



# In Touch

Physician Leadership Development Program Newsletter

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School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Celebrating the Class of 2014



Congratulations to the newest alumni of the Physician Leadership Development Program! Jared Klein and Ashleigh Welko both received combined M.D./M.P.H. degrees alongside 103 of their colleagues during the Boonshoft School of Medicine's 34th commencement and hooding ceremony on May 23.

The occasion featured the conferring of degrees as well as a traditional "hooding ceremony" and the signing of a professional

oath. The commencement ceremony took place at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center and featured speaker Dr. Gregory Toussaint, associate professor of pediatrics, medical director of inpatient general pediatrics, and the new assistant dean for admissions at the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

To the graduates of the Physician Leadership Development Program, the ceremony represented the culmination of five years of rigorous coursework, intricate research projects, innovative leadership initiatives, and raw determination.

Graduate Jared Klein is now a first-year resident in pediatrics at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. He completed his M.P.H. in 2014. Highly regarded by his peers for his talents as an entertainer, Jared won the Boonshoft Talent Show three years in a row.

Graduate Ashleigh Welko is now completing her first-year pediatrics residency at UPMC Medical Education in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She completed her M.P.H. in 2013. Ashleigh was an instrumental leader of the PLDP during her time at the medical school, serving as president of the PLDP Council in 2012.

## 2014 PLDP Cohort Match Overview:

### Jared Klein, M.D., M.P.H.

Hometown: Solon, Ohio  
Medical Specialty: Pediatrics  
Residency: Virginia Commonwealth  
University Richmond, Virginia

### Ashleigh Welko, M.D., M.P.H.

Hometown: Stow, Ohio  
Medical Specialty: Pediatrics  
Residency: UPMC Medical Education  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## Advisory Board

The PLDP Advisory Board, established in 2013, assists in strategic planning for the program. The board meets bi-annually, in May and November, and provides input and ideas on programmatic issues. Membership is by nomination and invitation and represents the variety of PLDP stakeholders. Current PLDP students are always represented at the meetings as well. Members of the PLDP Advisory Board are:

**Sherry Adkins, M.D., M.P.H.**, family medicine physician, PLDP Alumna

**Bud Baker, Ph.D.**, professor, Department of Management, Raj Soin College of Business

**Marjorie Bowman, M.D., M.P.A.**, dean, Boonshoft School of Medicine

**David Bright, Ph.D.**, professor, Department of Management & International Business, Raj Soin College of Business

**James Brown, M.D., M.M.M.**, chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, Boonshoft School of Medicine

**James Ebert, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.**, director, Center for Global Health, and director, Master of Public Health Program, Boonshoft School of Medicine

**Meaghan Ebetino, M.D., M.P.H.**, family medicine resident, PLDP alumna

**Burhan Kawosa, M.B.A., B.B.A.**, lecturer, Department of Finance & Financial Services, Raj Soin College of Business

**Carla Lachecki, M.A.**, PLDP program coordinator

**Ryan Mast, D.O., M.B.A.**, assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry, Boonshoft School of Medicine

**John McAlearney, Ph.D.**, program director, Health Care Management Certificate Program, Center for Global Health, Boonshoft School of Medicine; assistant professor, Department of Economics, Raj Soin College of Business

**Brian Merrill, M.D., M.B.A.**, psychiatry resident, PLDP alumnus

**James Munch, Ph.D.**, associate dean, Raj Soin College of Business

**Sabrina Neeley, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, PLDP director

**Ranjana Sinha, M.D., M.H.A.**, Medical director, General Pediatrics Unit, Dayton Children's Medical Center

**Edward Syron, Ph.D., FACHE, FNAHQ**, medical administration officer, chief Coordinated Care Center, Dayton VA Medical Center

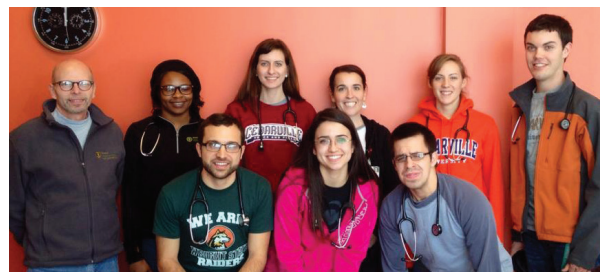
**Greg Toussaint, M.D.**, assistant dean for Admissions, Boonshoft School of Medicine

**Rebekah Wang, M.D., FACP, CPHQ**, medical director for clinical quality, Kettering Medical Center

**Teresa Zryd, M.D., M.S.P.H.**, director, Family Medicine Residency Program, Boonshoft School of Medicine

Thank you to all PLDP Advisory Board members for their continued support of the program!

## Leadership in Action: STEPS



For several years, PLDP students have been supportive of a student-led initiative focused on addressing health behaviors among underserved populations in Dayton, Ohio. The STEPS Initiative was jumpstarted by 2013 BSOM graduate Paul Blair is a M.D., M.P.H. "We realized it would be a great program for the students at Wright State University and the vulnerable populations of Dayton," Blair said. "We want the participants to understand that they are the ones in charge of changing their lifestyle." Blair's supporting cast was comprised of many dual-degree students, including Matias Iberico, Rebecca Beesley, Nicole Craker, Nick Christian, and Jasmin Scott.

Since this time, the group has grown from a core group of five or six medical students to an interdisciplinary team of 40-plus students hailing from programs such as WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine, Cedarville University School of Pharmacy, Kettering College Master of Physician Assistance Studies (MPAS) Program, the University of Dayton Master of Physician Assistant Practice (MPAP) Program, the WSU College of Nursing and Health, and WSU School of Professional Psychology. The group meets on Saturday mornings at local homeless shelters to promote healthy behaviors and assist in the management of chronic illnesses in vulnerable populations in the Dayton area.

"We have been so excited about our growth over the past year," says STEPS recruitment chair Kara Yutzy, (M.D./M.P.H. candidate, class of 2018.) "We've gained a lot of momentum through getting new programs involved in the organization, and also through the grant that we received to expand to the Women and Families Shelter."

The STEPS Initiative was awarded a one-year renewable grant from Wright State University's Division of Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement by the steering committee for the Social Entrepreneurship Fund. One of only two awards presented, the award will allow the interdisciplinary team to expand services to the Saint Vincent De Paul Gateway Shelter for Women and Families. Previously the group only offered services twice a month at the Saint Vincent de Paul Gateway Shelter for Men.

Students from the various health programs work side-by-side to take participants' blood pressure, weight, and BMI. Participants then enter a room with two students to detail their health status, and open a dialogue about the participant's current health state. Utilizing motivational interviewing, students log three health goals for each participant, and their progress is noted on future visits. In considering their current health state, the students empower participants to take STEPS towards a healthier lifestyle.

"We are blazing an uncharted path for interdisciplinary student involvement in the Dayton area," says STEPS co-chair Nick Christian, (M.D./M.B.A. candidate, class of 2017.) "It's been rewarding to see the impact that we've had not only on the participants, but also on the volunteers. Everyone wins."

STEPS is also led by co-chair Paige Sutton (MS-2.) The executive board is comprised of 16 members from the varying disciplines.

"What this group of students is doing is just wonderful," says Karen Kirkham, M.D., a faculty member who has presided over an initiative session. Faculty members are encouraged to attend each session to enhance the learning opportunity for students. "This is true student leadership in action."

**Want more information on STEPS? Visit [med.wright.edu/clubs/steps](http://med.wright.edu/clubs/steps), or email [steps.dayton@gmail.com](mailto:steps.dayton@gmail.com).**

## Alumni Q & A: Mark Ryan, M.D., M.B.A.



Featuring Mark Ryan, M.D., M.B.A., board certified in internal medicine, and graduate of the Physician Leadership Development Program in 2008. Dr. Ryan fulfilled his residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, New York, where he was honored as chief resident of his residency program.

### Why did you decide to complete an M.D./M.B.A.?

My undergraduate studies were anthropology and pre-med. There was a distinct prejudice against capitalism and business in general in all of my classes, which I believed put me at a disadvantage entering into the world of private medical practice. I also felt that a physician's role in medicine, particularly at the primary care level, would be managing a clinical team. The management and leadership training in an M.B.A. program was a perfect complement to my future career.

### What, if any, special research, projects, or special committees have you been working on since graduation?

I created the Quality Council at Beth Israel Medical Center in Manhattan—a multidisciplinary group of house staff and hospital staff that addressed issues affecting the quality of patient care in the hospital. I was on the planning and implementation team of the hospital system's patient-centered medical home. After finishing my chief residency year, I started a primary care practice for a multispecialty group in Pensacola, Florida, and I am currently focusing on building our network of providers and practices.

### What are your career plans for the future, near or distant?

All of my focus in the next several years is to continue to practice medicine and build my practice's primary care network. I enjoy the challenge and gratification of delivering quality health care and envision continuing to pursue opportunities to improve delivery systems in the future.

### If you could travel into the past and meet yourself as you graduated high school, what would you tell yourself?

Enjoy the summer vacations while they last.

## PLDP Calendar

### 2014 Leadership Conference: Rev up your leadership

The Third Annual Medical Student Leadership Conference took place on Saturday, October 18 at the Boonshoft School of Medicine from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. PLDP students organized the first conference in 2012 in an effort to provide concrete leadership tools to medical students through networking and small group workshops with community physician leaders.

### Remote Area Medical Screening

The PLDP, AMSA, and AMA cohosted a screening of the film *Remote Area Medical*. The film affords a unique perspective to the U.S. debate about health care reform, putting a human face on what it means to not have access to health care. It has been described as: "a film about people, not policy."

The event took place on October 23. The discussion panelists included Steven

Bognar, a faculty member in the WSU Department of Theatre, Dance & Motion Pictures and an Academy Award-nominated and Emmy-winning filmmaker; Kate Conway, M.D., M.P.H., an assistant professor of family medicine at the school of medicine; Lauren Gunderman, a medical student who volunteered at a Remote Area Medical event; Matthew Noordsij-Jones, M.D., state codirector for Doctors for America and a physician with Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton; and Julia Reichert, a three-time Oscar nominee and WSU professor emeritus of motion pictures.

### PLDP Advisory Board Meeting

The Advisory Board will have its second bi-annual meeting of the year on Friday, November 7 at 11:30 a.m., at the Center for Global Health.

## New PLDP Executive Council Co-chairs



Congratulations to **Alexandra Lawson, Rebecca Beesley, and Jasmin Scott-Hawkins** on being nominated co-chairs of the PLDP Executive Council in May. The PLDP Executive Council is a recognized Wright State University student organization.



**Alexandra Lawson** (class of 2018) is a dual-degree M.D./M.P.H. student from Loveland, Ohio. Since becoming a member of the

PLDP she has held leadership roles in the American Medical Women's Association and STEPS. She also spent part of her summer in Ghana doing medical service work. Alexandra is in her second year of medical school.

**Rebecca Beesley** (class of 2016) is an M.D./M.P.H. student from Cincinnati, Ohio. She completed her MPH in 2014 and has entered into her third-year clerkships. She was a co-chair for the PLDP Executive Council last year.

**Jasmin Scott-Hawkins** (class of 2016) is an M.D./M.P.H. student from Los Angeles, California. She also completed her M.P.H. in 2014 and started her third-year clerkships. Jasmin was a co-chair for the PLDP Executive Council last year. She was recently appointed to the Student National Medical Association board of directors as the co-chair of the publications committee.

The three medical students will help the PLDP Executive Council to pursue its mission of "developing formal networks through communication and collaboration among students in the Physician Leadership Development Program by providing a representative presence and influential voice within the Boonshoft School of Medicine, the Center for Global Health, the Graduate School and into the greater Dayton community."



Boonshoft  
**School of Medicine**  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

**Our Mission:** To develop leaders in medicine, health systems, and population health through education, communication, collaboration, advocacy, and experience

**Our Vision:** As students in the Physician Leadership Development Program pursuing integrated degrees in Medicine, Public Health, and Business Administration, we envision an educational community of global citizens devoted to leadership development, community building, innovation, and advocacy