional and spiritual needs of our patients as well as their physical needs," she says. She and her husband Larry have two children, Kristin and Jeffery.

Lori A. Sullivan, M.D., practices at Heritage Family Health in Hilliard, Ohio. She is the proud mother of six adopted children, three international and three from the U.S.: Katlyn, Luke, Tsigae, Ryan Jose, Sean, and Almaz.

'90

Tracy A. Kotnik, M.D., was recently named president-elect of the Massillon Community Hospital in Massillon, Ohio. She joined the hospital in 1993 after completing her family practice residency at Barberton Citizens Hospital.

Richard C. Christensen, M.D., currently works with the University of Florida College of Medicine Department of Psychiatry in Jacksonville, Florida. In 1996, he was named "Teacher of the Year" by the psychiatry residents at the university. He has one son, Christopher.

Gregory J. Cush, M.D., practices orthopedic surgery at Chillicothe Bone & Joint Specialists in Chillicothe, Ohio. His greatest accomplishments since graduation are marrying his wife, Holly, and owning/operating a free-standing ambulatory surgery center. The couple has two children, Charles Thomas and Grace Elizabeth.

Dominic J. Bagnoli, M.D., currently practices emergency medicine with Emergency Medicine Physicians in Canton, Ohio. He and his wife, Dr. Vivian E. Von Gruenigen ('91), have two children, Dominic and Elise.

'94

John R. Shockley, M.D., currently practices internal medicine at the Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is happily married to his wife Noelle. The couple has three children, Ben, Emma and Sam—ages 9, 6, and 4, respectively.

'95

Mark A. Banks, M.D., was recently featured in Lancaster, Ohio's *Eagle Gazette*. The article, part of a series on people living in Fairfield County, chronicled his decision to go to medical school. It also discusses his desire to help others. Dr. Banks specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation and practices in Lancaster.

Kimberly Walton-Verner, M.D., currently practices pediatrics at the Southside Children's Clinic of Provident Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. Her son, Elik, was born in September 1999. Looking back at her time at Wright State, her fondest memory is of riding her bike around campus.

'98

Kevin D. Frank, M.D., will be graduating from Mt. Carmel Family Practice Residency this June and will be joining an established practitioner in Lancaster, Ohio, in a busy two-doctor practice. Since graduating, he and his wife, Geanine, have celebrated the birth of their first child, Sydney Elizabeth, in August 1999. They are looking forward to their new life in Lancaster.

'99

Mark E. Green, M.D., recently won the National AMA Resident Leadership Award 2000 and was elected chair of the Texas Medical Association's Resident and Fellows Section. As chair, he represents all of the state's residents to the state legislature, hospitals, and managed care organizations. In addition, he was selected to be a delegate to the American Medical Association for the United States Army Medical Corps.

Michelle (Kramer) Higginson, M.D., is currently in her second year of internal medicine training at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego. She and her husband love the area and all that it has to offer. She was elected intern of the year by hospital staff and fellow residents.

'00

Drs. Kelly L. Overman and Joe Burghard announced their engagement in December 2000. She is a resident physician at University Hospital in Cincinnati, and he is a resident physician at Miami Valley Hospital. The couple wed in February 2001 at St. Jude Church in Bridgetown, Ohio.

Attention All Alumni!

Submit your class notes at www.med.wright.edu/alumni/alumnotes.html or mail to Angela MacLellan, Assistant Director, School of Medicine Office of Advancement, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001.

Advancement

Community Partners for Health

Thanks to the Montgomery County Medical Society Alliance (MCMSA), Wright State medical students have an ever-growing resource for extra financial assistance in the years ahead.

The MCMSA donates generously each year toward the scholarship endowed in its name. The MCMSA, along with its foundation, is a community service organization consisting of physicians' spouses dedicated to promoting better health, ensuring sound health legislation, and fund-raising for medical education.

The School of Medicine has enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial partnership with the Alliance, and is proud to carry its name on the MCMSA Endowed Scholarship. This valuable fund was established in 1978 to promote the humanistic ideals of the School of Medicine. It provides much-needed support for both nursing and medical students at Wright State. "It's a lot of fun to see the impact and to see the students' progress," said Diana Gilliotte, MCMSA president.

At the School of Medicine, the scholarship is awarded to first-, second-, and third-year medical students in good academic standing, with preference to those raised locally in Montgomery or Greene County. Since the School's inception, the Alliance has awarded scholarships to 172 future physicians. Last year's winners were Melissa Bagley, Rannie Al-Samkari, Jennifer Hoke, Wendy Soto, Melanie Nelson, Frank Castellano, Joe Leibold, and Harry Vanderwal.

The Alliance raises its funds through special events and its own foundation. "The biggest ongoing project we've had this year is called FAME," said Gilliotte. FAME, or Fashions Aid Medical Education, is a special fashion show fund-raiser held each fall. The group also hosts Empty Bowls, a dinner at the Marriott that raises funds for the Red Cross Emergency Food Bank. In addition, the Alliance supports other area organizations such as the Battered Women's Shelter, the AMA Foundation, Sinclair Community College, and the Kettering College of Medical Arts, and provides numerous activities for its members.

A new Alliance initiative is called RAYS, Raising Awareness about Your Skin, in which local physicians, including many faculty, educate children about the harmful effects of ultraviolet rays. The Alliance also provides support for spouses of current medical students. They have invited spouses to Alliance events and have provided them with copies of *The Medical Marriage* by Drs. Wayne M. and Mary O. Sotile.

The School of Medicine showed its appreciation to the Alliance at the Medicine Gala last October, when Dean Howard Part presented Mrs. Gilliotte with a special plaque recognizing the MCMSA's efforts for the health of our communities.

For more information about the Alliance, contact the Montgomery County Medical Society at (937) 223-0990.

New Scholarship Announced

Alan McGee, M.D., '82, created The Dewitt and Henria McGee Endowed Scholarship in honor of his parents. The purpose of this scholarship is to help underrepresented minority students complete their education at the School of Medicine.

Dr. McGee's parents lived in Mississippi during a time of open discrimination, segregation, and limited opportunities for African Americans to seek formal education. Their experiences played a decisive role in their decision to instill in their nine children the importance of a higher education. Dewitt and Henria firmly believed that once a person had a formal education, no one could take it away. Dr. McGee created this scholarship because of his parents' "love and support, guidance and direction, and emphasis on higher education."

Dr. McGee specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of spinal disorders at SpineONE, a division of Othopaedics Northeast in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He received the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2000.

Alumni Directory Coming Soon

The Medical Alumni Association is pleased to announce that we are developing an Alumni Directory, which will give you a complete and up-to-date reference.

The directory will list alumni in four sections: Alphabetical, Class Year, Geographical, and Specialty. You'll even be able to locate alumni under current name as well as name used as a medical student. With alumni in 47 states and several countries, the directory will be a resource to keep in touch with old classmates and friends. The first step will be a questionnaire mailed in June. The directory should be finished and distributed early spring of 2002. Whether you buy a directory or not, we hope you will participate.

Only alumni and approved School of Medicine officials will be permitted to purchase the directory. For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at (937) 775-2972.

HOUSE OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Please join us in congratulating our newest alumni as they embark on a new chapter of their medical careers. The Class of 2001 will welcome the support of fellow alumni as they make the adjustment from medical school to residency. The Office of Advancement, (937) 775-2972, can provide contact information for recent graduates moving to your area. We encourage you to offer words of welcome and wisdom to the Class of 2001. Your friendship and guidance will help make their transition a positive experience.

Monica R. Adams
Internal Medicine
Emory University Affiliated
Hospital
Atlanta, GA

Luis O. Amaro
Medicine/Pediatrics
Jackson Memorial Hospital
Miami, FL

Mark N. Awantang
Surgery
Howard University Hospital
Washington, DC

Kerri M. Bagnall
Pediatrics
Children's Mercy Hospital
Kansas City, MO

Loveleen Bains
Internal Medicine
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Lukes
Chicago, IL

Thomas E. Baker
Emergency Medicine
Advocate Christ Hospital &
Medical Center
Oak Lawn, IL

Jennifer S. Bantz
Obstetrics/Gynecology
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Minneapolis, MN

Dominique R. Barkley
Pediatrics
Ohio State University
Children's Hospital
Columbus, OH

Gary A. Betz
Internal Medicine
St. Joseph's Hospital
Phoenix, AZ

Laura E. Burns
Family Medicine
Miami Valley Hospital
Dayton, OH

Rebecca D. Burton
Surgery
Summa Health/NEOUCOM
Akron, OH

Nicole A. Bushman-Simpson
Internal Medicine
Mount Carmel Health
Columbus, OH

Lorenzo Childress
Surgery
Albert Einstein Medical
Center
Philadelphia, PA

Thanya Chinakarn
Pediatrics
St Louis Children's Hospital
St Louis, MO

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Sparrow Hospital
Lansing, MI

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Family Medicine
Ohio State University
Medical Center
Columbus, OH

Matthew E. Crowe
Internal Medicine
University of Wisconsin
Hospital/Clinics
Madison, WI

Amy S. Daehnke
Obstetrics/Gynecology
Oakwood Hospital
Dearborn, MI

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Ohio State University
Medical Center
Columbus, OH

Macarthur Drake
Internal Medicine
Summa Health/NEOUCOM
Akron, OH

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Wright State University
School of Medicine
Dayton, OH

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University of Kentucky
Medical Center
Lexington, KY

Laura E. Gottron
Emergency Medicine
Wright State University
School of Medicine
Dayton, OH

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University of Florida
Shands Hospital
Gainesville, FL

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School of Medicine
Denver, CO

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Medical Center
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Wright State University
School of Medicine
Dayton, OH

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St. Vincent Mercy Medical
Center
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University
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Cincinnati, OH

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New Haven, CT

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Cleveland, OH

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Metrohealth Medical Center
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Riverside Regional Medical
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Newport News, VA

James R. Reis
Internal Medicine
Greenville Hospital Systems
Greenville, SC

Patrick W. Renaud
Medicine/Pediatrics
Metrohealth Medical Center
Cleveland, OH



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**Alpha Omega
Alpha**

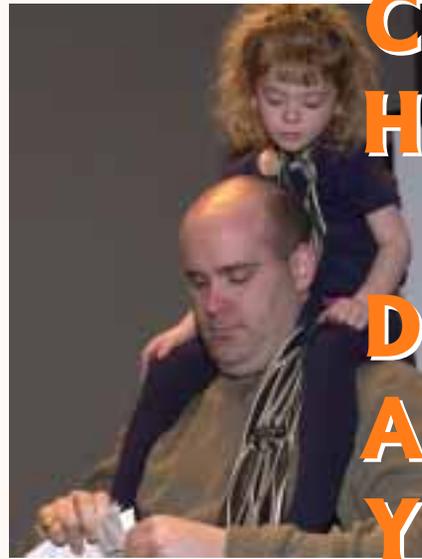
The Wright State chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ) National Medical Honor Society held its annual installation ceremony in April.

Class of 2001 initiates are: Monica R. Adams, Thomas E. Baker, Matthew E. Crowe (vice president), Amy S. Daehnke, Laura E. Gottron, Shannon M. Hale, Jason R. Hess, Brendan J. Kilbane, Matthew B. Pawlicki, John R. Salter, Maria Thomas-John, Kristina J. Thompson, Jill S. Waibel, Chad A. Zender (president), and Kathleen M. Zielinski.

Class of 2002 initiates are: Thomas L. Carroll, Francis M. Castellano, Bradley A. Otto (president elect), and Kimberly L. Rueve (vice president elect).

This year's faculty initiates are Douglas Mossman, M.D. (professor of psychiatry), and Jonathan I. Singer, M.D. (professor of emergency medicine). Resident initiates are Roger J. Bedimo, M.D. (internal medicine), Max S. Lee, M.D. (emergency medicine), and Thomas J. Reid, M.D. (obstetrics/gynecology).

Alpha Omega Alpha, the only nationwide medical honor society, was founded in 1902 to recognize and promote excellence in the medical profession. The society's aims include promoting scholarship and research among medical students and graduates and recognizing high attainment in medical science.



(Top left) Rita M. Hanna, Joseph M. Okolo, Jonathan D. Hollister, Edward Demond Scott, and Thomas E. Baker

Tanya R. Rizzo
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Minneapolis, MN

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Diego Medical Center
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Miami Valley Hospital
Dayton, OH

Brian A. Tobe
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Summa Health/NEOUCOM
Akron, OH

Jennifer A. Schuster
Emergency Medicine
St. Vincent Mercy Medical
Toledo, OH

Jill S. Waibel
Transitional
Kettering Medical Center
Kettering, OH

Latania C. Sci
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St. Joseph's Hospital
Phoenix, AZ

Melissa Whitmill
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Wright State University
School of Medicine
Dayton, OH

Edward D. Scott
Family Medicine
Summa Health/NEOUCOM
Akron, OH

Libby J. Wilson
Family Medicine
Miami Valley Hospital
Dayton, OH

Louis J. Sharpe
Family Medicine
Tacoma Family Medicine
Tacoma, WA

Chad Zender
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Loyola University Medical
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Maywood, IL

Phillip N. Simon
Medicine/Pediatrics
Wright State University
School of Medicine
Dayton, OH

Kathleen M. Zielinski
Internal Medicine
Riverside Methodist
Columbus, OH

O F *interest*

New Faces



Madhavi P. Kadakia, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Ph.D.: Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh (infectious diseases and microbiology)

John E. Williamson, M.D. Captain, USAFMC Instructor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
M.D.: Indiana University School of Medicine
Residency: University of Tennessee College of Medicine (obstetrics/gynecology)



Michael F. Trexler, M.D.

Captain, USAFMC Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
M.D.: University of Rochester School of Medicine
Residency: Wright-Patterson USAF Medical Center (internal medicine)

Associate Dean for Research Named

Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D., professor of anatomy, has been appointed associate dean for research affairs at Wright State University School of Medicine. In this newly established position, he is responsible for administering programs designed to support the medical school's research activities in the basic and clinical sciences.

Dr. Fyffe is the current director of Wright State's Center for Brain Research, established last year with generous support from the Kettering Fund. The center promotes interdisciplinary research collaborations among scientists and doctors who study how the brain functions in health and disease. Dr. Fyffe is also past director of Wright State's Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program.

A native of Alexandria, Scotland, Dr. 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. Before joining Wright State's faculty in 1992, he was a research fellow at the Australian National University and a faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Outstanding Alumni Awards

Three physicians associated with Wright State University School of Medicine were honored at the 2001 Outstanding Alumni Award brunch held in February.

Gary Onady, M.D. ('87), associate professor of internal medicine and pediatrics, received the award from the School of Medicine. Dr. Onady is program director for the Medicine/Pediatrics Program and has held national leadership positions in professional organizations, including the Medicine-Pediatrics Physicians Association.

Robert Brandt Jr., M.D. ('80), associate clinical professor of family medicine, received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the College of Science and Mathematics. He earned his bachelor's, master's, and medical degrees from



Wright State. Dr. Brandt is a local and state activist and advocate for the treatment of individuals with HIV/AIDS, and his medical practice includes a large caseload of these individuals.

Alonzo Patterson III, M.D., assistant dean for minority affairs and assistant professor of pediatrics, received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center. A graduate of the school's Horizons in Medicine program, he received his bachelor's in biomedical engineering from Wright State.

Dean Howard M. Part Receives Teaching Recognition

Howard M. Part, M.D., FACP, current dean of Wright State University School of Medicine, has been awarded the Master Teacher of Medicine Award 2000 by the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM). Twenty-one individuals have held that distinction in Ohio. The professional organization has more than 113,000 members nationwide.

A master teacher must have demonstrated excellent teaching skills to medical students, resident physicians, and physician colleagues for at least 10 years. Dr. Part was cited for his numerous contributions to medical education.

International Agreement Signed

A cooperative agreement has been established between the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Wright State University School of Medicine. The agreement is designed to promote scientific and educational interactions between the universities, including the exchange of faculty and students. It is hoped that this initiative will be the first step in a long and productive relationship. There is already a strong record of interchange between the schools. Brazilian scientists have worked in the WSU laboratories and WSU faculty have visited and lectured at the University of Sao Paulo. The agreement was spearheaded by Dr. Mariana Morris, chair of pharmacology and toxicology, and Dr. Lisete Michelini, professor of physiology, University of Sao Paulo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VITAL SIGNS
SPRING 2001

Vital Signs is published three times a year for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Wright State University School of Medicine.

Convocation

August 5, 2001
3:00 P.M.
Student Union Multipurpose Room
For more information, contact (937) 775-2934

Alumni Baseball Outing with the Dayton Dragons

August 18, 2001
Fifth Third Field
Pregame Gathering 5:00 P.M.
Dayton Dragons vs. South Bend Silver Hawks 7:05 P.M.
For more information, contact (937) 775-2972

Alumni Baseball Outing with the Cleveland Indians

August 30, 2001
Jacobs Field
Pregame Gathering 5:00 P.M.
Cleveland Indians vs. Boston Red Sox 7:05 P.M.
For more information, contact (937) 775-2972

Faculty Meeting

September 20, 2001
4:30 P.M.
035 Medical Sciences Bldg.
For more information, contact (937) 775-3010

School of Medicine Reunion Weekend 2001

October 5-7, 2001
Celebrating the Classes of 1981, 1986, 1991, and 1996
For more information, contact (937) 775-2972

2nd Annual Shiloh Health Lectureship

October 15, 2001
7:30 P.M.
Shiloh Church
5300 Philadelphia Drive
Dayton
For more information, contact (937) 258-5555

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This young girl is practicing one of the CPR steps, "listen for breathing," on Annie, the dummy, at Wilderness Expo 2001 held in February. The event was led by resident physicians and faculty from the Department of Emergency Medicine and attracted more than 125 community residents to daylong activities on outdoor safety, from frostbite to spider bites.

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School of Medicine

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